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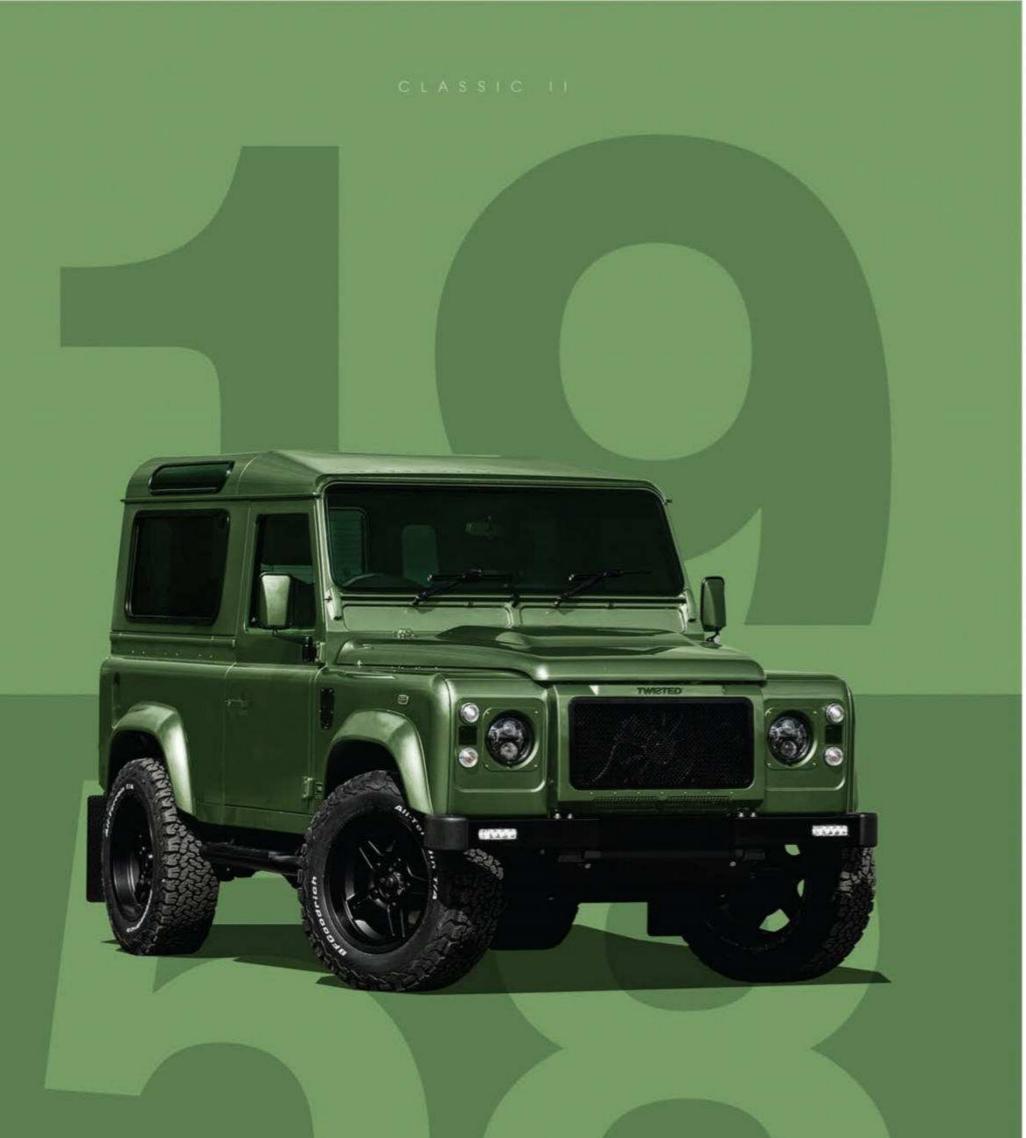
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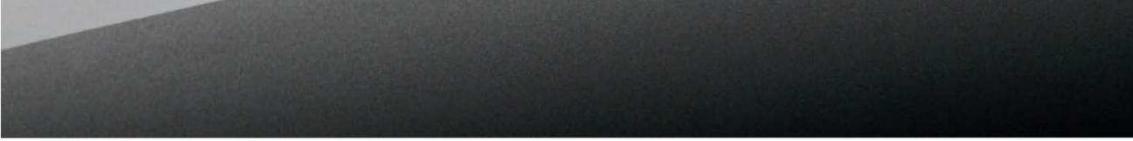
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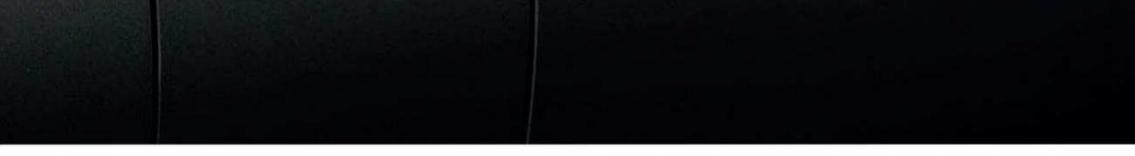


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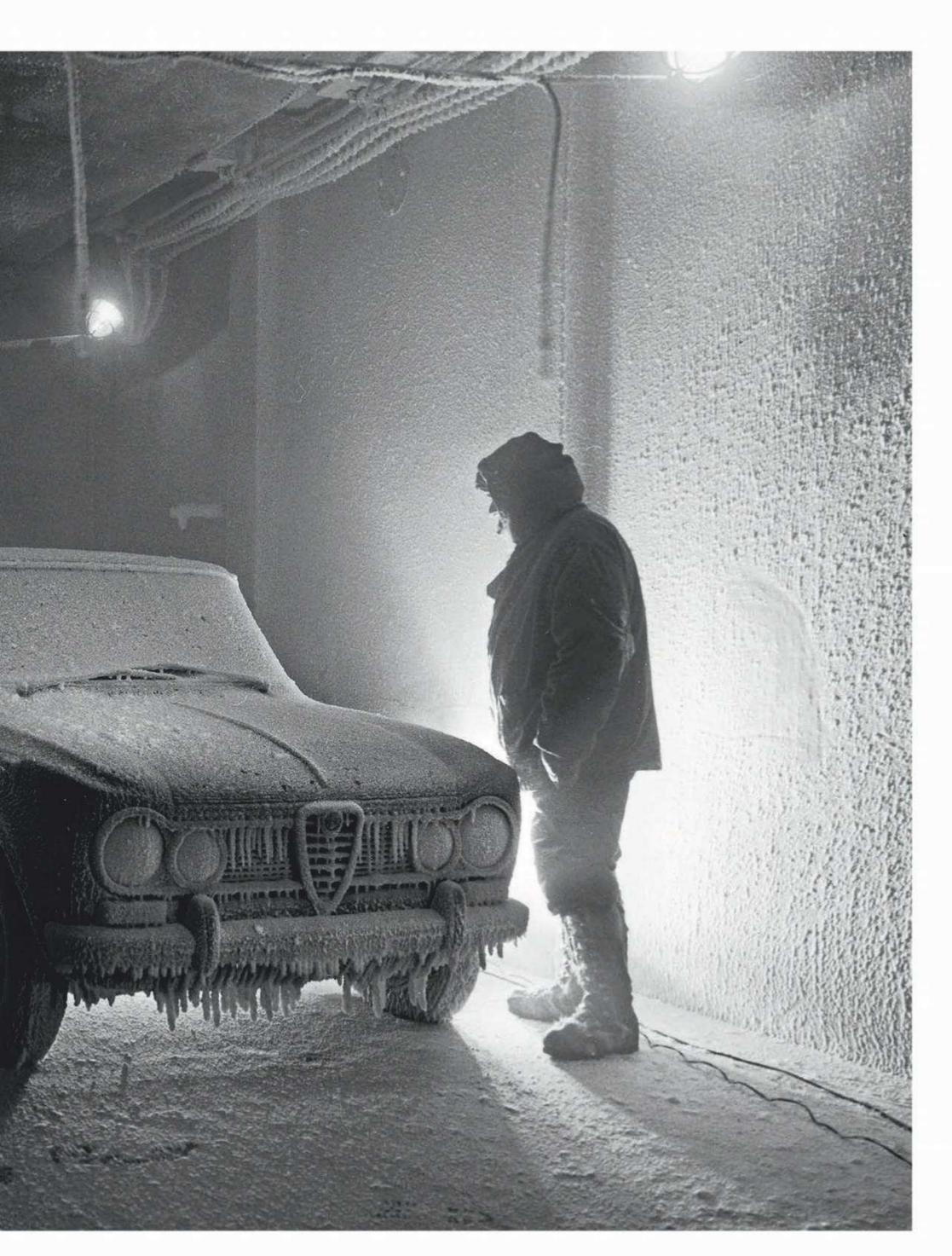
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# THE BIG PICTURE

At the Alfa Romeo factory during the early '60s, a new testing chamber rigorously subjected cars to extreme conditions. Here, a freshly completed Giulia Super is frozen in the Portello development department. The same car also went through high-temperature tests, with technicians wearing special protective suits.

with technicians wearing special protective suits. The planning and construction of a new plant at Arese was a major development for Alfa Romeo, as demand for the new generation of cars increased, and a photographic team was enlisted to record the huge new facility. This remarkable 1964 shot comes from a hoard of previously unpublished historic negatives and prints, recently discovered in the factory archives by German Alfa fan Patrick Dasse and now presented in a six-volume set of books (see p146). **MW** 



December 2018 Classic & Sports Car 9

CLASSI & SPORTS CAR Welcome

here's something particularly special about an old car with an appropriate backdrop. We could have shot this month's Mercedes 300SL 'Gullwing' feature (p138) anywhere, but former editor James Page was adamant that it had to be at the former RAF station at Greenham Common. The abandoned nuclear missile silos and cracking concrete of this Cold War-era base gave the perfect atmosphere for Tony Baker's wonderful photography of a car whose first home was on the other side of the Iron Curtain.

Another British base that was also long neglected – but is now very active once again – brought this to mind in early October. I've been meaning to get to one of the Bicester Heritage Sunday Scrambles ever since they began four years ago, but somehow fate had conspired against me and until the final event of this year I hadn't managed to make it.

Boy, have I been missing out. The combination is just about ideal: one of the most varied collections of cars I've had the pleasure to view, mingling with the historic buildings and leafy avenues of the restored Bicester Technical Site – with the bonus of its knowledgeable and enthusiastic residents opening their workshop doors to



share their latest projects. And all accompanied by a delightful, relaxed 138

"My favourite detail is the dials. I love timepieces, and the craftsmanship is on the level of the Swiss watchmakers"

atmosphere, in which enthusiasts can simply get together and talk about the things they love best: the cars. Perfect!

#### **ALASTAIR CLEMENTS** Editor in chief, *Classic & Sports Car*









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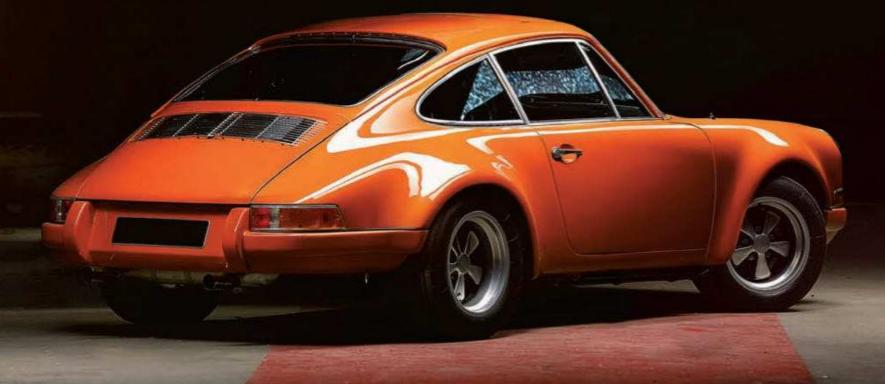


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#### LOTUS 70TH ANNIVERSARY



# LIGHTING UP NORFOLK



Lotus celebrated its 70th birthday in style with an evocative mega-meet at the marque's Hethel headquarters

WORDS MATT BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY LOTUS CARS/MATT BIRD



or any car manufacturer to reach 70 years old is a major achievement, but for Lotus to now be entering its eighth decade of manufacturing, following its various tribulations both recent and more distant, is nothing short of remarkable. To mark seven decades since Colin Chapman built his first MkI – which is still to be tracked down, but the hunt is on back in 1948, Lotus brought out the bunting at its Norfolk headquarters on 29 September for a lavish 70th-birthday celebration. The plan? As delightfully simple as you would hope from a marque for which minimalism is everything: bring as many people (some

8000 all told) and cars significant to the brand (a record turnout of 1600, from all eras) back to the home of Lotus, for a day of reminiscing about the past, discussing the future and sharing a passion that reaches across the globe. You could have stayed in the car park and still had a fantastic day, with some 14 Lotus owners' clubs putting on static displays covering everything from the MkVI to the latest range. Unbeknown to those owners, a judge was prowling their ranks during the day for a 'secret concours', with the top prize finally going to the ex-Guy Fréquelin/ Jean Todt Sunbeam Lotus. It was hard to think of a Lotus production model that wasn't on show, from every Europa, Esprit, Éclat, Excel, Elan and Elise variant to a plethora of Carltons, Talbot Sunbeams and Lotus Cortinas, all accompanied by owners of unerring dedication and seemingly

The rally-prepared Sunbeams provided yet more entertainment in a fashion not typically associated with Lotus: raucous, wild and seemingly in a permanent state of oversteer, these competition cars reminded visitors why the rearwheel-drive hatchbacks have such a fearsome reputation on the rally stages. As for the Cortina, there's little more eulogising to be done – even more than 50 years after the model's introduction, and from such humble origins, it continues to be a regular winner in historics. The demonstration was brought bang up to date by a tyre-smoking 'Dynamics Display' from the current range of cars and Lotus' crack team of test drivers.

boundless knowledge.

Activity on the Hethel test track began with a demonstration of vehicles that perfectly encapsulated the marque's mantra: lightweight, groundbreaking, innovative and highly successful. No, not Sevens but members of the Lotus 110 Bike Club, with a group comprising riders of Type 108, 110 and 112 bicycles, including the Type 108 used by Chris Boardman to win gold in the Track Pursuit at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992.

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#### LOTUS 70TH ANNIVERSARY



From top: ex-Satoru Nakajima 1981 Lotus 101 F1 contender on track; 1600 cars marked the brand's 70th anniversary in an epic parade; smoking Sunbeam Lotus; owners' Sunbeams included several competition cars



Those cars were merely a warmup, however, to the main event that so many enthusiasts had driven to Hethel to see: the Classic Team Lotus display, featuring racewinning Formula One cars from the '60s, '70s and '80s. With even the most recent Lotus F1 title success now 40 years ago, the appetite for the cars shows no sign of abating as the test track once again echoed to the evocative sound of the howling Cosworth DFV. Highlights included the 1966 43 and the iconic 49, designed by Colin Chapman and Maurice Philippe for the 1967 season, and the highly successful 1978 Lotus 79, the first F1 car to take full advantage of ground effects.

'The Hethel test track once again echoed to the evocative sound of the howling Cosworth DFV'



# HETHEL'S HEROES

#### DAVE CLEMENTS 1995 LOTUS ELAN (M100)

Look no further for proof of how deeply the Lotus passion can run. Having founded the Lotus Elan Central site and owned 23 Elans prior to this rare Jim Clark Special – one of two he owns – there's not a thing Clements doesn't know about them. He loves their quirkiness and usability, and this example has recently had a total nut-and-bolt rebuild, making it the best of the 13 Jim Clark cars built.



#### STUART BAGSHAW 1986 LOTUS EXCEL SA

One of just 129 automatic Excels, Bagshaw's SA was the third off the line. A wide-body version he bought five years ago, it's now in regular use, the trip to Hethel being a not-insignificant 500-mile round trip. It has required precious little work, though Bagshaw's car now runs rear coil-overs because the original suspension parts are no longer available.



NIGEL SCOTT **1979 LOTUS ESPRIT S2** Four decades ago, this stunning Champagne Gold S2 was the star of the British Motor Show stand, marking another victorious year in F1. He points out that, as a show car, this Esprit has more consistent shutlines and assembly standards than some. "I owned a Europa but had always wanted an Esprit," says Scott. "The S2 has the S1 style, but with most of the foibles resolved."

While the focus was inevitably on the marque's achievements over the past seven decades, the imminent future of Lotus was also discussed. Plans were unveiled during the weekend for further expansion of the Norfolk site, comprising a Customer Experience Centre, a Heritage Centre and a museum. "Hethel is, and will always be, the heart of Lotus," said new CEO Feng Qingfeng. "Our plans are the first step in readying the site for the next 50 years."



# PRUE GREATS

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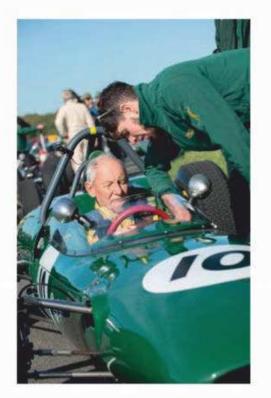


#### LOTUS 70TH ANNIVERSARY





From top: Essex-liveried Lotus 81 on the Hethel track was an evocative sight; Classic Team Lotus display, including the banned Type 88 racer, was one of the day's highlights; arch-enthusiast Malcolm Ricketts drove Lotus 21



Qingfeng also revealed two new Evora Sport 410s, prepared by the Lotus Exclusive department and finished in the classic 'Gold Leaf' livery. The crowning glory of a fabulous day, however, was the parade, as the full 2.2-mile Hethel test track was opened for more than 700 cars to take to the circuit. Led by Qingfeng and Colin Chapman's son Clive in his father's old Eleven, the procession encompassed nearly every model of Lotus road car and provided a fitting finale: for representing just what Lotus has achieved in its 70 years of production, it would be hard to think of anything better. Famous names on hand from Lotus' past included former CEO

Mike Kimberley, Jim Clark's old mechanic Bob Dance, and Elisa Artioli, whose father Romano was the owner of Lotus at the time of the Elise launch, and named the new model after his daughter. Hopefully now, with proper financial backing and a new product plan in place, the travails of the recent past can be forgotten and Lotus can at last begin to look ahead to its next seven decades with renewed optimism. "To have met so many Lotus enthusiasts and to understand their passion for our brand is inspiring," said Qingfeng. "We are committed to our home in Norfolk, and to have so many of our cars return here has really made the day."

