THE BVAC CLASSIC 2023
17-18 June 2023
Thirlestane Castle by Lauder

BVAC News
April 2023

MGs Aplenty at Thirlestane in June

We have adopted 'MG 100' as the main theme for the BVAC Classic this year. The word 'iconic' is much overused these days, but it certainly applies to the MG marque which has been at the heart of the British sportscar scene since 1923. That was when Morris Garages in Oxford started producing 'specials' based on contemporary Morris models. We have a good selection of MGs in BVAC from pre-war models



to MG TFs that were built this century. Add to these promised displays from the MG Car Club Caledonian Centre (winners of best club stand last year) and the Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders MG Club along with numerous individual entries and it's not beyond the bounds of possibility that we'll have 100 MGs on site for the marque's 100 years. There are over 80 booked in already. David Tait, Tim Jackson, Iain Davidson and Chris Biggs kindly took a selection of MGs along to Thirlestane the other day for a publicity photoshoot.

Contact – Editor: David Hunter 018907 61710; Secretary: Kenny Wilson 01896 849597

It's not just MGs of course. Entries are currently over 780 and climbing steadily with less than a month still to go before bookings close on 1st May. If you haven't already, get your entry form in pronto!



Some other show highlights include the Karmann Ghia Owners Club who are holding their international meet in the Borders and hope to bring about 30 of these elegant Volkswagens to the show and a wide range of one make car clubs ranging from London Taxis to Maseratis.



Individual entrants have promised some remarkable cars – a 1914 Vauxhall Prince Henry is the oldest so far, while if you prefer something a little more contemporary how about an Ultima GTR. It may be only 5 years old, but it certainly qualifies as 'interesting' and 'sporting' for class 15! Currently in pole position for the longest drive prize is an entrant who's planning to drive an Aston Martin DB4 from Thurso to join us.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, we will need plenty of volunteers in the week before the show to prepare the ground and on the day for marshalling. Keep the dates free!





(Pictures are stock images, not the actual cars entered – credits: VW by sv1ambo - link , Vauxhall by David Merrett - link Ultima from the manufacturer & DB4 by Michael Schäfer - link)

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March Events



Milestone breakfast meets continue to produce a good turnout of interesting cars and friendly people. Undoubted star in March was Ian McKain's second successive trip down from Edinburgh in a microcar. He followed up last month's Messerschmitt with this immaculate BMW Isetta. It's an early production 4-wheeler model which has been in Ian's ownership for many years and has travelled far and wide, including a trip to Germany. Nothing if not intrepid!

The second club event of the month was a purely social affair when nearly thirty members and partners enjoyed an excellent meal and good company at the Monte Cassino restaurant in Melrose on the 22nd. Thanks are due to Chris Biggs for organising this.

Club Events for April

The next breakfast meet will be on Easter Sunday, 9th April. The usual format applies, no need to book, just turn up at Milestone Garden Centre, Newtown St Boswells around 10am and look for the older cars in the car park.

You do need to book, however, for National Drive-it-Day on Sunday 23rd April. The run, entitled "Six Bridges to the Sea" will start at Milestone and take in six crossings of the River Tweed before arriving at our destination, the 'Pot a Doodle Do' café a few miles south of Berwick and close to the stunning Cocklawburn Beach, one of the many fine sandy stretches of the Northumberland coast.

Lunch has been arranged with capacity for 40 diners, but even if all these places are taken, you are still welcome to join the run and make your own arrangements for lunch. A beach picnic might appeal if the weather's fine.

To book places, email Chris Biggs at chrisjbiggs@btinternet.com giving the make, model and registration number of the car you intend to drive on the day and the names of driver and passenger(s).



There is no entry fee, but Drive it Day nationally is a fund-raising event in aid of the NSPCC Childline charity. You can support the charity in two ways, either by buying a Drive it Day plate to fit to your car for the run or by making a cash donation on the day, or of course you could do both, it's all in a good cause! The plates are available to buy online at www.driveitday.co.uk/shop .

BVAC Club Display Stands at Other Shows Update

from Dennis Fortune clubstandentries@bvac.org.uk

Next month sees the start of our BVAC club stands at other car shows, the first being at Kielder Castle on Sunday 14th May. The free entry pass to the show was obtained by scanning the QR code on the "Kielder" Club Visits to Shows page to get your Eventbrite free pass, however, this method of entry is now closed ***but if you would still like to come along then entry is still possible by contacting*** aimee.maxwell@forestryengland.uk but please also let me know by completing the BVAC online entry form on our web site "Kielder" show page or drop me an e-mail at clubstandentries@bvac.org.uk To date I only have 2 confirmed entries so if you have already entered using the QR code and not completed the BVAC online entry form then please do so or again drop me an e-mail. Otherwise, all you other members, this is a great show venue and a lovely drive to get there so do not delay get your entry in now!

