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BVAC News
December 2023



Show Planning

Work is well underway with plans for the BVAC Classic at Thirlestane on Sunday June 2nd next year. Watch out for announcements over the next couple of months. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, the committee would welcome offers of assistance in the planning and execution of the show.

November Activity

There were two BVAC events in November, our regular Breakfast Meet at Milestone on the 12th and a Film Night on the 22nd. It's getting to be quite normal to have a turnout of thirty or more cars at Milestone and November was no exception. It's always good to meet new members and see cars that haven't been around before. This month small engines were much in evidence with two 2CVs, a Messerschmitt and a Pembleton attending. There was also a

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reminder that once common cars are now getting hard to find in decent condition - the 36 year old Ford Fiesta pictured below has just been imported from Poland.









The film night was an opportunity for some motoring nostalgia with MG promotional films from the 30s and 50s followed by action from the 1964 East Africa Rally. Ford were rightly proud of the achievements of their Cortinas, but the film did admit there were some other worthy competitors such as Erik and Pat Carlsson in their Saabs. Fine Jaguars featured in footage from Pebble Beach and Monaco to round the evening off. Thanks are due to Keith Watson, Chris Biggs and Letitia Mace for sourcing material. For anyone who missed the show, you can watch the MG material on YouTube here and here.

Christmas Dinner

The 2023 BVAC Christmas Dinner has just been held and the Kingsknowes Hotel kept up their reputation for providing an excellent meal. Thanks are due to Helen Grimes for organising the event with her usual efficiency. We had a record



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attendance of 50 and judging by the happy faces seen here you all seemed to enjoy yourselves.

December Breakfast Meet

The December meet will be as usual on the second Sunday of the month (the 10th) at the Milestone Garden Centre in Newtown St Boswells. Come along from 10am to meet up and talk cars in the car park or over something warming in the Greenhouse Café. Please note 'Breakfast with Santa' will be running from 9-11am so you may want to leave the café until after 11.

Snippets from the Web

When Janis Joplin sang 'Oh Lord, won't you buy me a Mercedes Benz?', I suspect this wasn't what she had in mind. The postwarclassic.com website is currently advertising this 1954 Merecdes Benz oil tanker which looks like it's had a hard life delivering fuel around Brussels. It's on offer for 8500 Euros and you'll have to import it from Belgium.



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Long distance charity runs in old cars are nothing new, but South Carolina to California in a 103 year old Model T seems more ambitious than most, particularly when the aim is a record-breaking 13 days. They set out on November 17th, so if they hit their target they'll be there by the time you read this. The run is to raise funds for Hydrocephalus research so good luck to them – more details here.



The people at prewarcar.com would like to know more about this picture, probably taken in the 1950s or 60s. The car is a 1930 Humber and it's still around (on SORN). It has been suggested that it might be a film or publicity shot. Do you recognise any faces or the location?



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Christmas Puzzle

Thanks to Chris Biggs for sending in this picture of a car park in Newton Abbot (?) around 1960. How many cars can you recognise? Just for amusement – no prizes!



Xclusively Jaguar Magazine December 2023 from Letitia Mace

As we come to the end of another year Colin Porter reports on the climax of a long season, covering both Snetterton and Donington, where Jack eventually tied for the championship with Guy Connew, both on 176 points. Sadly, for Swallows Racing, it was eventually awarded to Guy on race wins, with Guy on 11 and Jack on 10, but it couldn't have been any closer!

We're very pleased to announce that (among other recent awards) **The Allanton Inn**, our favoured hostelry for weary Jaguar drivers on reaching the Scottish Borders, recently featured in The Sunday Times Lifestyle magazine on 29th October 2023 in a list of 27 of Britain's cosiest pubs for autumn and winter breaks!

SAVE THE DATE – if you own one of the following models: Mark 1, Mark 5, Mark 7, Mark 8, Mark 9, XJ Coupe or MANUAL XJ40/X300 XJR don't forget to keep the first weekend in August FREE next year and let me know if you wish to attend so that I can keep you up-to-date with important details relating to the event.



Looking back at the Jaguar news of December 2009, and other interesting features dating from that time, we reach the penultimate instalment of Andy Harvey's XJ-S restoration project and revisit Esta-Jane's Project XJ40. This was the issue in which I introduced The Daimler Century Register and now, as the owner of a Daimler Century with the benefit of experience and further knowledge, it is interesting to look back on my thoughts at the time. My intention is to update the information I have on the Daimler Century in a future issue. As mentioned elsewhere, my "Looking Back" features have been re-published, warts and all, for comment and amusement, so please enjoy them in the spirit they were intended.

More recently, we have our promised pictorial report on Goodwood Revival 2023, while Howard Hunt reminisces over a close association with a Daimler Double Six "Fire Engine"!

For small people who need nurturing and gently introducing to the world of Jaguar, we have an idea for a day out next year!

So, if you are busy on the lead up to Christmas, you will find plenty of post-Christmas reading and pictures of events from the summer in this issue of Xclusively Jaguar magazine, when all the fuss and turkey is gone!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Xclusively Jaguar!

You will find the latest issue of Xclusively Jaguar magazine (along with all back issues) at 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.



That's all for this month, I hope to see you all soon.

Clear roads,

David

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