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BVAC News April 2025

Club News

March saw two amazing club events. About forty of us got together on the 5th at the 1953 Restaurant in Galashiels for an evening of fine Nepalese and Indian cuisine, good company and conversation, not all of it about cars! Just a few days later, we had a record-breaking attendance at our monthly breakfast meet. I counted 56 'interesting' cars in the car park ranging from a 1926 Bullnose Morris to modern sportscars. Luckily the garden centre doesn't get deliveries on a Sunday so we can use the delivery area when the car park fills up.







 Contact – Editor: David Hunter editor@bvac.org.uk; Secretary: Kenny Wilson 01896 849597









Looking ahead to April, the Milestone meet will be on Sunday 13th – let's see if we can make it sixty cars this time! All welcome, no need to book, just roll up from 10am until about noon at the Milestone Garden Centre in Newtown St Boswells.

The second club event of the month will be the annual 'Drive It Day' on Sunday 27th April. More details in Philip Titley's item below.

Editor's Note: As I won't be able to be there on the 13th, I'd welcome a report and any pictures you might get for next month's BVAC News. Please email contributions on this or any other topic to editor@bvac.org.uk

Drive It Day from Philip Titley



Starting point of Milestone Garden Centre with first set off at 11:30am with an end point of the Barony Castle Hotel for afternoon tea via Denholm, Hawick Roberton, Gordon Arms cross-road to Traquair, Peebles and the Hotel, Being around 60 miles. Afternoon Tea is booked for 3pm and there is a maximum of 60 places available at a cost of £25 per person. There is no charge for the run and a tulip book and map plus a commemorative plaque are being produced for all participants. Anyone coming on the run but not having afternoon tea

can enjoy the hotel grounds which includes the stone map of Scotland as created by Polish servicemen.

We need to confirm numbers to the hotel by no later than 13 April so please confirm booking ASAP using the form you can download here.

BVAC Classic at Thirlestane

Show day, June 8th, is rapidly approaching and as I'm sure you all realise we can only repeat the successes of previous years if club members volunteer to help out. Members can enter their cars for the show free, so it only seems reasonable to ask those who are able to lend a hand. Last month I published the request from Philip Weiss for helpers during the pre-show week to get things set up and Philip would still like to hear from volunteers at kinderscoutpgw@hotmail.co.uk.

This month, I also have a request from Jono Hunter, our Chief Marshal who's looking for helpers to manage the flow of entrants' cars on the day.

> Volunteers will be asked to help with marshalling duties within the show field.
> Marshals will be provided with all information necessary.
> There will be some time to relax and refreshments and on-site parking are provided.
> Your help is greatly appreciated, and we couldn't run the show without you.
> If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jono Hunter
> Hunterjono4@gmail.com or 07745 845889

And remember, the closing date for car entries is 21st April, so if you haven't already, please get your skates on! The online form is here, or you can download a printable form at the foot of the same webpage, Any queries about entries should be addressed to Moira and Robert Stewart at entries@bvac.org.uk.

Kelso VE Day Event

BVAC has been asked by Scottish Borders Council to display cars at a special VE Day 80th Commemoration service in Kelso Square on Saturday 10th May from 12.30 to around 4pm. This will involve a foot parade and service with bands playing in the square.

This would be specifically for "War era" vehicles, so ideally 1930-40s cars or commercial vehicles owned by club members.

If you would like to take part, please contact our Secretary Kenny Wilson (kenny.bvac@gmail.com) as soon as possible stating name, contact number and vehicle details.

For Sale

No new cars for sale this month, but Chris Biggs tells me his MGB is still available so he would be open to offers. It is also advertised on "Car and Classic". Contact Chris if you're interested at chrisjbiggs@btinternet.com.



A Car with History

Many of you will have admired Frank Sharp's immaculate Mk.2 Jaguar, seen recently at last month's Milestone meet. It's always interesting to know the background of your classic car and Frank has a remarkably complete history for his Jaguar. It was originally exported to South Africa and Frank has recently made contact with the original owner, Dr Cedric Alston. What follows is an extract from an email Frank received from Dr. Alston.



