



BVAC News

June

2022



BVAC Classic – Almost There!

With only two and a bit weeks to go before the big event at Thirlestane, there's still a lot of work to do, so I make no apology by starting this month's BVAC News with a call for volunteers. Keith Watson is still short of marshals for both Saturday and Sunday, so if you can help please contact Keith at Keith@kmwagencies.co.uk or leave a message on 07785 901 238 to offer your services.



There is also lots of work to do preparing the show ground and laying out all the stands. As is traditional, there will be an evening working party on the Wednesday before the show, that's June 15th. Come along any time from 6pm onwards to help get things ready. If you've got free time during the day as well, David Webster will be busy organising the site layout and would

welcome any help he can get from Monday to Thursday. Many hands make light work!

The good news is that we have a marvellous show to put on for our 50th Anniversary. Not only will Sir Jackie Stewart be present along with some of his historic cars and memorabilia, but the classics – 'our' show – will be there in force. There will be one make clubs from Mini to Bentley, Rolls Royce, Alvis, Lancia,

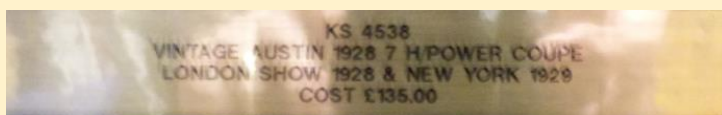


Alfa Romeo, Porsche and many more. Fans of traditional British sporting cars won't be disappointed either with Jaguars, Triumphs and MGs aplenty. Following the usual rush of late

entries, we should have almost 400 individual entrants too, from veterans to modern exotica – something for all motoring tastes.



And one last request for help – Chris Biggs is compiling a display of the club's fifty years to show at Thirlestane and he would like to hear from anyone who has photographs of our shows from the Mellerstain era. If you can help, contact Chris at chrisbiggs@btinternet.com. Chris has also produced some more photographs of the late Sandy Blair's Austin Seven Coupe which you'll get a chance to see in the flesh at Thirlestane.



Does anyone know the history behind the plaque which seems to show that it was used as a show car both in London and New York. This may tie in with the fact that it's a 1928 car, but the DVLA records show it wasn't registered until April 1930. But then you know how accurate the DVLA records are...

Club Events – Recent and Coming Soon

The May Club visit to Dawyck Botanical Gardens went very well. In all, 18 members attended, and the visit proved to be enjoyable to all. This was not so much an opportunity for us to show off our cars but rather an opportunity for the gardens to show off to us. They certainly didn't disappoint. The rhododendrons were magnificent, the trees ancient and stately and the Himalayan Blue Poppies a rarely seen treat. Great swathes of bluebells covered the grassland areas in much of the woodland and the valley burn bubbled in the background beneath the



many bridges. A small amount of the forecast rain fell on some of us, but this was slight and we were rewarded by intermittent sunshine. Despite a major Plant Sale day to raise funds to support the venue the gardens themselves were not very busy and solitude, from which to contemplate the bounty of Nature, not difficult to find. As we walked our own routes it was pleasant to encounter other members from time to time and share many brief conversations.

A reminder to all members that Events organised by the Club now appear on the 'Events' page of our website and this is where they should look when planning ahead. Items posted there are regularly updated - for instance - final details will appear when arrangements are confirmed, including the method of registering for the event and any costs involved. Please try to develop a habit of checking from time to time as the 'Events' page is the one most likely to change frequently and always aims to be up to date. Reminders of coming events will continue to be included in the monthly BVAC News email but in some cases this will only permit a few days' notice.

June will be a busy month for the Club. The first of our Anniversary events is our Celebration



Run on 5th June when we are recreating the Northern section of the inaugural Run from 50 years ago. The route, starting from Wooler will cross the border to Kelso for a lunch stop and display of cars as part of the town's Jubilee Celebrations and then on to Mellerstain House before finally motoring on to Thirlestane Castle for a final park up, photoshoot and b.y.o. picnic. Full details are on the 'Events' page of the website and there may just be time to enter if you are quick!

Looking ahead, I hope that all members have got 13th July marked in their diaries as the Club hosts a 50th Anniversary Celebration Social Evening at Woodside walled gardens. Outline information has been on the website for some time and final costs are being arranged at the moment along with arrangements for booking places. The website may well have been updated with this information by the time you read this. We hope that everyone will attend in a Classic car of some sort and that there will be a splendid display in the beautiful woodland car park together with a simple 'best car' competition where everyone gets a vote. We shall have exclusive use of Woodside for the evening.

Also in July, we have visits to Care Homes -

- Sat. 2nd July - 10.30am - Galahill Care Home, Galashiels
- Wed. 6th July - 2.00pm - St.Johns Care Home, Melrose

I would be glad to hear from any members willing to bring their classic cars along for these visits. They should not involve more than an hour and a half.

Events from August onwards will begin to appear on the 'Events' page of the website soon.

As well as all this, the regular Sunday breakfast meets at Milestone Garden Centre continue on the second Sunday of every month. Despite clashing with the Kielder Show (see below) there was a good turnout on 8th May. The next dates will be 12th June and 10th July. If you haven't been before (or even if you're a regular!) I'd encourage you to come along, any time between 10am and noon. No need to book, just turn up and join us.



