



BVAC News

July

2022



Triumphant Thirlestane!

Now that the dust has settled and life has returned to normal, we can look back to the events at Thirlestane three weeks ago with a degree of satisfaction and even pride in having staged an event which surpassed anything we have run before and marked the club's 50th anniversary in style. Having Sir Jackie Stewart not only lend his name to the event, but bring along a spectacular display of classic and modern racing cars and spend the whole weekend at



Thirlestane in person was a huge bonus and no doubt contributed to the massive crowds, estimated at 17-18,000 over the two days. Sir Jackie was very complimentary about the club and the BVAC Classic concours when he cut our anniversary celebration cake on Sunday afternoon. The demonstration sprints

on the castle drive proved a huge attraction, featuring classic and modern racing machinery and complimented our display of classics which numbered over 1000.

Amongst the displays we were particularly pleased to welcome both cars and drivers who'd been



present at the inaugural event in 1972. The rare Austin Seven Coupé driven in 1972 by the late Sandy Blair has been off the road for many years, but was disturbed from its slumbers in Kelso and appeared to be in excellent condition. Sandy's daughter Jane who also drove to the 1972 event (in the Morris 8 I have undergoing restoration) and son Walter who is the current custodian of the Austin both visited the show, while Malcolm Gordon brought along the Bentley 3 litre his father drove in 1972.



Some of our members harboured doubts (publicly or privately) about our ability to bring off such an event and about potential conflicts of interest between club and castle and while there were a few wrinkles and things we might do differently in any future event, the overwhelming response was positive. Hard work by both club volunteers and Edward's team at the castle paid off handsomely.

50th Anniversary Run by Chris Biggs

Early in June we successfully recreated the original enthusiast's Run that caused the Club to be formed in 1972. As a 50th Anniversary tribute a good and well mixed group of member's vehicles was assembled at The Tankerville Arms Hotel, Wooler, on the morning of Sunday 5th June. We enjoyed refreshments in a function room before our Chairman flagged cars off from the car park to complete the first leg to Kelso, hugging the edge of The Cheviots on a fine day.



In Kelso we were enthusiastically greeted in the Market Place by the Town Provost and a large crowd of townsfolk and visitors as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. Following a lunch stop we drove on the second leg to Mellerstain House via Scott's View. We were able to park up in front of the House for photographs commemorating many years of BVAC Shows held there.



Then we were off for a brisk third leg of the Run to Thirlestane Castle bringing the history of the Club up to date. Cars were displayed across the front of the Castle as we picnicked in glorious sunshine.

Club Events by Chris Biggs with photos from David Watt & John Littlewood

Our regular Milestone breakfast meets were well attended both in June and July. For the July meet a particularly warm and sunny day brought out all the sports and convertibles with 'tops down'.

In the first few days of July the Club made two visits to Care Homes in the region as a treat for both residents and staff. Galahill House in Galashiels and St. John's in Melrose were delighted to receive small groups of cars and their drivers for brief outdoors visits. Rain stayed away on both occasions and there was a good deal of reminiscence, friendly conversation and many smiles. This is an excellent way to provide interest in the lives of those who are mostly confined to an indoor existence and a chance to see cars from an era when they were very much younger. We have received very warm thanks from both Homes.



After a good deal of reminders issued I am delighted to be looking forward to the Club's 50th Anniversary Celebration Social evening at Woodside Walled Garden on Wednesday 13th July. At the time of writing we are just a few days away from what should be a relaxed and pleasant evening amidst beautiful surroundings. Booking for this event has now closed.

During August and September we have further activities in planning leading into the autumn when our AGM is scheduled. As soon as events are finalised for this period they will appear on the Events page of the Club website and there will be additional notification via 'all member' emails.

