

## NAYLOR CAR CLUB

they are overused, they wear out! Most TFs are run on limited mileage insurance policies, many being laid up for the winter, or at best taken out on the odd weekend when there is no salt on the roads. What then are the parts likely to seize if not used?

1. **HANDBRAKE** Never leave the car over winter with the handbrake on. A seized handbrake can take some freeing. I always remove the rear brake drums once a year and wash out the dust with brake cleaning fluid (aerosol). I then give the brake adjuster on the drum back plate a short burst of WD40 and turn the adjuster both ways to ensure it is free. Turn the nut clockwise (from behind) and lock up the brake, then release a click at a time until the wheel turns without binding. (obviously the hand brake will have been released, and the gear box placed into neutral).

2. **SPARKING PLUGS** The plugs used are a tapered fit, having no soft gaskets and it is important not to over tighten them. When fitting new or cleaned plugs smear a little 'copperlube' or similar round the tapers, above the thread and below the nut. Always remove the plugs once a year to avoid seizure. A 'dry' plug left in place over a long period may become so tight as to require a trip to a garage to remove it.

3. **THERMOSTAT** Everyone must know by now that given time, the thermostat will weld itself into the thermostat housing, proving impossible to remove without damage to the latter. If you can get the thermostat out, clean it up as well as the inside of the housing, and replace it. **DO THIS EVERY YEAR.** Before attempting to remove a seized thermostat be sure to have a new housing on hand in case the old one cracks.

4. **CLUTCH** A sticking clutch is not a problem found in cars that are run regularly. The chance of this happening seems to vary according to the individual clutch plate, and the conditions under which the car is garaged. I know of a case where two TFs were stored in the same building, one suffering clutch seizure within two months, whilst the other had no problem throughout the winter! Always leave the box in neutral when storing the car. When starting up again next season, run the engine until it reaches working temperature, and depress the clutch. If it is not clearing, the pedal will feel light. If on attempting to select a gear, there is a grating noise, **DO NOT PERSIST** as this could

damage the gearbox. Push the car out of the garage and leave it running at between 1000 and 1500 rpm and this will sometimes do the trick in time. Another way is to direct an electric blow heater onto the gear box (under the car). Either of these methods will take some considerable time, and prevention is obviously better than cure. If your car is prone to this problem, start it up once every month or so and when it is hot, back out of the garage, pull on the handbrake, select first gear and slowly let in the clutch until the car is struggling against the brake and the clutch is slipping. Hold this for a few seconds, dip the clutch and repeat once or twice. This will polish off any rust forming on the clutch plate.

**RADIATOR EXPANSION TANK** Being made of plastic, this is one part that does not suffer from corrosion, but it is vulnerable to heat damage. As long as it remains in its bracket, it is safe from harm, but the exhaust manifold is close by. If you remove the tank when the engine is hot to (say) get at the oil filter, be very careful where you put the tank. It will be still attached to the radiator by the overflow hose, and if it is allowed to fall onto the exhaust it will melt and these tanks are irreplaceable. It is a good idea to fix a strap to ensure the expansion tank remains in its slot at all times.

## EVENTS REMINDERS

### **SAT. APRIL 5th 2008. THE ANSTEE WORKSHOP, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX**

Once again David & Paul Anstee are opening the workshops for the club. They will provide help from their own mechanics where needed, otherwise DIY!.

You will need to book your place with Dave Lewis and discuss what needs doing to your TF so that any spares that are needed can be bought beforehand. This is particularly important as last year we had queues for the ramps!!! Please contact Dave Lewis on 01622 737706 to book your place and discuss your requirements.