TV Stars!

Watch out for interviews with Robin, Chris and Fred which have been recorded for ITV Borders and are scheduled for broadcast in Borders Live on either Friday 10th or 17th June. As well as featuring Thirlestane and the club's 50th Anniversary, you can see all three of them at home with their cars. Fingers crossed no major news story knocks them out of the schedule.

Temporary Garage Wanted

Can anyone help John Wilkinson who's looking to rent a dry garage with power (for the trickle charger) for three months from August to house his MGB while his garage is being rebuilt? Does anyone have a bit of space for a short period in the Melrose area? If you can help, contact John at johnrobertwilkinson@gmail.com.

Car Shows This Summer

BVAC has already attended two classic cars shows this season, at Kielder on 8th May and the BVAA Show at Kelso the week after. Dennis Fortune writes of the Kielder show: Setting off from Kelso at around 8.30am the drive to Kielder Castle took us to Jedburgh, then onto to Bonchester Bridge and Saughtree before finally arriving at Kielder village around 9.15 for a rendezvous with the other BVAC members prior to entering the show ground in convoy. The journey was spectacularly scenic and well worth a drive out any day of the week with road

conditions very good for the most part with just a few miles where passing places were in existence, although most of the traffic was going the same way ... to Kielder Castle. On arrival we were quickly shown to an area, in front of the castle, large enough for our 4 car display and we had time to set up our club regalia before the show opened to the public at 10.00am. For most of the day we had great weather with plenty of sunshine and the catering and other facilities at the castle were excellent. Visitors to the show were plentiful, reaching a peak early afternoon and we even had several club membership enquiries. All in all a great day was had

by all the members who attended and it was noted that this should definitely be a show for consideration for next year's calendar.



The Kelso show brought a good number of classic cars out to join the usual displays of tractors, steam engines and commercial vehicles. As well as a good variety of cars on the club stand, Rob Armstrong was there with his 1929 Empy Special racer, fresh from its appearance at the historic Montlhery racetrack near Paris. If you missed it at Kelso, it's booked in to Thirlestane as well – look for it on the BEVA stand.





June is mostly filled with our own show at Thirlestane although there is the chance to go to **Moffat Car Rally** on 26th June where we have been allocated a club stand sufficient for 10 cars, entries are on a first come first served basis, **so get your entry in now** for this great classic car show in the Border town of Moffat, a show which we haven't been able to attend as a club for a number of years.

Three other shows now confirmed, with entry forms live on our web site, are:

- Berwickshire Agricultural Show on 6th August.
- Newhailes Classic Car Show on 28th August.
- NVTC Brunton on 16th October.

Two other shows pencilled in are the Chillingham Vintage Tractor Rally near Wooler on 3rd July and Wheels & Wings at the National Museum of Flight held in late September, but for both of these shows further details are yet to be published.

From the Internet

As is becoming his habit, Fred Magill has provided me with a round up of some of the recent classic car postings on the internet which I've listed here for you to follow up at your leisure:

- Hagerty Insurance provide a regular diet of interesting and entertaining articles at <https://www.hagerty.co.uk/entertainment/>
- If you prefer American cars, try Hemmings: <https://www.hemmings.com/stories>
- The PreWarCar website always provides some fascinating articles as well as a variety of interesting cars for sale. This month they feature this AC 12/40 at <https://www.prewarcar.com/ditton-s-delight>



I think all these sites will provide you with regular reading if you sign up to their mailing lists.



I don't know where Fred found this picture, but I'm sure there's a politically incorrect mother-in-law joke to go with it.

Xclusively Jaguar Magazine May 2022

Letitia Mace has included a double page spread about the Thirlestane show in the May edition. The June one should also be out by the time you read this.

Letitia writes:

It's been a busy month at Xclusively Jaguar and it looks set to get even busier this year!

At last we have some shows to attend, the first being the Jaguar Breakfast

Club meeting on 2nd April, which was dedicated to the XJ40 and is reported on in our May issue, along with a plethora of other fantastic articles, including:

- > Racing updates from Swallows Racing
- > A return of the Jaguar Blue Lights - this time looking at Jaguar Fire Tenders
- > Part 3 of "Where the XJS Rusts and Why"
- > Jaguar D-Type XKD601 Tribute Car

And so much more! Click the link below to read the latest issue!



Until next month, Happy Motoring!

You will find the latest issue of Xclusively Jaguar magazine (along with all back issues) at www.Xclusively-Jaguar.co.uk

Contact Letitia Mace at Letitia@exclusively-jaguar.co.uk for more information

That's all for this month, Thanks are due to everyone who contributed, especially to Chris Biggs and Dennis Fortune for providing most of the content for the 'Club Events' and 'Car Shows' sections. I hope to see you at club events soon and if you've anything you want to comment on or contribute, email me at entries@bvac.org.uk. Please note that due to editorial holidays (which I reckon I'll need after Thirlestane!), the July BVAC News will not appear until around the middle of the month.

David