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BVAC News
June 2024

Classic Success!



The sun shone last Sunday and after a week of hard work in all sorts of weather, the ground had dried out just enough for us to welcome 1000 classic cars (and a few buses) to Thirlestane with only a handful of them getting stuck. The final numbers aren't in yet, but the best estimate is that we had more of the public through the gate than at any previous one-day show. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and we attracted the attention of national and local press as well as both ITV (see clip here) and the BBC who put this item on their website. As always, it's a huge team effort from club members, castle staff and several other organisations. If I tried to credit everyone involved, I'd inevitably offend someone by leaving them out – you know who you are, WELL DONE! That said, special thanks must go to Philip Weiss who in his first year as site manager got the whole show on the road, keeping his team of volunteers motivated without resort to cracking the whip.



 Contact – Editor: David Hunter 018907 61710; Secretary: Kenny Wilson 01896 849597

May Events

While much of May is dedicated to getting the BVAC Classic organised, we did manage our regular breakfast meet at Milestone on Sunday 12th and there were visits to three other car shows at the Chain Bridge Honey Farm on the 5th, Kielder on the 12th and the BVAA event at Kelso on the 19th. All were well attended and blessed with decent weather. Here are a few pictures from all of them. The Fiat and Messerschmitt are at Milestone and from the Honey Farm are two Lanchesters (the blue one belongs to Jim Swanston) and Geoffrey Minter's rarely seen Sunbeam.











At Keilder, there's an MG TA with a history – bought as scrap for £4 10/- a long time ago, restored and in the same ownership ever since.

Lastly, some unusual angles from Kelso, thanks to Robert Stewart.





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Forthcoming Events

The next event in the calendar is our regular breakfast meet this Sunday, the 9th. Old hands will know what to expect, but we gathered quite a number of new members at and around the BVAC Classic so I make no apology for repeating the details. We gather in the car park of the Milestone Garden Centre at Newtown St Boswells (TD6 0PL) from 10am until about midday on the second Sunday of every month. It's totally informal, no need to book just turn up and look for the older cars in the car park. Anything from a coffee to a full breakfast is available in the Greenhouse Café or you can just stick around the car park to admire the cars. It's a great chance for new members to get to know people in the club.

Next up will be the return of a club favourite, the barbeque and concours on Saturday July 6th. Come and enjoy a relaxing evening with friends. Helen and Ken Grimes have very kindly agreed to host this event at their home in Innerleithen. This will be a relaxed event and a chance to chat in the company of friends. Our hosts hope that we will want to stay and enjoy the evening together. The 'Concours' will also be informal, with the chance to vote for the car you'd most like to take home, so we hope that you will let your cars shine for the evening.

Details:

- Date: Saturday 6th July 2024
- Where: 29 Tweedbank Ley, Innerleithen. EH44 6PE
- When: Arrive around 5pm, view cars, chat and relax
- Food: From 6pm – when it's ready.
- 2 courses: B-B-Q meats and salads, choice of sweets, drinks included.
- Cost: £15:00 per person
- Booking: Please book with Chris Biggs – chrisjbiggs@btinternet.com giving names of those attending. Brief details of the car you intend to drive to the event would be appreciated. All bookings will be acknowledged.
- Payment details: by cheque made out to BVAC Ltd and sent to Chris Biggs at 15 Hendersyde Park, Kelso TD5 7TU in advance (preferred method) or by cash direct to Helen on the night.
- Deadline for bookings – Tuesday 2nd July.

Of course, while we've been preoccupied with Thirlestane, other clubs have been organising their own shows, large and small. Details these are to be found on the website at bvac.org.uk/events/category/club-visits-car-shows. Some of these are for information only

so you can enter individually, while others have an official BVAC stand. Watch out for entry deadlines, some have already passed – don't delay, book today!

As I mentioned last month, I've had contact from Ros Davies about the Village Show at Southdean, south of Jedburgh. It's on Saturday 17th August and they'd welcome any interesting cars to display. It's not an official BVAC outing, but if you're interested in going along, contact Ros at southdeancommunity@gmail.com.

Note from Kenny Wilson, Club Secretary

There has been some concern that the club has not issued a 2024 membership card, it was decided by Committee in late 2023 that a renewal sticker to attach to the 2023 card would be available instead.

If you wish to have a sticker posted out, please contact our secretary Kenny Wilson at secretary@bvac.org.uk. A 2025 card will be issued to renewing members from November this year.



Car For Sale



After 10 years of enjoyable custodianship of this much admired Mercedes SL (my) age and health have dictated that my pride and joy needs a new custodian capable of maintaining the care and attention the car deserves.

It was first registered in early 1998, and must be one of the last in-line 6 engined SL320s.

Finished in the striking green/blue Designo Vario colour with mushroom leather upholstery, has a number of 'extras' such as orthopaedic seats, rear seats, wind deflector and an original to the car detachable glass panoramic hard top with sun blind, and I will include the SVS lifting cradle and hard top stand.

I also have an original set of 8 hole alloy wheels shod with Michelin all weather tyres, that have only covered nominal miles as the car is usually on SORN through the winter. (The car sits on Dunlop SP Sports in the summer months.)

Located between Edinburgh and Perth, easy access for viewing. The car has had 3 previous owners, has covered less than 70500 (warranted) miles to date, 14500 with me, and comes with a massive history ring file from the previous owner, and a comprehensive history file for the last 10 years with me.

Initially I had it serviced and maintained at Mercedes Benz Coldstream for 3 years, and since then at KS Autos, East Calder, Edinburgh, a highly recommended Independent with Mercedes trained technicians.

