



BVAC News

October 2021

For Your Diary

After a busy month in September, things are quieter in October with only our regular monthly meet to look forward to on the 10th. As usual just turn up in the car park of the garden centre, off the A68 at the south end of Newtown St Boswells any time between 10am and noon for a blether and a bite of breakfast.



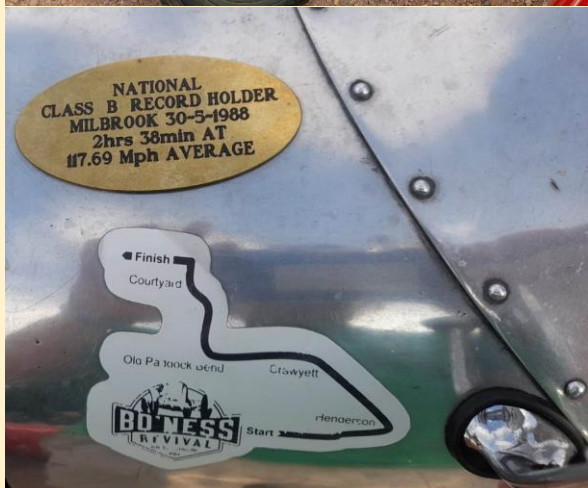
Normally, October is the time for our AGM and as you will recall it was all done virtually last year. Until recently it looked like it would be difficult to hold a 'proper' AGM this year, but the committee feel it's important that we give the membership a chance to hear our plans and have their say on the programme for next year which is, after all, our fiftieth anniversary. Strictly speaking, this should happen by the end of October but in the circumstances we hope you'll bear with us and watch out for an email from the Secretary confirming arrangements with a date probably sometime in November.

Unfortunately, I have to report that the Kingsknowes Hotel in Galashiels which has been the scene of several memorable BVAC Christmas dinners in recent years, has decided that they will be unable to host dinner parties this year. With similar decisions taken by many hospitality venues it seems unlikely that we will be able to hold a dinner this year. Let's hope things are back to normal next year so we can close our anniversary year in style.

September Events

We held three events during September in an attempt to make up for the lack of activity earlier in the year. On Sunday 5th, we were invited by Edward Maitland-Carew to gather at Thirlestane Castle to start our 'September Saunter', a circular drive through the Borders countryside. Ian Lindley provided a route of just over 60 miles and documented it in his usual professional fashion so there was really no excuse for getting





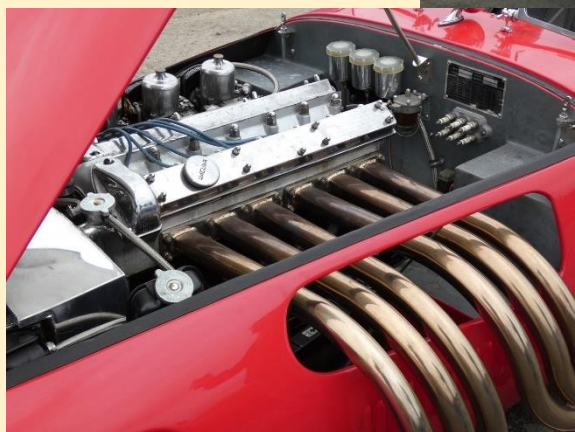
lost, although that didn't seem to prevent some of you from inventing 'subtle variations' of the route. Over thirty cars took part, including a group of guests from the Rolls Royce Enthusiasts Club. They dressed

down for the occasion with Morrisises, Jaguars and a Bentley but not a Spirit of Ecstasy to be seen, although the racing Bentley Special was exactly that, rather special! We were blessed with fine weather which prompted some of us to indulge in a picnic in front of the castle after the drive. Photos by Edward Maitland-Carew and Mark Corfield.



The following Sunday was our Milestone meet and once again we had an excellent turnout. It seems since lockdown these events have been even more successful than they were before. It was particularly good to

see Peter Hammond's XK150 on its first post-restoration outing and a few new or potential members with a fine 1980s Bentley, a Volvo Amazon and the amazing Jaguar-engined Bonart.



Completing the hat trick, was a 'pop-up' car show in Kelso on the 18th. With no advance publicity and facilities limited to a couple of flags and a reserved section of car park in the square, our show of some 16 cars seemed to generate a lot of interest amongst the Saturday morning shoppers despite the rather indifferent weather. I think the participants enjoyed themselves and it certainly gave the club some good



publicity. Thanks to the staff of Rogerson's shoe shop for allowing me to go upstairs in their premises to take this 'aerial' shot.



