



BVAC News

December 2021

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting took place on 16th November. Sid Palmer retired from the committee due to ill health and we thanked him for his contribution and welcomed Keith Watson to the committee. Otherwise, the club's management team is unchanged. Unfortunately, there were no nominations for the posts of chairman or vice-chairman.

Edward Maitland-Carew outlined the exciting plans for next year's show at Thirlestane of which more details below. Chris Biggs listed projected events for the rest of the year and collected some further ideas from the floor. Details will be published in BVAC News and on the website they are firmed up. We fully intend to be represented at other clubs' shows during 2022, but as yet details are not available.

Thirlestane 2022



The club's annual show will be at Thirlestane on 18th and 19th June next year, two weeks later than our usual date. Thanks to Edward's hard work and enthusiasm, we will have a grand two-day event celebrating the heritage of Scottish Motor Sport, in the presence of Sir Jackie Stewart and many other notables from the motorsport world. Several important classic racing cars, including ones driven by Sir Jackie, will form the centre piece of the display. We will aim to raise a substantial contribution to Sir Jackie's charity Race Against Dementia.

There will be a hill-

climb competition on the Saturday, organised by the SMRC, and our traditional classic car show on the Sunday. The whole event will be launched to the world at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix later this month when our new headline sponsor will be announced. The event will be run under the auspices of Thirlestane Castle Events Ltd so as to protect the club from the



RACE AGAINST DEMENTIA

Race Against Dementia is a global charity, founded by Sir Jackie Stewart, to fund pioneering research into the prevention and cure of dementia.

financial risk which goes with such a large undertaking. The club will also be relieved of much of the work involved in processes such as car parking and ticketing and we will be able to concentrate our resources on running the best classic car show we can.

For Your Diary

The regular monthly meet at Milestone will be on December 12th. 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.



