



BVAC News

October 2020

Club Activity – a False Start

Last month we were optimistic about getting some club activities going again, but the increased Covid-19 restrictions have put paid to that. First, Milestone Garden Centre contacted us to request that we should not congregate in their car park, and then in consultation with the members who had entered, the club activities sub-committee took the decision to postpone the proposed pop-up car show in Kelso as it was felt not in the spirit of the 'rule of six' to encourage people to stand around looking at cars. We hope to be able to revive that idea when the situation improves.

For the same reason, the visit to Dawyck planned for Sunday October 18th will not proceed as a club event. Of course, if members wish to go along to view the autumn colours in the gardens on their own account, that's entirely up to them. Just remember that not more than six people from two households can meet at once. The gardens and café are still open but unfortunately we wouldn't benefit from a group discount. The gardens have Covid-19 precautions in place, detailed here

<https://www.rbge.org.uk/visit/visiting-us-during-covid-19/visiting-our-regional-gardens-and-staying-safe/>



For those of you missing the visit to Kelso, here's a picture of the square with rather more classic cars than we were hoping to take. I think it must date from the early 1960s as the newest car I can spot is the Ford Anglia in front of the town hall. How many can you

recognise? To start you off, I think that's a pre-war Rover facing the new Vauxhall Cresta in the foreground...



Annual General Meeting 2020

As reported last month, the club's AGM scheduled for this month cannot take place in the current circumstances. In the absence of any motions or comments from the members, the club office bearers will continue in post, and the reports on activities and finances will be issued to members in the next couple of weeks.

Drive It Day 2021

The FBHVC has announced that the 2021 Drive It Day, due to take place on 25th April, will be in support of the NSPCC Childline service. This is an extract from their press release:

During the current pandemic, vulnerable young people have been less visible to professionals and their safety nets have fallen away. Home isn't always a safe place for a child. Children have also been exposed to more potential risks at home as parents and carers have come under increasing pressures from the current challenging times.

The NSPCC's Childline® service has remained a vital lifeline for those children who feel they have no one else to turn to, holding 19,000 counselling sessions a month since lockdown began.

Individuals can donate simply by purchasing a Drive it Day rally plate for their vehicle which will be available to purchase shortly online. Clubs can help by organising an event or rally to raise money and



by donating the proceeds to our JustGiving fundraising page, the link for which can be found via www.driveitday.co.uk.

David Whale, FBHVC Chairman said, *"The COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest challenge that the world has faced in a generation. So, the FBHVC asks all historic vehicle owners and enthusiasts to join in with us on Drive it Day, Sunday 25 April 2021, to not only continue our work to raise awareness of the freedoms needed by the historic vehicle movement, but also to contribute something special and help ensure Childline® is still there for those children who need help. Our passion can make a huge difference to his hugely deserving charity."*

There are all sorts of ways you can get involved and more information can be found via www.driveitday.co.uk where you can also submit your event to our directory to help enthusiasts find what's happening nearest to them as well as view the options to donate, raise money and purchase rally plates.

Of course, the FBHVC accepts that many clubs already raise money for charity through their Drive it Day activities and so suggest this as an optional addition to any existing fundraising relationships that clubs may have.

