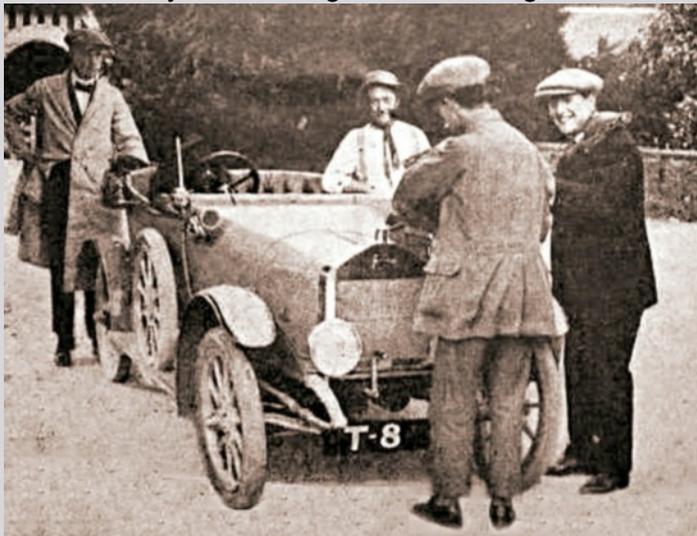


Chairman's Chat - from Simon Bishop

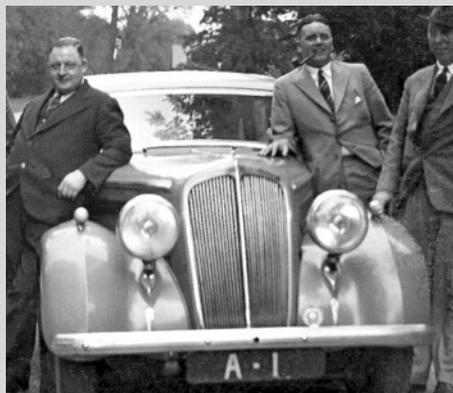
I have often mentioned my local club, the Surrey Vintage Vehicle Society, which caters for a tremendous cross section of old vehicles from relatively modern to veteran, commercial and steam-driven vehicles, and even the odd lawn mower. Recently a talk on car registration numbers was given by member Nick Young. This was very entertaining and interesting, no doubt aided by Nick's long career



as an actor. Nick has recently published a massive book - running to over 1300 pages - entitled 'Car Number Classics' - in which he starts with A 1 and works through the alphabet, giving a potted history of as many of the one and two letter low number registrations as he can.

The book is profusely illustrated with many Edwardian and modern

day pictures. I was particularly interested in T 8, which was originally registered in 1902 to Basil Thompson, the governor of Dartmoor prison, and in 1912 was acquired by music hall artiste Harry Tate, who thought the pronunciation was so close to his name that he had to have it! As you can see from the picture, Harry put the registration on his new Singer Ten. In 1935 Harry was stopped in Clapham while under the influence of drink and incapable of having proper control of the vehicle. It was noted in court that the car's registration was T 8. He was found guilty and fined £12 with 12 guineas costs. T 8 is presently on a 2002 Alpha Romeo.



Nick was pleased I was able to let him have a picture of A 1 on a 1938 Singer 12, taken when it was in the hands of Norman Riddihough. The picture, of course, came from the Bill Haverly Archive.

Nick's fascinating book is available from the author on 020 8998 0007 or ny@nicholasyoung.com. At the SVVS it was on offer at a special price of £45.

Simon.