BVAC News is sponsored by PBIS PETER BEST INSURANCE SERVICES EST. 1985

BVAC News November 2025

Annual General Meeting Report from Kenneth Wilson

We held our club's Annual General Meeting on 8th October at Earlston Church Hall, Our Chairman Keith Watson welcomed forty club members to the meeting and said that 2025 has been another successful year for the club with increased attendances at our monthly breakfast gatherings and a good event at Thirlestane in June , Mr Watson circulated the clubs accounts to all those present which shows that the BVAC continues to be financially stable with a slightly reduced profit on the annual rally. Mr Watson said that club subscriptions have remained static since 2011 and will not be increased for 2026, but this may need to be reviewed later next year.

Rob Jenner, our Vice Chairman then took the Chair and read the nominations for office bearers and Committee with Keith Watson nominated again as Chair and Rob as Vice Chair, Kenny Wilson was nominated again as club secretary. There were no current nominations for Treasurer and Mr Jenner reminded members that this position requires to be filled going forward. New nominations for Committee this year include Christine Craig, Duncan Dornan, Gordon Mellis and Toby Marshall-Andrew with all being approved unanimously. Mr Jenner paid particular thanks to Paul Hann, Dennis Fortune, Fred Magill, Mike Webber and Gavin Craig who are standing down this year.

Keith Watson then retook the Chair and thanked all those who had supported the club but warned that we need positions within Committee to be taken up shortly otherwise we may not have the ability to run the 2026 show. This also includes the entries secretary job and the Treasurer position.

Phillip Weiss then discussed the results of the recent club members questionnaire (this has now been fully circulated to club members) and asked for comments from the floor, Mr Watson said that several issues had been raised that the new Committee will be working on to improve in the coming year.

Phillip Titley discussed club stands and events we had attended this year, highlighting the need to notify the organiser if you enter with the club but then cannot attend and has agreed to compile a list of shows for 2026.

Following discussion on outline arrangements for next year's event at Thirlestane, Mr Watson thanked all those present and closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

Club Christmas Dinner

As reported last month, Helen Grimes is once again organising the club Christmas Dinner at the Kingsknowes Hotel in Galashiels (TD1 3HY) on Saturday December 6th at 7pm, for 7.30. Bookings need to be with Helen by November 27th at the latest so don't delay, get in touch with Helen today! At the end of this edition of BVAC News you'll find the letter from Helen, so you can print or copy that page to return to her with your booking and menu choices.

Festive menu

Starters

*Curried parsnip soup, coriander crème fraîche (*AG, *VG)*

*Crayfish & prawn cocktail, avocado purée, citrus dressing (*AG)*

*Chicken liver parfait, red onion & grenadine jam & oatcakes (*AG)*

*Roasted tomato, basil & Parmesan tart, balsamic glaze (*VG)*

Mains

*Roast turkey, apricot & sage stuffing, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes, vegetables & turkey gravy (*AG)*

Pan-seared sea trout, seafood & spinach chowder & crispy leeks (AG)

Pork belly stuffed with Stornoway black pudding, crème savoy cabbage, chive mash, calvados jus

*Vegan Christmas & cranberry pie with all the trimmings (*AG, VG)*

Desserts

*Christmas pudding, brandy sauce & redcurrants (*AG, *VG)*

Dark Chocolate Mousse, Cinnamon Winter Berry Compote, Orange Sorbet

*Glazed lemon tart with raspberry purée, vanilla & lime Chantilly cream (*AG, *VG)*

*Scottish cheese board with apple chutney, grapes & biscuits (*AG)*

*AG = ALTERNATIVE TO GLUTEN, VG = VEGAN, * = CAN BE ADAPTED*

Brunton Show Report

The traditional 'last of the season' show took place at Brunton Airfield on October 19th. As it's organised by the Northumberland Vintage Tractor Club, it brings out an interesting variety of agricultural and commercial vehicles as well as the cars. This year's show lived up to the unenviable reputation Brunton has for chill winds but at least didn't rain much. Attendance was undoubtedly down on past shows, but after two recent cancellations due to extreme weather it will take a while to re-establish itself.



