BVAC News September 2026

Editor's Ramblings

The size of BVAC News is very much up to you, the members. I don't make it to every club event, not least because in the summer season there are often more than one event on the same day, so I rely on you to send me words and pictures. Specifically, as we'll be away in September, I won't make it to Bo'ness, Kielder or Newhailes so reports on these shows would be welcome. That said, I must thank Chris Biggs for reporting on the Duns show where he acted as judge and Letitia Mace for her article on the Jaguar Project 7 car which Rob Jenner took to Shetland in June. It was pictured in my piece on the Shetland show in the July BVAC News, but I felt this remarkable car deserved its own article, even if it is rather newer than our usual fare.

Clear roads, David editor@bvac.org.uk

BVAC Classic Festival of Motoring 2027 – Save the Date!

Message from our Chairman, Keith Watson



We're delighted to announce the return of the BVAC Classic Festival of Motoring to our calendar in 2027, taking place at Thirlestane Castle on Sunday 6 June.

Following a year away to reset and refresh, we're working hard to make the 2027 edition of the show a special one for our members, fellow car clubs and visitors. We're introducing a number of improvements, including a new website designed to improve the user experience for members and visitors alike. The first stage of the website developments will be live before the end of the year - more details to follow!

We're also working on an exciting theme for next year's show, which we look forward to revealing soon.

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

The BVAC Classic is a major undertaking, and the support of our members is a vital part of what makes it possible. We'll be sharing more information about volunteering opportunities over the coming weeks and months, but if you'd like to get involved – whether helping with the build in the week before the event or stewarding on the day – we'd love to hear from you.

We look forward to welcoming you to Thirlestane Castle in June 2027!

Events Reports

Duns Berwickshire Agricultural Show, 1st August from Chris Biggs

Blest by fine weather there was a good showing of Vintage and Classic cars at this smaller scale and always very friendly show. There is everything one expects across well kept grass and enclosures and the range of entertainments makes a good day out.

BVAC and Border Reivers were the main Clubs with a good number of entries each together with a fair number of individual entries. Once again, I was honoured to be asked to judge the cars this year, a challenging task when one is awarding rosettes for the top three places spread across the whole age range of vehicles from the 1930's up to the turn of the century. Additionally, there is a trophy awarded to the driver and vehicle judged to have made an outstanding contribution to the show.

It was a tricky task as one was not judging like against like, but I soon narrowed things down to half a dozen vehicles with different but outstanding combinations of quality.

Third place went to James Young of the Borders Reivers Club for his immaculate and sympathetic restoration of a Mk.1 Ford Escort. Second place was claimed by Robert Stewart with his lovely recently re-engined Alvis 12/70, a car that will be well known to members. First place went to Tim Jackson with his, as always, perfectly presented 1946 MG TC. This is another car that will be well known to members but not everyone knows that it began life as a Police car.

The Award of the trophy, fondly known as 'the old goat trophy' due to its previous agricultural class use was an easy matter. Tim Jackson deservedly went home with this in recognition of the many years that he has supported the Duns show as organiser of the Vintage and Classic car section. Of course, you couldn't possibly have imagined that I had any other thought in my head?



(Picture of the winning car from an earlier event)

Longframlington Wings & Wheels, 1st August

A new addition to the show calendar and unfortunately clashing with the traditional show at Duns, this show was run by the Athey's Moor Flying School and sponsored by WB & Sons, the well-known classic vehicle auction house. The idea of combining cars and planes is not new







but hasn't been tried in this part of the world for some years. Airfields have the benefit of big areas of reasonably flat ground for parking, particularly when they close one of their runways as happened here. The show was delightfully informal and that was both an attraction and the source of its problems. Car clubs were asked to book, but there was an open invitation to individual owners of classic cars with the result that about 700 cars turned up, vastly more than were expected or catered for. Inevitably, access was slow and the catering and toilet provision was woefully inadequate. Despite these shortcomings, it was a great event, not too far from the Borders, but attracting cars from further south that we don't see locally. I hope the organisers won't be put off by the problems and learn lessons to put on a better event next year.

Ford and Etal, 9th August

The Etal showground has become a familiar location for BVAC recently and there was a good turnout of our members, second only to the contingent from the organising club, NECPWA.



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Entries were slightly down on previous years, perhaps due to a rather dubious weather forecast, but nevertheless those who did turn up certainly enjoyed the show.

Queens House, Kelso, 20th August



It has become a bit of a tradition in the club to take a few cars along to a care home from time to time as the residents enjoy reminiscing about the cars that were about in their younger days. We took four cars to Queens House, three from the 60's and David Brown's much older Singer and they were all much appreciated and commented on by everyone. This Photo is from the QME Care Facebook page which has several more pictures here.

Tea and Torque at Scott Brown Cars, Reston, 23rd August



Rob Jenner invited BVAC, JEC and a few other local classic owners (notably Mustangs, as Scott Brown is an enthusiast) to meet at Reston for a social event with some excellent catering provided by the Jim Clark Bistro in Duns. Enjoy the pictures…



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Future Events *[click on the titles to link to the appropriate web page]*

Bo'ness Hill Climb Classic Car Show 6th September

Kielder Vintage and Classic Rally 6th September

Carhailes 13th September

Entries for all of these have now closed, but you can always go along to see.