# HETHEL'S HEROES

#### JON LANGRIDGE 1996 LOTUS ESPRIT V8

"The most reliable car I've owned," is how Langridge describes his V8, which comes as the first surprise. "It was meant to be a Volvo," is the second. It turns out that the garage he visited 12 years ago to look for a Swedish load-lugger also had a Lotus concession, and one thing led to another... The car has since been subtly modified with uprated air filters, turbo wastegates and a freer-breathing exhaust system.

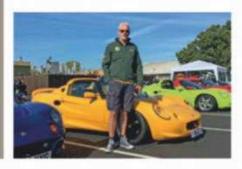


#### GARY GARBUTT 1970 LOTUS EUROPA TWIN CAM

So many Lotus cars have interesting stories, but Garbutt's Europa is more intriguing than most. It was owned from new by Colin Chapman's cardiologist – they were friends from Oxford University – but the engine seized after nine years and it was left derelict until Garbutt bought it in 2015. He has rebuilt it, and has covered 3000 miles since it returned to the road in March.



ADRIAN TEBBUTT **1999 LOTUS ELISE SPORT 160** Having had a varied car history – including Minis, TVRs and Subaru Imprezas – Tebbutt took the plunge on his first Lotus four years ago. "It's amazing," he says. "I've never driven anything like it." Tebbutt takes his Elise on several track days a year, with Anglesey and Cadwell Park particular favourites. Apart from the black wheels, the Sport 160 is in standard spec.





# **UPCOMING AUCTIONS**

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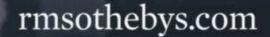
> 1932 Marmon Sixteen Coupe Coachwork by LeBaron Chassis no. 16 141 830

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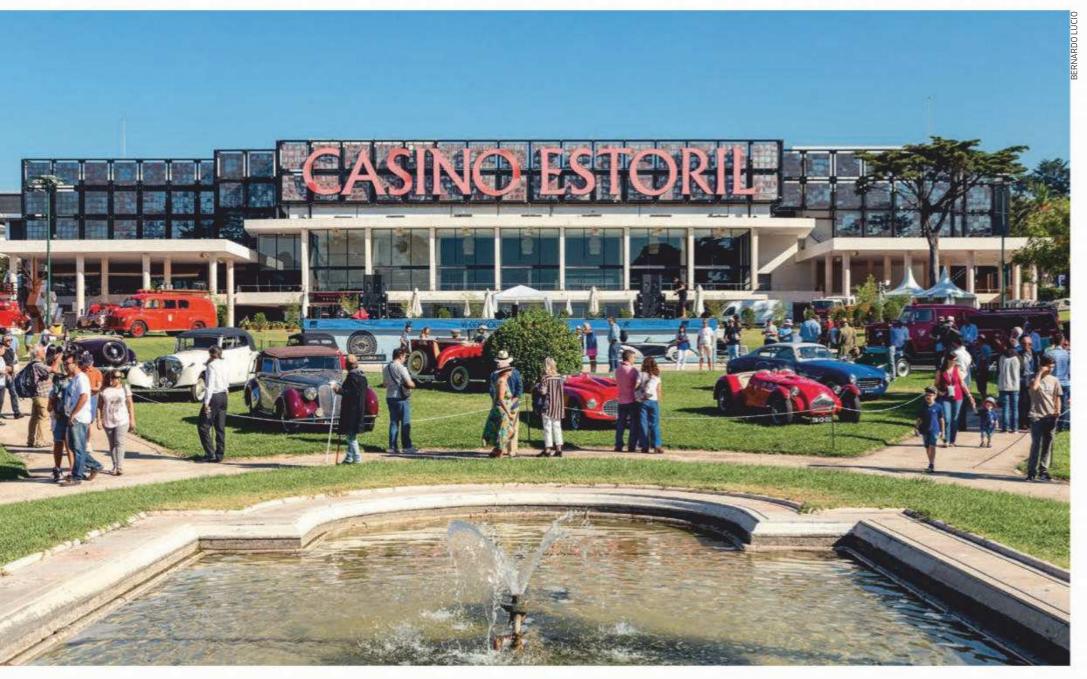
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**1956 Ferrari 290 MM** *Coachwork by Scaglietti; Chassis no. 0628*  Competing at the 1957 Sebring 12 Hours with Phil Hill and Wolfgang von Trips taking turns behind the wheel. Courtesy of Louis Galanos

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# **PORTUGUESE PRIZE FOR MONDIAL**

Historic Ferraris took centre stage at the Concours d'Elegance ACP, part of Estoril Classics Week (2-7 October), but coachbuilt French models also starred. Now in its sixth year, and held on the wellmanicured lawns of Estoril City Park, the event attracted the cream of concours machinery from the Iberian peninsula. Class and Best of Show honours were secured by the Ferrari 500 Mondial belonging to former Chelsea FC manager André Villas-Boas. This highly original sports-racer narrowly shaded Maranello products with extensive Portuguese histories, including a unique 1951 195 Inter by Vignale and a 1950 225 Export-engined 166 Barchetta that raced on street circuits such as Vila Real and Oporto in period. Ricardo Saragga's Delahaye 135M Cabriolet Grand Luxe with coachwork by Chapron was the only non-Italian challenger for overall honours, and a clear winner of the post-vintage category. In second place was the supercharged 1932 MG Magna of Pedro Villas-Boas (André's nephew), with João Cortez de Lobão's one-off Erdmann & Rossi-bodied Derby

Bentley also vying for attention.

The runaway winner of the Sport & GT class was André Besnard's sublime 1966 Citroën Palm Beach Décapotable. One of only 32 cars made by Parisian carrosserie Henri Chapron, it was the sole example to feature the DS21style front-end treatment. Laden with every conceivable option, the car was acquired by Besnard in '67, and he used it as his daily transport for decades before he relocated to Portugal. He and his wife continued to drive it to the beach most days and also on road trips to Paris twice a year. In fabulously original condition, it was also a deserving winner of the Preservation award. Americana is gaining in popularity in Portugal, and US classics featured prominently, ranging from José Mira's deliciously patinated 1927 Willys-Overland Whippet Phaeton to Fernando Almeida's 1966 Ford Mustang convertible, the latter taking home the Post-War American Cars class award. Other standouts included José Brandão's 1952 Aston Martin DB2 Vantage, with superb competition pedigree, which prevailed in the class for the British marque.





## WINNER'S SPOTLIGHT

The victorious Ferrari 500 Mondial Scaglietti Spider Series II, to give the car its full name, was delivered new to Yves Dupont in May 1955. The Frenchman campaigned the car sparingly before it returned to Italy for repairs. Over the past 20 years, it's been a regular on the Mille Miglia retrospective with Gregor Fisken, among others. It was sympathetically restored in 2009, the original blue paint found under the mid-1950s 'resale red' makeover. The car was displayed in Portugal by Salvador Patrício Gouveia of Museu do Caramulo.

From top: classics outside Estoril Casino; doublewinning Chapron DS Palm Beach; DB2 Vantage was top Aston; Gouveia accepts prize for victor Villas-Boas





Top honours at the Essex show went to Steve Horne's 1958 Alvis TC108/G Graber saloon



Unique Phantom II Kellner turned heads



'Long Nose' 275GTB, another class winner



#### **NEW LE MANS SHOWCASE**

Porsche's Le Mans history is the subject of a new exhibition at the circuit's museum, coinciding with the marque's 70th anniversary. Open until 13 January 2019, it features 16 racers marking the brand's record-breaking 19 wins. See www.lemans-musee24h.com



#### **JAGUAR FESTIVAL 2019**

The Jaguar Festival is coming to Oxfordshire from 10-12 May next year. Run by the Jaguar Enthusiasts' Club, it features events at Heythrop Park Resort and Blenheim Palace, including a 'Jaguars on Film' exhibition. See www.jec.org.uk/blenheim2019



MONTLHÉRY MONSTERS Demos at Les Grandes Heures Automobiles at Montlhéry (28-30 September) ranged from Voisins to Arturo Merzario in a recreated Ferrari 156 'Sharknose', plus a Gp5 BMW 3-Series (above); there were also extensive club displays.



# Alvis sparkles at a wet Warren

A stunning 1958 Alvis TC108/G Graber Coupé was the star of this year's Warren Classic and Supercar Show on 23 September.

Despite torrential rain and high winds, the commitment of die-hard enthusiasts was rewarded as the sun eventually broke through and shined on the deserved winner, owned by Steve Horne. The beautiful sports saloon is one of just 37 bodied by Swiss coachbuilder Graber between 1956 and '58, and it was in Switzerland that Horne

found his car. The Graber machine edged the 1962 Austin Mini Se7en of Adrian Livesey for class honours in the British Late category.

Winners of the Best of British and Aston Martin classes were also shortlisted for the top award. Simon Bibby's 1934 Rolls-Royce Phantom II Kellner (*Letter of the month*, November) stood out for its purple coachwork and delicately embroidered rear compartment, joined by Chris Lawrence's immaculate Aston Martin DB2/4. They

won their respective classes ahead of Peter Cobbold's 1989 Bentley Continental Mulliner Drophead and Philip Torr's DB2/4.

Other winners included Roy Dowding's 1960 Gordon-Keeble and Charles Chadwyck-Healey's 1966 Ferrari 275GTB. Marcus Holland's 1961 Jaguar E-type Series 1 was beautifully restored to a very high standard, likewise the V8-engined 1986 Land Rover 90 of James Clough, a popular winner of the British Icons class.



DONINGTON MUSEUM SHUTS



# CLASSICS STEAL SHOW

October's Paris Motor Show filled a hall with around 60 classic road and competition cars under the theme 'Routes Mythiques', with an emphasis on French fare. Highlights included the 1899 La Jamais Contente electric speed record car, the 1954 gas-turbine Renault Étoile Filante (above), the 1978 Le Mans-winning Alpine-Renault A442B, the 1988 Pikes Peak Peugeot 405 T16 Coupé, plus the unlikely 1981 Paris-Dakar Rolls-Royce Corniche coupé. Roadgoing classics included a rare Argentinian IKA-Renault Torino coupé and a 1950s Simca Vedette towing a CMC caravan.

The world's largest grand prix racing car museum is to close at 5pm on 5 November. The East Midlands-based Grand Prix Collection opened on 16 March 1973 thanks to Frederick Bernard 'Tom' Wheatcroft. It all began with the purchase of a Formula One Ferrari single-seater racing car in 1964, and his acquisitions were kept in a garage at his home until the move to Donington Park. Since Wheatcroft died in 2009, the museum has been run by his son, Kevin. "Closing the museum after 45 years has been a really difficult decision," he said. "Motor Sport Vision [MSV] took over operation of Donington Park last year [and] there was a possibility that it might have stayed open... but it does not fit the MSV business plan and the decision was made to close the museum. Its exhibits will go into storage until my family and I have considered their future."

ITALIAN'S SWISS ROLE Collector Corrado Lopresto has loaned nine cars to Lucerne's Swiss Museum of Transport for an exhibition: 'Italo Design 1968-1978'. The cars showcase the development of Italian styling and include the Lancia Sibilo (above): www.verkehrshaus.ch

December 2018 Classic & Sports Car 23



Melbourne's Royal Exhibition Building gave a suitably elegant backdrop for Motorclassica



'32 Alfa Romeo 6C-1750 was best of show



Car of the people: Santoro's Monaro GTS



#### **OUEENS OF HERTS**

The second Pistons at the Park of 2018, held at Thremhall Park, Herts on 30 September, drew the usual eclectic mix, from Simon Thorpe's '61 Ford Thunderbird to Kevin Webb's '65 Mini, rebuilt as a tribute to the Mini-Minor Deluxe owned by his father in the late '60s.



#### **BLACKPOOL PEERS**

The Mini Moke Club celebrated International Mokin' Day with a trip to Blackpool on 29 September. A dozen Mokes not only attended the famed illuminations, but also contributed to them as owners decorated their cars with fairv lights to create a moving display.



#### JOINING THE ELITE

Salon Privé has been invited to join the Peninsula Classics Best of the Best Award, which picks a winner from the world's top concours. The 1933 Bugatti T55 that won at Blenheim Palace will head to the finals in Paris next year.



# Zagato comes top Down Under

Two cars at opposite ends of the automotive spectrum stole the show at Australia's Motorclassica, held in Melbourne from 11-14 October. The gorgeous 1932 Alfa Romeo 6C-1750 GS of New Zealander Lawrence Southward was named Best of the Best in the Australian International Concours d'Elegance, which brought the three-day extravaganza to a close on the Sunday. The 6C, which wears stunning Zagato coachwork, is powered by a supercharged 1762cc 'six' and was first owned

by English jazz musician and racer Buddy Featherstonehaugh. It made the trip to the southern hemisphere 16 years ago, with Southward's father and sister then beginning a full restoration; both sadly passed away before it was completed, however, and the Alfa only made its debut earlier this year.

Away from the judging panel, the 24,000 visitors to the event chose Sam Santoro's 1969 Holden Monaro GTS for the People's Choice award, one of two gongs it picked up during the show.

Another dual winner was Barry Edge's '69 Maserati Ghibli Spyder, which carried off both the Restoration of the Year and Modern Classic Sports & Performance Over 3 Litre trophies, while top honours in the Vintage & Veteran group went to Scott Emerson's '24 Cadillac V16.

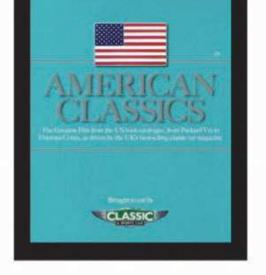
The show themes this year celebrated the Art Deco era and 90 vears of the Australian Grand Prix. with special awards presented to Terry Dowel's 1937 Cord Custom Berlin Coupe and Peter Harburg's 1963 Brabham BT7A.

## AMERICAN **HEROES**

The fourth book in our Greatest Hits series, celebrating some of the best stories from the pages of C&SC over the past decade, focuses on American classics, from Ford Model A to Excalibur. It's on sale now, priced at £8, or to order your copy online (for £9.99 inc p&p) simply visit www.magsdirect.co.uk/american



Record autumn Scramble



The magnificent WW2 RAF base at Bicester reverberated to the sound of historic cars of all ages on 7 October, as more than 5500 enthusiasts from across the country descended on Oxfordshire for the final Sunday Scramble of 2018.

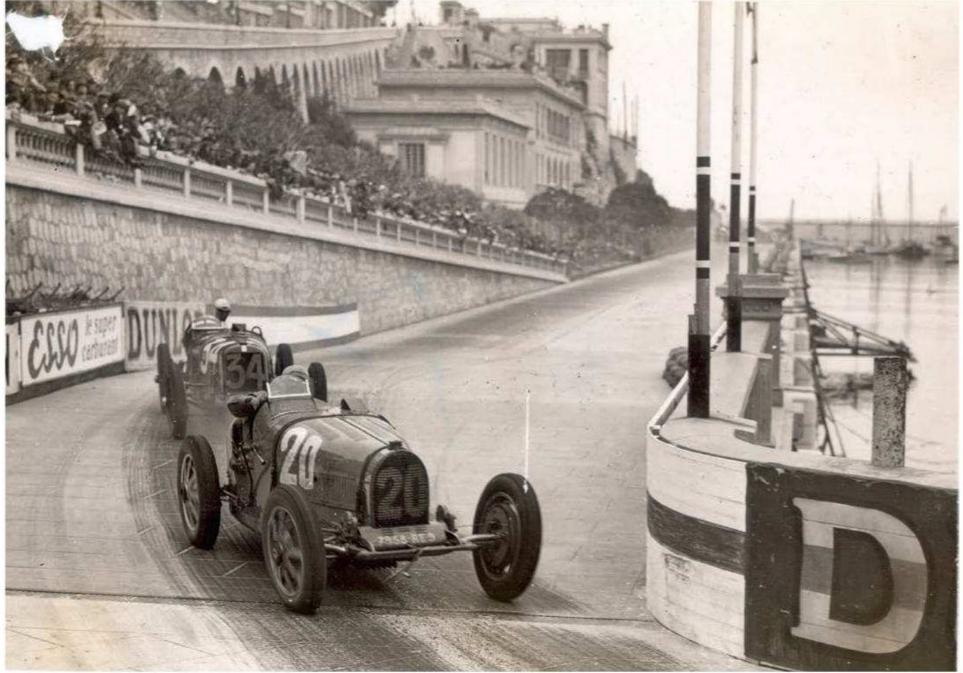
A fascinating mixture of vintage, classic and supercars packed the Bicester Heritage Technical Site, from Reliant Rebel to gorgeous Lamborghini 400GT 2+2, while

the demonstration course was overrun by a vast turnout of car clubs. There were rows of cars representing Porsche Club GB, but the real interest was to be found from the likes of the Wartburg Trabant IFA Club and Silverstone Social.

The 40 Bicester tenants threw open their doors to visitors, including new arrival Vintage Tyres. The first Scramble of 2019 will take place on 6 January.

**DIARIES AT THE READY!** Goodwood has announced the dates for next year's meetings. The Festival of Speed will be 4-7 July, while the Revival will return from 13-15 September. Dates had already been confirmed for the Members' Meeting (6-7 April). See goodwood.com for tickets.

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BMW M1 racers marked the model's 40th, including Stuck, Winkelhock and Piquet cars



Rare Siata coupé in the Closed Cars class



The top prize was awarded to this '48 Alfa

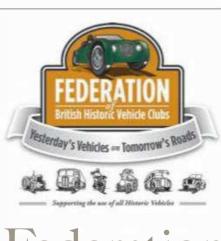
# Alfa 6C is Belgian Best of Show

A 27-strong international jury chose Johan Van Puyvelde's superb 1948 Alfa Romeo 6C-2500 SS Touring Superleggera as Best of Show at the ninth Zoute Concours d'Elegance. The 100-car concours took place at Knokke le Zoute, Belgium, on 12-13 October as part of the annual Zoute Grand Prix.

Two concours classes catered for pre-war cars, including an imposing 1927 Renault 40CV, a stylish 1938 Figoni-bodied Talbot-Lago T-150, a striking 1926 Rolls-Royce Phantom I from Australia, plus an unusual one-off 1935 Lancia Belna F234 by Labourdette with central tailfin. An untouched, ex-1933 Mille Miglia Alfa Romeo 6C-1750 Zagato and '26 Bugatti Type 37 created much excitement in the Pre-war Preservation class.

Post-war highlights included some notable vehicles in the Closed Cars class, such as a 1951 Stabilimenti Farina Daina, a 1952 Siata 300BC Compressore and a 1951 Stanguellini-Fiat 1100 Coupé. There were numerous Ferraris, while entries from further afield included an Israeli-built 1966 Sabra GT and a 1967 Toyota 2000GT.

