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BVAC News
January 2026



Happy New Year to all our members!

December Activities

Lots of older cars are tucked away for the winter, so there's not usually a lot of club activity to report at this time of year with the notable exception of our Christmas Dinner. As usual the Kingsknowes Hotel produced an excellent meal for the nearly forty of us who turned out. The numbers were slightly down on last year, so for those members who didn't come along (and for those who did), the date for your diary is **Saturday December 5th, 2026**.



The other event which carries on throughout the year is our monthly Milestone breakfast meet, and even if the weather's not kind and you come along in something modern it's always good to get out and talk old cars over a bacon butty. The weather wasn't particularly kind at our December meeting, so full marks to Donald Mann for arriving in the only pre-war car to make it – it's not often you see the hood up on Donald's Riley. Jim Holyoake's

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Austin 7 apparently shed a wheel so that probably counts as a valid excuse for getting a lift with a friend!



While we're on the subject of planning ahead, the 2026 dates for Milestone are:

- **January 11th**
- **February 8th**
- **March 8th**
- **April 12th**
- **May 10th**
- **June 14th**
- **July 12th**
- **August 9th**
- **September 13th**
- **October 11th**
- **November 8th**
- **December 13th**







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The ‘Monte’ Comes to Scotland



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Jaguar and Healey Paintings

This letter has reached me via Letitia Mace. If anyone can shed any light on the paintings they can contact the writer direct but in any case, I think they're worth viewing.

On behalf of my friend Michael, I am hoping that some of your members may have information about these two paintings and/or the cars featured. Michael bought the pictures from Fastframe picture framing shop in Haymarket, Newcastle-upon-Tyne in July 1995. The paintings had been left to be framed a year earlier (early 1994), apparently by the person who had commissioned the paintings, but they were never collected.

Jaguar XK120, registration number XK1, is believed to still be in existence (private collection?) and still bearing the same registration number.

Austin-Healey 3000 X230 prototype. Believed to depict 1960 prototype X230, also known as the "Four Lamper" - a development of the Healey 3000 for the North American market. Note the Italian registration of the car in the painting.

These original oil-on-canvas paintings each measures approximately 21" x 18". The artist's signature might be "C.Frigmont".

Michael speculates that the paintings were left at the shop by Geoffrey Carroll Healey (14 December 1922 to 29 April 1994). His death would obviously have prevented collection of the framed paintings.

Geoff was a car designer and son of Donald Healey, founder of the Donald Healey Motor Company Ltd, and he eventually joined the family car firm. Bonham auctioneers sold off much of the Donald & Geoffrey Healey Collection of paintings and Austin-Healey automobilia (August 2017).

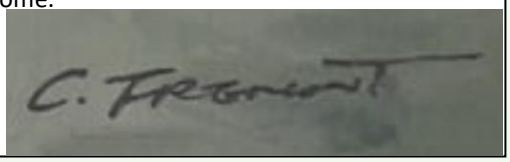
Each original oil-on-canvas painting is approximately 21" x 18".

Any information about the cars/paintings would be most welcome.

Thank you,

Jim Scott, Sunderland.

Jimscott@live.co.uk







On the Web

Also from Letitia, the Peter Mallett Racing website posts ‘Friday Factoids’, a random collection of motoring facts – have a look here and scroll down to ‘Latest Posts’.



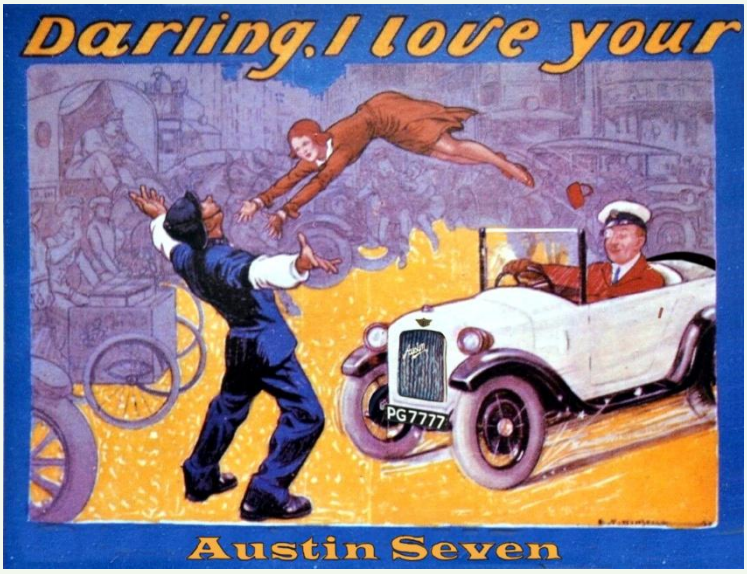


Fred Magill has sent in this link to an article dating from 2020 in the Daily Mail about the demise of Bristol Cars Ltd. with some fascinating pictures of the wooden styling ‘bucks’ used to form the body shapes.

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More Nostalgia…

Fred has also kept up his apparently inexhaustible supply of historic, quirky or just plain inexplicable material. If anyone can tell me what message the Austin 7 advert is trying to convey, I'd be pleased to hear it!



Vauxhalls seem to have been selling well in Hong Kong in the 1950s.

Overleaf, you'll find evidence that the stretched limo is not a new concept and a rare Rover estate car.

Keep up the good work, Fred!



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Xclusively Jaguar Magazine

The printed version of 'Xclusively Jaguar' is no longer being published but Letitia Mace is looking at a revised version of the online edition. Watch this space for a future announcement.

That's all for this month. Here's wishing you clear (unsalted) roads in 2026,

David
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