The 1972 Rally

Following my item last month about the rally that led to the foundation of the club, I've had a certain amount of success in tracing the people and cars involved. The racing Bentley at our September Saunter was driven by Fraser Ewart, whose father Eddie drove a different Bentley back in 1972.

S/Ldr Peter Balean's Bentley is now in Arizona, property of Terry Larson who I believe is well known in Jaguar circles. I'm trying to get in touch with him to find more, but some published material suggests the car is in fine fettle, and lives in an underground garage to protect it from the Arizona sun.

The newest car to take part was a 1953 Frazer Nash Targa Florio, a very rare car indeed. Thanks to James Trigwell of the Frazer Nash Car Club, I have a comprehensive history of the car and this picture of it being driven



enthusiastically on the Coronation Scottish Rally in May 1953 when it was only a month old. Too enthusiastically, it seems, as it spun, crashed and overturned near Slochd on the A9 and was returned to Frazer Nash for repairs. Given the absence of roll bars and crash helmets, it's lucky the driver and passenger didn't need repairs, too! The car is still on the road and I'm hoping to get in touch with the gentleman who has owned it for nearly the last thirty years.



Calling Jaguar Fans

Many of you will know the website for Jaguar enthusiasts at <https://www.xclusively-jaguar.co.uk/> run by Letitia Mace. She's just signed up a new patron ...

Sir John Egan becomes a patron of Xclusively Jaguar

Words by Letitia Mace, Pictures courtesy of Martin Puthz

Sir John Egan, former Chairman of Jaguar Cars, and now President of the Jaguar Drivers Club, attended the Jaguar Drivers Club National Day, held on 25th July 2021 at Walton Hall, Wellesbourne.

Sir John and I spoke briefly at the event, and I am now honoured to announce that Sir John has accepted my invitation to become a patron of Xclusively Jaguar!

In an email to me, following the event, Sir John apologized for the brevity of our encounter which was due to his very successful book signing that kept him busy on the day.

A further email requested details of the nature of Xclusively Jaguar, culminating with the gracious acceptance of my invitation.

Dear Letitia

Thank you for your offer to be a Patron of Xclusively Jaguar which I am delighted to accept.

Very best regards. John



Sir John Egan with Juno



The man and the model that saved Jaguar!

E604JJU (affectionately known as Juno) is a 1988 3.6 XJ40 – first supplied by Sturges of Leicester and maintained in pristine condition. She was later purchased by Jaguar Heritage, being part of the museum collection for 18 years, before being purchased by Letitia Mace and becoming part of the Xclusively Jaguar Collection! Shortly before she was sold to me, Martin Puthz, a journalist from Germany, took her to meet Sir John Egan at his home – the man and the model that saved Jaguar!

Bo'ness Revival

Remember before lockdown, we had a club stand at the last Bo'ness Revival hill climb at Kinneil House? Well, the event was back this September but strictly for the competitors without spectators or the accompanying classic car show. It also wasn't in Bo'ness, due to the covid restrictions that would have been in place at Kinneil. Instead it was at the Monklands Sporting Car Club's Forrestburn track near Shotts. Great that it happened, but let's hope we have a chance to watch the action and show off our cars back at Kinneil next year.



Farming Action

Thanks to Tim Jackson for pointing out this event for any classic tractor fans, just remember to go on Saturday or you'll miss Milestone!

Celebrating the 70th British National Ploughing Championships & Country Festival

MINDRUM MILL, NORTHUMBERLAND,
By kind permission of D Harvey & Son TD12 4QL
SAT & SUN, 9th & 10th OCTOBER 2021

*It's a
great day out!*



- Magnificent Heavy Horses
- Steam Ploughing Engines
- Vintage Tractors & Displays
- Agricultural Machinery Demonstrations
- Trade Stands & Shopping Stalls
- Country Crafts
- Champion Ploughmen & Women

ADMISSION:
Adults: £12 per day
Children over 5 - £1

Kids go for a quid!



www.ploughmen.co.uk

Tel: 01302 852469
info@ploughmen.co.uk

And finally...

If you've a car you want to sell or need another to complete your collection, our regular show sponsors Morris Leslie have another classic auction coming up on 20th November. Read all about it at <https://www.morrisleslie.com/auctions/classic-cars/>

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

David