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BVAC News September 2024

Wasn't August Busy!

August must have been one of the busiest months ever in the BVAC calendar. As well as our regular monthly meet at Milestone Garden Centre on the 11th and the car treasure hunt on the 24th, there were BVAC representatives at several shows throughout the month, more than one some weekends!

We kicked off on Saturday 3rd with a good turnout at the Berwickshire Show in the grounds of Duns Castle. Although primarily an agricultural show, the classic car element has grown year on year with well over 40 cars this year, outnumbering the tractors. The prize, judged by Archie Simmonds, went to William Mykura with his immaculately presented Ford Corsair, one of two of this relatively rare model on display. William wasn't a club member, but I'm glad to say he's been recruited so we hope to see him and his car at other club events.







The very next day, there were several club members out to support Berwick Upon Tweed Lifeboat Day which this year coincided with the 400th anniversary celebrations of the Berwick

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Old Bridge, so there was plenty going on. Jen Wood had arranged to get the road in front of the lifeboat station closed for the afternoon to allow us to show the cars. There was a lot of interest, so I guess we might be invited back.



Sunday 11th gave us a dilemma with shows at both Etal and Biggar competing for our favours with our own regular meet. Someone had to lose and only two cars made it to Biggar, with much better showings at Milestone and Etal.







Milestone pics from Mike Webber

The next week, there was the show at Dalemain near Penrith organised by the Wigton Motor Club. Although it was lonely on the 'official' BVAC stand, several members were there as individual entrants or with their relevant one make car clubs; I think I counted eight BVAC cars. It's a bit out of our area but speaking as someone who hadn't been before it's well worth the trip. It's almost as big as Thirlestane (800+ cars) and combines showing classic cars with some very entertaining autotests. Border TV put out an excellent report on it – great publicity for the classic car movement – which you can watch by clicking here. You may have to sit through an advert first, but the eagle-eyed may even spot Donald Mann changing a wheel on his Riley in the background. This neat Austin 7 van was at Dalemain, but I think by the time it got there from Norfolk, the turkeys might be past their sell by date!



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The same weekend as Dalemain, Philip Weiss took up the invitation to visit the local show at Southdean and his report on that is later in BVAC News. It sounds like a friendly event which might attract more of us next year.

Saturday 24th saw the treasure hunt which started from Milestone and ran for about 35 miles through the lesser-known roads of the southwest Borders, ending up as guests of Adrian Kendal in Hawick. The weather was kind and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, with first prize going to George and Belinda Jeffrey who only dropped one point all the way round. We need to make the questions harder next time as only a further point separated second and third equal places. Thanks are due to Adrian for providing teas and coffees in his beautiful garden at the finish.



As well as all the fun events during the month, we also need to mark the efforts of the working party who went along to Thirlestane to dismantle the old caravan which has served us well for years but was now falling apart. The opportunity was taken to sort out all the club equipment and get it properly stored in the remaining caravan and containers. Well done to all who took part!

Looking Forward

By comparison, September is looking relatively quiet. Sunday 8th will be our regular meet at Milestone. Most of you will know the score, but for new members or any who haven't been before, you just need to turn up from about 10am at the Milestone Garden Centre at Newtown St Boswells (TD6 0PL) to see the cars, chat to the owners and get a cuppa or a full breakfast in the café.

The following weekend, we have an invitation to show cars at the Yetholm Fun Day on Saturday 14th. Although the event runs into the evening, the plan is to have cars there until about 4.30. If you'd like to go along, contact Philip Titley at clubstandentries@bvac.org.uk by the 8th.

Traditionally the last show of the season at Brunton Airfield in Northumberland closes for entries on 15th September, so you've still got time to enter online here. The show itself is on 20th October.

