



BVAC News

July 2021

Back on the Road!

I am delighted to report that club activities have resumed and make no apology for taking the first few pages of this month's BVAC News to publish a selection of photographs. First off was the mini-show at Melrose on June 5th to support the efforts of the team attempting the coast to coast journey in under 24 hours to raise money for the My Name's Doddie Foundation. I'm glad to tell you that not only did the team make it, but they've exceeded their £24,000 target, the total now standing at over £28,500. When you add in the gift aid that means about £34,000 is going to the charity. The BVAC line-up included a couple of lockdown acquisitions that haven't been seen much yet, although they did feature in BVAC News a few months ago

– Chris Biggs' pretty yellow MGB and Dennis Fortune's BMW Coupe. The latter is a low volume and high performance variant, so quite a rare bird. Also joining us was Donald Hawes' immaculate black MGB, which is now for sale – see details on page 7.



The following weekend, our regular Milestone breakfast meets resumed. We were blessed with fine weather and a bumper turnout. People were

obviously keen to be out and about and socialising again, suitably distanced of course. I probably shouldn't pick out favourites, but I must mention Neil Morrison's recently completed Austin 7 Special and Peter Robertson's handsome Jaguar making it's return to the road after a five year gap. Enjoy the pictures!

Neil Morrison with his Austin 7 Special



Peter
Robertson's
Jaguar





Forthcoming Events

I hope you've all booked for the visit to the Woodside Plant Centre and Birdhouse Tearoom at Ancrum. The event will be upon us as this newsletter reaches you, so let's hope for a fine evening.

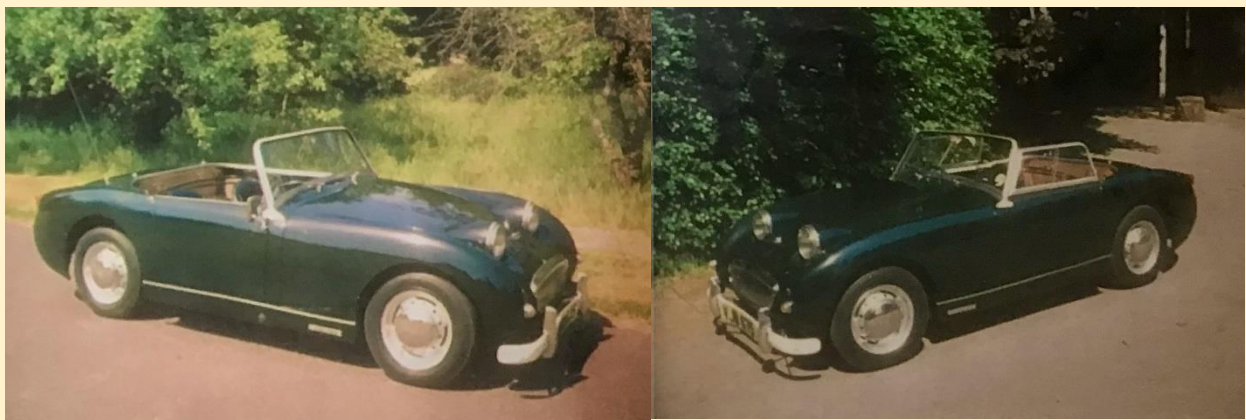
The next breakfast meet will be on Sunday 11th July from 10 to 12 at the usual venue, Milestone Garden Centre, Newtown St Boswells. Just turn up for good company and a good breakfast!

Some good news on the car shows front with the National Trust for Scotland planning to stage a first ever classic car event on the Newhailes Estate, just off the A1 to the west of Musselburgh. The event is scheduled for Sunday 29th August 2021 and for those of you who don't know, Newhailes Estate has a large Palladian mansion house with rich interiors and a fine art collection and there are also expansive grounds with plenty of walks. It could be a good day out so look out for more information to follow.

Remember, Saturday 5th September is the date for our driving event, centred on Thirlestane Castle. The aim is to provide an enjoyable event for club members and perhaps some invitees from other local car clubs that normally support our Thirlestane shows. The plan is for a circular drive over some of the scenic local roads for up to eighty cars. The castle tearoom will be open to provide refreshments.

