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I'm sure everyone is by now fully aware of the SVW Event in Yorkshire in July. All details are on the website, Facebook and previous editions of Safety Fast!

There was an animated discussion about fitting seat belts to SVW cars on MGSVW in March under the topic 'Give me a brake'. The crux of the matter is the wooden frame and where to make the fixings. The body (on the VA anyway) is fixed to the chassis by eight bolts as I recall, so one of the things to check is the presence and state of those bolts. Robert Crayston brought some sense to the discussion when he described the seat belts in his VA Tourer, which has been memorialised for a few years in an article on the website.

In late March I made a trip in my VA Tourer to Harding Auto Services near Woking. They advertise in The SVW Review and I was attracted by their rolling road. I undertook the 70-mile round trip in gloomy weather with my brother Ian; we also enjoyed a drive around what is our home town with lunch at our old local pub. The severely potholed roads were nothing given my new set of leaf springs! The rolling road was an interesting exercise, although 37.8 bhp at the flywheel was very disappointing given my 1707cc engine; less at the rear wheels of course given the drag in the running gear. They balanced the carbs and made other adjustments. The rolling road consists of rollers for the rear wheels, a high-powered fan at the front for cooling air flow, an exhaust extractor and safety tethering. They took it up to 5,000 rpm in increments achieving almost 60 mph, the fastest it has ever been in my hands. However, the dyno could not register until something over 2,500 rpm as there was seemingly insufficient torque, despite making the dyno more sensitive. It's evidently set up more for modern cars and racing preparation, so no real reflection on the VA. They suggested the carb needles may need changing as it was running weak until 3,300 rpm when it evened out. They also suggested the timing may be a little off. An article on this subject will be in this year's SVW Review.

