



BVAC News

August 2021

July Events



We had two club events during July, starting with a delightful supper evening on the 2nd at the Woodside Walled Garden near Ancrum. On an evening with a rather dubious weather forecast, there was an excellent turnout of club members in an eclectic collection of cars from the 1920s to the 2000s. The company was cheerful, the supper tasty and the strawberries ripe and sweet, not to mention the refreshing 'mocktails'. When

the inevitable shower caused a mad dash to the car park by the owners of open top cars rushing to cover up, there was just enough sheltered seating to avoid anyone getting too wet.





The regular Milestone breakfast meet was again well attended on the 11th and is now re-establishing itself as a regular feature in members' diaries.



For Your Diary

Got your diary out? We're trying to make up for lost time earlier in the year, so here are some dates in quick succession to make the most of the rest of the season:

- Sunday 8th August – Breakfast meeting 10-12, Milestone Garden Centre Newtown St Boswells
- Sunday 29th August – National Trust for Scotland Classic Car Show, Newhailes House, Musselburgh – see article on page 3

- Sunday 5th September – ‘September Saunter’ driving event at Thirlestane Castle, Lauder. Apologies for any confusion caused by last month’s BVAC News which gave the 5th as a Saturday. Entry details on page 4.
- Sunday 12th September – Breakfast meet at Milestone.
- Saturday 18th September – ‘Pop-up’ BVAC car show in Kelso, details also on page 4.

Newhailes Classic Car Show by Dennis Fortune



The National Trust for Scotland have confirmed that their forthcoming Classic Car Show will be held at Newhailes House and Gardens on Sunday 29th August 2021. The BVAC have been somewhat involved in preliminary discussions on the organisation and various other requirements for setting up the show and as a reward we have been allocated space at the front of the house. NTS are particularly interested in the fact that we are not a one make club and they are looking forward to having our display of a variety of cars of all ages and types. We have also been invited to bring along our club gazebo, flags and any other regalia giving us the opportunity to promote our club to a new audience, so let's put on a display they won't forget. In addition to some other car clubs there will be a display of tractors, emergency service transport, together with a car dealer, and the show will be open to the public from 10.00am until 4.00pm.

In return Newhailes House and Gardens has a great deal to offer for those who like to wonder off and explore their surroundings. There is the 300 year old Palladian mansion with breathtaking interiors and a fine art collection together with the 18th century designed landscaped gardens and woodland walks with views across the Forth. For those of you with younger family members there is also an adventure play park which is well worth a visit. To

compliment this there is The Dairy ice cream parlour and the Stables café to cater for our nutritional needs. Please note there are admission entry fees to the playpark and house and anyone wanting to visit the house would be advised to pre-book their tour and you can find all the details for this and more at: <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/newhailes>

On a more practical note we can arrive any time after 8.00am and so for those in the Borders the proposal is to meet at Carfraemill Hotel by 8.30am for onward travel to Newhailes otherwise you can let Dennis Fortune know that you will make your own way there arriving no later than 9.30am. For transportation of our gazebo and other regalia this will be arranged with members who have suitable space in their vehicles. The full address for the show is Newhailes Estate, Newhailes Road, Musselburgh, East Lothian, EH21 6RY and the entrance to the estate is on Newhailes Road (A6095) on the outskirts of Musselburgh.

Club members wishing to participate should submit their entry form no later than Monday 16th August 2021. You can find the entry form by clicking [here](#).

September Saunter

This delightful autumn drive through the Borders countryside will start and finish at Thirlestane Castle, Lauder, with plenty of time for socialising before and after with other club members and guests from some other car clubs. Gather at Thirlestane from 9:30 onwards on Sunday September 5th for departures from 11:00, with the option to go straight round or stop for a picnic or café lunch along the way. You can download the entry form (which should be returned no later than 28th August) by clicking [here](#).

Kelso Show

You will remember that the plan for an ad hoc display of cars in the centre of Kelso last year fell foul of the Covid-19 restrictions. We're going to try again on Saturday 18th September from 10:30 to 15:00. There will be room for up to about 16 cars, so get your entry in as soon as possible and no later than 11th September. You can download the entry form [here](#).