The car has a current advisory free MoT until July 2024 when the next service is due. The well polished exterior paint is just starting to need attention in order to keep the car in show condition, and the rear window in the soft top is cracked (but waterproof) and would benefit from replacement. The very appropriate personal number plate is subject to separate negotiation.

I am looking for offers over £10,000 for the car as described above. Serious enquiries and more photos if needed, please make initial contact with me by email at: quentinrgl@gmail.com. or phone 07521 189244

Web Snippet 1 – A Rare German Classic

There's a rather fanciful article accompanying this picture on the prewarcar.com website showing a Wanderer, one of the four brands that formed Auto Union in the 1930s, hence the four ringed badge that's used on Audis to this day. Someone responded that he's going to rebuild just such a car from this barn find. Quite an ambitious project, but worthwhile as a restored example is currently for sale for a trifling 298,000 Euros!

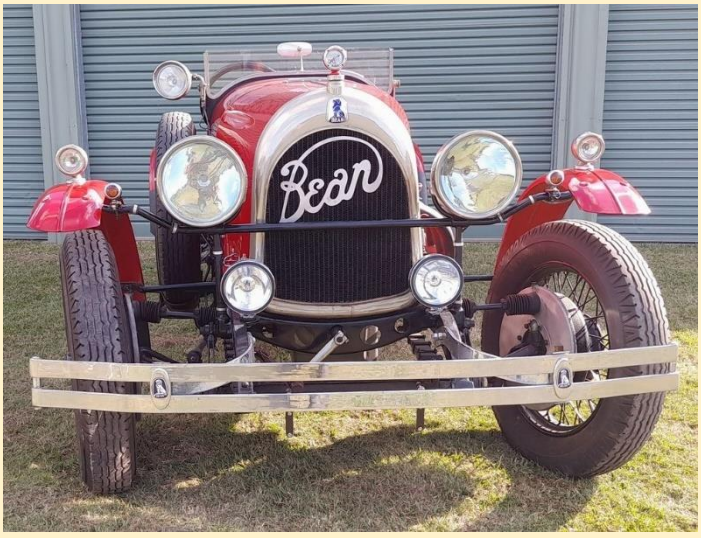






Web Snippet 2 – Quite a Road Trip!

There's a fascinating two part article about Bean cars on the deRivaz and Ives website here and here. That in turn took me to an amazing project by an Australian couple to recreate an epic drive from England to Australia in a Bean in 1927. You can follow them on Facebook here. Last time I looked they had reached India and it doesn't look like a trip for the faint hearted!



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Spare Parts Available



Kenny Wilson has some green leather upholstery material (see photo). No charge but a donation to club funds would be appreciated. Buyer collects from Kenny's address in Earlston. A neighbour of mine has what he describes as a 'tunnel cover' for a Midget. I haven't seen it but can get more details if anyone's interested. Kenny's and my phone numbers are at the foot of the page.

Xclusively Jaguar Magazine June 2024 from Letitia Mace



All being well, as you read this, we will be in Shetland for round two! This time, with a group of friends and an assortment of Jaguars, for the 40th anniversary of the Shetland Classic Motor Show!

Leading up to our fourth year of publishing Xclusively Jaguar in a printed format we have gone for a fresh new look to the magazine, which we hope you will enjoy.

This month's issue features an article which first appeared in Jaguaren, the Norsk Jaguar Klubb magazine, and was kindly supplied to me courtesy of the editor Åsmund Lindal, with whom I work closely, and described by him as "a rather special cover and centre-fold article based on illustrations created by a young and competent NJK member, Simen Petterøe Jacobsen, who drives an X351 as a "family car". Using Artificial Intelligence programs, Simen has created the fantasy pictures of Jaguars the way we may expect (or hope) them to be in the future, along with an interesting text."

In context with Simen's feature I've included a Jaguar press release dating from 2016 and relating to the XFL, a Jaguar that was developed exclusively for the Chinese market.

Within the pages of this issue Gil Keane writes about recent developments in LED instrument panel light bulbs and explains that designing and developing new products has become increasingly frustrating since the troubles in our world have created rapidly increasing costs, component shortages and delivery delays, but Gil Keane assures us that he will continue to try to keep a constant stream of new lighting upgrades coming.

The developments that have made the latest upgrade kits possible will percolate through to most of the dash lighting upgrade kits for many makes and models. For over a decade, car

lighting developers have been trying to create LED dash lighting bulbs that will dim, just like filament bulbs, using the original car rheostat. A year or so ago Gil Keane finally succeeded and he will be using this success to upgrade all of the dash lighting kits and add new ones, at least as an option.

Once again "Looking Back" is out of step with "My Jaguars" and I find myself selling Tiggy before I have even introduced her, for which I can only apologise!

On a more sombre note, 20th April 2024 marked the passing of Spike Anderson, probably known to most as the founder of the Samuri Motor Company, and creator of "Big Sam" but known by me as a close friend of Win Percy and author of Win's excellently written biography. Just over a fortnight later, on 8th May 2024 we received the news that Neville Hay had passed away. Renowned worldwide, Neville was a man of many talents; accomplished in many spheres. To Rob and I; another friend who will be sadly missed.

Our thoughts are with their families at this very sad time.

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. Photo credits to Phil Wilkinson, Robert Stewart, John Littlewood (and apologies to anyone I've forgotten), also thanks to Fred Magill, Chris Biggs and Kenny Wilson for content. We're a few days later than usual so that we could include a report on the BVAC Classic. Conversely the July issue will come out before the end of June as I'll be away in early July. If you have any news you want included, please send it in by June 26th.

Clear roads,

David

entries@bvac.org.uk