Before that, we have the club AGM on October 16th. Several long-serving committee members are stepping down so there are key jobs to fill. Now is the time to volunteer to do your bit to keep the club running smoothly and be a part of its future direction. As any past or current committee members will tell you, while there's obviously work involved it can also be great fun and very satisfying when an event you've organised or helped to run is a success. Do speak to any of the current committee to find out what's involved and don't be shy to put yourself forward. The official notice of the meeting is below.

The Annual General Meeting of The Borders Vintage Automobile Club Ltd

Will be held on Wednesday 16th October 2024 at Earlston Church Hall, High Street, Earlston TD4 6HG at 7.30 pm

Agenda will include election of Office Bearers & Committee for 2024/25 and a review of the club's activities in the last year including the BVAC event at Thirlestane in June 2024.

Nominations for Office Bearers & Committee (duly seconded) should be made in writing to The Secretary, B.V.A.C Ltd, 7 Hopeknowe, Earlston, TD4 6HA

by no later than Monday 23 September 2023.

It is hoped all club members will attend.

Southdean Village Show from Philip Weiss



The BVAC events coordinator was approached by the Southdean village show community group and asked whether any BVAC members would be interested in going to the show. I decided we would attend the event, Southdean is a small countryside hamlet near Chesters near Hawick.

It's about a 50-mile drive from Coldstream and I arrived at 12.30pm, I was treated to rapturous welcome from the community group and parked up. I was the only one from the BVAC. I was hustled into the village hall and was given a tremendous buffet for lunch and cream teas, I couldn't fault their hospitality. During the afternoon, I was topped up with cake, cold drinks and sausage buns. So, in between children's races, guess the ferret's name and snail races, I was inundated with questions from the locals, most of the residents have had Land Rovers at some time or other. A small show but great interest and received great hospitality, thank you to Southdean village committee for inviting us down.



I must say, the piglets make a change from the car pictures we usually feature! – Ed.

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Car for Sale

Many of you will have admired Robert Stewart's cars since he joined the club, particularly his recently acquired Alvis. That arrival however means his Morris Eight Tourer is now up for sale.

1935 Morris 8 - series 1 – Tourer £11,500

One of the most successful British cars of the 1930's, the Morris Eight was introduced in 1934 as the replacement for the original 8hp Minor. Powered by a 918cc side valve engine.

So durable was the Eight to prove that many were still in daily use and a familiar sight on British roads right up until the 1970s.



Plenty of Eights survive and are catered for by the enthusiastic Morris Register, with excellent spares availability.
Subject to a bare chassis rebuild in 2022 this is a good example of this enduringly popular model.
Recently had the steering overhauled, bottom end engine seals replaced. starter rewired, fuel sender modified to work with the replacement gauge, led bulbs all round, new hood and interior reupholstered.
For more information call Robert Stewart 07774447306 or email rcs3ug@gmail.com

Xclusively Jaguar Magazine September 2024 from Letitia Mace

This issue will be the 50th printed edition of Xclusively Jaguar magazine!

With this issue celebrating the 30th anniversary of X300 our cover picture features P760NRW (the last X300 XJR manual produced and Pride of Ownership features P500XJR, another one of the 102 RHD X300 XJR manual cars.

It's not all XJR manuals though; we are currently restoring a V12 X300 in the guise of the last incarnation of the Daimler Double Six and Brucie also gets a mention this month in our feature on the launch of the X300 at Skibo Castle in Scotland, written by Howard Hunt.



Howard, Ann and I had great fun putting this feature together as we found pictures, anecdotes and coincidences to add to the proposed original article. The cover of the test route book and all the launch literature in the press pack features a tartan which Howard cannot remember the name of, and I cannot find any reference to, so can anyone help with this?

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!

How Do They Do That?

And more importantly why? A couple of pictures from Chris Biggs of a very unusual Panhard dating from (at a guess) early 60s.







Chris has also contributed three pictures of English market towns (Dunster, Moreton in Marsh and Bridgnorth) fifty years or so ago. How many cars can you recognise?



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That's all for this month. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Clear roads,

David

entries@bvac.org.uk

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