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BVAC News
October 2023

September Events

Owing to the demise of the much-missed Selkirk show there were no car shows locally in September, but we still had two club events. On Saturday 9th we had a treasure hunt over two routes starting from Milestone or from Duns and converging at the Duns Golf Club where light refreshments were available. It was billed as afternoon tea, but as we were blessed with marvellous weather lots of people opted for cold drinks on the terrace. Luckily nobody got irretrievably lost and we only had one failure to complete as Fred Magill's Saab decided to deposit all its water on the road halfway round. I've never seen such a spectacularly burst radiator hose. Showing they haven't lost their touch after organising many a treasure hunt in the past, Daphne and David Pratt were the winners on the Milestone route, while Yvonne and Alistair Skinner had top marks on the slightly longer circular route from Duns.

The next day was our regular meeting at Milestone and we had a marvellous show of over thirty cars of varying ages and sizes. The car park redevelopment is in full swing, but the management had provided an area exclusively for our use. We filled that and a few spaces besides.





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Looking Forward to October

There will be three events in October:

- Our regular breakfast meet at Milestone Garden Centre (TD6 0PL) from 10am until about noon on Sunday 8th.
- The club's AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11th October in Earlston Parish Church Hall which is on Earlston Main Street at TD4 6HG.
- The Northumberland Vintage Tractor Club show at Brunton Airfield on the 22nd. This is traditionally the last show of the season and always gets a good turnout of cars, commercials and agricultural machinery. Being on an old airfield, we can park on the runway with no fear of soft ground, but the wind can be fierce, so wrap up well if you're coming. The entry has now closed, but if you missed the boat you can always come along to spectate.



Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

Unfortunately, a club like BVAC doesn't run itself. Our programme of events throughout the year and particularly the show at Thirlestane every June depend on a small group of volunteers, none of whom are getting any younger and some are showing distinct signs of burn-out! Whether you've been a member for years or are part of our post-Covid surge in membership, please consider helping to keep things running. You don't have to join the committee to help out (although you'd be most welcome if you want to) and there are lots of things you can do to help whether you've got a busy life with only a few spare hours or are recently retired with time on your hands. Amongst the bigger jobs we're recruiting for now are:

Club Convener: This job involves arranging the club's programme of events throughout the year **except** the Thirlestane Show. Working with a small sub-committee, Chris Biggs has taken on this job in recent years giving us a varied

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programme of runs, talks and garage visits as well as the regular meets at Milestone. Visits to other club's shows has been delegated to Dennis Fortune and although Dennis is retiring as well we seem to have a volunteer lined up for that job.

Treasurer: Helen Grimes has been the club's treasurer for several years and although she is not immediately giving up, she has indicated that she will not stand for re-election in October 2024. She would like to have somebody work with her in the coming year so they learn the ropes and can take over smoothly next year.

Thirlestane Entries Secretary: I must declare a personal interest since I have carried out this role since 2018 as well as editing BVAC News and while I'm happy to keep on editing (if you'll have me) I want to drop the entries secretary job. It is a very seasonal job, starting gently around Christmas and becoming busier as the show approaches and then going quiet as soon as the show is over. It requires someone who is comfortable with IT as most of the entries now come via the website and all have to be recorded on a database to drive the site design, entry pass printing, programme listings, judging sheets etc. I'd be very happy to work with someone through the 2024 show to ensure a smooth handover.

These are some of the bigger jobs that need filling but there are also many smaller jobs, particularly around show time, so don't hesitate to come forward even if these look too daunting. **The club is only as strong as the people who run it!**



Christmas Dinner

Make a date in your diary for the unmissable BVAC Christmas Dinner on Saturday 2nd December at the Kingknowes Hotel, Galashiels. Here's the menu on offer at £28 for two course or £33 for three. Helen Grimes will be taking the bookings which must be with her by 22nd November including payment and menu choices. You can download the booking form by clicking here. If you pay by bank transfer, you can email your menu choices to Helen at hl.grimes@btinternet.com



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Morris Leslie Classic Auction



The Morris Leslie classics auction on 16th September saw 77 cars sold. Top price was £66,650 for the 'Condition 1' 1970 Jaguar E Type in the picture, beating the top estimate of £60,000. Perhaps more remarkable was the second highest, over £30,600 paid for a 1991 Ford Sierra Sapphire which was only listed as 'Condition 3' and beat the top estimate by over £3000. It just shows the strong demand continues for 80s and 90s Fords. If your tastes are more modest, £ 450 would have bought you a 1987 Volvo 740 (Condition 5) or for £500 you could have had a 2000 Peugeot 106 in condition 3.

