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# BVAC News

## March 2020

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### Forthcoming Events

With the postponement of our garage visit to early April, the only club event planned for March is our regular informal breakfast meet on the 8<sup>th</sup> when all are welcome at the Milestone Garden Centre, Newtown St Boswells from 10 am until about noon. Let's hope for some brighter weather than last month. It looked like the work was nearing completion last month so we might be in the newly extended café this time.



That means April will be a busier month with both our garage night on the 8<sup>th</sup> and Drive it Day on the 26<sup>th</sup> as well as Milestone on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The garage night at Lloyd Land Rover's new premises starts at 7pm with tea or coffee, an introduction and a short video. We'll then get a chance to view showrooms and workshops, and hear about the latest Land Rover models, hopefully including a chance to see the new Defender.



More details about Drive it Day in next month's newsletter.

Looking further ahead, remember the date for the May scenic run has been changed to the **24<sup>th</sup>** rather than the 10<sup>th</sup> to avoid clashing with other shows. The destination will be Dawyck Gardens which should be looking its best by then.

If you're interested in visiting car shows this summer, the updated list is at the end of the newsletter. **You need to be quick if you want to visit Keilder as the closing date is this week and for Moffat where space is limited and first come first served.** Looking further ahead, unfortunately the date that has been confirmed for the Edinburgh West End Classic is the day before Thirlestane when we'll be having the Borders Scenic Run and putting the finishing touches to the showground. That means there'll be no official BVAC presence, but it's been left on the list in case any Edinburgh-based members want to take part before coming to Thirlestane. It's also worth thinking ahead about Bo'ness in September as space is likely to be limited and it's a great opportunity to watch some classic sporting action as well as the static car show.

As always, book for any of the shows with Dennis Fortune using the form which you can download by clicking [here](#) except for the shows which require individual entry forms as indicated on the list. Any queries to Dennis at [denfortune@hotmail.com](mailto:denfortune@hotmail.com).

## Recent Events

February was a quiet month, largely due to the weather. The Milestone meeting was well attended, but with fewer classics in evidence than usual. Attendance at our film night was distinctly thin, but full marks to those who turned out on a wild night. Those that did make it enjoyed a programme of vintage 'shorts' followed by 'Bullitt' featuring that famous car chase. I do now have a copy of Bullitt, so if anyone who missed the show wants to borrow it, they'd be most welcome, just drop me an email at [entries@bvac.org.uk](mailto:entries@bvac.org.uk) and I'll arrange to get it to you. The short films we showed were all culled from YouTube, so you can see them at the following links:



[Your Driving Test - 1935](#)

[Cars Of The Future from 1948](#)

[1950s Car Phones](#)

[Spark Plug Pink](#)

## BVAC Classic 2020

Bookings are rushing in for the show on June 7<sup>th</sup> – about 450 so far – so if you haven't done so already, get along to <https://bvac.org.uk/p/individual-entrants> and fill in the form. Highlights amongst the entrants so far include a 1936 Railton coming from Amsterdam and a 1921 steam car, along with a good variety supporting our 1970s theme. Plans are being developed for all sorts of interesting displays, both for the total petrolheads and the just mildly interested. Watch out for the official show launch as the publicity machine winds up.



## Help Wanted

I have an expert rebuilding an MGB 18V engine for me, its normally not his speciality as he is a Ford man but he is helping me out, he would normally set up the engine and its carbs on a Dyno but to interface the engine to the Dyno's silencer system I need some exhaust bits. Although we have the old two branch cast manifold we need the first few bits of exhaust, that's the two initial down pipes the "Y" piece and the first single pipe up to the first silencer box. Does anybody within the club have a rusty "Gash" exhaust buried in their garage please that they might let me have? ... payment could be a bottle of scotch or similar!

Ultimately I will be fitting a tuned stainless manifold and new exhaust but plainly need the old exhaust bits to get the optimum "tune-up" of engine and carbs... Can anyone help please? I am based near Hawick and plainly could collect!

