

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2009



www.fiat500enthusiasts.co.uk

ORGANISING TEAM

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BROMLEY PAGEANT OF MOTORING SUNDAY 14TH JUNE

❖ HELP PROMOTE THE CLUB ! ❖

**We are looking for 3 cars to display on our stand.
Also helpers to chat to the public and have a fun day out.**

If you can help, please contact:

Jan or Jimmy: Tel: 01252 613335

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

Isn't it fantastic, as I am typing this the sun is streaming in through the window... has that dreadful winter finally finished?, and can we all now get our cars out on the road without the risk of SALT!!!

I must apologise to one and all for not publishing a mag' or news letter for sometime, but since Christmas I have not felt well... coming down with one virus after another. Hopefully now the weather is better I will have more enthusiasm.

Already some of us have had our cars out, and those of you who still have your *little treasurers* wrapped up warm, now is the time to give them a little attention. Amongst other things:

- = Check the battery is charged and the water level is topped up.
 - = Check tyre pressures.
- = Check oil level, or perhaps change the oil.
 - = Check the lights are all working.

We have a busy year ahead of us, with lots of events to take part in, I have tried to spread the events out so that at least one in somewhere near most members. Of course, if anyone knows of an event near them that we can join, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Last year Ken Coombes sent in a list of events, a few months ago I learnt that he had died. I know that we all send our condolences to his family, he will be very sadly missed from the 500 scene.

Finally, we, or should I say, need help. At the moment I am editor, secretary, membership secretary and events secretary & treasurer and honestly it is too much..... **SO HELP !!**

Jan Di Carlo



Deadline for next magazine: 20th each month.

**Front cover: Doreen Baker's 'Rosy' at Thatcham Show last autumn.
Rear Cover: The ultimate in 'got at' 500? Yuk!
Seen by Peter Dixon at the Menton 'tuning' show 1 mile from
the Italian border. Sept 2008.**

EVENTS 2009

FOR MORE DETAILS OF ANY EVENTS, DIRECTIONS,
ENTRY FORMS ETC. CONTACT:
JAN OR JAMES, TEL: 01252 613335 OR 07730 402202
ITALCOSA@GOOGLEMAIL.COM

APRIL

Sun 5th FARNHAM CLASSIC & VINTAGE CAR SHOW
CENTRAL CAR PARK. FARNHAM, SURREY
10.00AM – 4PM

A small friendly Classic Car Show, Entry is free, but donations to The Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice are welcome. I have reserved place for 4/5 cars, but the more the merrier. I thought that we could all have lunch in the local Pizza Express, so, in order to book a table, I will need to know those who want to join us.

Sat 11th HORSHAM PIAZZA- ITALIA 2009
HORSHAM, WEST SUSSEX, RH12 1RL

A great outing for the bank holiday.

Horsham Town Centre plays host to Italian cars and also has an Italian food market.

We have been invited but the organisers to join other Italian Car Clubs in displaying our cars at this event. Starting in Rusper we will join the Alfa Romeo Club in a convoy drive into the town, then park up and enjoy all the other activities planned. I hope as many of you can attend as possible, lets show the Ferrari's and Lamborghini's what a good show we can put on.

Please phone me if you can make this event as I would like to tell the organisers numbers, but, as usual, if you find you can make it at the last minute, we wont say no if you just turn up.

Sat 25th BRISTOL ITALIAN AUTO MOTO FESTIVAL
Bristol Old Town Centre

An annual event hosted by the local Alfa Romeo club, this event is held in the 'Old city' part of Bristol. Free to enter, but all car entries must be prebooked. This event makes for a great day out, just looking at all the exciting cars and bikes on display. For those not so interested in cars the city's shopping centre and markets are nearby, also the historic harbour lined with attractions, historic

4 boats and ships.

MAY

Sat 2nd **AUTO ITALIA, ITALIAN CAR DAY – BROOKLANDS**
Brooklands Museum, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 0QN
8.30am – 17.00pm
Get there early and stay late (it is that sort of event!!)

Our usual “*must attend*” event. This annual feast of Italian machinery is well known for its display of rare and interesting Italian cars, motorbikes and of course Fiat 500’s. There will be plenty to see and hear on the infamous Test Hill where specially selected cars will delight the spectators on the day.

