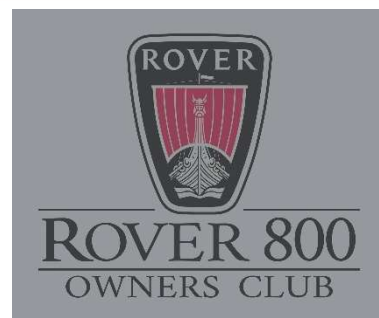


Service Bulletin

NEWS FROM THE ROVER 800 OWNERS CLUB



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the first in a series of regular bulletins that the Club will be sending to you. In order to keep all of our valued members fully informed with Club matters on a regular basis, this is a new method of keeping in touch. The newsletters sent during the first year will be replaced with these regular bulletins, but don't worry - a more in depth publication will be produced later in the year. We are always on the lookout for articles so if you have anything you'd like to contribute, please send it over to us by emailing; info@rover800.org.uk It can include work logs on your car, event reviews, long journeys with your car, anything like that.

2016 marked the 30th anniversary of the Rover 800, and the main event of the summer was the BMC & Leyland show at the British Motor Museum, Gaydon back in July where we managed to get a staggering 29 800s attending at the show. It was a fantastic day out, and being able to see the very first 800 off the line (held in the museum) was a real treat. The year concluded with stand at the Classic Motor Show held at the NEC in Birmingham during November. More details on this are later in this bulletin.

From me, I'd like to reiterate thanks to you all, and give on behalf of all members thanks to the Club Committee for all of their hard work.

I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and very best wishes for the New Year.

Alex Sebbinger

AGM 2017

As the club is now one year old, it's time for our first Annual General Meeting. This is your opportunity to feed back to the Committee on our activities during the Club's first year. It's also an excellent opportunity to set the future direction of the Club. Members and non-members are welcome to attend – but remember only members get to voting rights during the meeting. If you're new to car Clubs, we suggest you come along and see what it's all about. We would also welcome anyone who wishes to nominate themselves for a position on the Committee. The Club is only what you – the membership – make it.

The formal notice and agenda for the AGM is enclosed separately. This year we will be meeting at the MG Sales Centre, Longbridge, Birmingham on Saturday 21st January 2017 at 13.00

CLASSIC MOTOR SHOW, NEC 2016:

This show was its usual, hectic, yet splendiferous occasion. The Rover 800 Owners Club was out in the Pavilion (just off of Hall 1), along with a large number of other Rover specific clubs. We were sited next to the Rover 75 and ZT owners club, the P6 Drivers Club and the 200/400 register. There was plenty to choose from and something for everyone.

The Rover 800 Owners Club stand was very well received. We had a large, three car stand this year and to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Rover 800 series, we had only examples of the Mk1 on the stand which included some rather rare examples.

Our Chairman's 1986 Rover 820SE is one of the earliest known cars still in existence. The car was admired by many, including those who were not particularly fond of the 800, but appreciated its place in the eclectic scene that is the British Classic Car circuit. Also on the stand, Club member Richard Gelder was displaying his exceptionally early 820Se Fastback. The car drew many admiring glances and positive comments; plus his treasure trove of Austin Rover branded paraphernalia inside the car had many marque fanatics green with envy!

Our final car, was one of the last Mk1's; a 1991 Rover Sterling owned by club member Malcolm Knight. This car provided a nice contrast and showed how far the 800 series came in just five years from the early, variable quality cars, right up to the last of the line cars which had matured into very desirable, well-built machines.



It was great from everyone's perspective to meet so many enthusiasts, but it was equally pleasant to chat to some people who did not necessarily appreciate the 800 when it was new, but left the stand with an understanding as to why we like them based on all of their charms.

On the Saturday, Daniel Hopkins - Editor of Practical Classics Magazine - was kind enough to come over to the stand and cut our commemorative 30th Anniversary birthday cake. He left the stand several slices of cake better off and with some superb photos to mark the occasion!



Club members and the anniversary cake cut by Danny Hopkins

LOOKING FORWARD

The 2016 show season is now over. Many of you will have tucked your cars up for the winter. The Club's next big event will be our AGM on 21st January.

The 2017 season opener is – thankfully – indoors! Quite early on in the year, we will have a presence at the Classic Car & restoration Show at the NEC. We'll provide further information in the next issue, but in brief; this show is designed to offer practical demonstrations and to help you acquire new skills and ideas about restoring and maintaining the older vehicle. We hope to have space for a handful of your Rover 800s. So if you have a car – whatever its condition – and you fancy undertaking a few mechanical or bodywork jobs on it over the duration of the show in the comfort of the NEC halls then get in touch with us at; nec-events@rover800.org.uk
It would be great to see some new faces and new cars.

Aside from that, we'll have a Club presence at the following shows;

The Pride of Longbridge, Cofton Park, Longbridge
B31 2BQ
Saturday 15th April

BMC & Leyland Show, British Motor Museum, Gaydon,
Warwickshire CV35 0BJ
Sunday 2nd July

The 24th BMC/BL Rally, Nene Park, Peterborough
PE2 5UU
Sunday 3rd August

Roverfest (UK's largest gathering of Rover vehicles)
Wroxhall Abbey Estate, CV35 7NB
11th-13th August

The Club needs to focus its efforts and resources on attending the larger shows, however if you want to fly the flag for the Rover 800 at a show local to you – then get in touch! We can provide you with support, publicity and Club branded items to help you display your car. Email us at; info@rover800.org.uk

**BMC & LEYLAND SHOW,
BRITISH MOTOR MUSEUM**

Over the summer, the Club celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the launch of the Rover 800 Series with a gathering of 29 examples at the BMC & Leyland show. Below are a couple of pictures from this wonderful event. We hope to see you at this event on 2nd July 2017