The next show to take place is the BVAA show in Kelso on 21st May, always popular and a good venue with lots going on, but surprisingly only a handful of members have entered so far! ***Please note the closing date for entries to this show is 26th April*** so if you want to come along to this great event then please get your entry form submitted ASAP.

The Bo'Ness Car Show, held on the Kinneil Estate, takes place on the 4th June, but please note this is not the Hill Climb event we have attended in the past but a previously staged car show which has been re-introduced this year. Web site entries directly to the organisers have now closed as the show is fully booked, however, I have been given the assurance from the organisers that space can be allocated for a BVAC club stand with room for 10-15 cars. So please have a look at the show details on our web site and if interested get your entry form in ASAP as ***the closing date is set for 12th April.***

The next show, following our own show at Thirlestane, was always the Moffat Classic Car Rally, however, the long-time organisers of this event, which is planned to be held on Sunday 25th June, have now posted on their web site that they are no longer able to organise this event and responsibility for organising the show has been taken up by the Moffat Motor Club, who I have been in contact with, but still waiting a reply, so keep an eye out for more news on this event.

As previously notified other shows take place from early July onwards starting with Chillingham but watch out for more news on these in next month's newsletter.

Finally, there are also another 3 events where there will not be a club display due to other commitments, however, members may want to attend on an individual basis and these shows are: 1) Doune Hill Climb on the 20/21st May, 2) Corbridge on 10/11th June, and 3) Cardrona Fayre on 6th August. Anyone thinking about going along to any of these events please get in touch with me at clubstandentries@bvac.org.uk and I will be able to provide more information.

A Mini Tale

Remember when Minis really were mini, not the great big BMW models? Sid Palmer certainly does, so thanks to him for these reminiscences.

Simply Mini - MKS 193



Yes, this was my little pride and joy from 1962 – 65. One of the original first version Morris Mini's after the introduction of the Austin seven version in 1959. Bought from a careful one owner lady in Hawick with 854 miles on the clock Note the attire of the times; white shirt, tie and sports jacket! The Reindeer Rally, Lumback; dirt track road outside Hawick. 2nd Place cup on that event!

During the years of ownership, many club rallying events took place with the Hawick & Borders Motor Cycle Club & Berwickshire Car Club. That was in the days when club rallying was fun with bog standard cars; once a month over a 80 – 120 mile route or so on A roads; B roads; C roads, white roads; some through farm steadings; scattering the chickens, deep river fords etc.

Shortly after buying the car, it was considered "the thing to do" to upgrade it; discarded the cross-ply tyres and fitted Michelin X radial ply tyres- wow! – what a difference in the handling. Of course the obligatory and ridiculous "go faster" Peco exhaust outlet from 1" dia. pipe to a 3" dia. pipe + a Podig telescopic radio aerial, 8 track cassette radio, chrome stripe along the sides; the "bee's knees" at the time and made you feel you could go so much faster. With 850cc's how ridiculous was that – but a whole lot of fun flat out!

For rallying of course!!! it was necessary to add a big fat glaring spotlight on the front and then new on the scene - seat belts. The next improvement in the Mini was the fashioning of a bespoke dashboard fitted with Smiths instruments, all the rage of the day; rev counter, oil gauge etc. Repositioning of the starter button to a switch on the newly fashioned dashboard. The original button being on the floor behind the handbrake. I was really proud of my classy design and upholstery. Having started my driving experience on a Triumph Tiger Cub (2 wheels) then into a more mundane stodgy old Ford Popular, the Mini was a revelation.

Nae wheels to get home!!

After one of the Berwick Car club rallies, ended with a "knees up" etc; at Haggerston Castle; on a Saturday night – the "in" place to go for dance and liquor at the time. On leaving to go home in the pitch dark in a somewhat "merry" state, found the mini sitting on the ground in the grassy parking field – nae wheels!!! My rallying buddies also had Minis. Plus my own, two of them were called upon to lend me their spare wheels + another guy who happened to be around from Alnwick, who took pity on my distress. All "hands on deck", the car was ceremoniously lifted to locate the wheels. Fortuitously, most of the wheel nuts were left on the ground – with a torch, found all but 3. So, three of the team limped home with only 3 nuts on their wheels; as far as I can remember – not warranted!! The purchase of 4 new wheels and tyres – ouch!! + a trip to Alnwick returning a spare wheel 4 days later.

Drowned Mini!!

One night on a Berwick Car club rally ended up at speed in a ford with a mighty splash. Mini's did not like that!! I was trying very hard to keep up with the luminaries of the day; Andy Cowan in a Hillman Minx, Doug Niven if I recall in a Mini Pickup, Rita Wilson in a Mini and Doug Wilson in an DB2 et al. Berwickshire roads were famous for these watery grave hazards. Got it started eventually but, on the way home steam was rising. The outcome of that was me cursing Alex Issigonis engineers for designing a stupid perishable bypass hose between the cylinder head and main block; impossible to get at to fit a new one. Whole Engine had to be taken out at vast expense to fit a 4 "bob" new hose about 2" long. Made sure in future rallies that the navigator knew where the fords were on the map.