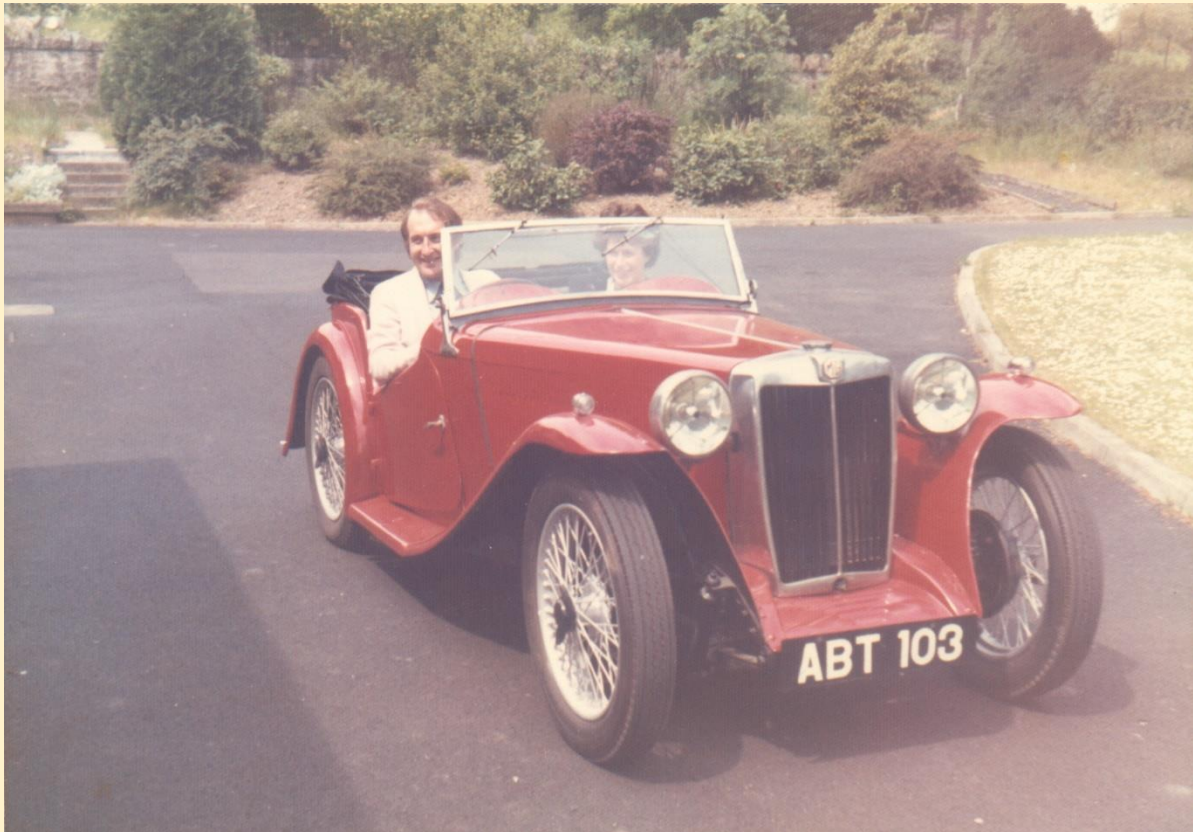
November Milestone Meet

It's hard to find anything original to say about our regular meets, except that they continue to be popular, so I'll let the pictures do the talking.



More from 50 Years Ago

My researches into cars and people at the 1972 event have turned up some more interesting facts and pictures to add to the details of the Bentley published last month. Thanks to Bernie Hartnett for this picture of his father-in-law Denbeigh Kirkpatrick driving his 1937 MG TA (misprinted as 'TO' in the programme) which was at Mellerstain back in May 1972. Bernie doesn't know what became of the car after it passed to his brother-in-law, but the registration ABT103 survives on a modern Fiat.



I've also had a long conversation with Stewart Skilbeck who drove a 1938 Austin Ascot Saloon all the way from Selby, Yorkshire in company with his late father Neilsen who was in the oldest car on the rally, a 1909 Wolseley Siddeley. Stewart has fond memories of the run which was organised by the late Tony Porelli, founder of the Newburn Motor Museum which operated until recently in Newcastle. He arranged sponsorship so all the participants from the North of England would stay at the Dryburgh Abbey Hotel gratis. Stewart's not sure all the bills were ever paid! He tells me the Wolseley, MS358 (which makes it a Stirlingshire car originally), was in the family from 1958-84. It covered about 120,000 miles in that time before it was sold to a Belgian collector who put it in his private museum and as far as Stewart knows it hasn't turned a wheel since.

Through the good offices of Mike Schilling of the Wolseley Register and their historian, I have photographs of the Skilbecks' car and also the other veteran Wolseley on the run, the 1914 Wolseley Stellite CT1201.