Eyemouth Doctor's Car for Sale

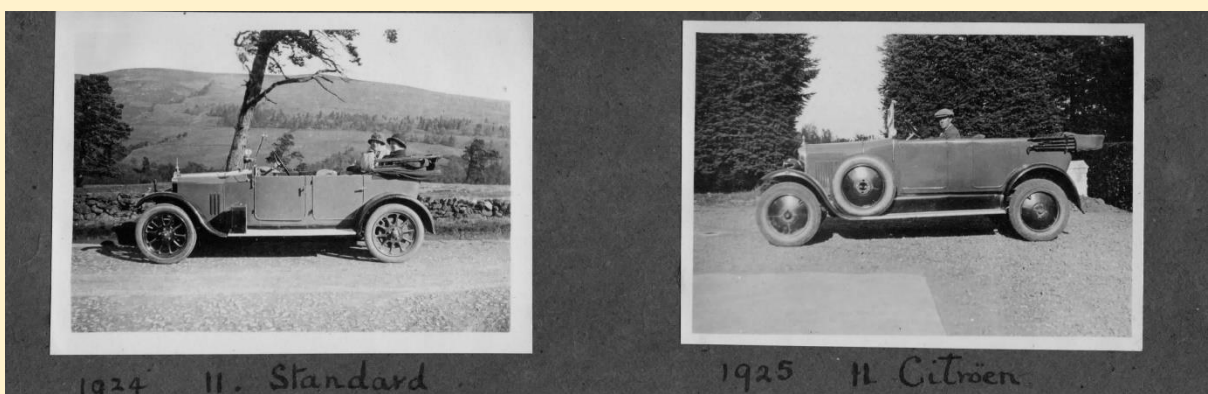
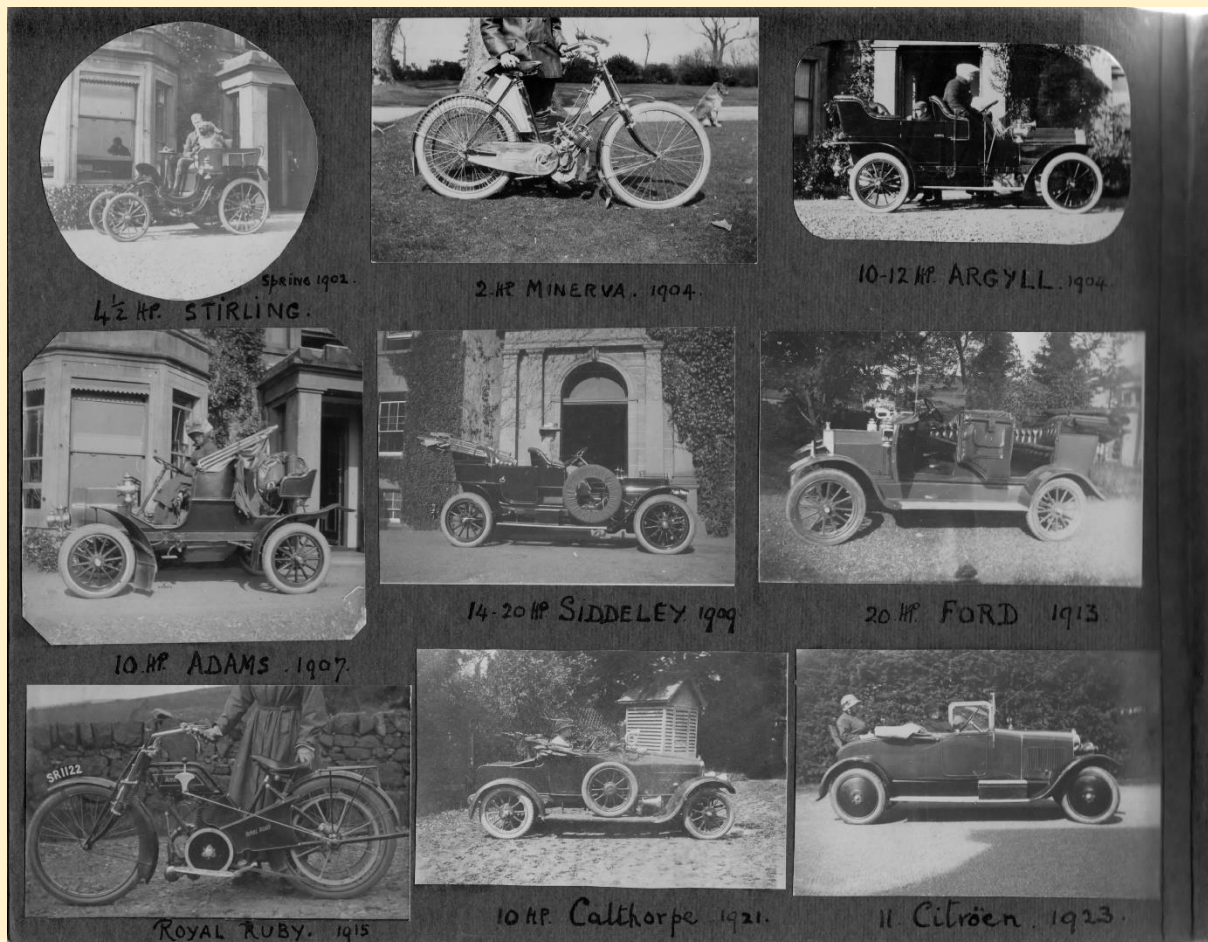
Kenny has been contacted by a lady who's wishing to sell her late father's AC Saloon which has been in her family for half a century, but originally belonged to a doctor in Eyemouth. To judge from the tax disc on the window, it's been off the road for over twenty years, but still looks a handsome machine. It would be good to see another fine old car with local provenance on the Borders roads again, so if anyone feels like taking it on, contact Sarah Skeldon on 07798 892 896 for more details.