Car Shows This Summer by Dennis Fortune

Two car shows have been attended since the last BVAC News:

Moffat Classic Car Rally 26th June 2022



Heading for the Moffat Classic Car Rally took most of our participants through the beautiful but somewhat remote area of the Scottish Borders when after leaving Selkirk we passed by St Mary's Loch and the Grey Mare's Tail waterfall before driving down through the Moffat valley and into Moffat itself. Having looked at the weather forecast before setting off it was well known by all that it could be a wet and windy day, and this

proved absolutely correct as the closer we got to Moffat the darker the skies and heavier the rain. As usual the show itself was well organised and we were directed to the second field, quite near the entrance gate, and we duly assembled our cars for display and erected the sand flags, having decided not to take a gazebo. Disappointingly, the weather seemed to have put off a few entrants and there were less cars on display as normal. As for BVAC we had 10 members attending but it was so wet and windy that even one of the sand flags blew down, after which both flags were packed away. There were a good number of traders but unfortunately the weather didn't improve and by just after lunch it was clear that many entrants were leaving, having all had a good soaking, and so it was with heavy heart and wet decided to join the majority of show goers and we packed up and left just after lunch. A real disappointment for the organisers, particularly Gordon Bissett who has advised that this was his last year doing the show and hoping to pass the organisation on to a new and younger group for future shows. We wish them all the best.

Chillingham Vintage Tractor Rally 3rd July

By comparison to Moffat the weather for the Chillingham show was much better and, dare I say it, the organisation much less strict with 11 BVAC members meeting up on the southern outskirts of Wooler before proceeding to the showground just a few miles south of the town. We were directed to a general area where we put up camp and organised our cars in two rows with sand flags either end. Unlike other shows this is much more relaxed and instead of professional



traders there is a car boot sale, selling everything from bric-a brac to house plants to local honey.

Needless to say the big event of the day is the parade of tractors driving along the high ridge to the south of the show field, a sight to see for sure. The rest of the day was spent looking around the other cars on display and visiting the various outlets serving the necessary refreshments and sustenance. After the tractor drive mid afternoon that was the main event over and entrants were free to leave as and when they wished.

A nice relaxing good day had by all, especially since the sun shone for most part of the day. One to put in the diary for next year.

Forthcoming Show Dates

You still have time to enter for the club stand at the remaining shows to be held at Duns, Newhailes and Brunton. For the Berwickshire Agricultural show at Duns you'll need to be quick with your online entry form as the closing date is this Thursday 14th July. For Newhailes there's a bit more time with the closing date here being Monday 8th August. Finally, for Brunton a closing date is yet to be fixed, so look out for further information soon.

Xclusively Jaguar Magazine July 2022 from Letitia Mace

So, the bad news is that I had to decline a VIP invitation from Lord Montagu of Beaulieu and the Trustees of the National Motor Museum to the 50th anniversary of the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu on 3rd July, due to an unavoidable prior engagement.

However, it's not all bad news, as last month was very special, and Xclusively Jaguar celebrated The Queen's Platinum Jubilee by travelling north for Brucie's debut at The Shetland Classic Motor Show! You will find a full report in this issue of Xclusively Jaguar magazine. We hosted the trip to Shetland for 10 associates of Xclusively Jaguar – a mixture of subscribers and sponsors, 12 in all, with a total of 7 assorted cars from the 1980's and 1990's, all of which had been under the care of David Marks at some point in the past! The same trip had been planned in 2020, but cancelled due to Covid, and the weather this year was glorious, which went some way to compensating for our missed trip!

This month we are proud to welcome our latest sponsor, Woodham Mortimer, and while we were busy enjoying ourselves in Shetland, they were busily engaged in preparing for the Mille Miglia 2022!

And here's what you can find in THIS issue...

- > Racing news from Swallows Racing by Colin Porter
- > A fascinating insight into Hybrid technology's - a truly worthwhile read even if your feet are planted firmly into "petrolhead" ground!
- > The Shetland Tour - A load of British Classics head North for The Shetland Motor Show - what could possibly go wrong?
- > JDC tell us about their trip to the famous Jaguar Engine Plant in Wolverhampton
- > As well as all our usual Classifieds, Offers and smaller stories!

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

Contact Letitia Mace at Letitia@exclusively-jaguar.co.uk for more information

Until next month, Happy Motoring!



