

# *Hints for Heralds and Others?*

by **John Anstice Brown**

It all started over a beer in the Red Lion at Hatfield when I asked Derek Pollock, as a former owner of an immaculately restored Herald Estate, how to get the windscreen washers to work on my rather less than immaculate version. "With extreme difficulty," was his succinct, if not very illuminating reply. 'Back at the drawing board' I looked at the washer bottle and noticed that the water pick up tube had a small coil of wire fitted inside at its lower end. Whether this did at one time hold some sort of non-return system neither I, nor seemingly Derek, knew, but once I placed a small ball bearing in the tube the water stopped running back into the plastic bottle and the "extreme difficulty" went away. I now have a fully operational screenwash.

Drumming has also been a not unique problem on my estate, occurring between an indicated 50 and 60 mph: drive faster I hear them cry. The first solution to this problem was to carry a passenger and persuade them, having washed their hands so as not to soil the roof lining, to place one of said hands on the underside of the roof whenever necessary. I began to run out of passengers as they objected

to having to hold their hands above their heads for long periods so came up with a more permanent solution. On either side there are coat hooks for which I find I have little use. However if a thin springy lath of wood is placed between them of such length that it presses against the roof lining (a bit of cloth padding can be used to protect the lining and provide final pressure adjustment), you have a permanent substitute for the helpful hand; saves buying them beer!

Lastly, possibly due to the attacks made on Volvos by my children, necessitating a plastic bonnet, which I fancy flexes more than a steel one, I find that the catches have a tendency to release themselves, particularly over bumpy roads. On a recent trip to Ireland where the minor roads are not noted for their smooth surfaces, I partially solved the problem by winding a very substantial rubber band round the hook that is attached to the body of the car, rather than the bonnet. However, if anyone has a better solution (I know the hook positions are adjustable but adjustment does not seem to be the cure), or has a locking catch to sell, I would love to hear from them.