Special classes were devoted to Porsche's 70th, plus 40 years of the BMW M1 (with both roadgoing and competition cars) and Jaguar Icons. These were joined by a set of shooting brakes, including the oneoff 1966 Lamborghini 400GT Flying Star II and an FLM Panelcraft Aston Martin DB6. More recent eras were represented by a display of modern Formula One racers, plus a scattering of (mainly Italian) bespoke future classics.



# Federation update

We have just held our Annual General Meeting at the National Motorcycle Museum, where formal business included my re-election as chairman for another two years. We currently have a vacancy for a finance controller and director designate, and in 12 months our legislation director is retiring – recruiting volunteers for these roles is difficult.

To make our AGM day more rewarding, we have a conference in the afternoon. The topic was preservation and Jürgen Book of Glasurit considered 'Paint or patina, that is the question?' Our second speech was from Andrea



Percy Lambert in his 'silks', aboard the fearsome Talbot at Brooklands in 1913

Bishop and Mandy Schaller of the National Motor Museum, who talked about the site's 50,000 exhibit-related artefacts, 1.2m photographs and 305,000 books.

Preservation of these materials is critical and I was enthralled by the case study of the Percy Lambert silks funded by Arts Council England. In the early days of racing, drivers wore silks for identification, like jockeys. To preserve these requires specialist skills. Like to find out more? To ask about behind-the-scenes tours, email 100@beaulieu.co.uk If you're at the NEC Classic Motor Show, come and see the super vehicles we have on display in Hall 5 next to the Live Stage.



The Model Ts on display included a Tudor Sedan, Speedsters, tourers and this fire engine

### SENSATIONAL SARDINIA

The Cavalcade Classiche attracted more than 70 classic Ferraris from 20-plus countries for a 500-mile tour of Sardinia from 18-22 September. Taking in everything from coastal roads to mountain routes around the Mediterranean island, the classic extravaganza ended with a parade and public presentation.

Among the models participating in the second running of this eyecatching event were the Daytona, F40, 500TRC, 340 America,

# Star turn for Model Ts in Oz

Motoring Expo on 3 September, held in the park surrounding the Australian Motorlife Museum, NSW, was as eclectic as ever.

Trophy winners included John Jenkins' 1946 DeSoto Coupe, Jack Croft's '68 Triumph Spitfire, David Cawthorn's '64 Renault Caravelle, Reg Schwarze's 1923 Alfa Romeo RLN, Russell Arnold's '64 Volvo P1800 and Alan Miller's High-Wheeler. The People's Choice was Chris Cassar's 1956 Ford Victoria Coupe, while prizes also went to a 1938 Ford, a '71 Falcon XY GT and a Firebird Trans Am in honour of the late Burt Reynolds. This year's Invited Club display came from the Model T Ford Club

NSW, with a fine 14-car selection.

250 Europa, 750 Monza, Dino and 250GT California SWB.



166 leads 250GT Lusso around Sardinia

### **DAVID WHALE** FBHVC CHAIRMAN

The FBHVC lobbies in Westminster and Brussels. Call Emma Balaam on 01708 223111, email secretary@fbhvc.co.uk or see www.fbhvc.co.uk



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# CLASSIC DIARY

### All the shows, festivals, tours, meets and races that matter

NOVEMBER

**1 Mod 'n' Mini Meet** Ace Cafe London 020 8961 1000; london.acecafe.com

**3 Jaguar Breakfast Meet** At the BMM, Gaydon 01926 641188; www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk

**3-4 Classic Vehicle Restoration Show** Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet 01507 529529; cvrs.bristolclassiccarshows.com

**3-4 Hilton Head Island Concours** Big US show in South Carolina *001 843 686 6802; www.hhiconcours.com* 

**3 Regent Street Motor Show** Concours prelude to the Brighton Run, London 01483 524400; regentstreetmotorshow.com

**4 Goodwood Breakfast Club: Hot Hatch Sunday** West Sussex 01243 755055; www.goodwood.com

**4 Haynes Breakfast Club** Sparkford, Somerset 01963 440804; www.haynesmotormuseum.com **4 Brooklands Autumn Classic Breakfast** Surrey 01932 857381; www.brooklandsmuseum.com

**4 Lincolnshire Road Transport Museum Open Day** Includes classic buses, too. Lincoln 01522 500566; www.lvvs.org.uk

**7 Classic Daytona** Historic racing at the home of the Daytona 500 in Florida, USA 001 727 573 1340; www.hsrrace.com

**8-11 RAC Rally of the Tests** Open to all but with awards for pre '68 cars. Starts in Harrogate, Yorks 01656 740275; heroevents.eu

**10-16 The Beaujolais Run** Exclusive tour across France to 'bring back the Beaujolais', while raising money for The RAF Benevolent Fund www.beaujolaisrun.com

11 The Black Swan Classic Car and Motorcycle Meet In Ockham, Surrey (also 9/12) www.facebook.com/ BlackSwanClassicCarMeet **11 Classics at The Mill** Regular pub charity meet. Preston, Lancs (also 9/12) 01772 695277; www. themillatstcatherinespark.co.uk

**13 Classic Car Night** Ace Cafe London 020 8961 1000; london.acecafe.com

**18 Military Vehicles Day** At Brooklands, Surrey 01932 857381; brooklandsmuseum.com

**18 'Normous Newark Autojumble** One of the UK's biggest. Notts 01507 529430; newarkautojumble.co.uk

23-25 Milan AutoClassica Huge Italian show with 475 exhibitors and 2500 cars 0039 0572 70152; www.milanoautoclassica.com

**25 Great British Land Rover Show** At Stoneleigh Park, Warks 01283 553244; greatbritishlrshow.com

**25-2/12 The South African Historic Grand Prix Festival** Celebrating the cars of the 1930s, at East London GP Circuit *sahistoricgp.com*  **25 Malvern Drive-In Classic Car & Bike Autojumble** Worcs 01484 667776; www.classicshows.org

**28 Classic Sebring & Sebring Historics** Historic racing in Florida 001 727 573 1340; hsrrace.com

#### DECEMBER

**1 Jaguar Breakfast Meet** At the BMM, Gaydon 01926 641188; www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk

**1 VSCC Winter Driving Tests** At Bicester Heritage, Oxon 01608 644777; www.vscc.co.uk

**1-2 The Christmas Cracker** At the Museum of Transport. Manchester 0161 205 2122; www.gmts.co.uk

**2 Festivals of Speed – Orlando** More than 300 exotic cars, both vintage and contemporary. Florida, USA 001 407 206 2400; hollywoodwheels. com/ritz-carlton-orlando

For full event listings, visit www.classicandsportscar.com/calendar

# Pick of the month November 2018



### **BONHAMS LONDON TO BRIGHTON VETERAN CAR RUN** 4 NOVEMBER

The world's oldest classic car event has been running since 1896, which means that it has taken even longer to make the journey than a Southern Rail train... Boom boom! But in all seriousness, it's a miracle that around 400 pre-1905 vehicles complete the 60-mile route from the capital to Madeira Drive on the south coast – a tribute to the era's built-to-last



### **LE JOG** 8-11 DECEMBER

As if driving the length of the United Kingdom in three days wasn't tough enough, Le Jog requires that you do so in a pre-1986 vehicle... And

### **NEC CLASSIC MOTOR SHOW** 9-11 NOVEMBER

The UK's biggest classic show is also one of the best. The main focus is on the clubs: so many are taking part this year that the organisers have had to add an extra hall to find room for them all. Around 300 are expected, including debutants such as the Dorset Area Farina Owners, Perana Owners' Club and Monoposto Racing Club. And of course we'll be there, too, as we judge our prestigious Club Awards. Other highlights include two Silverstone Auctions sales, an autojumble and trade stands. Oh, and some 2500 classic cars! 01243 755055; www.necclassicmotorshow.com engineering and the dedication of the owners. Be sure to turn out and show your support along the way. 01483 524400; veterancarrun.com



that's while competing in 14 tests
and 33 regularities along the
way... Some of them at night...
In potentially poor conditions.
If that all sounds like your idea
of fun, then this gruelling rally from
Land's End to John O'Groats should
be right up your street. Entries
were still being accepted as we
went to press, or you can sign up
to marshal somewhere along
the 1450-mile route.
01656 740275; heroevents.eu

December 2018 Classic & Sports Car 29

# High CO<sub>2</sub> emissions\*



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### Christopher Ward

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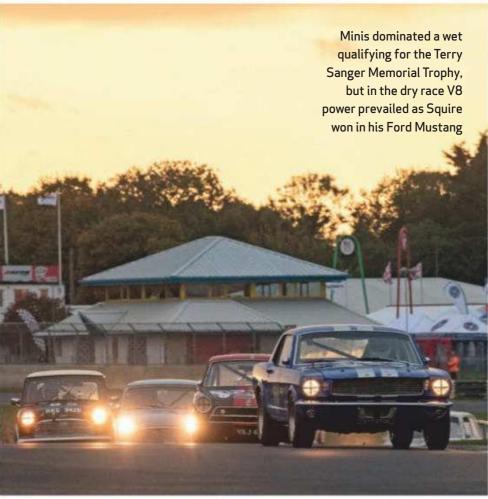


# WET AND WILD AT AUTUMN CLASSIC

The heavens opened for the seventh Autumn Classic at Castle Combe on 6 October, resulting in treacherous conditions for the morning's qualifying sessions. John Young took advantage to claim pole position for the Norman Dewis Trophy in his Mk1, ahead of a superb field of pre-1966 Jaguars. Julian Thomas' E-type was alongside him and powered into an early lead, before Young retook the advantage on lap eight. Tom Butterfield (Mk2) temporarily relieved Thomas of second before dropping to fifth with an off at Quarry. He fought back to finish fourth, while Young held on to take an improbable victory. Andrew Keith-Lucas was third behind Thomas after a patient but committed drive in his mother's XK150S. More than 40 cars contested the hour-long GT and Sports Car Cup, which was dominated by winner Gary Pearson's E-type. He was pursued in the eight-minute sprint to the flag after two safety-car periods by Mark Williams (AC Cobra) and John Burton (E-type), but the latter was overhauled by Patrick Blakeney-Edwards in the E-type he was sharing with Martin Hunt.

Mark Gillies (Aston Martin Speed Model) claimed Formula Vintage honours, getting past Tom Waterfield's Frazer Nash on lap two. The pair switched places a few times before Gillies pulled away.

Richard Bradley (Brabham BT2)



was the class of the Formula Junior field, and Martyn Corfield (Frazer Nash Le Mans Replica) beat Stephen Bond's Lister in the FISCAR contest. Bruce Montgomery (3000 MkII) won the all-Healey Phil Broster Memorial Race.

After having to give best to the Minis in qualifying, Michael Squire's Mustang benefited from a dry track to close proceedings with a comfortable victory in the Terry Sanger Memorial Trophy, named after the local tin-top legend.

#### December 2018 Classic & Sports Car 31

SPORT



The feature of the meeting was a pair of races celebrating the Escort's 50th anniversary



Steve Platts (Singer Chamois) took a win



Cameron Jackson secured two victories



#### **RACING IN THE RAIN**

Among the winners at AMOC Racing's season finale, held at a wet Silverstone on 6 October, was Tony Bianchi in his Farallac Mk2 (above), who got the better of Mark Ellis' MGA to take the Jack Fairman Cup.



**INAUGURAL WINNERS** 

The Aston Martin DB5 of Julian Reddyhough and Gus Pope won Bespoke Rallies' first Pyrenees 1000 (13-16 September). A field that included everything from a 1926 Bentley to a Lotus Elise took on the 1000km route that started and finished in Pamplona.



TRIALLING INTO WINTER

Most series are ending at this time of year, but not the Historic Sporting Trials Association. There's the Cotswold (10 Nov), the KBCC Monty Peters Trial (8 Dec) and the 750 Motor Club's Historic Plum Pudding Trial (29 Dec). See www.hsta.org.uk



Half-century heroes at Brands

The 50th anniversary of the Ford Escort was celebrated in style at the Historic Sports Car Club's Brands Hatch meeting on 22-23 September. Sunday included two races dedicated to the model, with Daniel Brown (Mk2) claiming the double. In the opening stanza, he led a family one-two-three ahead of father Sean and brother Robert.

The wet conditions played into the hands of Adrian Oliver and Steve Platts, who shared Historic Touring Car spoils. Oliver's Hillman Imp led from the front to beat Mike Gardiner's Lotus Cortina in the first encounter; next time out he was relegated to second behind Platts' Singer Chamois.

The Classic Formula 3 and Classic FF2000 fields combined for a double-header, with Chris Lord (Van Diemen) Saturday's winner. On Sunday, the F3 cars came to the fore: Paul Smith's Ralt RT3 pipped the similar car of Gaius Ghinn.

Mark Charteris (Mallock Mk20/21) won both Classic Clubmans races, while Cameron Jackson (Lola T200) did likewise in Historic Formula Ford. Richard Tarling (Jamun M92) topped the pre-1993 Heritage Formula Ford field, and Alex Morton (Condor S2) won a poorly supported Formula Junior race.

Other victors included Kevin Kivlochan (Morgan Plus 8) and John Davison (Lotus Elan) in Historic Road Sports, plus Will Leverett (Lotus Europa) and Jeremy Clark (Elan) in 70s Road Sports. The Reynards of Andrew Park and Paul Allen, meanwhile, took a win apiece in Historic FF2000.



# Tragedy and triumph in France

A sad shadow fell over this year's Riley 12/4 Special. Anna Tiger



## PRESCOTT'S PACESETTERS

Unusually for the VSCC, its Speed Championships at Prescott on 29 September was held over the Long Course and James Baxter (Riley-ERA) took Fastest Time of the Day with a best of 48.7 secs. James Crabb (ERA R12C) secured Fastest Young Driver with a 51.59 secs run. Marina Pemberton-Whiteley (Talbot 95/105) was among those to set new benchmarks, winning Class 5 with a record-breaking climb of 64.97 secs. It was great to see Edwardians out, too. James Collins took class honours in a 1917 Hudson Super Six, ahead of handicap winner William Twelvetrees in the 1910-'11 Wolseley 16/20.

Circuit des Remparts meeting at Angoulême on 16 September, following the death of Denis Derex. The Mini driver fell ill at the wheel during a practice session and crashed above the Fangio hairpin. There was a minute's silence before the afternoon's Plateau Beltoise race, which was won by Nicolas Pinon – poignantly, Minis took the first three places. In Plateau Sommer, for pre-war light cars, Simon Kelleway (Riley

performed well, but rolled her 1924 Ratier *monoplace* after the chequered flag, breaking her shoulder. Julian Grimwade (Norris Special) took pole for the Plateau Frazer Nash race, but victory went to Tony Lees' AC/GN Cognac from Dougal Cawley's GN 'Piglet'. Six Morgans and 18 Darmonts took to the grid for a three-wheeler demo, cut short when Frédéric Viginier overturned his 1927 Darmont Special on the first lap. Fortunately, he walked away.

NEW CEO FOR HSCC Andy Dee-Crowne has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the HSCC, from January 2019. He succeeds Grahame White, and boasts extensive experience as a competitor – he took a class win at this year's Le Mans Classic – and as a Clerk of the Course.

32 Classic & Sports Car December 2018

Sprite) won from Richard Iliffe's

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# **SCRAPPED' SWALLOW TO FLY AGAIN?**

When William Lyons launched SS Cars (later Jaguar), he kept Swallow Coachbuilding, which produced motorcycle sidecars. He sold this company in 1945, and when there was later a drop in demand for sidecars, Swallow turned to car production, including the 1954 Doretti using TR2 running gear; it was very popular, especially in the USA. Production was up to 10 cars a week when it suddenly ceased in 1955 due to reported 'changes in company policy'. One car was sent to Ghia in Italy for a coupé body to be fitted – when it returned to the UK after the firm ceased trading, Swallow designer Frank Rainbow ordered it to be scrapped.

Enthusiast Richard Larter has

found it in a scrapyard in Reading in the '70s, thought it was restorable so began stripping it. He ran out of steam and there it remained until I bought it from his estate.

"In the late 1970s he had shown pictures of it to Frank Rainbow, who said it looked like the Ghia car but insisted he had given instructions for it to be scrapped. The front end is pure Swallow, but someone has crudely grafted on a grille surround from another car. The roof, windscreen surround and rear are in steel, with compound curves and a complex structure so it was not an amateur job – and Ghia made its prototypes in steel."

Larter has restored the chassis and running gear, but until he has



Left: it was stored in an open-fronted shed on a mushroom farm. Below: AC-style grille surround is a curious addition



previously restored a Doretti, and in 2004 bought the remains of another Swallow that he believes to be the Ghia car. It is almost certain that it was not scrapped: it was advertised for sale in 1961 by both Performance Cars of Brentford and Mayfair dealer Simmons.

"When I got the car it had been badly stored in an open shed on a mushroom farm in Wokingham," said Larter. "The car was totally stripped, the chassis bare and the engine in pieces. The owner had proof of its origins he is undecided about what to do with the body, which requires considerable work.

"The complex structure was not an amateur job – and Ghia made its prototypes in steel"

December 2018 Classic & Sports Car 35







# Rebuild awaits for beloved MG

When launched in 1937, the MG VA was a 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-litre car that came as an open four-seater, saloon or Tickford drophead coupé. Just 2407 were built from 1937-'39, and in 1968 Jack Fields bought a VA tourer for £50 from a US Air Force serviceman at Mildenhall, Suffolk.

"The engine did turn over when he brought it home," said his daughter Barbara Dark, "and it became his weekend project. Dad restored it until he became ill and couldn't do the work. He lost his



Barbara and her father enjoy the VA in '68

battle with motor neurone disease (ALS) and passed away in 1989. My mother, now 91 years young, kept it covered in a garage and it stayed in quite good condition. I'd love to see it restored - and even ride in it."

No early history is known other than an owner, Claud Solomon, in the Norwich area, but its registration number reveals it originally came from Dundee. It's now gone to a good home with David Walker, who's restored a '33 Riley Monaco and already owns several MGs.

# Look familiar?

Want to track down a lost love or looking for history on your current classic? Send details and pictures to the p12 address or email your requests to alastair.clements@haymarket.com



**AFRICAN HONDA PUZZLE** 

Roy Dunster in South Africa has acquired a 1966 Honda S600 that had spent several years in Johannnesburg, but he thinks may originally be from Mozambique or Zimbabwe. The front has been modified - in metal - and it may previously have been red or white, but its history is a mystery. Email: roydunster@mweb.co.za



### **PEUGEOT PLEA**

H915 HMJ is a Peugeot 205 GTI that's thought to be a one-off show car. Originally white with a full bodykit, it belonged to Josh Giddens' father until around 25 years ago. His son would like to find it, so can you help? Email: joshua1giddens@gmail.com



## WW2 SHAPE SHIFTER

David Palmer is downsizing his collection of Wolseleys, selling a 1931 pick-up that appears to have last been taxed in 1947. It is believed it started life as a fabricbodied saloon, maybe converted early in WW2. In '47 it was owned by a J Twizell of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, described as a 'hay bogie'.