Entrance for classic cars is through the Campbell gate. £10. per adult . As you come through the entrance the marshals will direct you to our club area.

Sun 31st **WOKING HOSPICE CLASSIC CAR SHOW & FAYRE**
Prins Willem Alexander School Playing Field.
B382 Old Woking Road. Maybury, Woking, Surrey
12.00 to 5.00pm

Another of our regular, and very popular events, besides the cars there are lots of traditional country fayre stalls, plenty for the kids as well as adults.

We need to get our entries in by the 1st May at the latest, so if you are interested in attending, please contact me for an entry form or down load one via their website www.wshospices.co.uk. Admission charge £5 towards the hospice funds.

JUNE

Sun 7th **THE HERALD FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT**
CLASSIC CAR RUN FROM FRIMLEY PARK HOSPITAL TO
FARNHAM
PROCESSION STARTS 1.30PM FROM HOSPITAL

Each year a group of us take part in this run, nothing very strenuous, just a short drive to Farnham, waving to all the spectators’ en-route. In aid of the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice and the hospital. Entries need to be in by 22nd May, so contact me for a form.

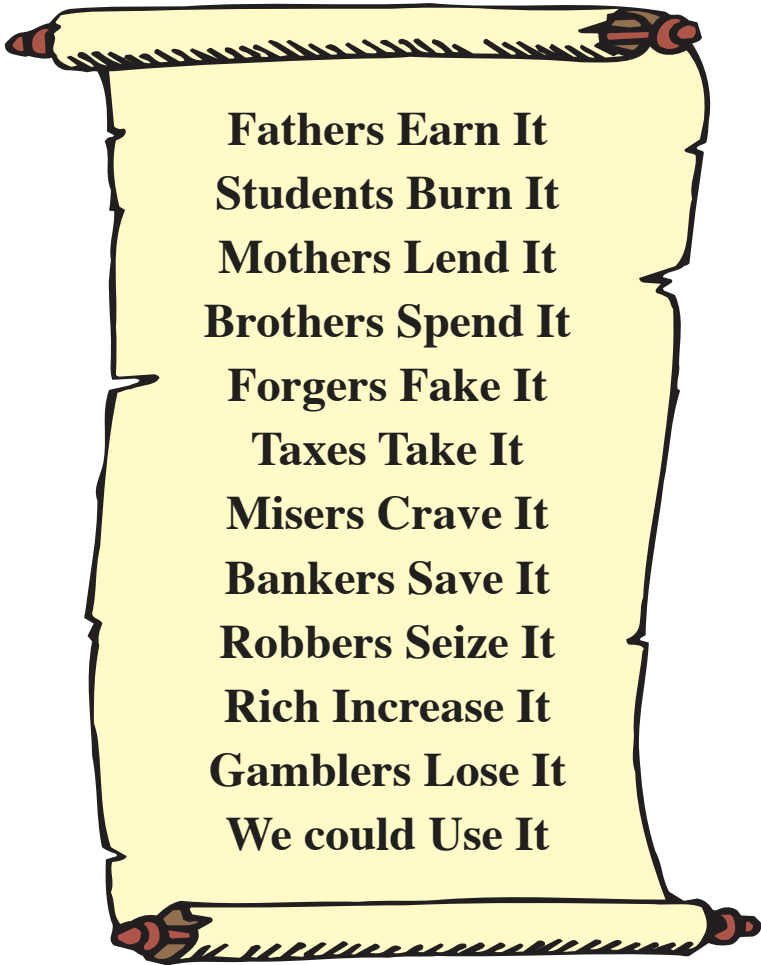
Sun 14th **BROMLEY PAGEANT OF MOTORING**
Norman Park, Bromley

We have a small stand booked for 3 cars, so any one wanting to show their car, Please contact me

JULY

Sat/Sun 4th/5th **FIAT 500 CLUB ITALIA ANNUAL MEETING**
GARLENDIA ITALY.

MONEY



*I thought this was rather good,
but not sure about the 'Bankers' part !!!!!!!*

HELP WANTED !!!

MUCH AS I LIKE TO THINK I AM *SUPERWOMAN*,
I CAN'T DO EVERYTHING MYSELF !