 Contact – Editor: David Hunter editor@bvac.org.uk; Secretary: Kenny Wilson 01896 849597









Milestone

We had about sixty cars of all shapes, sizes and eras at the October Milestone breakfast meet as these photos show. The November meeting is on the 9th. Come along from 10am at the Milestone Garden Centre, Newtown St Boswells and if you can't make that, remember it's the second Sunday of every month so join us another time. **The centre management have asked us to park as many cars as possible is the concrete loading bay area before occupying the main car park spaces.**







 Contact – Editor: David Hunter editor@bvac.org.uk; Secretary: Kenny Wilson 01896 849597

The Land Rover Islay Connection



At the beginning of October, Storm Amy disrupted ferry services stranding Alison and I on Islay for a few days longer than we had intended, no great hardship you might think given the island's reputation for interesting wildlife and superb whiskies. It also resulted in us crossing paths with a road run organised by the 'Islay Rovers', the local Land Rover club, at the excellent and appropriately named Windswept Farm Shop at Tormisdale on the hills west of Port Charlotte. Some of our Land Rover owning members may be familiar with the island's connection with the history of the Land Rover, but it was news to me, and I think it bears repeating. Spencer Wilks was the Managing Director of Rover at the time his brother Maurice (the Chief Engineer) was developing the rugged vehicle that was to become the Land Rover. Spencer also owned the Laggan Estate on Islay and had a modified Rover 12 saloon for off-road use on the estate. His gamekeeper is credited with christening it the 'Land Rover' and the name stuck. The Islay estate was also an ideal testing ground for the Land Rover and the family connection to the island continues to this day – Spencer Wilks' grand-daughter co-founded the Kilchoman Distillery. In relatively recent times, there's been a special Islay



edition of the Defender with a 5 litre V8 which probably gives it rather better performance than that old Rover Saloon!



Sources for this article include the Wikipedia page on Spencer Wilks, various JLR and Kilchoman Distillery press releases and this YouTube video from which the illustration of the old Rover is taken. More about the Islay special edition can be found here.

Need Car Storage?

Unexpectedly available, safe, secure and dry storage covered by CCTV for one classic car, or two bikes. Located close to Reston, easy access from the A1. Please contact Rob Jenner for more details – 07747130139 rob@xclusivelyjaguar.org.

Beaulieu & Brooklands from Mike Webber

On a whirlwind trip 'Down South', Mike Webber was able to fit in visits to the National Motor Museum in Hampshire and the Brooklands Museum in Surrey.

The National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, Hampshire



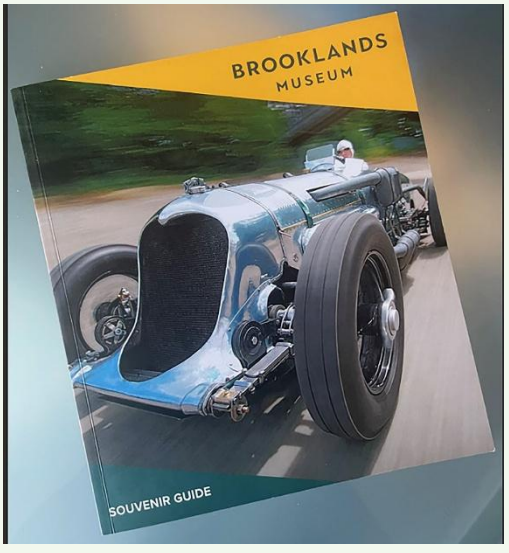
The National Motor Museum at Beaulieu is an impressive facility. There are interesting cars, bikes and commercials on display from horseless carriages through to the present day. It's the development of everyday motoring that takes centre stage, but more exotic exhibits include Jim Clark's Lotus 49, a Porsche 917 sports racer, the live restoration of the 1000hp Sunbeam and an example of the fabled V16 BRM.







Beaulieu has many well-presented displays throughout its vast site - there's a monorail to take you round - and is well worth a visit if you find yourself in that neck of the woods. Allow plenty of time!



The Brooklands Museum, Weybridge, Surrey

Brooklands was the first purpose-built motor racing circuit in the UK, opening in 1907. It featured a fearsome steep banked loop where brave men - and women - would do battle in an era when roadholding, steering and braking lagged a considerable distance behind engine power. The motoring section of the museum includes many such cars, including the mighty 1935 Napier Railton.

 Contact – Editor: David Hunter editor@bvac.org.uk; Secretary: Kenny Wilson 01896 849597



There's more recent non-Brooklands machinery too. At the start of WW2 racing ceased and the site was requisitioned for aircraft manufacture. The Banking was partly demolished to make room for the giant aircraft assembly shed, but a substantial section remains – stand at the foot and look up, in awe.