There's then a gap in its history until Palmer bought it from a John Wain from Darlington in 2010, by which time it had lost its pick-up bed. The car remains in original condition except for the body, with all the factory instruments and bulkhead fittings still in place. If you're interested, email davidpalmereng@gmail.com



This never-restored 1962 Porsche 356 Super 90 has been residing in a barn in America

Stateside Super stowaway



Wolseley began life as a fabric saloon

In recent years, one of the models that seems to be reappearing in large numbers in barn-find form is the Porsche 356, and another example has just joined the stocklist of Gullwing Motor Cars in New York. The 1962 356 Super 90 is in its original colour scheme of Slate Grey with a red cloth interior and, although it has been fitted with a factory replacement engine, it has never been fully restored.

The Porsche was delivered new to a priest in Germany, and when he moved to the US in the early '70s he took the 356 with him. He sold it to the most recent owner in 1978, who used it for some years before tucking it away in one of his barns. There it remained until collected by Peter Kumar of Gullwing, who described it as: "An incredibly honest and original Super 90 coupé to restore."

### **IS GIULIA STILL GOING?**

"I am sure it will have long since returned to elemental form, but fingers crossed it's out there," says Richard Hughes of his first Alfa, a Giulia 1600 Ti Super. Does EVU 16D survive? Email: hughes land@btinternet.com



### **MICHAEL WARE**

Former curator of the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu. Send submissions to waremichael29@gmail.com

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# **Dutch Dauphine becomes a concours star**



When Dutch broker Dick Bloemendaal heard of a 1960 Renault Dauphine that had been locked away nearby 47 years earlier, he wanted to find out more. The news came to him via his niece, whose friend's father represented the 77-year-old widow of the car's original owner: "Her late husband had parked it in the barn in 1971, but she didn't know if it was still there -we had to cut away at least 30m of bushes and trees to reach the barn."

Mrs Van der Kreeft remembered taking it on a Swiss holiday. "They couldn't make it up a hill," said Bloemendaal, "but they'd been told the way to do it was in reverse – so they did, while she stood through the sunroof to give instructions."

With no keys and seized brakes, the Dauphine was winched out: "The layers of dust had to be seen to be believed." It looked so amazing that Bloemendaal put it on his stand at Het Loo concours, where it drew great interest. The body is rusty, but the chassis is sound: "I think you could make it roadworthy without too much trouble."

"We had to cut away at least 30m of bushes and trees to reach the barn"



After life in Hong Kong and America, this 1932 Austin is now kept in Stratford-upon-Avon

Do you know this well-travelled Seven?

# Salvation for early Ford

CVW 828 is a 1935 Model Y Ford that was first registered in Essex, but no history is known until it was bought in 1974 by Robert Potter, a US serviceman stationed at Stanmore. When he went home, he shipped the car to Florida but never registered it in the USA. In 1979 he sold it to Ernest Bombard of Gloversville, New York, who gave it a little TLC, then stored it in a basement. Long after his death, in 2016 his stepson sold it to Glenn Marcucio, an auto mechanics teacher who was looking for a car for his students. Now retired, he hopes to complete its rebuild soon.

In the 1970s, an expat serving with the Hong Kong police used a 1932 black-and-blue Austin Seven AG tourer, registered locally as AP 9057. When he was due to return home he sold it to American Gerald Stockton, who in 1972 took the car back to the USA with him. It is thought that he painted the car yellow and black and registered it 'CHITTY'. In 1982 he sold it to friend Theodore Hopkins in

Cleveland, Ohio, who later gave the car as payment for a roofing job done by a Mr Harrah, who used it for a while then laid it up. More than 30 years later, his widow has now sold the car to David Harrison. The car has many modifications, such as a later engine with Nippy cylinder head and manifolds, Morris Minor hydraulic brakes. 16in wheels, and a four-speed gearbox with Hardy-Spicer propshaft;

these tweaks were quite common in the 1950s and '60s. It is not known when it was exported to Hong Kong, or what its British registration was. "The paintwork is indescribable," said Harrison. "It's more than 4mm thick in places, and there are rodent nests in the back, where their uric acid has eaten away sizeable chunks of the rear floor." If you recognise the car, email harrisonsbearley@gmail.com



Model Y will soon be back to its best

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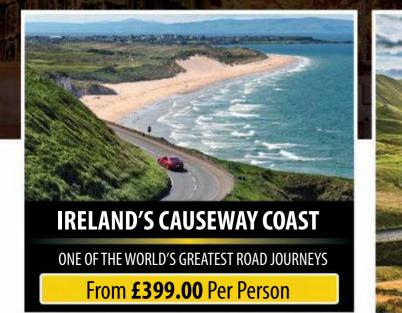
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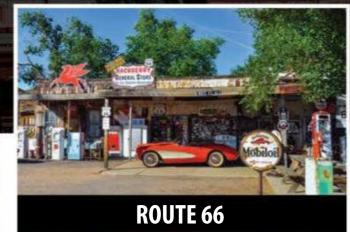
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**MOTORING ART** 





Above: Ray Harroun's 1911 Indianapolis 500 winner, complete with the first rear-view mirror ever fitted to a racing car. Left: the YouTube film of Pittaway driving his S74 on the open road inspired fourth monster Fiat work



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Above: Corbett's figurative works have a dynamic quality, such as this *Aerial Recon Officer*. Left: famous Mercedes-Benz racers are regular subjects including the 1914 French GP winner

## MOTORING ART

# JAMES CORBETT

From his stash of scrap car parts, this enthusiastic Australian sculptor creates remarkable works

James Corbett has been producing amazing sculptures for more than 20 years, and his latest exhibition at the John Davies Gallery marks the 10th anniversary of his first UK show, but his creative process remains the same. Since giving up his specialist motor-wrecking business in 2000 to focus on his creations, Corbett has exhibited globally and received prestigious commissions for everyone from car manufacturers to city zoos. Even American art students are now critiquing his sculptures in lectures: "My goal is to exhibit in one of the big art cities in Europe because it's easy to feel a bit marooned down here in Queensland."

From diverse salvaged components, he cuts and welds to create a wonderful range of subjects. Each piece starts with a sketch before he begins the quest for parts. "Most of the local specialists and scrapyards know me now," laughs Corbett. From Edwardian racing giants to apes and penguins, his sculptures have a unique dynamism. Over the years Bloody Mary, the Voisin Laboratoire, Morgan three-wheelers and the Blitzen Benz have inspired him. A firm favourite is the famous 'Beast of Turin' Fiat S74, which has now been the subject of four sculptures: "I loved the video of Duncan Pittaway driving the Fiat on public roads to Goodwood, and my latest red monster features an aero-style nose."

Finding older car parts is becoming more of a challenge as local scrapyards vanish: "On every trip, I never stop looking for suitable bits. Most of my automotive pieces are still created using car parts, with a very occasional sprinkling of motorcycle and bicycle bits," he says. "More cars are scrapped now, but there are very few parts I want to use. Real estate is just too valuable to store old cars, and many of the yards of derelict older vehicles have been cleared. As a result I'm experimenting with other objects such as cameras, an old horse harness and hand tools. Anything with a bit of history, texture and patina." Recent commissions have included two huge racing grasshoppers to celebrate the history of Australia's now-defunct Oran Park circuit: "They feature motorcycle engines, with a 4.8m wingspan made from multiple car windows. One grasshopper wears the colours and race numbers of the famous Norm Beechey Monaro."

When not working in his studio, Corbett enjoys his classic car collection, which includes a noisy 1985 Porsche 911 Carrera 3.2 and 1974 Citroën DS Safari project. But on a perfect day, driving his treasured Porsche 356A on clear, open roads around Queensland never fails to raise a smile: "I've fallen under the Stuttgart spell."

James Corbett's exhibition is at the John Davies Gallery, Moreton-in-Marsh GL56 9NQ from 3-24 November: jamescorbettart.com Below: microcars such as this Messerschmitt are popular subjects, and colours are the original finish to achieve the right patina. Bottom: Corbett's Morgan three-wheeler Brooklands-style racer



December 2018 Classic & Sports Car 41



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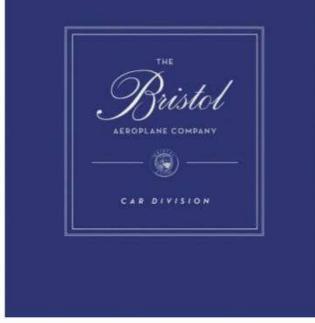
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# Book of the month





'The reproduction vividly opens up the detail in the images – you sense you're stepping in for a test drive'

## THE BRISTOL AEROPLANE **COMPANY CAR DIVISION**

This magnificent visual history of Bristol car production from 1947-'55 is an epic work. After the death of owner Tony Crook, his daughter Carole discovered a remarkable stash of 3000 negatives and photographs in his garage. The previously unseen images were donated to the Bristol Owners' Heritage Trust, and the mission to digitise the collection revealed the high quality of the record.

The majority were taken by in-house lensman Ted Ashman with the best equipment. When Palawan publisher and Bristol fan Simon Draper reviewed the images, he immediately saw the potential for a book and the stunning result showcases 310 of Ashman's photographs, from the first 400 body mock-up on a BMW 326 chassis to a fascinating sequence of craftsmen at coachbuilder Abbott of

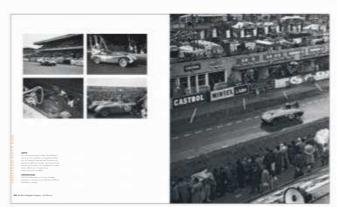
To set the scene for the extensive photographic section, Sir George White has written an insightful background to his father's business and the founding of the car division. Amusingly, the first car built at Filton was the rotary-powered 'Wind-wagon', which was tested on local roads. After WW2, White instigated the development from prototype to testing production cars in 20 months, quite an achievement in struggling post-war Britain.

The book's beautiful design – by C&SC's Julian Balme – is a joy, the large format and amazing image quality opening a window on Bristol history. So often motoring books are formulaic in design, with weak reproduction, but Balme's enthusiasm for the project and inspired '50s-style typography set a new standard. It's an expensive book, but



Farnham working on 405 dropheads. Every aspect is comprehensively covered: secret aerodynamic wind-tunnel models, glamorous movie-star owners and coachbuilt specials, along with motorsport outings and Bristol-powered offshoots including Frazer Nash, Arnolt, ERA and Cooper.

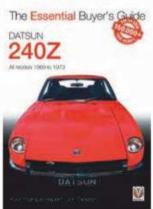
The quality of the reproduction vividly opens up the detail in the images, and with the large cockpit shots you almost sense you're stepping in for a test drive. The many visual treats include a double-page spread of the race-stained 450 coupés outside the Filton factory after the 1954 Reims 12 Hours.



when you consider that a single limited-edition art print costs as much as this exquisite 400-page production, the price looks justified.

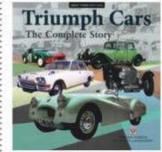
The final 50 pages reproduce the chassis ledger, another recent discovery. Every six-cylinder car is listed, which sounds dry, but the handwritten log is more absorbing than standard chassis appendices.

If you appreciate beautiful car books, this labour of love is worth saving for, but its limited print run of just 400 is already close to selling out. **MW** £500 Edited by Jon Pressnell, Palawan Press (order via www.palawan.co.uk)

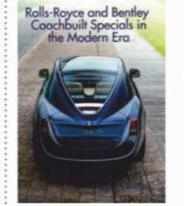




Another month,



Triumph Cars: The Complete



**Rolls-Royce** and Bentley Coachbuilt

another Essential *Buyer's Guide* from Veloce. This one is a little different from most, however, in that it only covers one model, across a fairly short production run (1969-'73). That means it's able to go into far greater depth than many of these broad-brush volumes, from its history to a highly detailed, hour-long evaluation of a potential purchase. An invaluable companion for any buyer. AC £12.99 Jon Newlyn, Veloce. ISBN 9781 787112025

### Story

Now in its third edition (no surprise,

given that the first was published in 1978), Robson and Langworth's magnum opus charts the rise and fall of the British manufacturer from the pre-war years (Langworth's area of expertise) to the later era, where Robson takes the lead. A must for any fan of Britain's motoring past, and a superb reference on all Triumph models. It's great value, too. GM £40 Graham Robson and Richard Langworth, Veloce. ISBN 9781787112896

### Specials

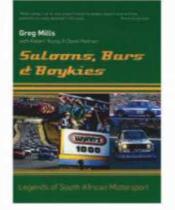
Light on text and heavy on pictures, this hardback shines a light on the oft-overlooked coachbuilt cars of the

modern era, and even the initiated are likely to find models they never knew existed. Rarity means that images are scarce – and the quality is often poor, as noted by the author. Nonetheless, it's an interesting spotter's guide, the highlight being the cars of the Brunei royal family. GM £106 Richard Vauqhan, 363 Insights (via lulu.com)

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### BOOKS

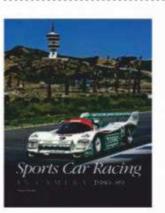




## Saloons, Bars & Boykies

If you're a British motorsport fan brought up on a diet consisting of the glamour of Formula One, door-bashing touring cars and bobble-hat rallying, South Africa's golden era of racing may be a mystery to you, but this enthusiastic celebration brings it to life through around 1000 photos and narration from the voices of more than 50 local personalities. For an outsider, the many new names and locations thrown

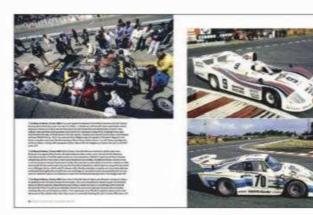
at you throughout this thorough 254-page history take a while to get a handle on, but the impressively detailed text carries you along with tales of on- and off-track action, bringing you right up to the present day. It's an impressive body of work that's probably for established motorsport aficionados rather than those with a passing interest, but stories of staging events – and their after-parties – in a more relaxed and open era rarely fail to raise a smile. **LP** *R550 (cf.35) Greg Mills, Robert Young and David Pearson, Ecurie Zoo/Team Africa Le Mans. ISBN 978 0 620 79053 6* 



## Sports Car Racing In Camera 1980-89

This year-by-year photographic tribute opens each chapter with an introduction, followed by chronological and generously reproduced images with richly detailed captions, making it a book you could easily dip in and out of. The captions are at times slavishly comprehensive – one example

being a reference to a Transit van in the background – which is almost to the work's detriment, but it's saved by the breadth of knowledge shared, and by the affection and humour that runs throughout its 288 glossy pages. One unusual inclusion that may be new even to well-informed fans is the smallblock Chevy V8-powered Mercedes-Benz 450SLC that raced Down Under in 1984, and this pleasing inclusivity – as far as both cars and personalities are concerned – is



a real strength: it's not just racewinners and superstar pilots. The chapterclosing lists of teams, drivers and results make this a go-to resource. **LP** £50 Paul Parker, Behemoth. ISBN 978 0 992876975



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Peter James Insurance is the trading name of Peter D James Limited and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Road Racing Club yearbooks for 20 years, Ian Lambot is ideally placed to produce a stylish review for the Festival of Speed's 25th anniversary. This handsome 296-pager is an independent production and features more than 400 images to illustrate the event's transformation from the straw bales and exposed paddock of 1993 to the high-octane extravaganza that 'FoS' has become. For regulars, this superb book will bring back memories of the stars, many sadly departed, and amazing machines sourced from all over the world. Hundreds of special moments are captured by top photographers including *C&SC*'s own James Mann, while Doug Nye's enthusiastic introduction and Lambot's extended captions perfectly complement the many visual delights. **MW** *£36 Ian Lambot, Watermark Publications. ISBN 978 1 873200735* 





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# Model of the month

FERRARI 246 1:18, Diecast Legends, £239.99

Perfectly timed to mark the 60th anniversary of Mike Hawthorn's Formula One World Championship - the first for a British racing driver - comes this superb Ferrari 246 from Diecast Legends. The team at the well-known British model retailer has decided to plug some significant 1:18 Grand Prix car gaps with its own range, beginning with the Farnham Flyer's Maranello single-seater that clinched the championship with a second place behind the Vanwall of Stirling Moss at the Moroccan Grand Prix. This is the first time this particular car has been

modelled in 1:18, produced in Italy exclusively for Diecast Legends as a solid-resin body casting with Hawthorn's distinctive anti-glare black bonnet bulge and race number 6. The evocative miniature is limited to just 500 examples and is selling fast.

### 1:18

**1** Norev's AC Cobra 289, £69.99 2 MCG's 1959 Land-Rover 109 pick-up, £59.99 **3** Spark's lckx/Thompson 1967 Daytona 24 Hours Ford GT40, £134.99 4 Spark's Ghinzani/Alén/ Brancatelli 1980 Le Mans Lancia Beta Montecarlo, £134.99 5 Cult's Aston Martin V8 Volante, £160.99 **6** Tecnomodel's McLaren M20 Can-Am, £239.99 7 Norev's 1956 BMW 507, £64.99 8 CMC's Fangio 1956 German GP-winning Lancia-Ferrari D50 Long Nose, £564.99

### 1:43

9 Matrix's Citroën CX LoadRunner, £94,99 10 Matrix's 1934 Packard 1108 Twelve Dietrich Coupe, £103.99 11 AutoCult's 1954 Alfa Romeo BAT 7, £91.99 **12** Matrix's Stirling Moss 1956 Goodwood Glover Trophywinning Maserati 250F, £95.99 13 Matrix's Moss/Fairman 1959 Nürburgring 1000kmwinning Aston Martin DBR1, £95.99 14 GreenLight's *Le Mans* movie Porsche 917 (supplied with McQueen figure), £34.99 15 AutoCult's 1971 Porsche 914/6 Hispano-Alemán Vizcaya, £91.99



### **GARAGE GEAR**

# BETTER BRAKING FOR MINIS

Those looking to beef up the brakes on their Mini need look no further than this handsome four-piston caliper kit from the Cooper Car Company. Designed to convert existing Mini disc brakes, the complete set includes hefty 8<sup>2</sup>/<sub>5</sub>in ventilated and grooved discs, as well as matching calipers finished in brilliant red with some rather pleasing 'Cooper' detailing, plus Green Stuff performance pads and all the mounting bolts and washers you will need for installation. Owners considering this kit should know that it's intended to fit behind all 12in and 13in Mini wheels, and is priced at £799. 01282778731; www.minisport.com





## Porsche prints

Artist Stefan Marjoram was commissioned by Porsche to record the 70th-anniversary gathering at the Goodwood Festival of Speed, and four of his sketches of iconic models including 356 coupé, RSK Spider, Le Mans-winning 917 (above) and IMSA/GTX 961 – are available as A3 prints. Each design is limited to a run of just 50, and all will be signed and numbered. They are priced at £32 each, plus postage. www.stefanmarjoram.com/store

# Wrap up in style this winter

Speedwear has produced a stylish new sand-coloured, fully breathable, heavy-duty waxed cotton jacket that's ideal for winter classic motoring. Design features include a waterproof membrane, dual storm flaps, a removable quilted liner, corduroy inner cuffs and collar, and a tartan lining. In contrast to the high prices of designer brands, the Pulford jacket costs £149. It is also sold in black. 01513210441; www.speedwear.co.uk



7/10



Shift patterns

Curb produces an inspired range

designs include a TMGPS logo

printed on the front and a large

logo on the rear of a black T-shirt

transaxle graphic

with yellow type on grey or 'black

heather'. T-shirts

hoodies \$59, plus

are priced at \$29.99,

there's a large range of automobilia, from

www.thecurbshop.com

greetings cards to keyrings.