Care Home Visit

The club has been asked to provide some cars of the 1930s – 70s era for a visit to St John's Care Home in Melrose. The idea is to prompt nostalgic memories for the residents, many of whom have dementia. It would be a short event in the middle of a weekday. If you have a suitable car and would be willing to bring it along, please email chrisbiggs@btinternet.com and Chris will let you know when we have a date arranged. Due to parking constraints, only three or four cars can fit in. Some of you may remember we did a similar event at a care home in Galashiels a few years ago and it was much appreciated.

Petrol – A Cautionary Tale by Frank Sharp

Like most owners of classic cars I have used the 99 octane fuel since they started introducing ethanol into fuel to avoid the problems caused by this additive to our engines and fuel systems. My normal practice is to fuel-up on the way to a car event invariably using the Shell V Power at the Shell garages in Jedburgh, Galashiels and Selkirk.

My 1965 Jaguar Mark II's first outing following the period of "hibernation" since September 2019 was the weekend of the 10th July 2021 when I drove it to Edinburgh. The car started first time at home and I filled it with Esso Synergy 99 octane petrol from the Dalgleish Esso garage on the way into Galashiels and drove some 40 or so miles without any problems. In fact, it was an enjoyable and without incident journey for the first 45 minutes or so.

On arriving at the roundabout on the outskirts of Laswade intending to call for a break at the garden centre, the engine died and wouldn't start. The starter motor turned the engine well and I realised that it was likely to be a fuel problem.

Some passing motorists helped push the car to a safer location and I called out the AA. In the meantime, I found that paradoxically the engine - even though hot - would start if I momentarily engaged the choke. My car is a South African build and has always been filled with a switch operated choke rather than the temperature sensitive otter switch on UK cars. My dilemma was whether to risk travelling further now that the engine would start, but concern that the same problem would occur later in the journey. Just to add to the stress, I was using the car for a friend's daughter's wedding in Edinburgh. The AA technician suggested that it could be a fuel pump issue and that it was probable that the same engine cut-out could happen again and so I decided to have the car trailered back home to Melrose. It has since started quite normally on three separate attempts!

The same weekend I contacted the technical expert on these engines at the Jaguar Enthusiasts Club, Ken Jenkins. His reply was somewhat surprising but informative. To quote Ken *"That is interesting. Before the last lock down one of my friends was on holiday in Scotland in his 1966 S Type and had a similar issue. In the end he gave up and had the car transported to us (at Worksop). He also had previously been using Shell V Power but there was not a Shell garage where he was staying so used Esso. We found that the fuel was vaporising after a 30 mile run, it would not re-start when hot, but after half an hour with the bonnet open it was fine. We drained the fuel and put it into a modern car and re-filled with V Power and it was fine. We also replaced the paper filter in the glass bowl to be safe. Using the choke would clear the air lock."*

Food for thought!

Other BVAC members may want to reflect on my experience, choice of petrol on this single occasion, its consequences and Ken Jenkins comments. Needless to say, I transferred the petrol from the Mark II to Cecilia's Corolla and filled it up again with Shell V Power.

Inventory of Club Equipment

The club has acquired quite a lot of equipment over the years to facilitate car shows and other club activities. Most of it is stored in the containers and caravans at Thirlestane, but some is held in members' homes. We'd like to compile an inventory to update the club records and to this end there will be a call for volunteers to stocktake the containers soon. To get the ball rolling, would anyone who holds any of the club property please email me at entries@bvac.org.uk with a list of what they have. Thank you.

1926 Bullnose for sale



There is for sale in Berwick-Upon-Tweed a cream 1926 Morris Cowley. Good condition and good running order. The owner is open to sensible offers. Contact BVAC member Jim Swanston for further details on mobile 07801 587471 or by email jswanston1946@gmail.com.

Alternatively, the owner Malcolm Mace can be contacted directly via email hello@charlesmaceandsonsfunerals.co.uk.

Looking for that Elusive Part?

Morris Leslie have a series of online auctions underway over the next couple of weeks, mostly with an agricultural theme, but they have one which closes on 13th August with lots to include classic car parts, auto literature, brochures, manuals, tools etc. To view the catalogue, click [here](#).

That's all for this month, hope to see you at club events soon,

David