

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2008



ORGANISING TEAM

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PLEASE HELP !!!!!

**WE NEED HELP WITH RUNNING THE CLUB,
IT WONT TAKE UP MUCH OF YOUR TIME,**

WANTED:



**CLUB SECRETARY
TREASURER
GENERAL ORGANISERS
(OR SHOULD I SAY, GENERAL DOGSBODIES!!)**

For more details please contact any of the above organisers

from the **EDITORIAL DESK** (by Jan):

First I would like to start with an apology!!!

I am afraid that I will not be able to produce a newsletter in July because we will be on our holidays. As usual we are going to Italy to catch up with old friends and family. A trip to Italy for us would not be the same if we did not take part in at least one Fiat 500 Raduno (meeting), - this year we hope to attend at least 2 if not 3. So look out in the future newsletters for lots of photos.

The main event will of course be the annual meeting at Garlenda – home of the **Fiat 500- Club Italia**. Last year was the 50th Anniversary of the launch of the car we know as the Fiat 500, and some call it the classic 500. (To me this is so confusing, not only now do we have a New Fiat 500, but some years ago we had the Fiat Cinquecento – to me there is only one 500 and that is the car made between 1957 – 1975)

Anyway to get back to what I was saying, over the next few years there will be lots to celebrate, and this year is the 50 years of the Fiat 500 Sport – not a car that is well known in this country, but I know Jimmy is going to write a piece on it in a future magazine, but also the 40th Anniversary of the Fiat 500L. Now this is a car that most of us know as a lot of the later 500's 1970-1972 that were imported into this country were 500L models.

As promised in the last newsletter I have started a series of profiles of the organisers of the club, including a photo (I don't know what I am going to do when it comes to me, as I never have my photo taken!!!). This issue we are featuring Alisdair - our chairman.

We have some good events coming up this summer, Vanessa has arranged quite a busy calendar, so I hope every one will get their 500's out and enjoy themselves.

Jan. Editor

Deadline for next magazine: 10th each month!



Front cover: Auto Italia Italian Car Day at Brooklands 2008

Rear Cover: Perhaps members would like to suggest a caption for these photos.

**(Photos courtesy of Fiat 500 Club – Italia,
taken in Japan by one of their club members)**

EVENTS 2008

JUNE

Sun 8th

Frimley to Farnham Festival of Transport Procession starts at Frimley Park Hospital, Portsmouth Road, Frimley, GU16 7UJ

Starting at 1.30pm (meet up before 12.30pm) this fun procession goes from Frimley Hospital to Farnham.

Those wanting to drive in convoy to this event, meet at Vanessa's house: 7 Horsham Road, Owlsmoor, Sandhurst, Berks, GU47 0YY) by 12 noon for departure at 12.15 sharp.

Burgers/hot dog & drinks are usually available before the start.

A great chance to show off your car and wave to all the spectators' en-route, all in aid of charity. We will also possibly arrange a meal/early supper after the event.

There is still time to enter this event, or just turn up on the day

Contact: Vanessa, Tel: 07843 067333. or v@gathercolevg.freemove.co.uk

JULY

4th, 5th, 6th

25th International Meeting of the FIAT 500 Fiat 500 – Club Italia, Garlenda, Italy

This year is the celebration of the 50 years of the 500 Sport and 40 years of the Fiat 500 L. So if you happen to be in Italy at this time, come and see all the fun and games, don't worry if you are in a hire car, you will still be welcome
For details: Jan or Jimmy. Tel: 01252 613335 or italcorsa@googlemail.com or Mobile: 07730 402202

27th

Pub Lunch and Get Together The Anchor, Pyrford Lock, Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU23 6QW

Meet at 12noon, for lunch, we can then take a stroll along the river bank, or just sit and watch the boats going through the lock.

Food at this pub varies from sandwiches to full roast dinner – everything to suit your pocket. Please let us know if you are coming so we can reserve a table.

Contact: Vanessa, Tel: 07843 067333. or v@gathercolevg.freemove.co.uk

OR: Jan. Tel: 01252 613335 or: italcorsa@googlemail.com

AUGUST

Sun 3rd

Classic Microcar Rally Amberley Working Museum, Amberley, W Sussex BN18 9LT

This is an annual well attended event, a chance to see other makes of classic micro cars and scooters. Also a chance to visit this working museum.