(illustrated). Other

options

include a

of T-shirts including 'The Manual Gearbox Presevation Society':

# The King is here

Malpassi's legendary Filter King fuel-pressure regulator is now available in the UK through Weber specialist Webcon. It regulates and filters fuel without restricting flow, as well as featuring a glass bowl, two 5/16-8mm fuel unions, a universal mounting bracket and a captive thread to allow fitment of a pressure gauge. It is priced at £71.94. www.webcon.co.uk

7/10

Ceramic coating is the latest leap forward in car detailing, and involves a liquid-polymer solution bonding with your car's paintwork to create a barrier to environmental hazards, while also making your classic easier to clean. Auto Finesse's Caramics kit provides a comprehensive set of paint, wheel, interior and glass coatings that can be applied at home. This £100 set covers all the bases, and includes any preparation sprays required, plus sachets with 'wet wipe'style applicators and gloves. It's simple to apply, but requires CARAMICS an LED lamp to ensure that it's all buffed off, plus six hours out of the elements to dry. **GM** www.halfords.com

CARAMICS

# Tested this month

### LED BULB KITS

Classic car lights are often dim and barely fit for purpose, a problem that's become more noticeable with the advent of daytime running lights and LED bulbs in modern cars.

Classic Car LEDs specialises in high-quality bulb kits, and

has pre-prepared sets for major models such as the MGB and Big Healeys. We tried a selection of bulbs (priced from £8) in a Triumph 2500 and found them to be easy to fit, as a straight swap for the old bulbs, and hugely effective. As well as drastically improving light output, the bulbs run cooler and draw less power, reducing the strain on your car's wiring. Unlike cheaper alternatives, they're CE marked.

The only fly in the ointment is the questionable legality of fitting classics with modern bulbs, as legislation struggles to keep pace with advances in technology. Unless you're running your car off the Queen's highway, address any concerns with the manufacturer before ordering. GM www.classiccarleds.co.uk

Above: brighter LEDs are a great safety feature, if legal. **Right: Caramics gives** a good result, but the process is a bit fiddly

TRIUMPH

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# Picture-perfect pose at Portofino

The gorgeous Maserati A6G with Frua bodywork, as recently auctioned by Gooding & Co, inspired artist Tim Layzell's latest colourful composition, with the Latin exotic parked in Portofino. Also pictured



around the quayside of the fashionable Italian fishing village are an Alfa Romeo Giulietta Spider and a Fiat 500. The limited-edition print costs £175. Layzell also offers a full collection of his impressive poster designs, including a set of Pebble Beach RetroAuto promotions.

01275235603; www.timlayzell.com

.....

## Cut like a pro

Removing spot-welded panels can be a challenge, but Laser Tools can help. This £40.22 set has an arbour-based spot-weld cutter with a spring-loaded

guide pin, six replacement cutter heads and an 8mm spot-weld drill bit, which gently mills the weld until the panel 'pops' away. The bit's low profile prevents it going too deep. Also available are a cutter set with 10 heads (£45.72) and a four-piece, titanium-coated

Ring Automotive's new slimline, weatherproof 6A charger is claimed to be

suitable for 12V batteries for vehicles of up to 3.5 litres, and is compatible

it's capable of charging twice as fast as a standard charger, it has a cut-out

with lead-acid, gel, calcium, EFB, AGM and lithium cells. Its maker claims that

to prevent overcharging, plus it can detect battery condition and desulphate

**RING SMART CHARGER** 

cobalt drill set (£27.43).

www.lasertools.co.uk



## Thai wonders

This range of handmade sculptures imported by Wayfair from Thailand varies in quality, but the recent Morgan threewheeler is one of the best. It's priced at just £33.99, and a Miller racing car ( $\pounds72.99$ ), as well as a Bugatti Type 35 (£75.99) and a Bentley Blower (£74.99) are also available, while stocks last. www.wayfair.co.uk

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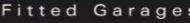


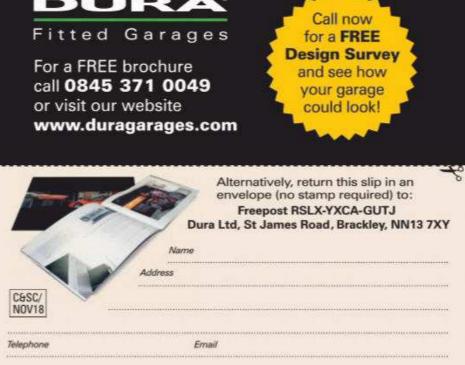
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10



# Mick WALSH

elgium has a great tradition of comic illustration, most famously with the *Tintin* work of Hergé, and Jean Graton, who drew the *Michel Vaillant* series. Two of my favourite illustrators are from Belgium, Ever Meulen (his real name is Eddy Vermeulen) and Patrick Van der Stricht, and on a recent trip to Brussels I finally met them.

These days, seeing any classic battling with modern city traffic is heroic and uplifting, and the sight of Eddy's timewarp 1960 Chevrolet Corvair arriving at our meeting in the Cinquantenaire Park made me smile. This is his second Corvair, the first a sedan built under licence in Belgium. "I drove it for 12 years, but after selling I missed it so much I had to buy another," he enthused. "Two years ago I discovered this one on eBay in Missouri. It was Seafoam Green, my favourite colour, had just 22,000 miles and three owners, including a lady in St Louis from new to 1994. She seemed to use it just to drive to church. I grew up on the coast, and colourful American cars were a regular feature of the streets."

Vermeulen loved drawing and comics from an early age. "I was crazy about *Michel Vaillant*; Spa and Le Mans seemed so remote and exotic, but Jean Graton vividly captured all our racing fantasies," recalled Eddy, who drew his first racing strip in 1961 featuring the Grand Prix 'Sharknose' Ferraris. His talent developed and prestigious assignments over the years have included *The New Yorker* magazine covers and Roxy Music tour posters.

Eddy and Patrick share a love of American cars, which led to their first contact. Van der Stricht's fascination goes back to his first visits to the Brussels Motor Show as a boy, so it's appropriate that we all met at Autoworld, inside the magnificent Palais Mondial, where the shows were held until 1958. "I pestered my parents every year to take me and in 1954 I was spellbound by the surprise sight of two Muntz Jets with a Jaguar importer," said Patrick. "From that day I had to own one. Three were imported to Belgium and years later I discovered the trio under covers in the basement of the Shell building. I tried to buy one but they disappeared." While studying as an architect, he bought his first car, a 1949 Packard Six: "My parents were horrified when it arrived home because it looked like something from a scrapyard. But I fixed it with my twin brother. The car still survives in Holland and I'd love to buy it back."

'These days, seeing any classic battling city traffic is heroic and the sight of the Corvair arriving at our meeting made me smile'



Many American car adventures followed, including a three-month road trip across the US in a '68 Buick and a Dodge truck in 1979: "It was a good time to travel because the scrapyards were still full of interesting cars. I dreamed of living in America and I loved New Mexico, but I missed my friends and the food back home."

His lifelong desire to own a Muntz never faded, and in 1974 a French dealer showed him a photo of one that had turned up in Portugal: "It took two months before he called me back saying the car was now in Paris. We bought it and my brother and I drove it home to Brussels through a dramatic storm, but thankfully the car came with a hardtop. It felt like a tank and wasn't very comfortable but I still own it. I love the styling."

Van der Stricht has enjoyed drawing cars since childhood. In 1961, two of his fantasy designs were selected for the *Michel Vaillant* comic series, and between his architecture work he has produced a fantastic range of event posters, record covers and exhibition designs.

Walking around Autoworld, we played my favourite museum game: choosing the cars we'd most like to take home. Both, not surprisingly, nominated American cars, with Vermeulen selecting a wonderfully original 1934 Oldsmobile F34 Coupe – painted green, of course. For Van der Stricht it was his all-time dream car, a 1937 Cord 812. I wouldn't be surprised to see the duo driving these on my next visit.



Patrick Van der Stricht (I) and Ever Meulen with amazingly original Chevy Corvair daily driver. Inset: Brussels Salon poster

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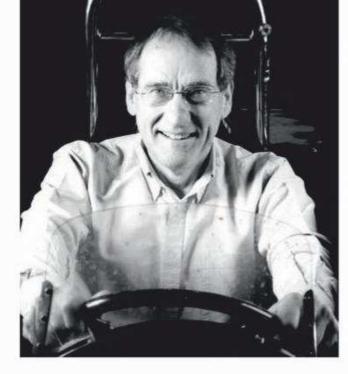
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# Simon TAYLOR

f you think about it, cars have followed the same basic layout pretty much since the beginning: a wheel at each corner, people in the middle, engine ahead or behind. There have been exceptions, of course: three-wheelers with the single wheel at the back or the front, and even two-wheelers. The Schilovski Gyrocar, designed in 1912 by a Russian count, was a massive sixseater with one wheel at the front and one at the back, and a gyroscope to stop it falling over. It weighed nearly three tons. There have been other efforts to build gyrocars down the years, and even a large-diameter mono-wheel with the single passenger sitting inside it.

With a racing car you don't need to worry about comfort, luggage capacity, fuel economy or service intervals. It's just about going fast, in a straight line and around corners. A car's overall length is decided, broadly, by the length of the driver and the engine, behind or in front of them. But several designers have reasoned that if you put both driver and engine in the middle, you can build a more compact machine, and there may be aerodynamic advantages, too.

The Grand Prix driver Piero Taruffi was a clever engineer, and in the 1950s he created the 500cc Tarf I and the 1720cc Tarf II for recordbreaking. Each consisted of two fuselages with the driver in one and the engine in the other, and each was steered in its tiny cockpit with two hand levers. In the early 1950s they broke a lot of distance speed records at up to 185mph.

But Taruffi was only trying to go in a straight line. In 1955, Enrico Nardi brought to Le Mans a car with two nacelles, one for the driver and one for the engine, with a centre section which held a surface radiator to cool the 750cc engine and a tiny passenger seat to comply with the sports car regulations. It lasted six laps before the leaders came past to lap it, and their wake 'It lasted six laps before the leaders came past, and their wake blew it off the road into the ditch'





the left between the left wheels, the engine on the extreme right between the right wheels, and the huge area in the middle entirely devoted to ground effects. For Milt Minter, who had the job of driving, it was impossible to feel what the car was doing from where he sat. No matter: the huge downforce in effect pulled the car to bits.

Occasionally an original idea really works, and everyone has to follow suit – or protest that it is unfair. Gordon Murray's 1978 Brabham fan car sucked itself down onto the track so effectively that it won its first Grand Prix, so the rules were rewritten to ban it. The 2012 Nissan DeltaWing sports-racing car, designed by Ben Bowlby, was triangular in shape with the front wheels very close together. It worked quite well and was raced at Le Mans and in the USA for several seasons before rule changes shut it out.

Original thinkers will keep on looking for the idea that will give them an unfair advantage. If it really works, within a year or two it will have become the new everyday way to do things. I'm sure Count Shilovski reckoned that by now we'd all be driving around in three-ton two-wheelers, and keeping our gyroscopes well polished.

Weird, weirder, weirdest. From top: the DeltaWing Nissan; Smokey Yunick's Floor Shift Special Indy car; Nardi's 750 Bisiluro Le Mans competitor



blew it off the road into the ditch.

The STP Paxton turbine car that so nearly won the 1967 Indianapolis 500 had its engine beside the driver, but the strangest Indy car of all was Smokey Yunick's 1964 effort. The car followed a conventional layout except that it had no cockpit. The brave driver sat in a sort of sidecar between the left wheels. It went backwards into the wall in qualifying. The '81 Ardex-BMW Le Mans coupé had a normal cockpit – but the engine was in there too, beside the driver.

Really weird was a terrifying Can-Am car built in '83 by Herb Adams. It was as wide as Can-Am cars were by then, but with the driver far out on

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# Martin BUCKLEY

Il the best press trips happen in Italy, so if you are going to alight on this gravy train (which I don't often do), an offer from Maserati to join the Gran Premio Nuvolari is not to be sniffed at.

The conventional format of these things is that you find yourself at a foreign airport with various faces you vaguely recognise. From there you are whisked off to a glamorous locale, wined, dined and schmoozed, before getting to grips with the vehicle in question. The general equation is that the more dreary the car, the better the junket and associated gift – or "bribe", as dear old Mike McCarthy used to call it. The Nuvolari trip was different altogether: no bribe, and surprisingly hard work – albeit the sort of 'work' that most people would pay money to do.

It was also a chance to get some time in the latest Maserati Ghibli, which to somebody who drives 50/60-year-old cars daily felt spectacularly fast and capable. The trouble is, in the same way that Hillman Minx-driving Cyril Posthumous thought the 1971 Morris Marina a 'lovely car', I don't have anything to benchmark it against. What I can tell you is that it is nothing like as pretty as the 2003 Quattroporte (see p206): that's a car I can see myself owning.

Starting and finishing in Mantua, near Nuvolari's birthplace, the Gran Premio is not a jolly but a serious regularity. Entrants ranged from the exotic (Pegaso) to the prosaic (Fiat 125), with '50s British cars much in evidence. As usual, a Fiat Balilla won, making the point that the skill is in working the clocks and doing your homework with the roadbook rather than going quickly.

That said, we were given every encouragement to do so by the crowds, and even local traffic cops urged us on. You simply cannot picture anything like this happening in the UK: being given near-official sanction to drive like an arse between historic towns and villages through everyday traffic, then being greeted in said locations like heroes, with gifts of local produce. In one case, these were handed out by semi-naked beauty queens, in a bizarre reminder that Italy is one of the last bastions of anti-PC culture. Despite a huge entry list that added to the slightly Wacky Races feel, we always seemed to be among the same group, my enduring image being of a Verona-registered BMW CSL that looked sensational in my rear-view mirror.

'Gifts were handed out by local beauty queens, in a bizarre reminder that Italy is one of the last bastions of anti-PC culture'

From top: winning 1939 Fiat 508C of Giovanni Moceri and Daniele Bonetti; Buckley and his Ghibli were at the other end of the leaderboard



SUV – the less said about that the better – driven by a writer called Alberto, who piloted it with a lack of fear that only comes with youth. Then again, unlike Alberto, I was not under pressure to write a blog update every half an hour for the insatiable appetite of a website editor in Milan.

I know what a regularity is, but didn't grasp at first that I was meant to be competing. It was the end of day two before it dawned on us, having by then been given a telling-off by the co-driver of a Porsche 356. I just sat back, did what I was told, tried to enjoy myself on the fabulous roads between the timed sections and hoped nobody would recognise me at the gala dinner in Rimini.

Luckily they didn't; but I did sit next to a Mr Paulo Zegna of the fabric dynasty, who remembered doing the 'L' cloth for the Lancia Gamma. I was amused to learn later that, although he only did half a day of the event, the suave Mr Z came higher in the results than I did. We came last, with maximum penalties. The shame of it.

My humiliation wasn't over. Struggling to get my case into the locker on the plane, I got a mild rollicking from a 55-year-old man wearing the clothes of a 25-year old. Apparently, I was 'bashing his hats'. It was a situation worthy of Larry David, but I couldn't summon a response worthy of *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. Only on the M4, back in the embrace of my Merc 300TE, did it dawn on me that I'd been rebuked by the lead singer of a late-'80s, three-hit-wonder pop group, the identity of which I'll leave you to work out.



Maserati was the sponsor, and we were in a team of press cars that included the new Levante

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# Letter of the month

# Following the great tradition of the expedition Land-Rover

The drive of the Patrick Lindsay Phantom II home from India (*C&SC*, October) revived lots of memories, particularly because my journey – nine years later and in reverse, from Oxford to Mazar Sharif and back – was inspired by the same book, *The Road to Oxiana* by Robert Byron.

Our trip on what had become the 'hippy trail' to Katmandhu took place in the summer of 1971, during which our car's co-owner and I celebrated our 21st birthdays - mine on the Caspian Sea and his in Herat. Our choice of vehicle is now a classic (it certainly wasn't then): a very tired Land-Rover Series IIA LWB truck-cab, bought from a dealer in west London. We added an ex-War Dept ammunition trailer to carry five jerrycans of fuel and another of water, plus luggage and camping gear. We offered seats to four other students to share costs, and one of them is now my wife!

When the Phantom did the journey, the Salang Tunnel wasn't built, making their trip to Mazar from Kabul three hazardous days; it was opened two years later, cutting more than 60 hours from the time. It is not clear if the Royce made the full circle north to Herat – severely warned against by the British Embassy in Kabul.

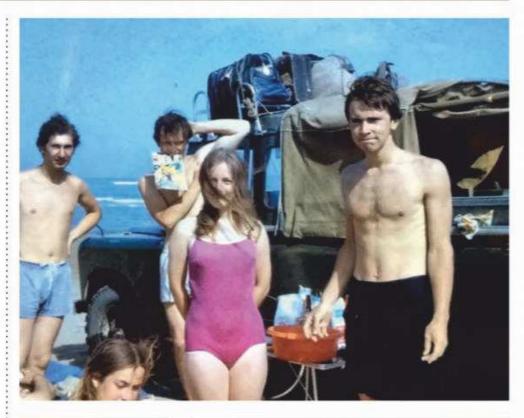
Mazar was an extraordinary place. Like Kabul, in August it had a pleasant climate and the *caravanserai* (inn) was full of doped-out hippies lying on charpoys day and night, because sticks of hashish cost about 1d.