Imp at the V&A

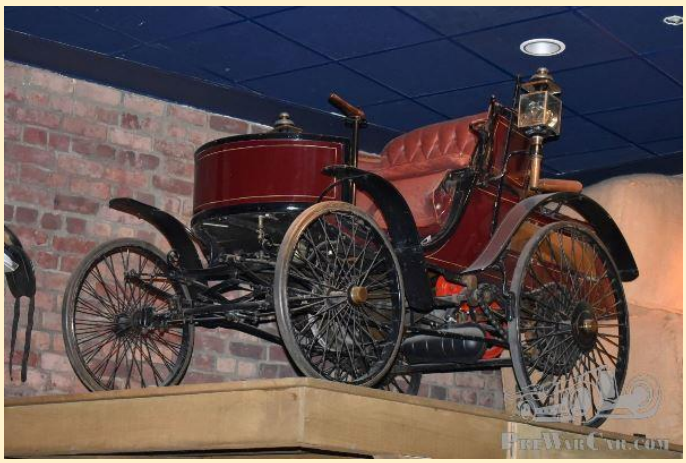


The V&A Museum in Dundee currently has an exhibition on the history of tartan and to catch the eye at the entrance is a very smart looking Hillman Imp. The car in question is an Imp Caledonian, one of a special edition of 2000 cars produced right at the end of Imp production in late 1975 and early 76. It earns its place in the display because the normal Imp plastic upholstery was replaced by tartan fabric in the Caledonian which also had several other refinements as highlighted in this picture from a Chrysler advert back in the day (overleaf). Thanks to Chris Biggs for the photo from the V&A. The exhibition runs until 14th January next year.

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From the Web



If you get drawn to the internet from time to time, the related websites prewarcar.com and postwarclassic .com, while they exist primarily to sell cars, provide a steady supply of fascinating articles about classic cars. Recently they've covered the first car ever built in Liverpool (in 1900 no less) now in the city's museum and a great family holiday idea – take the kids to North Africa in a Citroen Familiale! Click on the links to read more.



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Spotted in Berwick



This rather fine machine was parked in Berwick one day last month. Judging by the bumper plaque, it wasn't the only vintage Rolls about. (Pedants please note: it's a 1932 car so I know it's not quite vintage)

Xclusively Jaguar Magazine October 2023 from Letitia Mace



It's been an interesting month for meeting new people and re-acquainting myself with old friends.

At the Jaguar Heritage Event, held at Gaydon on 2nd September, I met up with the Project XJ220 personnel, all of whom I had first met at Weston Park in June 2012 – more of this to follow in a future issue of Xclusively Jaguar magazine.

I also met for the first time, Grahame White, former CEO of the Historic Sports Car Club, and now, Honorary Life President. Grahame was the RAC Steward on duty at Hockenheim on

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the day of Jim Clark's fatal accident. He had recently planned a trip to visit the Jim Clark Museum in Duns – another story for a future issue of Xclusively Jaguar magazine.

John Lakey, motoring TV producer and journalist, has been involved in many TV shows, including Gears & Tears, Racing Legends and Top Gear. He is also responsible for writing the brief histories of each Vanguard model produced by Corgi and is often charged with finding the owners of cars that have been chosen by Corgi to feature in their Vanguard series. On this occasion he is looking for the owner of a Daimler that has been exported overseas. You will find details in this issue of Xclusively Jaguar magazine.

I was also recently contacted by someone who was on the website design course I attended in 2008, which led to the establishment of Xclusively Jaguar. The person concerned still reads Xclusively Jaguar magazine and is therefore possibly my longest standing follower!

Andy Harvey gets a double whammy in this issue! As we come to Part 6 of an 8 Part series on the restoration of an XJ-S, we also see in our "Looking Back" series, how Andy Harvey turned from part-time XJS breaker to full-time XJS restorer and established Just XJS.

Also featured in "Looking Back" are details of the auction held on 25th July 2009, where a number of JDHT cars were offered for sale. As a result of seeing the car I most wanted sold at the auction I established the 1996 Daimler Century Register in the hope that I might keep track of the cars and hopefully one day own one of them.

Another register that features in this issue is the JaguarSport XJR Register, which was initiated by Steve Johns, who ran it for many years. Steve very generously shared relevant data with me on a monthly basis for publication in my newsletter of the time. Eventually, with less and less available time Steve had to shelve the register and its website, and in 2019 he handed over all relevant data to Xclusively Jaguar, for which we are exceedingly grateful.

This month we welcome used parts specialist, Auto Reserve to Xclusively Jaguar. Please refer to Specialist Services for more information.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Xclusively Jaguar magazine and don't forget to contact me with your own stories, thoughts and reports.

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!

Sign Off

That's all for this month, thanks to all those who contributed text or pictures. I hope to see you at club events in the coming weeks.

Clear roads,

David