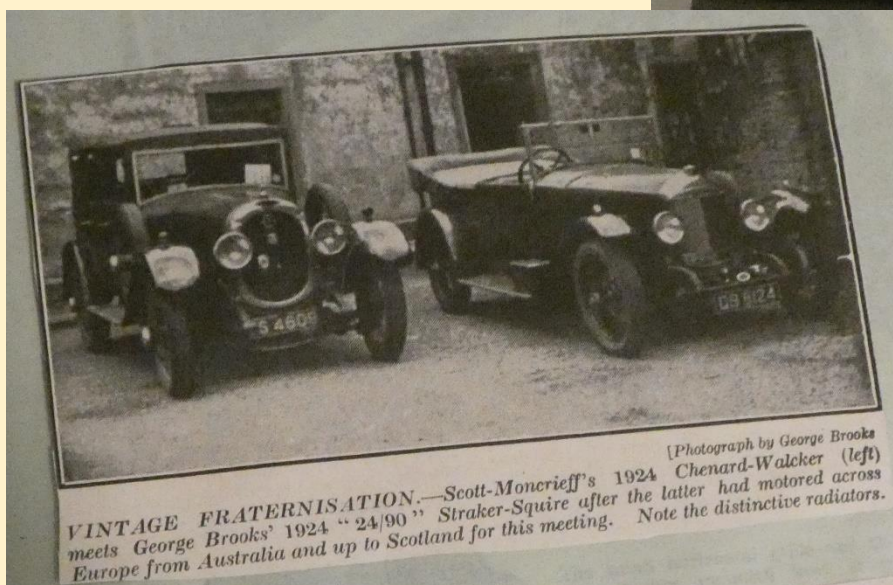
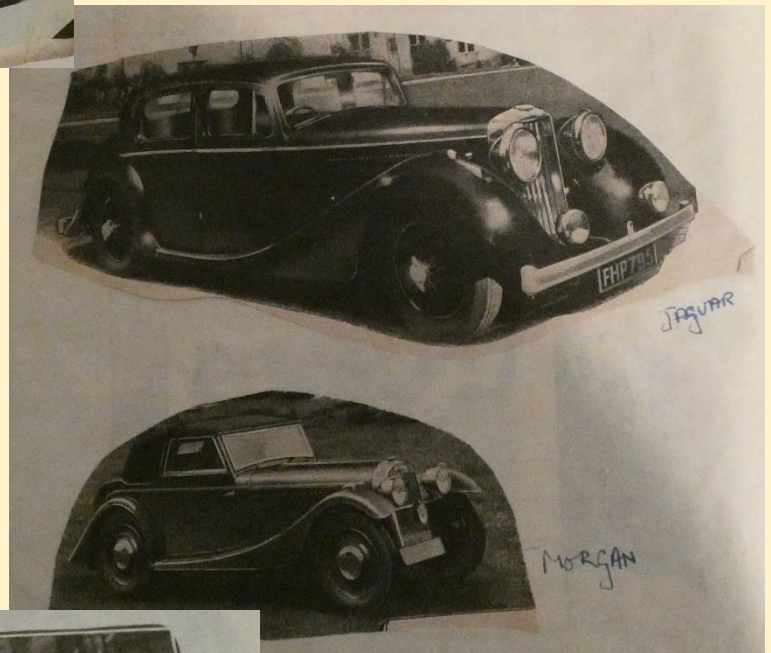


We've also found out that Sandy Blair's Austin 7 is still secreted in the garage behind his son Walter's shop in Kelso. We're hopeful it can be dragged out and trailered to the show next year.



And Finally, a Little Nostalgia

You may remember a few months ago, I published an old photograph contributed by Alastair Lindsay showing a fine collection of cars in front of his family home near Ayton in the 1920s. Alastair has now kindly loaned me the scrapbook he kept as a young boy in the 1950s, and he was clearly a motoring enthusiast long before he was of an age to drive. I'll have it with me at Milestone on the 12th for anyone who wants to have a look, but just to whet your appetite, here are a few extracts.



[Photograph by George Brooks]
VINTAGE FRATERNISATION.—Scott-Moncrieff's 1924 Chenard-Walcker (left) meets George Brooks' 1924 "24/90" Straker-Squire after the latter had motored across Europe from Australia and up to Scotland for this meeting. Note the distinctive radiators.