Free entry of pre-booked (see enclosed entry form)

We hope to arrange a convoy from the Farnham area, stopping for breakfast (full English!!) en-route.

See Vanessa's write up on last year's event elsewhere in this magazine.

Contact: Vanessa, Tel: 07843 067333. or v@gathercolevg.freemove.co.uk

Sat 9th

**Classic Car Show
Coolings Garden Centre, Knockholt, Kent**

Not an official club event, but anyone wanting to go:
Contact: Kay on 01959 532269

Sun 10th

**The White Dove Collectors Transport Show
Kingsley Sports Club
1 mile from A325 Farnham – Bordon on B3004**

This is for information only as at this stage we are not sure if there will be an official club presence at this event. A gathering of veteran, vintage, & classic cars, motorcycles & commercials. Auto jumble & trade stands

Exhibitors must be on site by 10.30am

For more details/ entry form, Contact: Tim. Tel: 01252 682032

Or, Jan. Tel: 01252 613335 italcorsa@goolemail.com

16th-17th

**Northchapel Steam Rally
Hortons Farm, Northchapel,**

Not only a steam rally, but also a classic car show. Lots to see and do with all the usual summer fair attractions. The show is on for both Saturday and Sunday (we understand camping is available), but for our club the main day will be the Sunday.

Entry free if pre-booked (see enclosed entry form)

(Don't worry about the Insurance bit, your own road risk insurance will cover)

For more details contact:

Steven Abbott, Tel: 01483 715656 or steven_abbott@ntlworld.com

SEPTEMBER

Sat 6th

**Village Fete & Classic Car Show
Farnborough Village, Kent. 11am to 17.00hrs**

For more details, contact:

Neil (club member) Tel: 01689 855869 or neil.clark77@ntlworld.com

OCTOBER

Sat 11th

Thatcham Classic Car Show

For more details/entry forms etc:

Contact: Vanessa, Tel: 01344 772970 v@gathercolevg.freereserve.co.uk

For those of you who have email access, I will keep in contact with events updates etc., in between magazine prints, by email, so if I haven't got your email addresses already, please drop me a line to:

Vanessa, v@gathercolevg.freereserve.co.uk

For those who don't have email, don't worry you won't be left out, I will still contact you either by post or phone.

Ken Coombes has told us about the following shows he is attending in the Kent area, he will welcome any other members to join him. His contact details are:

Tel 01634 373030 or 07808 380155(mobile)

JUNE

7th/8th Wrotham Transport. Organisers: 01732 884018

Sun 22nd Ravenswood School (Bromley) Organisers: 01689 856050

JULY

Sun 6th Boughton Monchelsea Organisers: 01922 643385

Sun 13th Darling Buds Show (Pluckley Village) and farm where the TV program was made. Organisers: 01622 751000

Sun 20th Groombridge Show. Organisers: 01892 861444

AUGUST

9th/10th Leeds Castle Organisers; 01622 758682

Thanks Ken for letting us have these details,
if any other members know of any events, please send them in

BABY BOOM

Is it me or are club members getting younger? perhaps its just my age !!

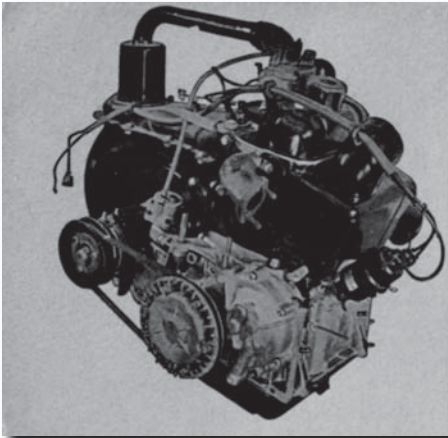
A few weeks ago a new member joined, Adam – Aged 1 year old, welcome to the Club Adam, perhaps you can ask your parents to help you write an article on your Fiat 500.