PLEASE, THERE MUST BE SOMEONE ELSE OUT THERE
WHO HAS A FEW HOURS OF THEIR TIME TO HELP OUT
WITH ONE OF THESE JOBS:

- CLUB SECRETARY
- EVENTS SECRETARY
- TREASURER
- MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

If you can help, or would like to know more, please contact:
Jan.Tel:01252 613335

Costruttore di particolari meccanici motoristici e di trasmissioni per vetture
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VINCITORE 2007

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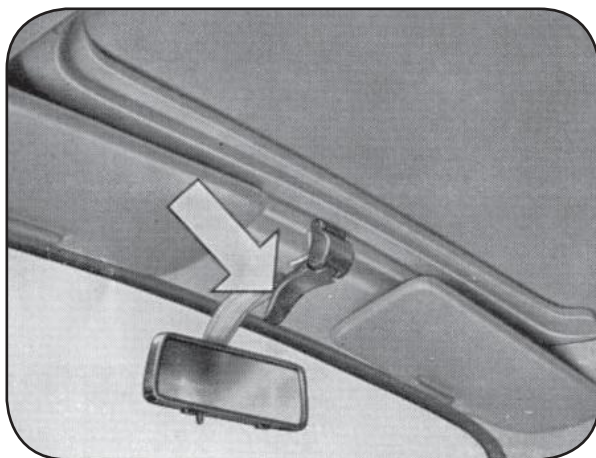
TECHNICAL TIP FROM JAMES DI CARLO

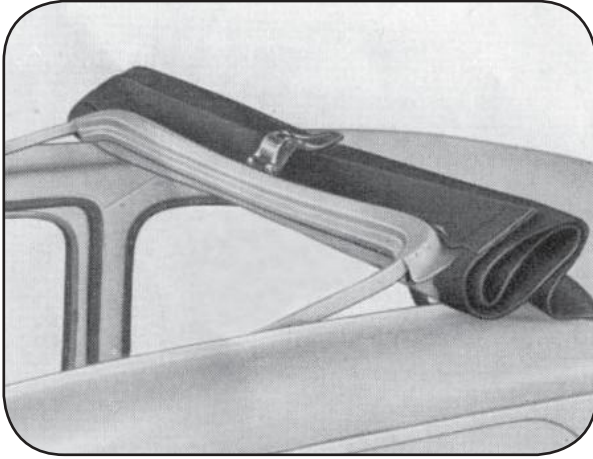
SUN ROOF

I know that this might seem rather like *'Teaching your grandmother to suck eggs'* but so often I have seen Fiat 500 owners just open the roof and just let it flop in the breeze. This does not preserve the life of the canvas, so costing the owner to replace it more often than necessary...

To open.

- = Release the over-centre catch on the header rail (both catches if the car is a D or N model).
- = Swing the sun roof to the rear ensuring that the soft top is fully extended.
- = Fold the fabric as shown.





To close:

- = To close the sun roof from inside the car, grip the catch and swing forwards.
- = Fasten the catch ensuring that the groove in the catch abuts the associated register on the header.
- = When closing the sun roof from outside, prevent the catch from hitting the header rail.
- = Do not depress the sun roof frame otherwise catch failure might result.

To clean the fabric, sponge down with soapy water and rinse thoroughly.

James Di Carlo

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

The first of this year's classic car meetings held at Brooklands. An annual event and billed as a cure to the New Year hangovers, cars of all ages, shapes and sizes turned out. As always, people gathered around the 500's, 126 & 600 throughout the day, with 'oh how cute' and 'my uncle used to own one' comments and stories that can only apply to our favourite Italian car.



Despite the cold, a great day out and good to see many cars and owners. Roll-on summer events !



BROOKLANDS

As we arrived at Brooklands for the 'New Years day' event, I was amazed at how busy it already was and thought that we would never be able to find the other 500 owners... that is if any were going to turn up on such a cold day!!!.

Luckily one of the marshals at the venue is an old friend and he decided to slot us in beside one of the planes at the bottom of the Test Hill. I don't think he realised how *hardy* we 500 owners are, soon the spot he had picked was too small and we were parking around the plane, much to the annoyance of the volunteer who was showing it to the visitors.

Robin and Alison, had driven up from the south coast with their family in two cars, their 500 and 126. The 500 arrived with a puncture in the O/S/R wheel, but that didn't put them off enjoying the day, and visiting all the attractions of the museum. I understand that they hadn't been there before, and when last I saw them they were off to *inspect* Concorde. I hope they got tyre fixed, as by time we got back to the cars after a warming cup of tea they had left.



