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BVAC News
December 2024



From the Editor

Those of you who were at the AGM or have read the report in last month's BVAC News will know that I have relinquished the role of Entries Secretary for the BVAC Classic. I'm sure you will be glad to hear that Christine Hingley Craig has agreed to take over the job, I certainly am!

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

She'll be starting to take entries early in the New Year, so I hope you'll all support her by getting your entries in early.

This does mean a change in contact arrangements as Christine is taking over the email address entries@bvac.org.uk and there is a new one to contact myself with any input or comments for BVAC News – it's editor@bvac.org.uk.

Looking for a Christmas Gift?

A gift voucher from The BVAC Merchandise Collection could be the answer!

The vouchers are made up to order and can be of any value and are incorporated in a full colour Christmas Card supporting BEN, the motor industry charity.



To order, e-mail mike.webber@bvac.org.uk, quoting the value you desire and we will send a payment link to confirm your order.

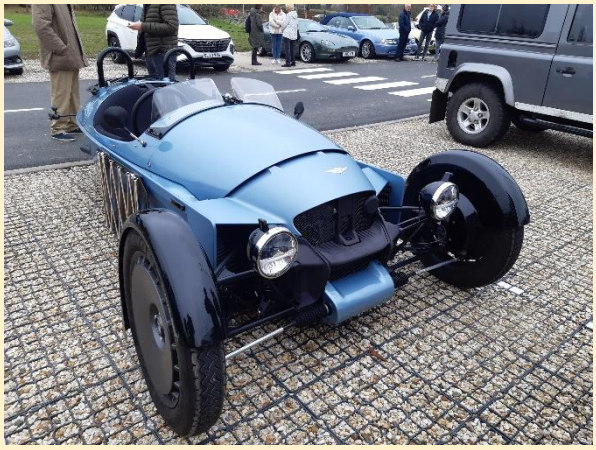
Club Events

This is a relatively quiet time of year for club activity, as I'm sure quite a few classics are tucked away in garages for the winter. That hasn't stopped the rise in popularity of our monthly Milestone meet as once again in November we had over forty cars of all ages from pre-war right up to modern sporting machines. Here are a few photos.













Next month our meet will be on Sunday 8th December, all welcome at the Milestone Garden Centre, Newtown St Boswells from 10am until about noon. The evening before will be the annual Christmas dinner at the Kingsknowes Hotel in Galashiels. Unfortunately, bookings have now closed so if you missed out, better luck next year!

Thirlestane 2025

Tickets have gone on sale for public entry to next year's BVAC Classic at Thirlestane on June 8th. It will feature cars past, present and future – maybe even electrics? Save the date and if available please come forward to help set up. More details to come in future issues of BVAC News and on the website at bvac.org.uk.

Big in Iceland

The modern trend for large SUVs is apparent everywhere, but nowhere more so than in Iceland, where to be fair they do have weather and road conditions that merit something rugged. The car on the right isn't a toy, but a full-size Range Rover so I hope not to meet the other one on a Borders single track road!



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Going North Next Summer?



Web Roundup

If you're stuck indoors surfing the web on a dark winter's night, here are a few ideas which might be of interest. As usual, thanks to Fred Magill for some of these suggestions.

The Brooklands TV YouTube Channel has plenty of material about classic motoring including a series of interviews on stands at the NEC Classic Motor Show in November. Here's an example from the British Salmson Club (Aren't Salmsons French? – all is explained in the clip). I must declare an interest in this item, as the interviewee is my brother. NEC Classic Motor Show 2024. British Salmson.

The magazine sections of the twin websites prewarcar.com and postwarclassic.com can be relied on for some interesting reading, for example, the seventieth anniversary of the Citroen DS coming up next year and a car rally on the Chinese island of Hainan. Nothing if not eclectic!