At Brooklands, three other *little ones* came to see us, Tracey with her twin sons, Jack & Archie, and the other Tracey with her daughter Saskia.

My friend Susanne, whose 3 year old son Jacob is a particular friend of Jimmy's has just had twin girls, and I understand Jacob can't wait to introduce them to the Fiat 500 world. Also I understand another club member's baby is due any day now..... so with all these little ones around, I plan to take a rug and a box of toys to each static event, so the new 500 enthusiasts can get to know each other & play together, looking forward to keeping the Fiat 500 following alive for years to come.

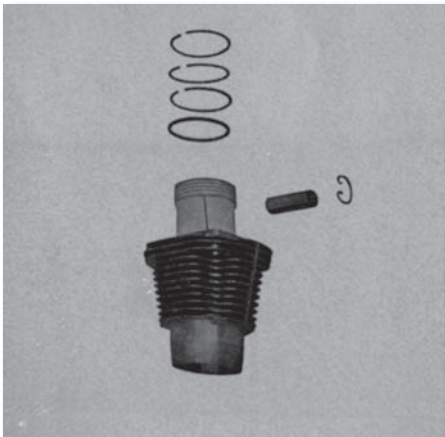
If any mums have any old toys that they don't want and would like to contribute to my 'Toy Box', please bring them to the next event. Thanks **Jan**

DID YOU KNOW ?



ENGINE ASSEMBLIES COMPLETE

Model Number	Price		
	£	s	d
500 G	55	0	0
500/110	55	0	0
500D/500F	55	0	0



CYLINDER LINERS COMPLETE WITH PISTONS

500D/500F	4	0	0
500G	4	0	0
500/110	4	0	0

Always quote engine and chassis numbers
when ordering.

These are the prices from a **Fiat** catalogue dated **1969** of **Service Exchange Units.....** I wish the prices were the same today!!

CHAIRMAN'S PROFILE

Hello members,

My name is Alisdair also known as Al (Chairman)... I have been interested in classic cars, motorbikes, boats and aeroplanes from an early age, I could be described as a serious *petrol head*.

I became interested in Fiat 500s a few years ago when I was introduced to Noddy, owned by Ness our events organiser and my interest in these little cars just grew as I found them full of character and good fun to drive, rather bizarrely I also have an interest in some of the performance Jaguar XJS models



i.e.: TWR, LISTER etc, the other end of the scale. So can usually be seen out and about on the Sussex roads in either a 500 or a Jaguar. I am also a keen motorcyclist and regularly use my 1986 Kawasaki GPZ900 as an alternative

rapid form of transport.

When I am not involved with Fiat 500's or my business I am often out on my kayak down here on the south coast exploring the coastline, this activity is normally followed by a pint of real ale on one of my favourite traditional Sussex pubs and until recently I owned a river cruiser which I kept at Pyrford Marina In Surrey opposite The Anchor Pub, a regular meet venue for our club members. I really enjoy exploring the river and canal systems we have in this country.

When I am not doing all the aforementioned stuff, my main occupation is aerial photography, this gives me an opportunity to combine business with pleasure as I am a keen aviator.

I hope to have chance to chat and see you all at our next meeting

Alisdair. (Chairman)

PHOTO COMPETITION

Just a fun competition.

What springs to mind when you see the photos?

On the back cover are photos of Formula 1, Ferrari team drivers, Kimi Raikkonen & Felipe Massa taken by a Fiat 500 - Club Italia member in Japan.

WHAT SHOULD THE CAPTION READ?

Send you ideas in now, the winning caption will be printed in the next magazine and the prize will be a front badge (F /L / R model) for the winner's car.

(Entries to: 11 Fairmile, Fleet, Hampshire, GU52 7UT)

UNINVITED GUESTS

Don't we just love our cars?

We cherish them, spend thousands on them, tuck them up in a warm garage in winter and shroud them in blankets lest they catch cold.

But they're watching and patiently waiting . . . As the temperature comes down, they come in, their purpose to eat your car and use it as a lavatory (yuk!). Come the spring perhaps your lights or heater won't work.