Wish I Still Had That!

Latest in this occasional series comes from Chris Biggs who owned this 'Frogeye' Austin Healey Sprite from 1972-74. Previously owned by an ex-BMC body shop worker it had an immaculate body and one of the last two remaining one-piece metal front ends. With the benefit of a recent 'gold seal' engine it performed really well. The wiring was worn out with multiple odd faults so I completely re-wired the car - a much easier job than it sounds with the benefit of a complete wiring harness that came in three sections and the removable one-piece front end. I completed it in a single day and the car became 100% reliable. It always turned heads. Mechanics were a mixture of Morris Minor and Austin A30 parts with twin SUs fitted. All very simple and easy to look after.





One Careful Owner?

We've all seen it before – the car advertised as having been with the same owner or the same family for many years, but can you beat this one? The prewarcar.com newsletter (forwarded by Fred Magill) alerted me to this 1928 Lancia Lambda which came up for auction recently at Gooding & Company. I quote from their website:



Photo: Gooding & Company

Delivered new to a family in Portugal, the short-wheelbase torpedo-styled Lambda remained in the family's care for the next 92 years, accumulating a scant 55,000 kilometres, (just over 34,000 miles). The coachwork was refinished in the 1980s in its original, as-delivered colours. The car was not disassembled at that time to preserve its factory panel fit. All chrome trim is believed to be original, including the rear panel latches, whose stamped numbers match the body number debossed into an original floorboard panel. The splendour of the interior is highlighted by the original 1928 burgundy leather hides on the front and rear seats, door panels, and interior trim. The Jaeger gauges set in the lovely patinated instrument panel report engine revs, speed,

fuel level, and oil pressure. Recently, the Lambda has been brought back to running condition, following a long period of dry storage, and comes complete with original and period tools, jack, handbook, and registration documents.

If you fancy popping this one in your garage, I'm afraid you're too late – it sold for a cool £137,500. As if that wasn't enough, it's been brought into the UK as a temporary import so the new owner will also have to negotiate the duty with HMRC.

Nice car, though!

For Sale



Black 1972 MGB Roadster with Overdrive

This car was completely restored 14 years ago at a cost of £12,000, using new panels etc. Only 33,000 genuine miles since an engine rebuild. A dry weather car with wire wheels, a beige

coloured mohair hood, roll bar and mesh windstop. Recently serviced and tuned. It comes with an album and documentation of the restoration carried out by an approved MGOC workshop. A very fine car that drives superbly. 12 months MoT. Hagerty insurance value £12,500.

Sensible Offers IRO £10,000

Tel 01896 823609





Petrol Haven

I'm sorry to have to report that Petrol Haven, the classic car business established last year in Coldingham will close for business later this month. Although the garage has been busy, the social club and classic car hire businesses have not got off the ground due to the pandemic, and the owners have reluctantly decided they can't carry on. All is not lost, however, as Andrew Valentine, the Petrol Haven workshop manager has formed a new partnership to keep the garage going, offering MOTs, servicing and repairs with the accent on older cars. There's also a possibility that the Petrol Haven concept may be revived in future.

Some of their cars may be for sale, including a 1967 Ford Galaxie 500, contact me at entries@bvac.org.uk or the phone number below if you're interested and I'll put you in touch.

Stop Press – Help/Advice Wanted

Just as we were about to send out BVAC News, we received the following message via the bvac.org.uk website:

I live in Lauder, on Thirlestane Drive, and we have been coming to the car show for years. I also work at Arniston Estate in Gorebridge. We have two couples this year that are looking for a vintage car to transport them literally about a half mile from one of our cottages up to the Orangery for the bride. I was wondering if any of your members offer to do anything like this and what their rates are? It is all on the estate and a very short trip, and most firms that hire cars are looking for the entire day's hire.

If you can give me any advice that would be greatly appreciated and thank you for your assistance.

The sender is Kimberly Shaw-Walker and if you can help she can be contacted at:

01875 830515 (work) or kimberly@arniston-house.co.uk

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

David