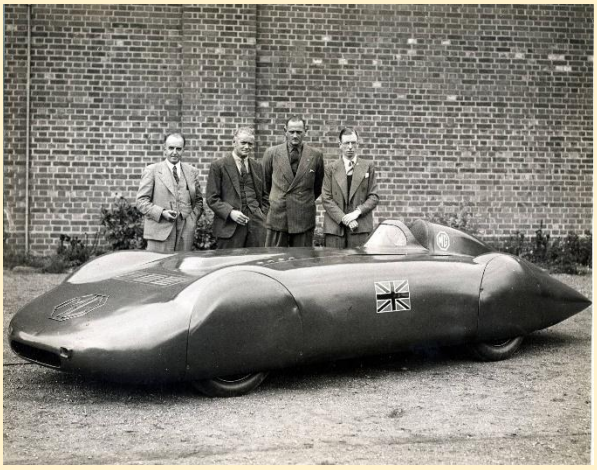
Click on the pictures for the links.



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Historic MG Record Breaker

Our Abingdon correspondent (aka Chris Biggs) found this item on Facebook showing the MG EX135 record breaking car which looks pretty futuristic now, let alone when it was built in 1934. You can read more about the car and the gentlemen posing with it by following the link above.





Ukrainian Classics and Oddities

Dennis Fortune's article last month about his trip to Malta prompted me to look out some pictures I took on a holiday in Ukraine in 2011, long before the recent horrors unfolded. The first two are Moskvitch 401s dating from the late forties or early fifties. The resemblance to a 1939 Opel Kadett is not coincidental – the Soviets took over the plans and tooling from Opel as war reparations. The next row shows two generations of Volga limousines, popular with

senior Soviet functionaries and often used as taxis in the early post-Soviet era. The GAZ-21 model was produced from 1956-70 before being replaced by GAZ-24 in the 70s. The latter must have needed some neat footwork to drive – as well as the usual three pedals, there were foot operated controls for dipping headlights, screenwasher and radiator louvres. Then there's a ZAZ-968 which was built in Ukraine in the 1970s. The body seems to owe something to the NSU Prinz but the rear engine was a 1.2 litre air cooled V4 which seems to been spectacularly unreliable even by Soviet standards. The heavy engine over the rear wheels gave good traction in snow at the expense of handling on bends. I don't know what to make of the last picture – it seems to have been home made by a carpenter from two different sets of plans!













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Xclusively Jaguar Magazine December 2024 from Letitia Mace

All Change!

The day that Jaguar released details of their new logo it met with much contempt. The following day a reporter from The Sun newspaper wanted me to comment. I could have been flattered that a national newspaper wanted my views on Jaguar's new image; however, I do not think it is for me to comment as my view would be wholly subjective and I would rather hear what those who read my magazine are thinking! Your views will help me to shape how much or how little of the "new Jaguar" I feature in future issues. Are YOU interested in where Jaguar goes from here or would you rather draw a line under Jaguar and dismiss JaGUar as having nothing to do with the marque that you love?

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Looking Back

Our monthly feature that revisits the oldest surviving Xclusively Jaguar newsletters corresponds month on month from 14 years ago. These are becoming a magazine within a magazine, as the newsletter grew in size with every issue. Reading through the content this month has made one thing very clear, in my opinion.

Jaguar may be promising us a great new era but I think the great era of Jaguar is past. When I got involved with Jaguar, shortly after the millennium, my enthusiasm was fuelled by fellow enthusiasts with stories of grand Jaguar parades and record breaking feats. Breath-taking and awe-inspiring model launches by Jaguar themselves were followed up by individual dealerships ready to impress potential customers and lead them to their next Jaguar purchase. From Jaguar designers and engineers to test drivers, launch teams and beyond, the company was fuelled by enthusiasts of the marque, with Jaguar Racing Green blood coursing through their veins. Where are they now? Most have left, and write for people like me, with fond memories of the Jaguar they knew - the Jaguar of the past.

One such event was featured in the September 2024 instalment of "Looking Back" – that of the event held at Jabekke in 1999 to commemorate the 1959 record breaking speed trial and one of the last of Jaguar's grand parades is featured in this month's "Looking Back" and was to celebrate 75 years of Jaguar in 2010! Since then we've had very little. The dealers have toned down and cut back tremendously on their flamboyant model launches and it has been left to the clubs and private event organisers to put on displays and parades, but without the advantage of generous funds.

Sir William Lyons flair for putting on a good show has finally ebbed away.

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Merry Christmas

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!

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