Car Treasure Hunt 3rd October

A run through some of the delightful back roads of the Borders packed with brain teasers and tests of observation, starting from Jedburgh. We have managed to remove the 12-car limit on entries, so can accept quite a few more. **Please enter by 26th September so we can finalise numbers for catering and print sufficient instruction sheets.**

Don't forget our monthly gathering at Milestone Garden Centre, next date 13th September.

Project 7 to Shetland by Letitia Mace

Earlier this year BVAC Vice Chairman Rob Jenner was privileged to be allowed to take the prototype Jaguar Project 7 (VE15 EVD) to Shetland. This unique car belongs to the Jaguar Daimler Heritage Trust (The Trust) and is part of their collection which is kept at Gaydon in Warwickshire.

It is the objective of The Trust to get these rare and unique cars into the public eye as much as possible in order to promote Jaguar cars and the work of The Trust and for this purpose the cars are loaned to a small number of trusted volunteers to be taken to events and on tours throughout the UK and abroad.

As The Trust were aware that we were travelling to the Shetland Motor Show in Lerwick in June of this year they arranged for Rob to collect the Project 7 from Gaydon, drive it back to our home in the Scottish Borders and thence onwards to Shetland. Rob used the Project 7 whilst touring Shetland for several days, so it was seen by many islanders before being displayed at the Shetland Motor Show which was held at the Clickimin Leisure Centre in Lerwick.

Rob was accompanied by a group of motoring enthusiasts in an interesting selection of cars, but it was the Project 7 that stole the show!

Based on the Jaguar F type, the Project 7 is a collectors' edition high performance sports car with a limited run of only 250 worldwide. At its launch in 2014 it was the fastest and most powerful production Jaguar ever.

Designed by Jaguar's Special Vehicle Operations (SVO) team, it debuted at the 2014 Goodwood Festival of Speed in the 60th anniversary year of the Jaguar D-type racer that inspired its design.

The name Project 7 was inspired by Jaguar's proud racing past. Its name is derived from the seven times Jaguar has won the famous Le Mans 24-hour race. Three of those historic wins came in Jaguar's iconic 1950s D-type so the brief to the design team was to conceive a modern day D-type and the Project 7 is the exhilarating result.

Key design elements include the D-type-inspired fairing behind the driver's head, shorter windshield, new front bumper, carbon-fibre front splitter, side skirts, rear diffuser and adjustable rear spoiler. Rollover hoops for both driver and passenger are also integrated into the design. In Project 7, the design DNA of the historic D-type has been blended with that of the cutting edge F-TYPE.

Powered by Jaguar's 5.0 litre supercharged V8 engine, the all-aluminium-bodied car can achieve acceleration from 0-60 mph in 3.8 seconds with an electronically-limited top speed of 186 mph. Project 7 is fully road-legal and features a complex removable roof which is assembled manually when required and stored in the boot, leaving just enough room for an overnight bag, so packing can be challenging in a car which is strictly a two-seater!!!

The pictures feature the Project 7 prototype in Shetland, with hood up and hood down.





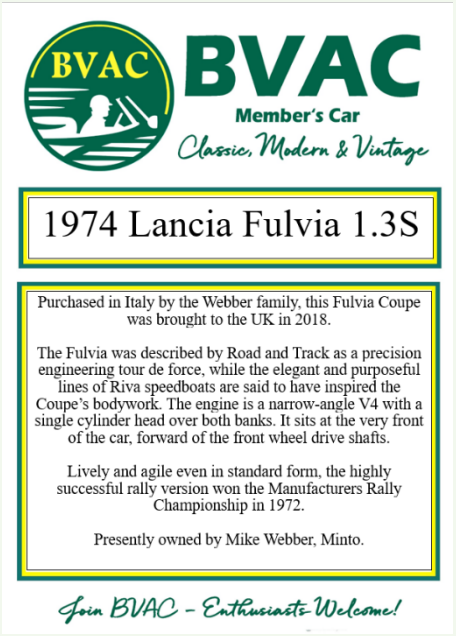
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Windscreen Template

A few years ago, Mike Webber produced a template for BVAC members to create an information sheet to use on car windscreens at shows. He's produced an updated version which you can download by clicking here and then edit using Word. You will probably have to click 'Enable Editing' when you open the downloaded document before adding details of your car.



Nostalgia Corner



Chris Biggs has turned up an interesting article about the MG factory at Abingdon during World War II when it produced everything from blood centrifuges to Centurion tanks. You can read the full article on Facebook via this link.

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Still on the WW2 theme, Fred Magill has sent these pictures of planes and staff cars from both sides of the Atlantic. The RAF Westland Lysander is posing with a 1938 Hillman Minx, while the rather larger American car under the nose of the C-47 Skytrain (better known here as a Dakota) is a Chrysler.





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