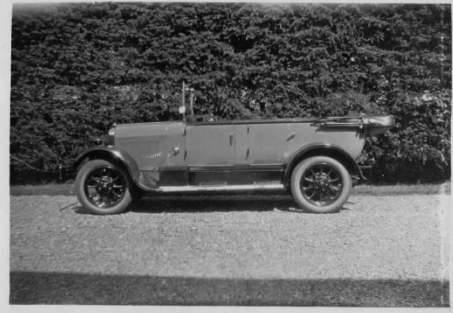
Family Album

It's always interesting to see pictures of early cars, and doubly so when they have a family connection. Chris Biggs has kindly sent three pages from a photograph album belonging to his wife's family. They lived in rural Perthshire and the pictures show a selection of cars and motorbikes belonging to family and friends dating from 1902 to 1931, followed by a fascinating page showing a motor sport event at The Cairnwell in May 1905 – a far cry from the A93 today!





1926 11 Clyno



1927 10 SINGER



1931. 11. STANDARD



1931 12 CITROËN.



New Classic Car Business

A couple of months ago, I mentioned a new business opening in Coldingham. Petrol Haven is now a fully functioning garage, although the plans for clubroom and café facilities have fallen victim to Covid-19 for the time being. I asked the owner, Hugh Masters, to let me have a short article introducing the business, and here's what he wrote. I think it's a very interesting concept, and while I can personally report that they've done a good job for me changing the king pins on my Morris, I have to make it clear that this is not an official BVAC endorsement of the business.



Petrol Haven Classics: A new concept for owners of Classics in the Borders

Petrol Haven in Coldingham opened its doors on 20th July offering a whole range of services to enthusiastic classic car and bike owners located in the Scottish Borders.

How did it all start? As is often the case with these ventures it grew out of personal passion and some fortuitous circumstances coming together. David Aitken a keen collector and driver of classic sports cars for 30 years and Hugh Masters a lifelong biker and motorsport fan were looking for a storage facility that met their needs in the local area. At the same time, Andrew Redden an experienced mechanic and owner of Redden Cars (many will know it as French's Garage) was looking for ways to reinvigorate and grow the family business. We quickly realised there was a perfect fit for these two ambitions to come together to develop a motoring hub.

So what have we done so far? Restoration and 'getting cars out of the shed and back on the road' has quickly become a key component of Petrol Haven. The key principle we work to is to restore and prepare cars to a high drivability and reliability standard – we think classics should be driven as much as possible! Since opening we have worked on a range of classics across the decades including a Morris 8 (perhaps well known to BVAC members), Porsche 968CS, Lotus Elise, Fiat 500, Austin Healey, and a whole bevy of Triumphs – Spitfire, Vitesse, TR6 and Stags. We continue to work on our own restoration projects - Lancia Fulvia Rallye, Lancia Sport by Zagato (we have a wee bit of a passion for Lancias) and a Subaru WRC McRae special. We are also particularly pleased to see the interest in our storage and service/restoration packages. We can tailor these to your individual needs, budget and timescales. We encourage owners to play a full part and to work with us in the garage – we are keen to promote that cooperative and 'club feel' to restoration and maintenance.

Launching the business in the time of Covid has of course brought some difficulties, but we continue to operate in a Covid secure way. However some of our projects have been delayed to next year. Our full range of PH club memberships, classic car hire, guided motoring tours of the Scottish Borders, and our café and clubroom are all planned and ready to go as soon as circumstances permit. In the interim we are offering a one year membership to PH which gives you full access to all PH services alongside a 10% reduction. We continue to provide a full range of services for your 'weekday' modern cars including servicing, repairs and MOTS.

You will find all our contact details and information on our website www.petrolhaven.co.uk or ring us on 01890771283 – you can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram where we regularly post updates on the cars we are working on.

Thanks to BVAC for allowing us space to tell you about Petrol Haven - why not pop in for a (Covid secure) coffee and a chat about all things motoring. We would be delighted to show you the range of cars and bikes we are currently working on. During October we will also be offering a further 10% reduction for all BVAC members on any work carried out and 25% off our high quality merchandising items. We look forward to meeting you and your ride or drive. and of course at our stand at the 2021 BVAC Classic!

Hugh Masters
September 2020

Restorer's Treasure Trove

Bruce Redburn is selling a collection of cars belonging to his father Jock, a long standing BVAC member. Bruce has the V5s for them but as you can see from the photos restoration wouldn't be for the faint-hearted - although they might be a very useful as sources of spares. I can recognise two Fords - a pre-war Y(?) and a later Anglia/Popular, a Morris 8 Series E (1938-47), a 1950s Sunbeam Talbot and (I think) a Humber. If anyone's interested, contact Bruce at brucebordersweep@hotmail.com.





Shelter for your (Small) Classic

One last 'for sale' advert – Peter Robertson is selling this mobile tent designed for a motorcycle trike. It has had an Austin Healey Sprite in it or will take a Mini. It can be used for maintenance protection from showers or storage. It is of pram type construction and will fold flat when not in use. Offers to Peter on 07780 375425.



That's all for now, I hope to see you all before too long, lockdown permitting.

David