Nicholas Parrott came in his Fiat 600 Viotti, this is such a beautiful little car, and a favourite of mine as prior to Nicholas it belonged to a friend of ours who imported it from Italy.

Steven Abbott was in his pretty light blue 500D, but his family followed in their ordinary car... it was that sort of day.

Peter Siddall and his wife joined us from Camberley, they had just found out that if anyone is planning to attend more than two events at Brooklands it is worth joining the club. Once members, you don't have to pay to enter (expect for special events, such as Auto-Italia Italian car day, when it is only £2.)

Other club members, also joined us, such as Dianne & Vincenzo and Keith & Tracey, but not in their 500's,

It was a great way to start the year.... "Start as you mean to go on" I always say.

Jan Di Carlo

**DON'T MISS OUR OTHER MAIN EVENT AT
BROOKLANDS THIS YEAR !
SAT 2ND MAY**

**AUTO-ITALIA ITALIAN CAR DAY
Brooklands Museum, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 0QN**

8.30am - 17.00pm

Get there early and stay late (it is that sort of event !!!)

**Our usual "must attend" event. This annual fest of Italian machinery is well
known for its display of rare and interesting Italian cars, motorbikes
..... and of course Fiat 500's.**

HORSHAM PIAZZA - ITALIA 2009

SATURDAY 11TH APRIL

HORSHAM, WEST SUSSEX, RH12 1RL



A great outing for the Bank Holiday.

Horsham Town Centre plays host to Italian cars and also has an Italian food market.

Join other Italian Car Clubs in displaying our cars at this event.

Convoy run from the local village of Rusper

I hope as many of you can attend as possible, lets show the Ferrari's and Lamborghini's what a real Italian car is !!!

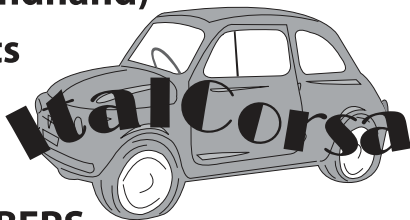
Please phone me if you can make this event, as I would like to tell the organiser's numbers.

Contact: Jan 01252 613335

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- DISCOUNTS TO CLUB MEMBERS



T/F: 01252-613335 • E: italcorsa@googlemail.com

THATCHAM VINTAGE CAR DAY

What a lovely day it was – sunshine all day and warm enough to sit out in comfort. Some picnicked and others decamped to the local hostelry which was conveniently placed across the road. Four Fiats turned up – Jimmy in his Alfa engined Blue 500, Jan in Bugs’y and Roger and Kate in their Positano yellow 500 and our own Rosy.

They all looked great and as usual drew a lot of attention – most people have some memory of a 500 to share – either having learnt to drive in one or a fond memory.

Our whole family came and enjoyed the day thoroughly and gazing at a diverse variety of vintage cars. My personal favourite was a 1927 Lancia which originally belonged to the Maharajah of India. It must have been so grand in its heyday and we could not resist the invitation to sit in it.

There were a couple of US Jeeps and a 1967 Mustang which took my grandson’s eye and my daughter was, as usual, drawn to the MGB GT’s

There were also quite a few cars to look that we all looked at and said “I had one of those – I wish we had kept it – it would be worth a lot now”!

Apparently this is a yearly event at Thatcham and is evidently gaining in popularity. It is our most local show and it would be good to see more Fiats there next year.

Doreen Baker

FOR SALE

I have a number of spare parts in my garage for a 1968 Fiat 500 which I used to own. E.g. Engine, gearboxes, Doors etc. I would like a clear out and rather than taking them to an auto jumble, I wondered if there was any members of your club who may be interested.

Many thanks, Keith Raffell. (York, North Yorkshire).
raffells@kraffell.plus.com

BRISTOL ITALIAN AUTO MOTO FESTIVAL BRISTOL OLD TOWN CENTRE SATURDAY 25TH APRIL

An annual event hosted by the local Alfa Romeo Club, this event is held in the 'Old City' part of Bristol.

Free to enter, but all car entries must be prebooked.

This event makes for a great day out, just looking at all the exciting cars and bikes on display.

For those not so interested in cars the city's shopping centre and markets are nearby, also the historic harbour lined with attractions, historic boats and ships.