The cause of these mystery malfunctions may be topo, or to you and me, mice!! The attached photo is a mouse nest inside the rubber heater trunking connecting the engine to the heater tunnel in the floor of our Fiat 500. The only solution to the problem is, as we see it, is to install a couple of (humane, in our case) mouse traps and check them regularly. We were lucky, as the little blighters don't appear to have nibbled anything obvious but they can do an incredible amount of damage if they take a liking to your car.

Roger and Kate



LETTER FROM MEMBER

Dear Mr Di Carlo

Sorry for the delay in sending my membership, but I have not been feeling too good and decided to get away for a few days, so I got into my little Fiat 500 and took the wife for a break and went up to Scotland and only just got back yesterday late evening.

Hope you are keeping well

Harry Welsh



“WE ARE ALWAYS PLEASED TO HEAR FROM MEMBERS WHO USE THEIR CARS, NOT JUST FOR SHOWS, BUT TO TRAVEL ON HOLIDAYS. WE HAVE RECENTLY HEARD THAT HARRY HAS HAD A STROKE, BUT THE DOCTORS ASSURE HIM THAT HE IS WELL ON THE WAY TO RECOVERY... AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, WILL BE ABLE TO DRIVE HIS LITTLE CAR AGAIN SOON. I KNOW ALL OUR MEMBERS WISH HIM A SPEEDY RECOVERY.”

JAN & JAMES

View from the events **VENUE** (by Ness):

VROOM VROOM, BEEP BEEP

What a SUPERB!!!!!! first event for our Club at Brooklands on 3rd May. WE had 22 CLASSIC 500s on our stand for the day which isn't bad for a new club.

Jan Di Carlo did a real grand job getting the 'dress attire' for the new club gazebo up and running which included a new banner, Italian wine, Italian biscuits, popcorn and other goodies. These went down with such success that we MUST include these items as regular items on our stand at a club meet. Hay ho. Well done to Alisdair for picking a good 'red' for us to erm, sample.

Our first magazine had been printed in time so we were able to show those visiting our stand at Brooklands just how high we are setting our sights on this new venture. (To emphasise again. Our club will be sticking to the classic 500s. Everyone has their own opinion but I prefer to see classic cars at a classic car show when I pay my entry fee. I don't want to view a car at a classic car show that is for sale at dealerships today, nor do I pay to see a car that I can view parked up in a multi story car park or parked up at my place of work and certainly not one that passes me by as an every days occurrence on the roads. What's the point of a classic car show if it doesn't show classic cars?



The people who came up and spoke to Jan, Jimmy, Alisdair and I were really talkative and excited about a new club on offer to 500 owners. Complete strangers interested

in the classic 500 were very enthusiastic to talk to us. I personally spoke to a number of interested people during the day – honestly, it was non stop talking to people with a quick break for lunch. Two very interesting people I personally spoke to were retired high speed chase police officers! One owned a Ferrari that he had on display for the day at Brooklands and the other, his wife, was there for the day too and who revealed to me that she once owned a beloved 126. Both were interested in purchasing a classic 500 so I directed them over to our Chairman. Alisdair, amongst many of his talents, is our club ‘guru’ for finding a classic car for somebody who has a particular classic in mind that they want to purchase, not just 500s.



Brooklands sunshine just shone and shone and soon to arrive in the morning after myself and the Di Carlos was Steven Abbot in his ‘D’ closely followed by John Jenkins in his recently ‘from the ground up’ renovated 500. Next came Alisdair in his Yellow Peril (a complete ‘over the top’ 500 that goes like the clappers!), then it was Sheridan and wife in their TWO, yes TWO Vignale Gamines, Steve Blake (nice to see Steve’s car on the road after a complete new respray – looking good Steve), Vincenzo & Diane Morrone with their grandson Aron – nice music coming from the 500 Vincenzo! – I thought I was going to start salsa’ing – and so the list goes on of members who arrived with their cars at our stand. Fab, just fab.

We got A LOT OF ATTENTION and I thoroughly enjoyed myself and I know Alisdair and Jan & Jimmy did too. We just had so many people to talk to – it was like the first sale day at Harrods.

Words commonly used by a lot who visited us on the day were “.... What a friendly bunch of 500 people you are, where do we sign up for membership?” I hear from Jan that there were quite a few new members who signed up on the day.