Lotus Legends

The Jim Clark Trust are delighted to announce “Lotus Legends – An Afternoon with Bob Dance and Beaky Sims” on the 31st of July 2022 at 2pm until 4pm at Duns Primary School.

Join us for an engaging and fascinating afternoon with the brilliant minds of Bob Dance and Dave “Beaky” Sims. Learn about their impressive careers within motor-racing and listen to each of their experiences with the late Jim Clark.



LOTUS LEGENDS

AN AFTERNOON
WITH
BOB DANCE
AND
BEAKY SIMS

SUNDAY 31ST JULY
2PM – 4PM

DUNS PRIMARY SCHOOL
LANGTONGATE
DUNS
TD11 3QQ

TICKETS COST £20 AND ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR ONLINE SHOP
WWW.JIMCLARKTRUST.COM



Marcos and Lotus at Charterhall by Alistair Skinner

Editor's note: *Alistair provided photographs to illustrate this article, but these were deleted due to editorial incompetence. I hope to be able to publish them next month.*

As a taster to the BVAC Classic weekend at Thirlestane, I was fortunate enough to wangle an invitation to a photoshoot at Charterhall, near Duns - the former WW2 airfield and also the site of a number of regular motorsport events from 1952 until activity ceased in 2013.

It was at Charterhall that many famous drivers, including Jim Clark and Sir Jackie Stewart, cut their motor racing teeth.

Prior to the Thirlestane event, Sir Jackie asked motorsport photographer and author Graham Gauld, if he could track down the old race cars that he had lost track of, including the first one that he had ever raced.

Sir Jackie Stewart's first race car was a peculiar beast, a 1960 wooden chassied Marcos Xylon GT, otherwise known as "the Ugly Duckling", which he raced at Charterhall in 1960 and 1961. The car is now owned & has been restored by an Italian enthusiast, Matteo Panini. After a request by Sir Jackie Stewart asking him if he would bring the Marcos to the Thirlestane event, Matteo made the 1270 mile journey from his hometown of Modena (with the Marcos in a trailer I hasten to add!) to the Borders.

The Charterhall photoshoot was instigated by Sir Jackie as he wanted Graham Gauld to repeat the photograph that he had taken of him driving the Marcos at Charterhall in 1960. Along with Matteo with his Marcos, Doug Niven, cousin of Jim Clark, was also there with his 1960 Lotus Elite. I had been invited by my friend Iain Adamson, who is a Marcos owner and administrator of the Marcos Scotland Facebook page. He had been in close contact with Matteo but, unfortunately, he was unable to come to Charterhall because of work commitments but, fortunately, I was given the green light to bring my Morgan along.

In the end, the photograph wasn't taken as Sir Jackie was too embroiled with clay pigeon shooting, but Matteo had a great time driving up and down the emergency runway - the surviving usable strip of tarmac from what was once a quadruple runway cum racetrack. This strip also incorporated the start/finish line – you could still see faint traces of the grid markings!

Graham took a number of shots of the Marcos and the Elite and when he had finished, I asked him if it would be okay if I parked the Morgan between the two cars to take some pictures of my own. He readily agreed and, in the end, much to my delight, everyone took photos of the three cars!

It was a proud moment and one which gave me goosebumps just thinking about the history of Charterhall and how it had kick started the careers of a number of well known racing drivers.

MX5 For Sale

Mazda MX5, Petrol, Manual, 69,600 miles, MOT until October 2022.

A dream to drive, holds the road beautifully. Sad to let her go, but we're getting too old to get in and out!

We live in East Lothian and if interested please either email me at shona.maclean@btinternet.com or ring on 07703476588. £1,500



If we are successful in selling it, we will be delighted to make a donation to the club.



That's all for this month, and apologies for the late arrival, but I've been away. Normal service will be resumed next month. thanks are due to everyone who contributed. I hope to see you at club events soon and if you've anything you want to comment on or contribute, email me at entries@bvac.org.uk.

Clear roads,

David