To book your car in (full name, address, phone & mobile numbers and vehicle details, marque, model, year, reg no.) to: biamfl@ourhemanpal.co.uk or 0117 947 5814

OR

If anyone wants to drive down in convoy from the Hampshire area, please phone: Jan Tel: 01252 613335

**WOKING HOSPICE CLASSIC CAR SHOW & FAYRE
PRINS WILLEM ALEXANDER SCHOOL PLAYING
FIELD.**

B382 Old Woking Road. Maybury, Woking, Surrey

**SUNDAY 31st MAY 2009
12.00 to 5.00pm**

Another of our regular, and very popular events, besides the cars there are lots of traditional country fayre stalls, plenty for the kids as well as adults.

We need to get our entries in by the 1st May at the latest, so if you are interested in attending, please contact me for an entry form or down load one via their website www.wsbhospices.co.uk.

Admission charge £5 towards the hospice funds

**THE HERALD FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT CLASSIC
CAR RUN FROM FRIMLEY PARK HOSPITAL TO
FARNHAM
SUNDAY 7th JUNE
PROCESSION STARTS 1.30PM FROM HOSPITAL**

Each year a group of us take part in this run, nothing very strenuous, just a short drive to Farnham, waving to all the spectators' en-route.

In aid of the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice and the hospital.

Entries need to be in by 22nd May, so contact Jan ASAP for a form

Am I right in saying he was 25 and she was 36, and she accused him of rape!!!!!!

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The car that had its limits

IT is impossible to commit rape in a little Fiat 500cc saloon, a court in Turin has ruled.

A charge brought against a 28-year-old clerk, named as Francesco G, by his fiancee Adagisa, 36, that he had attacked her one night in his car was dismissed.

But it took eight years before the court reached its verdict. Experts checked the car's height, weight and interior before deciding that the confined space inside made rape impossible.

Francesco was freed. Adagisa has been handed a summons for defamation.

The Fiat 500cc? It went out of production five years ago.

“OLD CROCKS RUN” 2008

For many years Jimmy and I have attended the London to Brighton veteran run in one capacity or another. Usually we went to the Madeira Drive in Brighton to see that cars arrive after their strenuous run. For a couple of year we marshalled at the finish line, until the fateful year when it was blowing a force 9 gale, although we had *dressed accordingly*, by the time the last cars arrived and we were able to seek shelter I was drenched down to my underwear. We decided enough was enough and haven't marshalled since.

Last year we were invited to join club members Liesje & Graham to watch the run from outside their house near Burgess Hill. A super location, as at this point the run branches off the A23 onto the side roads and we could really see the cars as they slowed down for a roundabout just past where we were standing.

I had checked the weather forecast the day before and although it was rather misty first thing – or should I say thick fog as we drove out of Fleet - we were promised good weather for the day. Armed with warm weather gear and a picnic we set off early, we didn't want to miss anything.



As we branched onto the route of the run, we saw that already the public had taken up every possible vantage point to watch from. Modern and classic cars were parked up and as we drove by some of the owners waved to us.... Already a happy feeling.

Nearing Liesje's house, my phone went, it was Neil, he had left his directions at home and although he was in the right area, he didn't know which house and was parked up on the side of the road in his Fiat Panda. It always seems that people phone me when we are very close, Neil's call came, just as we were driving past him, so I was able to say "Follow us"!!!

When we arrived, Liesje and Graham were just tidying up from the party that they had held the night before, but this did not stop them from greeting us warmly and soon cups of tea and coffee were being handed round, shortly followed by hot dogs and bacon rolls..... What a welcome.



Soon after, John arrived in his Fiat 500, so we with much discussion as to how exactly we should park them (Jimmy always has his ideas and I have completely different!!!) We lined them up on the side of the road. As the day wore on this seemed popular, as once or twice I saw passengers in the veteran cars taking pictures of our cars!!!

Tracy & Keith, Vincenzo & Dianne joined us, and with the children waving frantically to the old cars, a fun day was had by all.

I think the highlight of the day for the men was when a car broke down opposite us and they could go over to offer assistance!!!!... Well that was the reason they told me... I think it was really that they wanted to get their hands dirty!!!!.

Many thanks to our hosts..... Please can we put it on our calendar of events for this year?



Team hard style

El Diablo