At 4pm, and with white tee-shirt marks clearly on display from the sunburn I had suffered during the day, I finally got to sit in a deckchair and devour my Babybels. Yum. Sunburn because I forgot my straw hat you see!

Got to say hello to Saskia Whittington (I do believe to be our first 2 year old to join in at our events) and Tracey’s twin boys, only 5 months old. Yes we accept all ages to join our club)

It was a great day and our cars were on display all day. No one wanted to go home. We just kept on sipping wine and admiring Brooklands other great assets on display – the aeroplanes – which were located near to our stand on the day. Great stuff.

I was exhausted by the time I went home but you know what – I wouldn’t change it for the world. I love 500s, love meeting people of the same passion and love classic cars so I think being Events Organiser for this club is just tops.

See you all soon but please, if you have an article or picture of your little treasure that you would like mentioned in the magazine for any reason – let myself or Jan know. We’d love to hear from you as it’s you, the members. who will make the club as successful as we hope it to be , so come on and lets us hear what you want to say or want us to print a picture of.

Ta Taa for now

NESS

CORRECTION

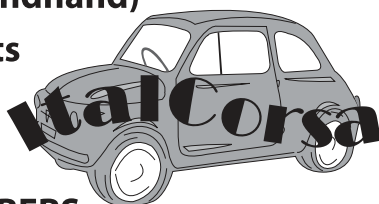
Neil has pointed out that in my list of cars designed by Dante Giacosa that I missed out the Fiat 130 saloon - a car that he has a particular interest in, owning 2 !!

He says “on the subject of the 130 saloon . . . Giacosa was involved in the project, (it was designed by the Style Centre from around 1967) he had predicted that styling was contemporary, but would fall out of vogue very quickly, the influence being the USA and Mercedes, so the 130, though not 100% Giacosa, his fingers were in the pie”.

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from the **WORKSHOP bench** (by James):

I can't remember the amount of times that I have found the headlights incorrectly fitted to Fiat 500's, sometimes just after a bulb change or even after a full restoration

First of all, let me remind you that headlight units for the Right Hand Drive cars are no longer available. The units were only made when the cars were sold new and for a short time afterwards. They have not been produced for many, many years so all the existing stock has long since been sold.

The units still available are of course Left Hand Drive units, with the asymmetrical dipping to the right (incorrect for this country) This in itself is no big problem, as lets face it, headlight on a 500 are so dim that they will never blind the oncoming traffic (they are hardly as powerful as 2 candles).

Most MOT stations will now accept these headlights, especially if you put a small bit of black tape on the lens so that the dipping is correct. In some cases it is worth talking to the tester before the test, explaining that this is not just to save money, but because the RHD lamps are no longer made.

The correct way of fitting is:

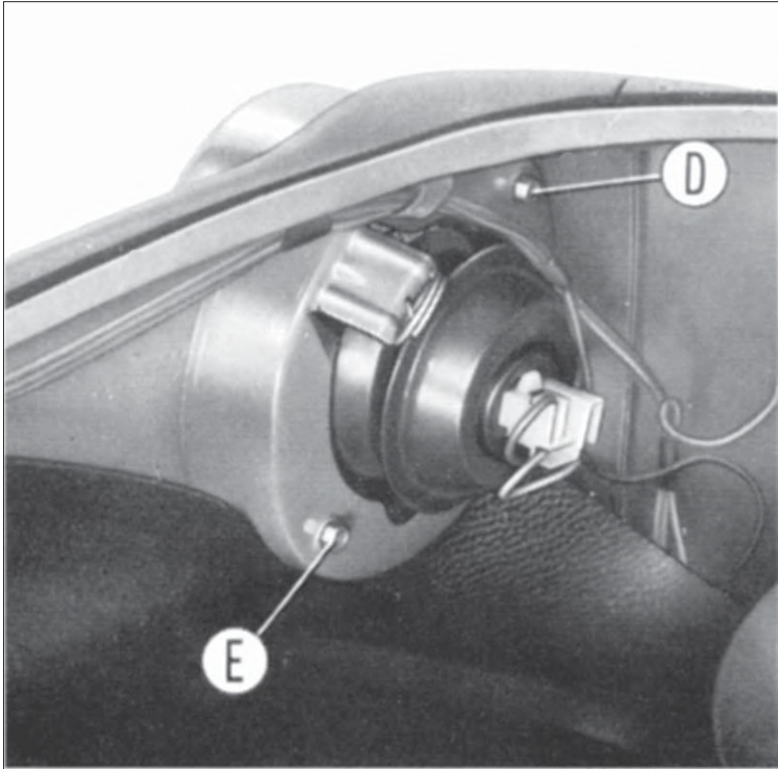
With the headlamp unit out of the car and ready to be assembled on the bench, fit the chrome rim, remembering to line up the hole at the bottom of the rim with dot on the bottom back of the lamp.