HILLMAN

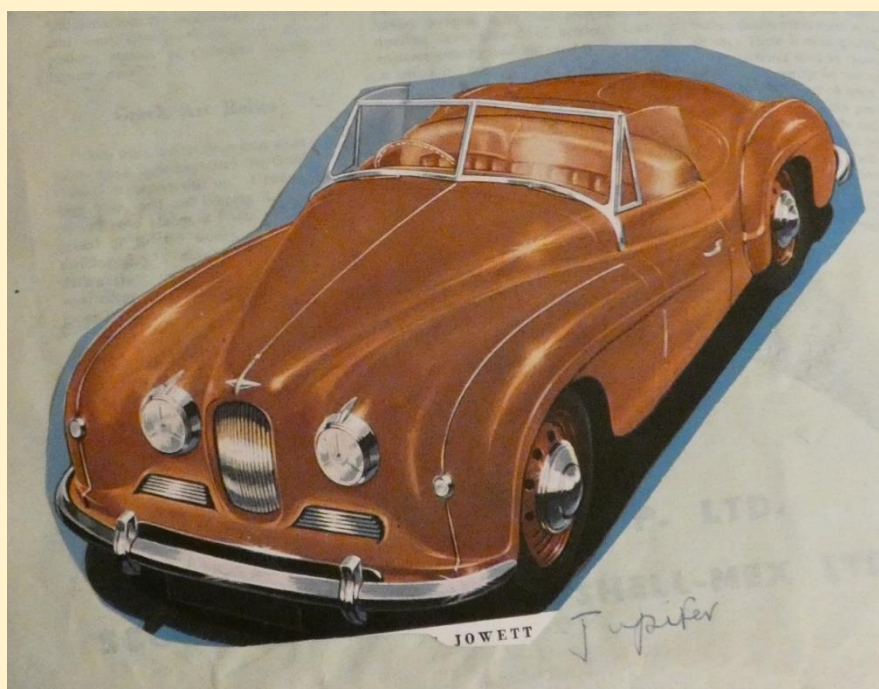
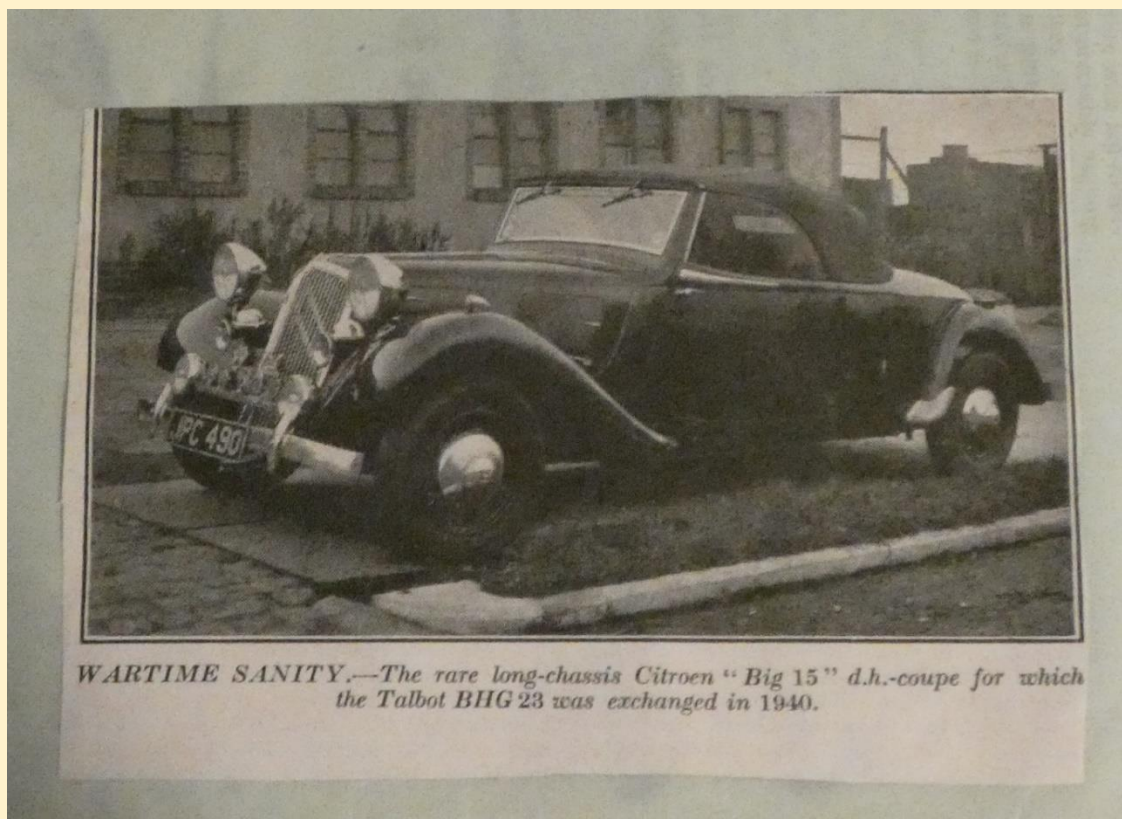


The "TD" M.G. Midget, which made Fastest Time of the Day in the final tests, crosses the braking line with all wheels locked.

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The Morris Minor has a well-balanced appearance, and the four doors provide easy access to the comfortable and light interior. The head lamps are now larger in diameter and mounted in the wings.



That's all for this month, hope to see you at Milestone on the 12th and best wishes for the rapidly approaching festive season.

David

