

History of the WEMC Pocklington Classic Rally

In 2005, celebrating 100 years of the Austin Motor Company (not the Austin 7 (1922)) WEMC organised a car show as part of the long established West End Show. Sadly Charles died later that year. His WEMC friends organised a light car rally in his memory in 2006, to Clecy, France, fund raising for Macmillan Cancer

Support, this became the first Pocklington Classic Rally. It has since run annually to different destinations and by 2021 about £25,000 has been raised. Long runs in pre-war cars, A7s in particular nowadays, involve an element of adventure, excitement, oily fingers and satisfaction when you finally arrive, rarely experienced with more modern cars.



West End Show - 2005
2005 West End Show, Charles (centre)



2005 West End Show Charles (third right)



Ben and Charles

The Pocklington Classic Rally, was a gentlemanly stag event, technically a touring assembly (to get under MSA radar). It was conceived as a light car run reflecting Charles' interest, cars preferably pre ww2 now extended to 50 years old. It usually started on Thursday mornings from Eileen's drive and returned on Sundays. Routes were suggested, treasure hunted, cryptic clues solved, troubles overcome and much fun was had. Competitions for small prizes were devised to while away the few minutes before the bars opened. Friday night was usually curry night.

Main competition was for the 'Over the Top' annual trophy, a section of Austin 7 cylinder block, chromed and mounted. In the course of the rally points were awarded or deducted for things like car's age, driver's age, mileage on hunts, break downs, punctures, assistance given or accepted, etc. All light hearted stuff, but taken deadly seriously by some participants, the winners held the trophy until next time. The restriction to light cars was gradually lost. In 2018 a second annual trophy was added in memory of Bryan Austin. 'Pullover the Top', Bryan's WEMC sweatshirt framed, awarded to the participant who had overcome the most car trouble in reaching the Saturday dinner where both winners were announced. After 15 rallies, 51 people have taken part at least once, totalling 224 rally participations. Only Mr Rolfe has participated in all 15, a table of results is appended.

2006 - Inaugural Run – reliability was one issue, but the only one? Just keeping going was the whole point.



Charles' Pocklington Special



Charles' Ulster Replica



Charles' Chummy



Ben's Ulster Replica 'Buzzard I'



Pocklington Classic - 2006 - France 1 - Clecy

Repairs en route to ferry...



Pocklington Classic - 2006 - France 1 - Clecy

...Repairs just off ferry...



Pocklington Classic - 2006 - France 1 - Clecy

...Repairs at hotel

History of the WEMC Pocklington Classic Rally (continued)

Mr Rolfe – all 15 rallies, and some other memorable images:



Exmoor



Forest of Dean



Pas de Calais

And some more memorable images:



Nine appearances 2006-2018



18th party



Classic Pocklington style



2011 - A303 A7 road blocks



2011 FTD Porlock Hill



2012 Paddling in Piddle (the river)



2012 - Nippy stretched off



2013 Amy



2014 Vice Admiral - Lydney Sailing Club

Organising the rallies takes time and effort, booking and checking accommodation, reconnaissance of routes tours and attractions, preparing maps, directions and competitions, etc. None of us is any younger and after 15 rallies, and following Eileen Pocklington's passing, it seemed like the right time had come to call an end. The lunch run on May 17th marks that end.

All these photos and more are on line, please spend a few minutes browsing the Pocklington Classic photo gallery you can access here: <http://rgbrown.co.uk/rgb/gallery/sevens/pocklington/index.htm> where you can also download this document.

Future events may be organised by WEMC members if it seems like a good idea and someone does it.

History of the WEMC Pocklington Classic Rally (continued)

Now it's personal - my first Pocklington was 2011 to Exmoor in Ken's Nippy



Pocklington Classic - 2011 - Exmoor
Ben Friday co-driver



Pocklington Classic - 2011 - Exmoor
Lunch in the middle of Exmoor



Pocklington Classic - 2011 - Exmoor
Pash (with artist's licence)

2017 to Derbyshire in my Cambridge Special



Neighbours at the Isaac Walton



Pipes in the Peaks



Crich Tram Museum

2018 to Norfolk saw my Cambridge Special reunited with Richard Young who bought it as a £5 project in 1962 and rebuilt it. We visited The English distillery (apparently Norfolk has better barley and water for making malt whisky than Scotland) - 'The English' is certainly a very nice, very smooth, but I like smoky.



1962 DVW 770 £5 wreck project



2018 Farmer Richard and Jean



Pocklington Classic 2018 - Norfolk
Pocklers about to get Pickled

Several cars paraded at Snetterton Circuit during VSCC racing lunch break (sadly, behind pace/course car).



Pocklington Classic 2018 - Norfolk
John's Riley Monaco



Pocklington Classic 2018 - Norfolk

Bob's Derby Bentley



Pocklington Classic 2018 - Norfolk

Roger's DVW

History of the WEMC Pocklington Classic Rally (continued)

By 2019 in Normandy some light cars had, like most of their owners, become less light and some also unlike their owners younger, and the satisfaction of just arriving without incident was gone for their drivers...



not so light...



...not so old...



... not so classic?

But not for everyone:



David towing Coupe



Coupe stretched off



Hillman on A24 Dorking

We missed 2020 (covid), 2021 in Wiltshire Bob suggested 50 year old minimum age and fun was back ...



Hillman paddling



Coupe wading



Lockdown swimming



Baz buzzing



We wish...



Where next?

History of the WEMC Pocklington Classic Rally (continued)

This is where the trophies rest after 2021 rally:



2021 'Over the Top' – Geoff and Ken presented by Eileen



2021 'Pullover the Top' – John presented by Alice

Eileen always presented 'Over the Top' in Charles' memory and later Alice 'Pullover the Top' in Bryan's.

And let's remember absent Pocklers who haven't made it to the end of the road, Bryan, Tony, David and John and maybe others yet unknown to me.

Roger – 17.03.2025.