The headlight unit – reflector – has two adjusting bolts at the back these are for direction and dipping. Also a spring with a large ring attached.

Fit the unit into the car by inserting the little tongue (part of the lamp) into the slot on the left hand side of the headlight bucket of the front panel.

The two bolts (adjuster screws) should then protrude through the relevant holes in the bucket. Sometimes you will need to move the head of the screws slightly to fit through the holes, **but in no circumstances** remove the screws from the lamp and screw through the panel, This is what I find so often is done and by doing so the headlight can not be adjusted.

When the headlight is in position, then secure it by clipping the large ring attached to the spring onto the bracket on the side of the headlight bucket.



To adjust the dipped beams turn screw **D** (vertical adjustment) and screw **E** (horizontal adjustment) as necessary.

James Di Carlo

AMBERLEY (BY NESS):

Hello Folks, It's 'mad' Ness here

This is me in my Noddy (no 25) last year at Amberley event. It was a corker of a day.



It happened to be the hottest day of the year so tee-shirts, shorts, straw hats (and for me personally, a watering can style handbag!) were all in order for the day.

Yes. I'm a bit of a Looney when I get behind the wheel of my Noddy in terms of 'not looking very normal' and Amberley is no exception. The annual Amberley Working Museum's Microcar and Scooter Day is a highly recommended annual event for the Fiat 500 Owner. The day is all about pre 1975 microcars from the 30s 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s, (even pre 1975 Fiat 126s/127s will be welcome with our Club at this one), and this really is our little cars' *'Day'* to enjoy.

The setting is the Amberley Working Museum set in a beautiful (and I mean, beautiful!) part of West Sussex. It's a day's event and a convoy is usually organised at 8am from Farnham (Surrey) train station for those who would like to travel down 'as one'.

Part of the trip down entails stopping off at a lovely country pub for breakfast (fry up or cereal and orange juice – your choice and very reasonably priced) and we are always made to feel welcome by the owner.

The trip down is leisurely and just right for a 500's pace. You get to see balloon racing up above in the skies and oodles of rambling countryside – lots of sheep, cows and rubber duckies (ducks to you!) too. On the way home, I usually organise a stop off at a different country pub to enjoy a beer or two and enjoy the cricket on the green.

This event is a real ‘picture on the front of a chocolate box’ day out. Gorgeous countryside, loads to see at the museum and perfect if you want to bring the family down and have a picnic. Picnics, deckchairs and self catering is welcome if you want to bring a bottle or two of wine down to enjoy with your stilton at lunchtime! There’s lots to enjoy at the museum and it really does ‘take you back in time’ to the turn of the century. There’s even an old bus collection on display and old buses are up and running on the day to take you round the museum. Brick makers, printers and many other skilled manual workers demonstrate their skills from decades and centuries gone by and there are also several buildings displaying old equipment that will ‘jog your memory’.

Remember the dial telephones from the 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, & 70s? What about your mother’s old washing machine, iron and a whole array of household goods from eras gone by? The list is endless of exhibits to see – you won’t get bored – it’s all there for you to go back in time.



(Alisdair, Vanessa & Steven enjoying a train ride at the museum)

Hope to see you there with the Fiat 500 Enthusiasts Club. I know a lot of you have already indicated to me your keen interest to ‘do it again’ this year – so it’s looking good! **Vanessa**

(See events page for details of this year’s event)