We also made the trip to Bamian to see the Buddhas. The journey was horrible, the dirt roads being a shock because Afghan roads were generally good, made by the Russians in the north and east, and the Americans in the west. At Bamian, we sat on the Buddha's head – now sadly long gone – for a photo, and on our return to the Salang Pass we came across a broken-down Citroën, part of a 2CV rally from Paris. The owner begged a tow, but made the mistake of getting high and allowed his Tin Snail to use the bumper of our trailer as a rest on down hills – so we left him sobering up and disconsolate on the main road.

Kabul was lovely. The students with whom we mixed were Westernised and we saw a couple of ex-Maharajah cars, but by then the market was largely finished and the two I recall were both huge American machines. The Iranians were wise to the trade, and charged significant tariffs.

On the return journey, detouring to Persepolis in southern Iran, a local crossing the road ahead suddenly did a U-turn and ran smack into the front of the Landie. Rendered unconscious, he was taken by one of our team and a local military field doctor to the neurosurgical unit in Shiraz, three hours away. I was put under arrest and went to Shiraz with a sergeant in the Landie. The magistrate didn't want to jail an Oxford student, so handed me to the British Consul official. By then the patient was conscious, but we still had to buy a 'pardon' from the family for about £20.

In Istanbul, on the morning of our departure for Greece and home, I had my passport stolen. The Consulate recommended (unofficially) that I was







hidden in the back under bags, and smuggled into Greece – there wasn't time to drive to the Iranian border to get the entry stamps for my new passport. Those hours at the border and driving across no-man's land were anxious. As instructed by HM's representative, when the Greeks asked why there were no Turkish stamps, we shrugged and said, "Turks." We were waved straight through. **Michael Powell** London

Clockwise, from top: celebrating Powell's 21st; making camp on the shore of the Caspian Sea; in the desert near Khandahar, Powell on left with his future wife peeping out from behind



Send contributions to the usual C&SC address. Those lucky enough to be chosen as our Letter of the month win a Gliptone leather-care kit

## Following fashion

We all knew the bad press for the early Mondials, as did Ferrari SpA.

To add to the correspondence (*Letters*, October) after the very fair article in August about an unfashionable car, I buy unfashionable Ferraris. As well as a Mondial, my other one at present is a 1969 365GT 2+2, which won its class at the FOC Concours last year. Having been derided for all the years I have owned the car, it is now accepted as a 'good Ferrari', but the truth is that, in comparison to most cars, all Ferraris are 'good' – it's just the owners that let them down!

Rather than ditching the model, Ferrari evolved it as fast as it could to make a vehicle worthy of the Prancing Horse. Forget 'looks' because that is personal, and the Mondial detractors' main problem is that they have never driven a 't' – or most likely are not good drivers. The handling is absolutely *par excellence* and, most places I go, people tell me how great it looks, not realising that it is 28 years old. John Wallace London



#### December 2018 Classic & Sports Car 59

### LETTERS

# Pedant of the month

Pedant of the month wins a *C&SC* baseball cap. Send your observations to **alastair**. **clements@haymarket.com** 



Rodríguez wins at Kyalami in 1967

In his article on the Maserati MC12 (*C&SC*, October), Greg MacLeman notes that Kyalami is at an altitude of 5000m. This equates to almost 16,500ft, and would make the circuit even higher than Mont Blanc.

Kyalami's actual altitude is just over 5000ft, which explains the low incidence of references to altitude sickness, avalanches and nosebleeds in reports of South African Grands Prix... John Aston

# Comments & clarifications

While I enjoyed Charles Briscoe-Knight's F1 photos in October's *C&SC*, he wrongly said that Duke Ellington once sang *Things ain't what they used to be*. Ellington was the greatest jazz composer and band leader of the 20th century, but he never sang: this track was an instrumental. Jeremy Elliott



Brands in 1961, not '58, says Hostler

The picture in Charles Briscoe-Knight's story captioned 'The



Ex-Le Mans XK120 (below) is joined by Ropner E-type and exotics for Ecurie Ecosse tour



## **Big Cat trading**

Yet another fabulous article, this time regarding the ex-Ropner Jaguar E-type 'semi-Lightweight' (C & SC, September). There is one mistake, however. I know for a fact that my brother, John Foster, only swapped the V12 E-type – which you correctly mention he had at the time – for the Ropner car, and not his ex-Le Mans XK120 as well. Swapping both would maybe not have been such a great deal.

Sadly my brother is not in good health, so I thought I should set the record straight on his behalf. He still has the ex-Le Mans XK120 and I doubt it will ever leave his family's ownership. On two occasions, he very kindly lent my wife and I both the Ropner car and the XK120, so we could take part in his fabulous Ecurie Ecosse Scottish Motor Tour – that surely is brotherly love!

We enjoyed a week of touring with some of the world's finest classic machinery: Le Mans-winning C- and D-types; Aston Zagato, DP215 and DBR1; Le Mans Cobras; Alfa 6C and 8C; Ferrari 250, 330, P3 and Daytona; Maserati 300S and A6G 2000; Ford GT40 and that is but a few of the field. We were spoilt rotten, and still brag about it to fellow enthusiasts. It's wonderful to hear that the Ropner car is now owned by such an enthusiast as Lord Bamford and that, unlike so many classics these days, it will remain in the UK. I hope the car gives as much pleasure to its current owner as it did to my brother for so many years. Frank Foster Tasmania, Australia



## Jag in miniature

I really enjoyed Martin Buckley's *Backfire* in the September issue of C & SC, and thought you might like to see a photo of my daughter Ava driving her MkX Jaguar pedal car (above) – a model I believe he has only recently discovered. Jeremy Wood

Via email

## Hispano tribute

I was immediately taken back to the mid-'70s by the Hispano-Suiza H6B (C & SC, September). I had just completed volume three of On Four Wheels, to which my mother kindly treated me every week. When she presented me with the second issue of volume four, wow! On the first page, the banner read 'On appointment to the King of Spain', with a photo of a radiator, two huge Marchal headlights with integral sidelights, and that most glorious of car mascots, the stork.

At the time, I was employed in a toolmaking company in Yate, with two young children, a mortentranced. Knowing full well that my limited income would prevent me from ever actually owing such a car, I came up with the idea of doing the next best thing by making my interpretation of the mascot.

My then employer was shown the book and I had his permission to save some scrap aluminium and use the vertical milling machine in my lunchtimes. After a couple of weeks, I had produced two examples in the rough, then finally completed one – the other awaits my attention! The finished example proudly adorns my lounge.

I subsequently trained as a draughtsman, on a drawing board – "What's that?" say the youngsters – and went on to work in various drawing offices around the city, then finally for many years at Airbus. I retired at 68, but am still working part-time at the age of 71.

And the cars? I own a 1964 Mini Cooper, a '65 Austin-Healey 3000 BJ8 and a '68 Triumph TR5. I have been very fortunate over the years, and enjoy the company of fellow petrolheads at club noggins and classic gatherings.

Great magazine, by the way, which I look forward to every month – as much as I did O4Wback in the '70s. **Derek Roberts** 

Bristol

## Jenks' close shave

Simon Taylor's article about Jochen Rindt and Denis Jenkinson's beard (*Full throttle*, September) brought back some happy memories.

When I was at Le Mans in 1970 with a chum, we spotted 'Jenks' (below) wandering around by himself, *sans* beard. We asked him what had happened to it, and he told us the Rindt story. I believe he shaved it off at Watkins Glen.

By the way, sleeping in an MG Midget is *not* to be recommended! **Christopher Boyce** *Arundel, West Sussex* 



Kentish 100, 1958' is, I believe, the 1961 Guards Trophy, a race for 'Intercontinental' cars held on the August Bank Holiday. You wouldn't have seen a grid with only one front-engined car in '58! The Cooper T53s and Lotus 18s in the picture made their debuts in 1960. The drivers are (left to right): Moss, McLaren, Surtees, Ireland, Brooks, G Hill, Clark and Gregory. John Hostler gage and a Tartan Red 1967 Mini. The sight of that motif and the article on the history of Marc Birkigt's company and products held me



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## A modern classic?

I read with interest your *Future* classic on the Alfa Giulia Quadrifoglio (C&SC, September). Great take on a good Alfa, and agreed that the pace of the turbo V6 is reflected in its V8 fuel consumption!

I was saddened by the throwaway comment about the disappointing Giulietta revival. I guess you have never driven the Cloverleaf version, because with 235bhp, amazing performance and 29-30mpg, this was and is an astounding car. Even at seven years old it holds off the latest Golf GTI, and turns heads in a way that VWs just can't. So come on, Alastair, credit where it's due.

**Alan Willcocks** Via email

## Plum crazy

In your August *Lost & found*, you feature a Ferrari Mondial in an unusual colour, Oro Chiaro (gold). Here in Dallas, Texas, I have a 1984 Mondial QV Cabriolet (below) that appears to be an equally unusual colour: Prugna (plum).

No information on Mondials I have come across even mentions this shade, and I have never seen or heard of another one. Bill Sendelback

Dallas, Texas, USA



## Stateside Capri

I greatly enjoyed Marc Keiterling's treatment of all things Ford Capri (C & SC, August). Having owned a '74 model in my younger days, I can say that sighting another in the US was a rather rare occurrence, akin to seeing a fellow BMW 2002.

I saw the beautiful Group 2 cars in period magazines and was smitten by the slippery shape and intelligent packaging. For comparison, remember that in the USA we had the Mustang II and Chevy Monza, which made for generally forgettable performance vehicles.

The previous owner had made a few enhancements - notably cheap alloys, wider tyres, foglights, a chin spoiler and the obligatory 'Capri' windscreen banner. This was heady stuff for a teenager in 1977, when most of my contemporaries drove clapped-out GM or Ford muscle cars - great for straight-line performance, but not so keen on braking or handling. Although it was clearly down on power with its 2.3-litre 'four', its 90bhp propelled the lightweight Capri rather briskly. I frequently imagined myself to be one of Herr Neerpasch's piloten carving up Zandvoort and leaving Lauda's BMW in my wake. It also went with enough alacrity to merit my first speeding ticket.

As you can see from the photo, the Capri performed rather well in wintry weather. The combination of the Ford's good chassis balance and a manual gearbox allowed the driver to maintain decent control in adverse conditions (even without dedicated winter rubber). Sadly, the Capri was not well protected from rust, and I suspect my example de-molecularised into a pile of iron filings following my ownership.

I sold the Capri when I went off to university – and bought a used 1964 Pontiac GTO a few years later, but's that's a story for a different issue. Please keep up the fine feature writing and photography! **Matt Oleksiak** Via email

Oleksiak's modified Capri



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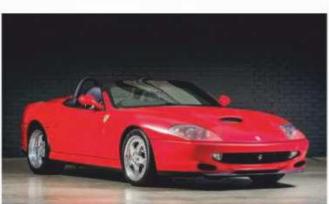
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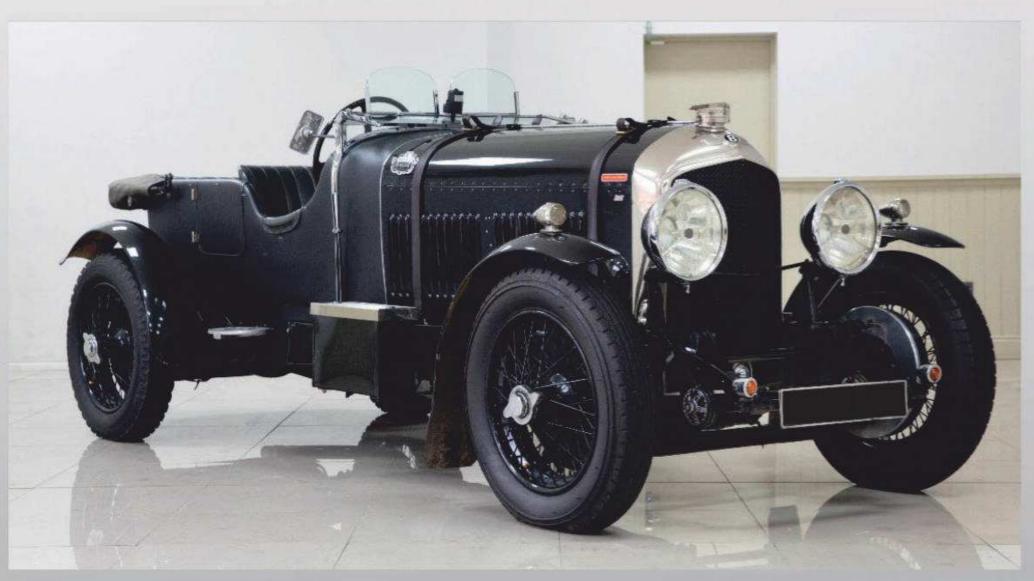
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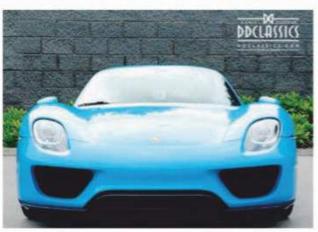
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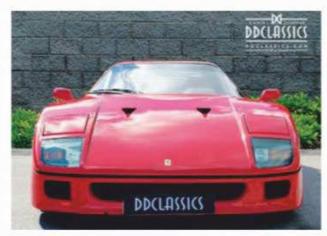




1990 Ferrari F40 Cat Non Adjust (LHD) Classiche, 18700 miles, tools and books



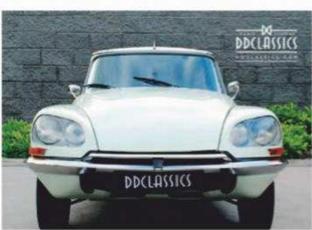
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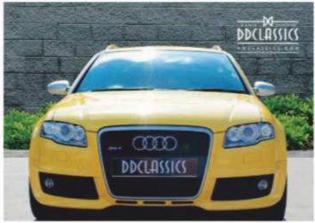


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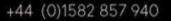
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1967 JAGUAR E-TYPE, 4.2L RHD

This Series 1.5 E-Type is finished in Opalescent Silver Grey with Dark Red Leather and chrome wire wheels. The stunning colour combination is as per the day this E-type left the factory. Fully restored in 2012 with just 31,000 miles covered from new.





**1993 JAGUAR XJ220, 3.5L RHD** A very rare example of only 70 right hand driving versions of this iconic supercar ever made, with just 3,600 miles recorded. Presented in Spa Silver with Grey leather, this car is in remarkable condition, and will undergo a full recommissioning service at

Classic Works. POA





1990 JAGUAR XJS CONVERTIBLE, 5.3L RHD

Finished in Glacier White with Isis Blue leather, this classic remains among the world's most beautiful convertible cars 28 years after its release. Benefiting from a Jaguar V12 engine, this model has just 21,000 miles on the clock from two previous owners.

£34,950





#### 1994 JAGUAR XJS COUPÉ, 4.0L RHD

This exceptionally original and cherished example is presented in the much sought after combination of King Fisher Blue with Doeskin leather interior. An original automatic UK car, with just 33,000 miles covered from new.

£27,750

POA

#### 1950 JAGUAR XK120, 3.4L RHD

This particularly beautiful example, with matching numbers, was fully restored in 2010 to an exceptionally high standard. There is a fully detailed file to substantiate the superb craftsmanship and also includes MOT certificates dating back to 1997. Includes bespoke matching luggage set.

SOLD

#### 2012 LAND ROVER DEFENDER XS, 2.2L RHD

Timeless in appearance, the Defender XS is finished in Indus Silver with a full Obsidian Black leather interior. A gloss Black bonnet adds to the look, with electric windows, central locking, factory immobiliser and air conditioning refreshing a car with just 600 miles on the clock.

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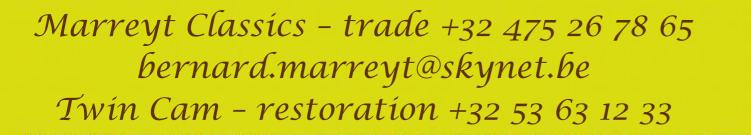
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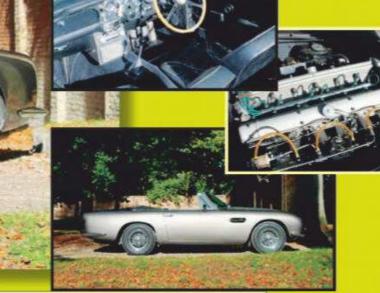
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Aston Martin DB6 Vantage Volante RHD - 1969

Out of 140 DB6 Volantes, only 29 were delivered with the high-output Vantage engine. This DB6 Vantage Volante retains its original triple Weber 325bhp Vantage engine, as well as its deliciously patinated original black leather interior. Initially delivered in Olive Green, arguably the best-looking colour on a DB6 Volante, its current Oyster Shell grey paint is charmingly worn. Price: ASK



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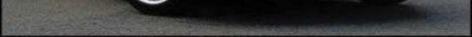
2013 Ferrari F12 Berlinetta 23,509 Miles, Grey, Automatic, Petrol £179,990





2014 Ferrari F12 Berlinetta 9,564 Miles, Ferrari Rosso Corsa Red, Automatic, Petrol £199,990





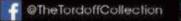
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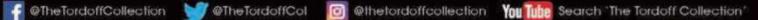
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Powered by the 5.2 litre V12 engine and driven through a manual 5 speed gearbox, 0-60mph takes 4.7 seconds with a top speed of almost 300kph.

One of only 657 cars produced, and in stunning condition, this LHD car is presented in rojo red with cream panna with filetto rossi trim. POA



Mercedes SLR McLaren

First registered in June 2006 this coupe version of the McLaren SLR benefits from black bodywork with silver details and wheels and only 16,000 miles.

Powered by the 5.4 litre supercharged V8 AMG engine with a 5 speed AMG Speedshift-R gearbox, achieving 0-60mph in 3.3 seconds. Braking is equally impressive, thanks to the vented carbon-ceramic discs with 8 piston callipers.

The car benefits from black and red leather trim with carbon fibre seats trimmed in the same red. POA



The Diablo, the successor to the Countach, is presented in Dunkelblau Metallic with grey leather this RHD Diablo VT was first registered in London in March 1995.

Benefitting from the Diablo upgrades this car has ABS and

#### Lamborghini Diablo VT

4-wheel drive with electronically adjustable dampers and power steering.

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Bentley 3 / 4.5 ltr. LeMans Style Open Tourer, 1924, early chassis, Gran Premio Nuvolari in 2016, runs perfect.



Ferrari 250 GT Ellena Coupé, 1957, LHD, certified by Ferrari Classiche, matching numbers and colours, Mille Miglia in 2007.