Youthful memories!!

Citroen Fans Apply Here

Looking a bit further afield, how about this? Most of us would be happy to find an interesting car tucked away in a barn and forgotten, but 148 of them! That's how many have come to light in the Netherlands, and they're all Citroen CXs. The collection is being sold by Dutch Classic Car dealers Van Soest Klassiekers at prices varying from a few hundred to a few thousand Euros. Quite a few still seem to be available at

https://www.vansoestklassiekers.nl/collectie/

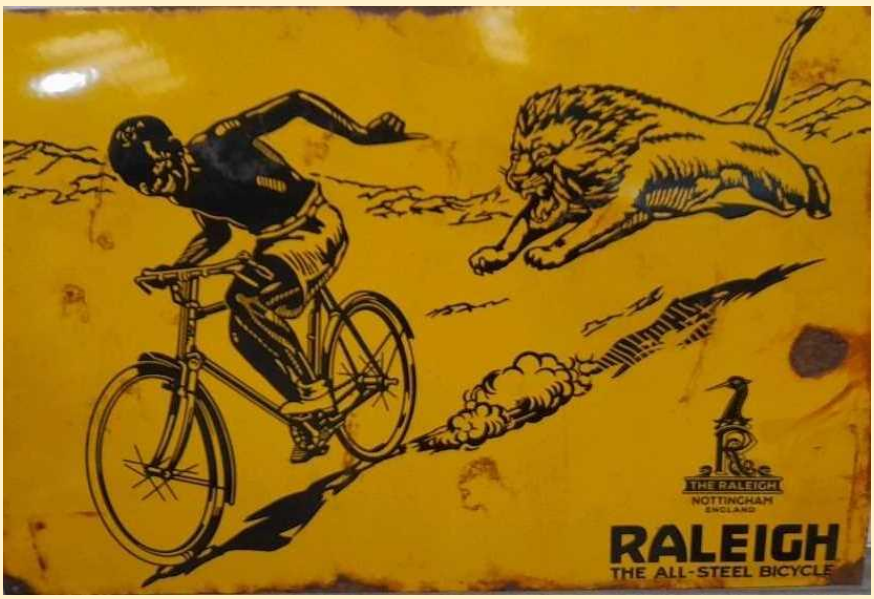




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The Need for Speed

Those of you of my vintage will remember the Esso adverts to 'put a tiger in your tank', but how about a lion on your tail? Fred Magill has turned up the rather alarming old bicycle advert. Suggestions for a caption gratefully received (at entries@bvac.org.uk) and any that are printable will be published next month. I'll start you off with "Should have bought a Jaguar!"



For Sale

Perambulator Folding Garage, made from folding steel tube hoops and heavy canvas with no rips or tears.

In good order and will protect a medium sized car does take my wife's latest model MX5

and did previously house a BMW Z4M.

Looking for £200 OVNO

Contact Bernie on 07779019505





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Xclusively Jaguar

Letitia Mace has as usual provided details of the latest Xclusively Jaguar magazine, including the news of the latest addition to the Jim Clark Museum which I'm sure many of you will be keen to go along to see.



Following up on our "Electric Vehicle" edition of Xclusively Jaguar magazine we would like to thank all those people who took the time to contact us with their views on electric vehicles. It has been very enlightening and it would appear that the majority of you are very sceptical when it comes to electric vehicles!

Quinn Lyons Jaguar Specialists based in London have confirmed that they will be able to carry out routine servicing on electric Jaguars, although any warranty work will not be within their remit.

So, back to sanity and in this month's issue we include a feature on the development of a petrol engine, namely the AJ26. While we are on the subject of petrol engines, Colin Porter at Swallows Racing reports that the season starts on 25th March at Silverstone when Jack will be out in his newly built XK8, and all at Swallows Racing are really excited to see it out on track, with a full report planned for the May issue of Xclusively Jaguar magazine.

Meanwhile, Castle Combe Track Day on 25th April is going to be busy as it is completely sold out, with 75 cars going out on the track, and lots of F-Types will be coming to Castle Combe to celebrate their 10th anniversary! Blyton in August has also sold out and Harewood is filling up nicely.



TKF9, the D-type driven by Jim Clark in the late 1950's, recently arrived at The Jim Clark Museum in Duns, Scotland, and will be on display for the 2023 summer season! A rare opportunity not to be missed!

Now that the season is back in full swing, after the chaos of Covid, what events are you planning to attend this year? Let us know!

You will find the latest issue of Xclusively Jaguar magazine (along with all back issues) at www.Xclusively-Jaguar.co.uk Contact Letitia Mace via 07836 68 78 98 or Letitia@exclusively-jaguar.co.uk for more information

That's all this month, if you've anything you'd like to see published next month, contact me at entries@bvac.org.uk.

David

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