Aviation development continued after the end of the war. Brooklands played a vital role in the UK's aviation development and large part of the Museum is dedicated to that, ranging from A.V. Roe's inaugural flight in 1908 to the development of the VC10 and Concorde. There are many exhibits of engineering interest, including Barnes Wallis' Stratospheric Chamber, a massive construction which could simulate the extreme atmospheric conditions of supersonic flight. Anyone with an interest in things mechanical would enjoy a visit to Brooklands.

Buying or Selling?

Morris Leslie have a Classic Car Auction this month at their site at Errol Airfield. It's on the 15th and they're still accepting entries. More details on their website: Morris Leslie Auctions.

Spotted



In a garage in Grantown-on-Spey last month, this rather dusty pre-war car which would appear from the Sphinx bonnet ornament to be an Armstrong Siddeley. If anyone knows the exact model, please let me know.

Xclusively Jaguar Magazine November from Letitia Mace

Welcome to the November 2025 issue of Xclusively Jaguar Magazine!

This month we return to our prototype theme with the story of MP19.

MP19 will be looking forward to the 30th anniversary celebrations in 2026 and playing her role in them. This will kick off at the NEC Classic Car show from the 7th to the 9th Nov 2025 at the NEC in Birmingham, only 7 miles from where her body was built at Castle Bromwich

and 10 miles from Whitley where she was assembled in the Prototype Build shop. She will certainly be busy during 2026 with the 30th anniversary events which are being planned for the year.

*****

On 4th November I will have owned Brucie for 15 years, and on a recent trip to Orkney Brucie had a still named after him at Deerness Distillery – more details in this issue!



*****

SAVE THE DATES FOR 2026!

Saturday 11th July and Sunday 12th July 2026

The Jaguar Drivers Club 70th anniversary celebrations at Brooklands Museum in Surrey have the advantage of following on directly from Goodwood Festival of Speed on Thursday 9th July and Friday 10th July, making it possible for members to take a break and enjoy the two events back to back!

For more information visit Jaguar Drivers Club

*****

IMPORTANT NOTICE – CHANGE OF DATE!

Due to a clash with another event, Nigel Webb's event at The Mike Hawthorn Museum will now be held on Saturday 1st August and Sunday 2nd August 2026 (one week earlier than previously advertised)

Amongst all of this there should be some good reading!

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!

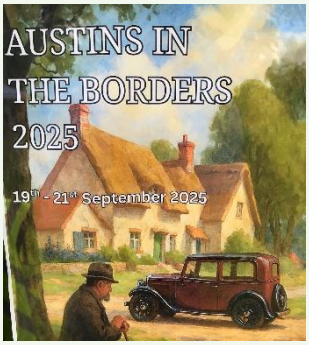


Nostalgia Corner



Thanks to Fred Magill for this picture of the East Gate Clock Tower in Chester which I guess dates from around 1960. There's an Austin Metropolitan in the foreground and a Morris (or Austin?) van in the traffic bracketed by a couple of Fords – a six-cylinder Zephyr or Zodiac in front and the four-cylinder Consul behind – but I'm not sure about the rather faded pre-war car at the front of the queue. Anyone got any ideas?

Stop Press



I've just received a marvellous set of photos from Philip Kearney of the 'Austins in the Borders' event in September. I'll publish them next month.

That's all for this month but **remember to scroll down for the Christmas Dinner form.**

Clear roads,

David, editor@bvac.org.uk

Christmas Dinner Letter from Helen Grimes

Dear Member(s)

Please see above the menu for Christmas Dinner, which is being held on Saturday, 6th December 2025 at The Kingsknowes Hotel, Selkirk Road, Galashiels, TD1 3HY - 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm.

The cost is £36 per person for three courses, or £30 for 2 courses

This event is being arranged by Helen Grimes, 29 Tweedbank Ley, Innerleithen, EH44 6PE. Menu to be returned to Helen, NO LATER THAN 27TH NOVEMBER 2025 (hl.grimes@btinternet.com)

Name(s)----------Numbers Attending----------

Choice/Names

Starter

Soup ----------

Prawn Cocktail ----------

Parfait ----------

Tart ----------

Mains

Turkey ----------

Sea Trout ----------

Pork Belly ----------

Vegan Pie ----------

Sweets

Xmas Pudding ----------

Choc Mousse ----------

Lemon Tart ----------

Cheeseboard ----------

Tea or Coffee and Mince pies

I/We enclose a cheque value----------made payable to B.V.A.C.

Or alternatively by BACS to Bank of Scotland Account No 27780368, Sort Code 80-22-60 (Quote Xmas and Surname)

If paying by BACS this MUST be in our bank when submitting your menu choice