

An Invitation to the 43rd 'Nightjar' Navigational Scatter Event - Saturday 17th November 2018

This much-loved event is for car owners wanting to use and improve their map reading & orienteering skills. It has been running for 42 years and is organised by the North Hampshire Austin Enthusiasts Club. We welcome new entrants and for many, it has been a first stepping stone to other motor sport events. It is listed as one of a series of Inter-Register Club events run for vintage and classic car enthusiasts and attracts many regular entrants, but it is open to novices and modern cars as well. There are classes covering Pre-war Vintage Cars, Post-war classic cars (up to 1978) and Modern Cars (1978 onwards) There are prizes based on the number of points scored in each class; for the best Beginner, Novice and Expert and other sub-groups like the oldest driver & car, the youngest navigator, an all-woman crew, etc. There is also a raffle, in the hope that everyone goes home having enjoyed the whole evening.

Arriving at Old Basing Village Hall, cars are checked for working lights, as the event is conducted on a dark winter evening. Then there is a briefing for everyone in the Hall when the instructions are given out. This includes the list of manned and unmanned controls to plot on their map. As there is no given route, entrants select their optimum way around.

They are aiming to visit a maximum of six manned locations and six unmanned locations, collecting bird names, before travelling to the finish at Old Basing, where a fish & chip supper is provided. The name of the event comes from the fact that it takes place during the early evening and requires the discovery, at each control point of a board bearing a bird's name.

To locate the board at Manned Control points, a task must be performed on foot, which involves following written instructions given by a marshal, which should lead them to the board's actual position. Some are quite straightforward, based on compass bearings and distances, but a few are perhaps a little more cryptic in nature. The degree of challenge is reflected in the points available to score. Before moving on, the marshal will then sign each car's sheet to record proof of their visit and finding the bird name. Unmanned controls are scattered across the area, usually between manned controls, and are situated in positions easy to see from the road.

When the competitors think they have visited as many locations as possible within the overall time allowed, they head back to Old Basing to have their scores tallied while they compare notes over supper! The event is run under strict MSA Rules and no merit is attached to completing the event with the lowest mileage, or in the fastest time. Entrants are allowed no more than 4.5 hours to complete the route and to visit their control points. Drivers must abide by the Highway Code and all the traffic regulations - and they will also need to check that their car insurance will cover them for the event.

This is an event appealing to everyone, from the dedicated Inter Register Club competitor, with an eye on placings and trophies, to the 'not quite so earnest' (but nevertheless keen) rallyist, or a family entering in their treasured historic, or possibly workaday modern car, just for fun. 'Regulars' often comment that, "It's infinitely preferable to spending a night in watching TV". If you're looking for an evening's fun challenge – that's really different - give the 'Nightjar a go! Supplementary Instructions and Entry Form will be available on the NHAEG website, www.nhaeg.org.uk. Closing date for entries is 10th November 2018, meanwhile for more information and to register your interest, please contact either:

Richard Long, Event Organiser, via email: richard_d_long@hotmail.com

John Pratt, Deputy Event Organiser, via email: edmundjohnpratt@hotmail.com