Regards

Hopeful of Denholm aka [Berniehartnett@outlook.com](mailto:Berniehartnett@outlook.com)

## Still For Sale



summer fun, and yours for £2995. For more details, contact Fred at [fredmagill@btinternet.com](mailto:fredmagill@btinternet.com) or 01578 718965.

And now for something completely different (as someone said once) ...

Fred Magill wants to find a new home for his 'shorty' two seat open top Mini, complete with its matching barbeque in a trailer. Great as an advertising tool or just for some



## Fancy a Car with a Bit of History?



There's been quite a bit of coverage of this in the press lately, but in case you missed it and happen to have a spare million dollars looking for a home, there's a classic car for sale just now with an interesting provenance. How about Al Capone's bullet-proof Cadillac? Las Vegas dealers Celebrity Cars have this monster for sale and if you're willing to put down a \$20,000

deposit, they'll start negotiations on the asking price of a million. Many years ago it was exhibited in the UK at amusement parks in Southend, Cleethorpes and elsewhere, but has been back stateside for the last sixty or so years. Although some of the armour has been removed to save weight, it still has the opening rear window, useful if you want to wield a Tommy Gun. More details at this [link](#).



## Times Past

This fascinating article about vintage motoring in various parts of the Middle and Far East from the 1950s to the 1970s was written by an anonymous gentleman (possibly Mike Smith) in 1982 and has been received via Fred Magill. I think you'll agree times have changed! I'll publish this article in two or three instalments as it runs to several pages of typescript.

When I first started motoring on my own account, the only car available at a reasonable price at the time (1951) was a 1931 Alvis Silver Eagle. I did not purchase this as a vintage car but simply as a relatively cheap form of transport. It did, of course, transform my life and taught me some very specific lessons on the maintenance of triple S.U. carburettors. Happily, petrol was not expensive and the Alvis could take up to 40% blue flame paraffin in the tank!

On my arrival in the East in 1953 I was stationed in Kuala Lumpur and, having got some modern metal out of my system and acknowledged its less satisfactory performance, I was inspired by Ted Bailey-Reynold's 1934 20/25 Rolls Royce to look for a similar vehicle.

This led to the lengthy and agonising pursuit of a most charming close coupled sports saloon in the "continental" style which was lurking in the Royal Garages of the Sultan of Selangor.

This car, named Reluctantly for no apparent reason as it only once ever broke down in its life, was in almost immaculate order, apart from the paint work, having covered only 67,000 miles. At the time I was in plaster from the wrist to the elbow of my left arm, having ridden a Sunbeam motor cycle through the back of a taxi, so David Morton came with me to take delivery. The right hand gearchange proved ideal for a one armed driver, however, and the chauffeur was soon sent packing. The only work that had to be carried out was an overhaul of the Auto-vac system and a change of plugs. Later on I repainted and recarpetted and drove it happily as my sole means of business and pleasure transport for many miles.

In 1957, on completion of my first four year tour of duty in the area, I had a mental aberration and sold this car to a very nice gentleman called John Bowring (then Colonel and later General) a Gurkha Engineer. That story will have to be picked up again when we come to about 1964 and Reluctantly returned to me – never, I hope, to leave me again.

Meanwhile I had a short and blissful experience of an Austin Nippy with an original body style and a two bearing crank shaft. It was complete with chromium plated cylinder head which was the cause of much grief from various low characters, especially one Morton, who because they owned Austin Nippys with “boy racer” style bodies believed that they should go faster. Hard luck Morton, had you had the strength of mind to lose that essential stone of weight, I am sure that the silver medal would have been yours and the bronze medal mine!

Perhaps the highlight of the Austin Nippy’s career was a Gap hill climb\* in 1956 or so when a disbelieving commentator was heard to say “my god, he has actually made the wheels squeal on the corner!” A very happy car and one which gave me tremendous respect for Austin sevens. It did not, however, require a great deal of work other than the inevitable reinforcing of the rear body support which was cantilevered out from the basic ‘A’ frame in a rather feeble way, the result of which was that the outside door would always open on any given corner.