Ferrari 250 GTE 2+2 Series III Coupé, 1963, matching numbers, Ferrari Classiche certificate, registered in Italy.



Talbot Lago T26 Grand Sport, 1954, 4.5 litre twin cam engine, pre-selector, sun roof, Concours, 1 of 19.





Mercedes-Benz 300 S Convertible, 1954, matching numbers, delivered new to Germany to famous address.





Lagonda LG 6 Cabriolet, 1938, 1 of only 30 built, restored to Concours condition.



Intermeccanica Italia Spyder, 1969, black, extensively restored and well documented.

AC Ace Roadster, 1959, white with black interior, rare LHD. Alfa Romeo 6C 2500 SS Villa d'Éste Convertible, 1949/50. Alfa Romeo 6C 2500 s Touring Berlinetta, 1947, RHD. Aston Martin DB 5 Coupé, 1964, RHD, Webasto sun roof. Aston Martin DB 5 Coupé, 1964, extensively restored. Facel Vega HK 500, 1959, grey, manual, restored! Aston Martin V 8 Volante, 1986, only 17.000 mls original! The only one in Triple Black!

Bentley S III Continental Flying Spur, 1963, 1 of 98. Lagonda LG 6 Cabriolet, 1938, Concours, a legend! MB 300 S Roadster, 1953, extensively restored. MB 300 Sc Roadster, 1957, dark blue, just 53 made. MB 320n Kombinations-Coupé, 1937. MB 540 K Spezialroadster, 1937, imperial red, restored. Aston Martin DB 4 Series 1, 1959, original LHD, delivered new to Germany, 4,2 ltrd. about 300 hp.

MB 680 Sport Tourer, 1927, matching numbers. MB 770 K Convertible D, 1931, Type Großer Mercedes. MB 7,1 ltr. SSK, 1929, fully restored. Monteverdi High Speed 375 L, 1970, LHD, 2 owners. Porsche 911 Carrera RS 2.7, 1972. Talbot-Lago T26 Record Convertible, 1947, RHD.

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Ferrari 360 GT: Chassis 000M, the very first of modern Michelotto cars, extensive history
Ferrari Testarossa: 24,000 km, red/black, FFSH, amazing condition, fully serviced
Jaguar E-Type 3.8: Concourse restoration, black on red interior, full report available
Matra MS630: Chassis 05 the first continuation car, FIA HTP, excellent condition

Porsche 928 S2 : 1984, 24,000 km, white/white amazing condition Porsche 964 RS : 21,000 km, silver, excellent condition, fully serviced

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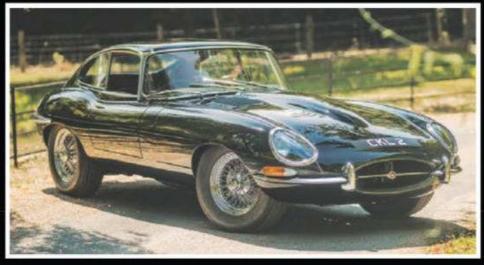
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1965 JAGUAR E TYPE 4.2 SERIES 1 RHD/LHD Uk matching numbers that went to Barcelona in 1968 Very rare Matching numbers original car with 39000 Signal red with beige full leather Hard and soft tops, alloys, and was dealer converted to LHD. Signal Red with Black leather trim, uprated brakes, suspension, cobra wire wheels, stainless exhaust, stunning rust free example £79,950



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1982 MERCEDES 280SL SPORTS W107 Milan

brown with beige tex trim. Hard and soft tops,

Mexican hat alloys. Two owners and 45000 miles

only with Full History from new. One of the finest

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t was all about the numbers, wasn't it? Back in the day, Cosworth owners would show you the little dial under the dashboard from which they could easily summon "300, 400bhp" from their chipped turbo cars – just like the racing cars. Lord knows what it did to their Pinto-derived bottom ends.

Now that the best RS500s have officially passed into Blue Chip territory, those days are far behind us. 'Standard' and 'original' are the enthusiasm to constantly stick its nose into tramlines – fortunately, its steering is pretty fast. In its stance and body language – and through the seat of your pants – come faint echoes of the Lotus Cortina racer.

The Escort is a more aloof device; better finished, more refined, more controlled, safer, with more grip. That all-wheel drive system keeps you in check, though it responds well if you upset it with a lift and bung into a corner, provided there's room to plant it immediately afterwards. It's more rounded - but, after the Sierra, just a little remote. Which is where it needed to be in order to sell cars after the job of homologation for competition had been done. Backtrack to where it all began and, as with so many great Fords, the trail leads to Stuart Turner. Appointed head of motorsport in 1983, he realised that the Blue Oval was lagging behind. The Sierra, launched in 1982, had not been well received thanks to its unusual 'jellymould' styling, but it did have class-leading aerodynamics and was handily rear-wheel drive. The plan was that motorsport would give it – and Ford – a boost, and was supported by Walter

### DARAN HANEY

A serial Fast Ford collector, Daran Haney acquired Sierra RS500 chassis 001, which he co-owns with fellow fan Matt Goode,



new benchmarks, not the swell of your dyno chart. And so we've put together the very first RS500 with one of the last of its Escort RS sisters to see how the 'Cossie' evolved from raw homologation special to civilised hot hatch, crossing the £100,000 mark along the way.

You'd think that, being based on the same floorpan, they'd feel quite similar, but far from it. You sit high and narrow in the Sierra, which has a rather raffish feel, full of cooling vents at the front and trailing its lip-and-strake coat-tails over a touch of negative camber at the rear. To drive, it's somehow pointy at the front and loose in the tail at the same time, with a race-car earlier this year.

"I'd bought a Series 1 RS Turbo from Belgium and sold it to Norway, where this car was for sale," says Haney. "We checked out the Sierra and were happy with it, though the car had been off the radar for 13 years and since we got it home there's been a lot of controversy over it. This is car number one of the four prototypes, and the only one built by Ford, not Tickford. It's since been authenticated by Paul Linfoot, the leading Cosworth expert. As a prototype it should really have been crushed, but they needed the numbers to make up the 500 for homologation. It's unique, because it really shouldn't be here..."

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Clockwise from bottom right: red cam cover for YBB unit; cabin is more supermarket chic than track ready; story starts with this prototype; best examples are hitting six figures; plaque underlines this example's status





### 'The RS500 is somehow pointy at the front and loose in the tail at the same time, with a race-car enthusiasm to constantly stick its nose into tramlines'

Hayes, the vice-president of public relations at Ford, without whom the GT40 and Cosworth DFV would never have happened. Turner instigated a Cosworth twin-cam project based on Ford's own 2-litre Pinto block, the YAA, which would form the basis of what Turner needed to power a Group A winner.

A request was made for a turbocharged version, which became the YBB after Cosworth said yes, promising a motor that produced more than 200bhp – but only if Ford agreed to take at least 15,000 of them. Turner only needed 5000 for homologation into Group A, and the rest would go into the four-door, second-generation Sierra Sapphire RS Cosworth, with enough left over for the Escort RS Cosworth.

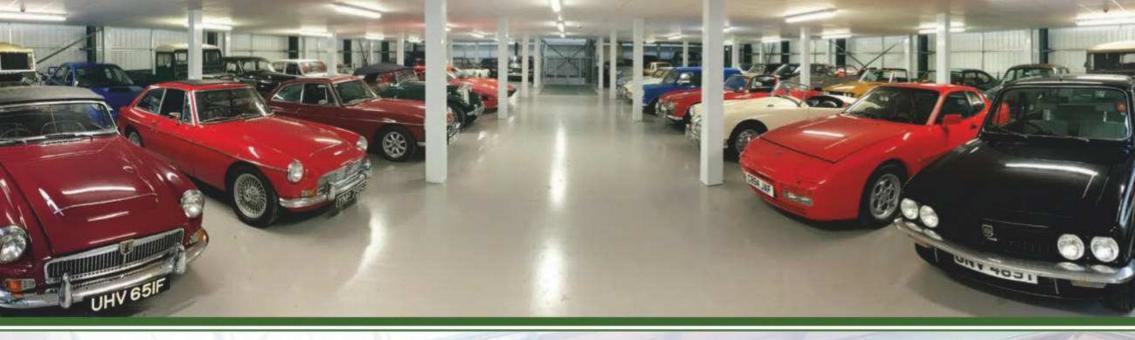
Lothar Pinske was given the job of styling the new Cosworth's bodywork, his mission to make the slippery Sierra stable at high speed. After wind-tunnel work and test runs at the Nardò circuit in Italy, a prototype was presented to the management - who were, reportedly, horrified by its looks. Pinske stuck to his guns, however: the rear wing was essential to keep the car anchored to the ground (the standard shell produced lift at the rear), the opening between the headlights was needed to feed air to the turbo's intercooler and the flared arches would accommodate 10in-wide rear wheels for racing. Under the muscular new skin, the Sierra's Type 9 five-speed transmission was swapped for the stronger Borg-Warner T5 from the Mustang.

Though dealers originally estimated that they could sell only 1500 cars, some 5545 were made between 1986 and 1992 at Ford's Genk factory in Belgium. To keep the price down, there were only three colours: black, white and Moonstone Blue; and two equipment options – with or without central locking and electric windows.

To give the race teams the best-possible weaponry, a more extreme Cossie was developed: the RS500. Converted by Tickford, all 500 were based on right-hand-drive cars, and all were white or black – bar the last 50 or so, in Moonstone Blue. The changes were mainly in the motor, both for extra power (up from 204 to 224bhp) and greater resilience at sustained high revs in competition. There was a bigger Garrett T04 turbo and intercooler, a thicker-walled block, a second set of injectors, plus an uprated fuel pump to drive them. The mountings for the semi-trailing arms were extended on the rear axle beam, though these were only used on the racers. Exterior changes were subtle, but enough: the front foglights were replaced by extra ducting to cool the front brakes, the 'whale tail' got a small lip on the trailing edge plus an extra lower spoiler on the rear deck, and there were diamond-cut cross-spoke alloys.

The RS500 was homologated in August 1987 and the cars took pole in the following six World Touring Car Championship events, winning four and securing the team prize for the Texacosponsored Eggenberger Motorsport outfit. The following year it began to sweep the board in domestic series, dominating the 1988 and '89 Australian Touring Car Championships including Bathurst 1000 wins in both years, and the 1990 Australian Endurance Championship. Victories in the 1988 German DTM; 1989, '90 and '92 New Zealand Touring Car Championship; and 1988 and '89 Japanese series were also added to the trophy cabinet, while in the UK it became a British Touring Car Championship legend. Andy Rouse claimed the over-2.5-litre class in 1988 and '89, with Robb Gravett taking the overall title in 1990 before rule changes handed the advantage to the BMW M3.







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### EVOLUTION OF THE MIGHTY YB

The YB engine series has its roots in the venerable Ford Pinto block – a cast-iron, sohc 1993cc 'four' introduced in 1970, built in Cologne and first seen in Britain in the Mk3 Cortina. It was also used in the Pinto subcompact in the US, hence its nickname (Ford's internal designation is T88). Cosworth developed a twin-cam version, the YAA, which was adopted by Ford in its turbocharged form, the YB, with a thicker block and steel rather than cast-iron crank and rods.

Cosworth's twin-cam, 16-valve head used hydraulic tappets, initially making 204bhp in road and 370bhp in race trims, but the RS500 allowed around 500bhp in BTCC/DTM Group A racers, with claims of more than 600bhp from Australian teams come the end of the Group A era in '92. You identify them by the cam-cover colour: red for the YBB (Sierra Cosworth 2WD), YBD (Sierra RS500) and YBJ (Sapphire 4WD, non-cat); green for the catalystequipped YBG (4WD Sapphire); blue for the YBT (large-turbo Escort Cosworth); and silver for the YBP

(small-turbo Escort)

### FORD SIERRA COSWORTH RS500

Sold/number built 1987/500 Engine iron-block, alloy-head, dohc 1993cc 'four', with fuel injection and turbocharger Max power 224bhp @ 6000rpm Max torque 204lb ft @ 4500rpm **Transmission** five-speed Borg-Warner T5 manual, driving rear wheels via LSD Suspension: front MacPherson struts rear semi-trailing arms, coil springs, telescopic dampers; anti-roll bar f/r **Steering** rack and pinion Brakes discs all round **Length** 14ft 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>5</sub>in (4425mm) Width 5ft 7<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>in(1725mm) **Height** 4ft 6in (1375mm) Wheelbase 8ft  $6^2/_3$ in (2608mm) Weight 2661lb (1207kg) **0-60mph** 6.1 secs (standard RS Cosworth 6.5 secs) Mpg 20 **Top speed** 154mph (standard 149mph) Price new £19,950 Price now from £75,000

### FORD ESCORT RS COSWORTH

(where different) Sold/number built 1992-1996/7145 Engine T025 turbocharger, Ford EEC IV engine management Max power 224bhp @ 6250rpm Max torque 224lb ft @ 3500rpm Transmission five-speed MTX75 manual, driving all four wheels 66/34 via transfer box, viscous rear LSD and centre coupling **Steering** power-assisted rack and pinion **Length** 13ft 9⁴/₅in (4211mm) Width 5ft 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in (1738mm) Height 4ft 8in (1425mm) Wheelbase 8ft 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in (2552mm) Weight 2811lb (1275kg), Lux 2888lb (1310kg) **0-60mph** 5.7secs Top speed 144mph Mpg 24 Price new £22,050 (Lux £25,590) Price now from £45,000



### 'There's more civilised power delivery – no big jumps, just more urge from 3500rpm when the boost gauge begins to move from negative to positive'

Touring car racing job jobbed, the Escort RS came about when Ford wanted a smaller car for rallying. The Sierra had been a stopgap that never shone on the loose, though Jimmy McRae took the 1987 and '88 British Rally Championships, and Didier Auriol/Bernard Occelli won the (Tarmac) 1988 Corsica Rally outright.

By late '88, the four-door Sierra Sapphire Cosworth had replaced the three-door, and from 1990 it received four-wheel drive, using the Ferguson system with the central front driveshaft running through the sump. It made sense, then, for Ford's Special Vehicle Operations to develop the new car around the latest floorpan. Stephen Harper styled the RS, which was in essence a silhouette with little of substance from the Escort in it. But the model's crowing glory, an evolution of the 'whale tail', was added by Frank Stephenson, the production version toned down from his original 'triplane' proposals.

Launched in 1992, initially as a run of 2500 to secure Group A homologation, the Escort used a hybrid Garrett T3/T04B turbocharger developed from that used in the RS200 rally car. Unfortunately, this gave Group B-style refinement, so from late 1994 the second-generation road car got the smaller T25, which is friendlier in everyday driving. At the same time, the famed spoiler became a delete option – though few were. During production lasting from February 1992 until January '96, 7145 were built, including the stripped-out Motorsport edition and the Monte-Carlo special sold in France and Italy.

The latter marked François Delecour's '94 win on the Monte, yet the Escort failed to achieve the longed-for World Rally title. It did land 10 Group A and WRC wins, however, along with a British Rally Championship for future team boss Malcolm Wilson in 1994. The Sierra is a homologation special and looks it, with lots of mods and tack-ons to the standard three-door body, and any aerodynamically troublesome gaps plugged with rubber. After in-fighting at Ford it ended up with everything the racers needed, including a bigger turbo and an extra set of injectors on RS500s – everything except large-enough tyres. Drivers always complained that it was too heavy for its tyres, but width was limited because the road cars only had to accommodate 205-section rubber.

You notice the most striking change as soon as you flop down into the bucket seat. That wing and the lip below obscure most of your rearward vision; just what you needed in a screamingly obvious 150mph car that looked like a spaceship in the mid-'80s. The interior is utilitarian Sierra, with cardboard-box dash mouldings that could have come out of a 1.3L (actually XR4Ti), the gearknob shared with the P100 pick-up and the famous Raven velour seats that go baggy as soon as you look at them. There's a massive graphic equaliser and, yup, it all rattles a bit.

The Escort certainly had the benefit of more design and it looks a lot more finished, in a corporate Ford sort of way, thanks to its entirely new body designed in parallel with its mechanicals and built by Karmann. It might superficially resemble a slightly inflated front-drive Mk5, but if you want a laugh, park the two side-by-side; nothing's quite in the same place. Inside, it feels more tightly hewn, with a different dash (though not so different as to alienate Escort buyers) incorporating a dedicated pod for boost, oilpressure and voltage gauges. The air-con is so neatly integrated it's hard to spot in this Luxedition car with leather seats and a sunroof. The whole homogenised package is in keeping with its civilised power delivery - no big jumps, just

Clockwise from main: mint Escort's headlamps aren't stock; turbocharged 'four' has 224bhp; betterintegrated dials in the later Fast Ford; muchloved, low-mileage example; the original plan was to fit a triplane spoiler







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notably more urge from 3500rpm when the boost gauge begins to move from the negative side of the gauge to accentuate the positive. In contrast, the RS500 gets interested at 3000rpm, comes in with a bang at about 4000, then gets more brutal as you plant it. It's hard to believe they are the same engine, although at higher revs in both you get little nuances in harmonics that give away their Pinto origins. For someone who owns one of those, that's rather heartwarming.

The reason these, and an increasing number

"It's partly because they are such usable classics," says classic car specialist Arwel Richards, who consigned the last Sierra RS Cosworth for Silverstone Auctions. "They're blue-collar supercars that won't give you backache like a Ferrari, and you can put the grandchildren in the back. Our buyers tend to be people in their late 40s or early 50s, who lusted after the cars as teenagers but couldn't afford to buy them, or insure them, and now they can. Of course there's that motorsport heritage of these cars, too, which keeps values higher than Escorts." Like the BMW E30 M3 that was the Sierra RS Cosworth's racing rival in period, these cars aren't blindingly quick by today's standards, but they're more than fast, offering secure (in the case of the Escort) or entertaining (Sierra) handling within a manageable package that won't cost a bomb to maintain. And there's fervently passionate, enthusiastic support, too, in the shape of the RS Owners' Club. No wonder the Blue Oval is riding again.

### MICHELLE YATES

This mint small-turbo 1996 Escort Lux has belonged to Michelle Yates since 2002 and it's only done 8000 miles in 16 years, mostly to shows with



of Cossies, are kept so standard is inevitable: money – the market likes low-mileage originality. These cars have always been collectible, but in the past four years prices have doubled in the case of the Escort, and gone stratospheric for the best (uncrashed, no-stories) Sierras and RS500s. Silverstone Auctions consistently achieves strong prices for Fast Fords, including cracking the £100k barrier with the sale of a 10,000-mile RS500 for £114,750 in July 2017. Good RS500s regularly make £75,000, with the best Sierra Cosworths and tidy Escorts around £45k. The exceptional Escort pictured here would be more, and we had to insure RS500 001 for £125,000.