I purchased the car on 31/12/65 in Kimberley for R3950 (about $2000) and immediately went on a trip to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) to run it in, a return distance of about 1600 miles. En route I was embarrassed by not knowing how to engage reverse gear as I had not been briefed by the salesman about the way to do it.

I moved to the Cape for about a year and there found a Jaguar enthusiast mechanic, who serviced my car and was particularly good at tuning the engine.

When I moved to Vryheid at the end of 1966, I used to take the car back to Cape Town twice a year for attention, service and tuning, to this fellow, a distance of 1000 miles one way.

The only problem I had on one of my long trips was a condenser which gave up causing me to have to be towed in for a distance of 50 miles to a Jaguar agent in Bloemfontein, who diagnosed the problem immediately, replaced the part and sent me on my way.

As Jaguars were few and far between it caused a stir to have this fancy car (as it was considered in those days) being towed in!



Once settled in Vryheid I found the dirt roads I had to use on district calls were just unsuitable for the Jaguar and I decided to trade it in for something with a better ground clearance.

During the time I owned the Jaguar I never had any mechanical problems and it remained a source of great joy to drive - I used to do the 1000 mile trip to Cape Town in 13-14 Hrs cruising at 100 – 110 m.p.h - now our speed limits are 70 m.p.h!

Frank has also supplied a subsequent history of the car which can be summarised as follows:

- 1970-92 Various owners in South Africa
- 1993-95 Substantially rebuilt in Cyprus, odometer reset to zero
- 1996-2009 Various owners in UK, covering less than 5000 miles, registration FDS 574D
- 2009-date in Frank Sharp's ownership with his personal registration 1342 FS.



TV Star!

Philip Weiss is not only site manager for the Thirlestane Show but also has a reputation as something of a Land Rover enthusiast with his remarkable one and a half Land Rover camping combo. This has come to the attention of Channel 4 and Philip and the combo





will be appearing in episode 3 of the current series of George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. It's due to be broadcast on April 8th and will be available on C4's streaming platform after that. I leave you to decide if Philip or the car is the star!

Around the Web (compiled with suggestions from Fred Magill and Chris Biggs)

There's a fascinating compilation of period film clips of Kelso in the past, featuring cars of various periods up to about the 1960s. What strikes me about it is how little the centre of Kelso has changed over the years. Find it on Facebook here.



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For all you movie buffs, how about this twenty-minute video showcasing Clint Eastwood's personal car collection – enough to make most motor museums envious! It's on YouTube here. It's not all Americana: Jaguar, Mercedes and even the humble Mini feature.



Xclusively Jaguar Magazine April 2025 from Letitia Mace

Welcome to the April 2025 issue of Xclusively Jaguar Magazine!

March being the birth month of Jim Clark and April being the month in which he died, this month sees the conclusion of our feature on TKF9, the D-type driven by Jim Clark, that celebrates its 70th birthday this year!

Jim Clark 2025

This year we are looking forward to an event in the Scottish Borders that will celebrate the 60th anniversary of Jim Clark's racing victories in 1965, including his second world

championship! The event will be held over two days, 28th and 29th June 2025, and will include a significant display of racing and saloon cars that Jim utilized throughout his career. Exhibition runs using the main drive to Duns Castle will be a key feature on both days. In addition to the racing cars, there will be a diverse collection of rally cars, stock cars, and motorcycles on display. A dinner will be held on Saturday evening in the Volunteer Hall in Duns, with a limited capacity of 200 attendees. Tickets for the dinner will be sold online. Trade stands will be primarily focused on motorsport, reflecting the strong motorsport theme of the event.



A final reminder for Jaguar Spares Day - which this spring takes place on 13th April – full details can be seen on page 8 of this issue

Amongst all of this there should be some good reading!

You will find the latest issue of Xclusively Jaguar magazine (along with all back issues) at https://www.xclusivelyjaguar.org/

Contact Letitia Mace via 07836 68 78 98 or Letitia@xclusivelyjaguar.org for more information or if you have any problems accessing the new website.

Until next month, Happy Motoring!

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That's all for this month. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Clear roads,

David
editor@bvac.org.uk