A period of home leave then ensued during which I took on a 4¼ litre Bentley and a wife. Surprisingly little to say about the Bentley which had weak hind legs and my wife, whose hind legs are very good, is not the subject of this paper. (to be continued)

\* Editor’s note: The Gap Hill Climb was organised by the Singapore Motor Club and there are photographs from the event on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1956 to be found on YouTube. There are a couple of cars which look to me like Austin 7 specials, but sadly no Nippy.

All the best, and clear roads!

David H

## 2020 BVAC Club Attendance at Other Car Shows - Summary

| No        | Show Date        | Show Event                                | BVAC Closing Date              | No of Entries to date | Support Van Req'd                        | Comments                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------|------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1         | Sun 10May        | Kielder Vintage & Classic Car Rally       | Fri 06Mar                      | 7                     | Yes                                      | New show - Keilder Castle <b>individual entry on-line &amp; cc to DF</b>                                                                                                       |
| 2         | Sun 17May        | BVAA Kelso                                | Sat 18Apr                      | 1                     | Yes                                      | Info issued, always popular held in Springwood, Kelso.                                                                                                                         |
| 3         | Sat 06Jun        | Edinburgh West End Classic                | TBC                            | 0                     | No                                       | Closed off street displays. Not involved with BVAC on Sat? - please consider entry                                                                                             |
| Sun 07Jun |                  | 48 <sup>th</sup> BVAC Classic Thirlestane |                                |                       | For information only                     |                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 4         | Sat/Sun 13/14Jun | Corbridge Steam Rally & Vintage Weekend   | Wed 01Apr                      | 1                     | No                                       | <b>Individual entries please.</b> Can display either Sat/Sun or both days.                                                                                                     |
| 5         | Sun 21Jun        | Paxton House Vintage Rally                | TBC                            | 0                     | Yes                                      | Always popular, held at Paxton House, Berwickshire.                                                                                                                            |
| 6         | Sat/Sun 27/28Jun | Moffat Classic Car Rally                  | TBC but first 900 Entries only | 3                     | Yes? Depends on No of entries, & car age | Info issued for club stand. Pre-1990 cars main showfield Post-1990 cars autojumble field. Any prior individual entries please notify DF to use club stand. <b>Entries ASAP</b> |
| 7         | Sun 05Jul        | Chillingham Vintage Tractor               | TBC                            | 1                     | ??                                       | New show, just outside Wooler.                                                                                                                                                 |
| 8         | Sat 01Aug        | Berwickshire Show (Duns)                  | Sat 06Jun                      | 2                     | Yes                                      | Adjacent to Duns Castle.                                                                                                                                                       |
| 9         | Sun 16Aug        | Albion Biggar Vintage Rally               | Sat 27Jun                      | 0                     | ??                                       | Showfield, Edinburgh Road, Biggar- <b>Pre '82 cars only</b><br>Info/entry details to follow.                                                                                   |
| 10        | Sun 30Aug        | Linlithgow Classic Car Show               | Latest 03July                  | 1                     | Possible                                 | Linlithgow town centre 200 car limit, road run option. Dtls - DF                                                                                                               |
| 11        | Sun 6Sep         | Bo'Ness Revival Classic & Hill Climb      | Entries open March             | 1                     | Yes                                      | 2 Day Hill Climb event as well as static car show on the Sunday. <b>Space limited - early entry required</b>                                                                   |
| 12        | Sat 19Sep        | NMF Wheels & Wings (East Fortune)         | TBC                            | 1                     | Yes                                      | National Museum of Flight, East Fortune airfield. Entry details to follow                                                                                                      |
| 13        | Sun 18Oct        | NVTC Brunton                              | Sat 12Sep                      | 0                     | No                                       | On tarmac at old Brunton airfield, Northumberland.                                                                                                                             |

\* Unless noted otherwise entries to DF using BVAC Club Stands 2020 entry form.