

BVAC News
March 2023

This Summer's Classic Launched



We started taking entries for the 2023 BVAC Classic on February 20th and as I write we already have 118 individual entries and 24 car clubs signed up with over 360 cars estimated for their stands. Almost all the places for the Saturday Scenic Run are already booked, so we'll soon have to start a waiting list. If you haven't already booked your car in, get your skates on! The entry form can be found here, and remember as a club member, there's no entry fee.

Advance ticket sales for public entry are also now available and proving popular at the 'early bird' price of £10. Nearer the time or at the gate these will cost £15. Various special attractions are being arranged, details will be published on the website and future issues of BVAC News. This all seems very positive, so all we have to do now is make it happen!

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

February Events

The regular breakfast meet at Milestone produced a marvellous turnout including several cars not seen before. I wasn't able to be there personally, so thanks to Fred Magill for providing a huge variety of photographs, a selection of which follow.



We had a fascinating evening on the 22nd when two of our members gave illustrated talks about their recent restoration work. I'm sure Fred Magill isn't unusual in wanting to own the same sort of car his father had when he was a child, but in Fred's case the project was rather challenging as his father served in the army in Germany and drove an Opel Kapitan. Fred now has what he believes is the only 1950 Kapitan in the UK. It's a right hand drive model exported





to India when it was new, and Fred told us of his worldwide search for the parts to rebuild it. His persistence has resulted in the beauty which made its public debut at Thirlestane last summer. It's not quite the finished item yet as a transmission vibration has to be traced and fixed before it's fit for long journeys.



Challenges of a different nature faced Neil Morrison, as he started with a bare Austin Seven chassis, a seized engine and a part-built body which didn't fit the chassis. From there he's put together a pretty fabric covered two-seater, essentially to the Gordon England specification but with the body modified to suit the later long wheelbase chassis.



Both Neil and Fred are to be congratulated both on completing two very different but equally impressive projects and thanked for taking the time to show us how they did them.

Club Events for March and April

The dates for the next two breakfast meets are 12th March and 9th April, the latter being Easter Sunday. I'm sure most of you know the form, but for the benefit of new members you just need to turn up at Milestone Garden Centre, Newtown St Boswells from 10am and look for the older cars in the car park. Refreshments are available in the Greenhouse Café or you can spend time in the car park seeing and talking about the cars. We're generally there until about noon.

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Chris Biggs has provided details of two more events coming up, both of which need to be pre-booked:

Wednesday 22nd March 2023, 6.45 for 7.00pm

Join other Club members for an Italian meal at "Monte Cassino", Melrose, a stylish restaurant housed in the former Melrose Railway Station buildings.

This family run business has a very wide menu and you can order as many courses as you wish or keep it simple if you don't want a large meal. Orders will be taken and paid for individually on the night but YOU NEED TO BOOK WITH ME so that I can advise the restaurant on numbers. I take it on trust that if you book a place you will do your best to attend. In the meantime you can see their menu at montecassinorestaurant.co.uk.

Email: chrisjbiggs@btinternet.com to book places. I will confirm.

Sunday 23rd April 2023, 10am until post lunchtime

National Drive it Day Run including opportunity for lunch. "Six Bridges to the Sea".

An opportunity to drive in your vintage or Classic car on an interesting route beginning at Milestone Garden Centre, Newtown St. Boswells and taking in six different crossings of the river Tweed, many with historical significance, on the way to the sea at Berwick upon Tweed. We will travel both sides of the Border. The Run will finish close to the beautiful Northumbrian coast south of Berwick where we will park up at "Pot a Doodle Do" where lunch has been arranged. We can promise meals to the first 40 people to book places. The establishment has additional space but the area reserved for us seats about 40. We will not exclude numbers above this but may have to ask you to take your chance amongst other clientele or bring a picnic. I will circulate a special menu to the first 40 members booked as the restaurant requires us to pre-order the meals. I will coordinate this and confirm individually.

The restaurant is very close to Cocklawburn beach so if you fancy an after lunch stroll along the beach or coastal path then you are 5 minutes away by car to several coastal parking areas. The coastline here is both beautiful and geologically interesting. It's a hidden gem. Make your own way home by whatever route suits you and your car.

Email: chrisjbiggs@btinternet.com to book places on the Run and lunch places if you are amongst the first 40 to book. Please indicate the Make, Model and registration number of the car you intend to drive on the day and the names of driver and passenger(s). There is no entry fee, but Drive it Day nationally is a charity fund-raising event so we hope entrants will make a contribution.

I will confirm and be in touch with menus for those who need to pre-order their meal.

Visits to Shows this Summer

Dennis Fortune has put details of all the car shows where the club will be attending on the website here so get on down there and book your place, starting with the Kielder show in May. The list is unchanged from that published last month, i.e. -

- 14th May Kielder
- 21st May Kelso (BVAA)
- 4th June Bo'ness
- 25th June Moffat
- 2nd July Chillingham
- 5th August Duns (Berwickshire Show)
- 13th August Biggar
- 27th August Newhailes
- 22nd October Brunton (NVTC)

In addition, there are a few other shows where BVAC has previously been invited but due to clashes with other events they have not been added into this year's calendar, however, if any individual member wanted to go along to one or more of these events then just contact Dennis at clubstandentries@bvac.co.uk for further details. The shows in question are:

- 21st May Doune Hill Climb
- 11th June Corbridge
- 6th August Cardrona Fayre

Say It With Flowers

Fred Magill as usual keeps me up to date with interesting items culled from the web and came up with this 'Art Car' for sale on postwarclassic.com. It's one of a series painted by Los Angeles based artist Hiro Yamagata on a 1951 Mercedes Benz 220A Cabriolet. Whether you consider it stylish or an abomination is a matter of opinion, but if you want to own it the asking price is the wrong side of quarter of a million dollars.



Just Plain Weird

If a flowery Merc isn't strange enough for you, how about this? The 'Wienermobile' is one of half a dozen 23 foot long hot dogs on wheels that tour the US advertising the Oscar Mayer sausage and bacon brand. The present generation of Wienermobiles are about 35 years old, but the idea isn't new – the black and white picture shows the 1936 original.





Xclusively Jaguar

For all you Jaguar fans, Letitia Mace has provided details of the latest edition of Xclusively Jaguar.

This month, what started as an idea for a page or two on the I Pace turned into a major feature, when, by complete coincidence I was offered three other interesting articles relating to EVs and where future transport trends may take us.



At the current time I feel that we are at a transport cross-roads similar to that of the 1900s when futuristic steam, petrol, (diesel) and electric vehicles shared our roads with tried and trusted horses, but some industry experts are uneasy about this particular cross-roads, and feel that change is being imposed on us by our government rather than being our own collective or personal decision!

It's quite a controversial issue and pushes the boundaries beyond Jaguar in order to shed light on the subject as a whole, which in turn, will affect us as Jaguar drivers and is therefore relevant to Xclusively Jaguar!

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

Contact Letitia Mace via 07836 68 78 98 or Letitia@exclusively-jaguar.co.uk for more information

That's all for now, if you have any interesting content you'd like to see in next month's BVAC News or any ideas for new material feel free to contact me at entries@bvac.org.uk. I hope to see you at club events soon,

David

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