The Sierra Cosworth RS500 pictured here is for sale; email daranhaney@icloud.com

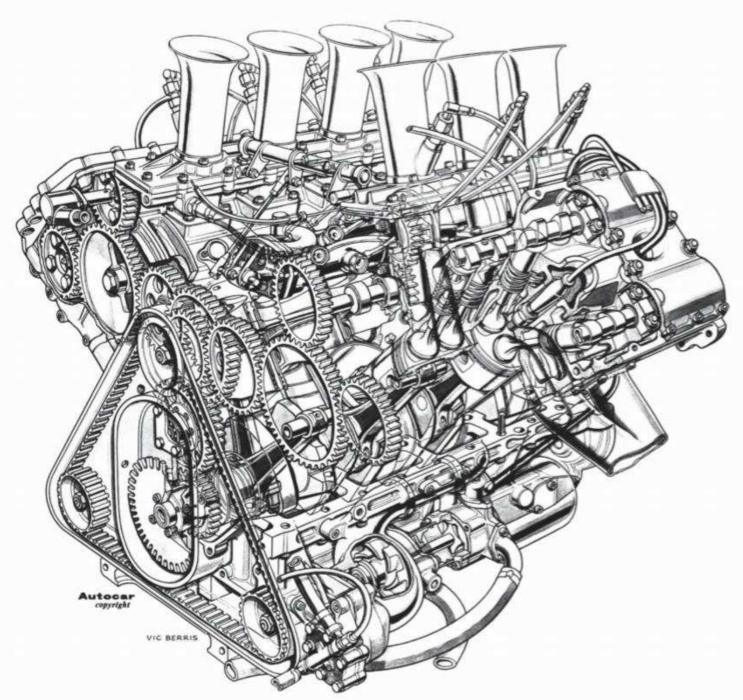
### the RS Owners' Club.

It won a concours with the club in 2015 and the total mileage is now just over 14,000. Aside from the quad headlights (she has the originals), only the exhaust has been changed. "I've been into Fords for as long as I can remember and I just wanted a Cosworth," says Yates. "I had a Mk2 Turbo before, but I saw this at [dealer] Junction 28 and I paid £22,500." Strangely for a pristine car, the gearlever gaiter is tatty, but she hasn't changed it: "That's normal. I've searched high and low, but I just can't find one." And her daily driver? "A Focus diesel – and an orange Focus ST3 for the weekends."

## COSWORTH'S GREATESTHITS...

From the showroom floor to the dizzy heights of Formula One: six decades of winners on road and track

WORDS PAUL HARDIMAN PHOTOGRAPHY COSWORTH/MOTORSPORT IMAGES/DAIMLER AG/JAMES MANN



osworth was founded in London 60 years ago, born of a partnership between Mike Costin and Keith Duckworth, former Lotus

### THE MIGHTY DFV

The four-cylinder FVA (four-valve Type A, with gear-driven cams) of 1966 was a practice run

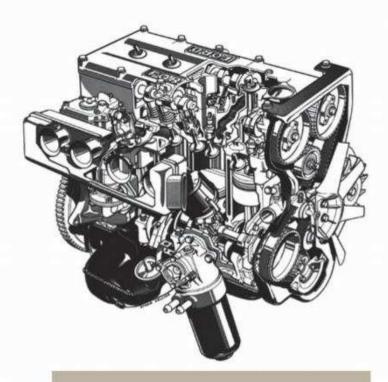


employees who realised that they could "make a living messing about with engines" – and that messing about quickly came to dominate Formula Three. Supported by Ford in the 1960s and '70s, and with several subsequent owners, the company collected an exceptional 176 Formula One wins as an engine supplier, the last of them for Giancarlo Fisichella's Jordan at Brazil in 2003.

Today, it is a global consultancy with expertise in everything from powertrain development to electronics, and has collaborated on engine design with numerous firms – some of them secret. Here's our pick of the best it admits to. for the most successful F1 engine ever – the 'Double Four Valve' V8 (above), developed for Lotus using £100,000 of Ford's money. Colin Chapman's genius was to use it as a stressed member in the new 49, and it won on its debut at the 1967 Dutch GP with Jim Clark, the first of 155 F1 victories; it's still winning in historics today. In 1975, the turbocharged DFX version was launched in the US, where it won 10 Indy 500s in a row and dominated the series for a decade. In the '80s, the 3.3- and 4-litre DFL long-distance version was successfully used in endurance racing, with five Le Mans class wins.

### MAE SCREAMER

Most radical of the 997cc and 1098cc engines built or modified by Cosworth from 1959 for the 1-litre Formula Three class and Formula Junior was the 997 MAE, or Modified Anglia Engine, of 1965. This dry-sump 'four' was based on the Ford Anglia 105E unit, but with intake-port sleeves for downdraught carburettors brazed into the cast-iron cylinder head, and would make more than 100bhp.



### **BRILLIANT BDA**

Following the Lotus Twin Cam (no relation), the 'Belt Drive A-type' (above) was another clever twin-cam permutation on Ford's tough 'Kent' bottom end, this time with four valves per cylinder, devised by Mike Hall. Both these engines are technically three-cam, because the original camshaft is left in place low down on the right of the block to drive the distributor and oil pump. Homologated at 1601cc and first fitted in the Escort to create the RS1600 of 1970, it was also seen in later BDG 1975cc alloy-block form in Mk2 Escorts, Caterhams (as the BDR) and as the short-stroke 1300 BDH. The 1599cc BDD and BDM versions were the mainstay of Formula Atlantic in the '70s. The turbocharged BDT powered the RS1700T then the Ford RS200, at 1803cc.

### VAUXHALL XE20

The famous XE20 'red top' twin-cam cylinder head was designed by Cosworth to fit on to Opel's 'Family II' engine block that had appeared in 1979 as a cam-in-head design. From 1987, it made the 150bhp Astra GTE 16v (right) a classleader in performance, and it later appeared with a turbo in both the Calibra and Vectra. As well as powering the Caterham HPC (on Webers, with c200bhp), this versatile unit has been adopted by rallyists as a popular and cheap power source for Mk2 Escorts. Technically, the 'red top' is only a true Cosworth until 1991, when the Coscast heads were replaced by GM-branded items from Kolben-Schmidt, which suffered porosity issues.



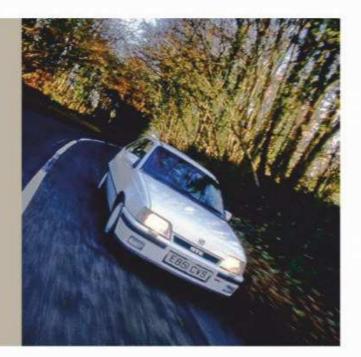
### MERCEDES 190E

Cosworth's WAA twin-cam, based on the Benz M102 'four,' was developed to take the W201 190 into DTM racing, and to give Mercedes something to rival the BMW M3 on the road. There were three versions: the initial 2.3-16 from 1984, the 2.5 (WAB) that replaced it (to keep up with the neighbours), then the short-stroke 2.5 (WAC) in the Evo cars, at 2463cc instead of 2498cc. The 2.3 only made 185bhp in road trim, but the oversquare engine was a revver, happy to 7000rpm. Evo II 190Es took the 1991 manufacturers' DTM title, before '91 runnerup Klaus Ludwig took the driver's title in 1992.



Cosworth devised a 16-valve head for Opel's Group 4 rally car in 1979, but the firm wanted more power and punched out the 2.0E block to 2.4 litres via an overbore and use of the crank from the cam-in-head 2.3 diesel, resulting in a claimed 340bhp. The Ascona 400 was the last rear-wheel-drive rally car to win the Drivers' World Championship, with Walter Röhrl in 1982.





### ...AND A COUPLE OF MISSES, TOO

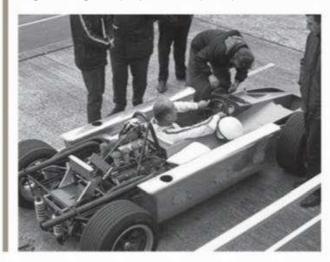
### **CHEVROLET COSWORTH VEGA**

A John Z DeLorean initiative, the 1975-'76 ZO9 Cosworth Vega's engine was another of the company's 16-valve designs, this time a detuned, wet-sump version of the all-alloy EA 2-litre that powered Chevron and Lola racing cars. Sadly, on Bendix electronic fuel injection the mid-'70s emissions regs held it back to just 110bhp at 5600rpm and, while the US press tried to be nice about the handling – 'better than the V6 and V8 derivatives' – *Road & Track* had to concede: 'Still way down the excitement ladder from what it would be with another 30 or 40bhp.' Chevrolet used 3500 or so of the 5000 engines, and scrapped most of the rest.



### **COSWORTH FORMULA ONE CAR**

Designed by Robin Herd, with an offset driving position to clear the transmission, this prototype racer's slab-sided looks came from the use of Mallite, a wood/aluminium composite that doesn't readily form into curves. It was to be powered by a magnesium version of the DFV, and Keith Duckworth designed its four-wheel-drive transmission, though ridding it of stability issues caused by grabby diffs took some time. A planned entry at the '69 British GP for Trevor Taylor never happened, and when Herd left to form March Engineering, the project was quietly retired.



# Copper's Duesie

Just two short-chassis Duesenberg SSJs were built for Hollywood stars, and they became America's most prized sports cars

WORDS MICK WALSH PHOTOGRAPHY MATHIEU HEURTAULT/ RANDY EMA/LA PUBLIC LIBRARY





ack in 1985, on my first trip to America, I was determined to see two fabled machines that had captivated me since boyhood. Amazingly, both were in Los Angeles museums just 30 miles apart. These mighty mechanical marvels were the Spruce Goose, Howard Hughes' giant H-4 transport seaplane, and the ex-Gary Cooper Duesenberg SSJ, the most powerful pre-war sports car ever built. Both exceeded my high expectations.

The short-chassis 'Duesie', one of just a pair built for two of America's then-greatest movie stars, had enthralled me since discovering a photo within *Treasury of the Automobile* by Ralph Stein in the local library. The stories of its 130mph performance and spectacular 320bhp from its magnificent, green-painted straighteight twin-cam motor with central supercharger that ran at six times engine speed were as fantastic as any Marvel comic.

Finally walking into owner Briggs Cunningham's famous museum in Costa Mesa will never be forgotten. There it stood, resplendent in its two-tone grey paint next to a Mercer and facing a brutish line of Cunningham team cars. Even without hearing the Wagnerian roar of its 6.8-litre 'eight', the SSJ took my breath away.

For an American marque, Duesenberg had enviable pedigree, winning the 1921 French Grand Prix and taking triple Indy 500 victories that decade, too. The SJ made its debut in 1928 but just 36 were built, mostly with heavy, glamorous bodywork by America's finest coachbuilders. In lightened, streamlined form its performance was legendary, as confirmed by Ab Jenkins' astonishing 135mph average for 24 hours, a speed record on the Bonneville salt flats that only the Napier-Railton eclipsed.

The short-chassis SSJ was the ultimate factory hot rod, built in desperation to boost flagging sales through the expected publicity of moviestar connections. The first was loaned to Gary Cooper, a childhood hero who starred in my dad's favourite western, *High Noon*. The car's amazing story had everything. Listening to curator John Burgess' stories, it was easy to imagine the fantastic episodes of its colourful life, be it roaring across LA at night *en route* to a Hollywood party, storming around Lake Tahoe with a valiant hydroplane-racing ace at the wheel, or blasting across a dry lake with a trail of dust in its 130mph wake. This was, without a doubt, America's first supercar.

Friends have argued the Duesenberg Model J was all hyperbole with very optimistic power figures, excess weight and, by the mid-'30s, an outdated design that had little-changed since its 1928 launch. The shorter SSJ's proportions, they claimed, were unbalanced: too high, with out-of-proportion small wheels. But I adore its imposing stance with steeply raked 'screen and low, short cockpit that's almost lost behind that long, tall bonnet. Stylist Jesse Herbert Newport Jnr originally planned a more streamlined body, but the second attempt was classic Duesenberg. The two SSJs were completed in late 1935 and marque saviour Errett Lobban Cord instructed his son Charles to deliver the cars personally to Clark Gable and Cooper. Cord was then working as a salesman at the firm's main Los Angeles showroom on Wilshire Boulevard and, considering the prestige of the two movie stars taking ownership, it's perhaps surprising that no photos survive showing the presentation of the fastest cars in America to Cooper or Gable.

Story has it that chassis 2594 (engine number J-563) was originally painted a sandy yellow. After delivery to the Paramount film set on 15 December, Cooper reportedly drove the car home to Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills, but his enthusiasm for the exotic two-seater wasn't shared by his young wife Veronica 'Rocky' Balfe, who particularly didn't like the colour. The car was sent back to the dealership with a request to repaint it 'in dark green with silver trimmings'.

Cooper's career was on a roll in 1935, with his adventure *The Lives of a Bengal Lancer* receiving six Academy Award nominations. Director Henry Hathaway rated his lead the "best actor of them all", and Frank Capra had held up filming of *Mr Deeds Goes to Town* to secure the 35-yearold star. Cooper looked the ideal Duesenberg owner and could have modelled for artist Paul Gerding's 'He Drives' advertisements.

The loan of the SSJs was limited to six months, after which both stars were offered a special deal on the cars at \$5000, a third of the usual price. Gable turned it down, but Cooper, who loved driving his SSJ, accepted. Against the already discounted price, he traded in his Model J-431 Derham Tourster, which he'd ordered directly from the stand at the 1931 Chicago show.

Both SSJs were bodied at the factory's in-house Union City Body Works in a style known as LaGrande, to underline their exclusivity. The styling was near identical but the second SSJ – J-567 – featured a 'Duesenbird' radiator mascot and a more acute sweep to the rear wing.

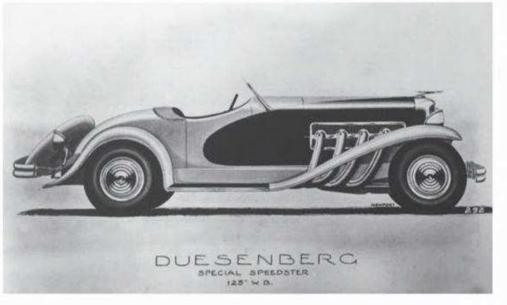
Nothing is recorded about Cooper's experiences with the SSJ, but both short-chassis Duesies remained in LA. During the late '30s they were spotted together on a famous car lot of dealer Bob Roberts, just a block down from Hollywood Boulevard. Roberts had no trouble selling the ex-Cooper car after the wealthy young enthusiast Reese 'Bud' Milner spotted the SSJs in the showroom. Born to a prominent LA family, Milner had returned from Stanford University to run the family oil business and had just married glamorous dancing starlet Ann Miller – the couple must have made quite an entrance arriving at LA parties in the SSJ.

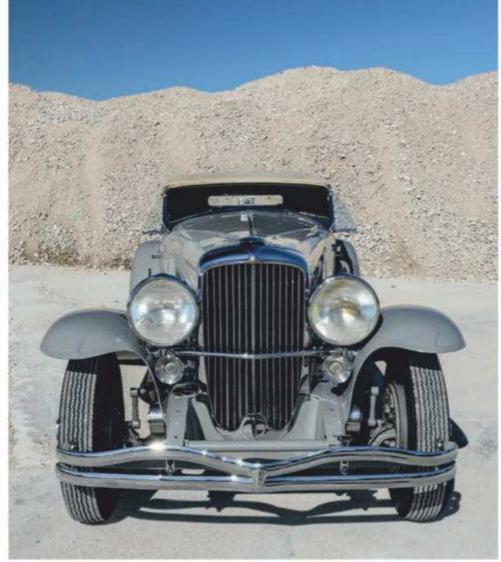
Milner moved in wealthy social circles and quickly sold the Duesie to former Stanford buddy Robert Stanley Dollar Jnr. The heir to a timber business, the Dollar Steamship Line, and the Wychwood estate on Lake Tahoe, Dollar's obsession from an early age was speed on water. After international racing success in America and Europe during the 1930s, he served in the Philippines during the war. Come peacetime, Dollar, aided by his loyal riding mechanic Ollie Meek, built the spectacular Skip-A-Long of California. Powered by a 2000hp Allison V12, it dominated the 1949 season at heady speeds before sinking on Lake Tahoe. Compared to the wild ride of his racing hydroplane, the leafsprung SSJ must have felt super-smooth as Dollar opened up the supercharged straighteight on roads around scenic Tahoe. Through the 1940s, the ex-Cooper Duesie changed hands a few times but remained on the West Coast until acquired by D Cameron Peck of Illinois, a car collector who already owned the Gable SSJ. Peck had no intention of keeping both cars and quickly sold J-563 in 1949 to his Clockwise from top: it's believed this car started life sandy yellow; Model J radiator style, but Cooper's SSJ wasn't fitted with the mascot; white Jaeger gauges including a central chronograph; original styling sketch by Jesse Herbert Newport Jnr was the second attempt

### **DUESENBERG SSJ**

Sold/number built 1935/2 **Construction** steel girder chassis with tubular crossmembers Engine iron-block, dohc 6878cc 'eight', four valves per cylinder, single Schebler carburettor with centrifugal supercharger Max power 320bhp @ 4200rpm Max torque 425lb ft @ 2400rpm Transmission Warner Hy-Flew three-speed manual, RWD Suspension: front beam axle rear live axle; leaf springs, double-acting shock absorbers f/r Steering Ross cam and lever Brakes drums, with vacuum assistance Wheels 7x19in wires Wheelbase 10ft 5in (3175mm) Weight 5000lb (2268kg) Top speed 130mph **Price new** \$15-16,000 Price now £16.6million















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"It's like a Duesenberg on steroids: the short chassis is perfect for that engine and it sounds great with the exhaust cutout" friend Briggs Swift Cunningham, the dashing playboy sportsman who famously raced both cars and yachts at a premier level.

Cunningham had immaculate taste and the foresight to save many important historic cars, which he stored in stables around his huge Connecticut estate. From Grand Prix Delage to thoroughbred Alfa 8C, the focus of the growing collection was European, but the newly acquired Duesenberg fitted perfectly into the elite group.

He enjoyed driving his cars and enlisted the best specialists to restore and tune them. In spring 1949 he contacted Jim Hoe, better known as 'The Duesenberg Man', about his exciting new purchase, and instructed the specialist to fly out to Chicago to visit Peck and pilot the SSJ back to Connecticut; Hoe had no hesitations about driving the then 14-year-old Duesenberg on that 850-mile journey. No photographs were taken, but I love the idea of the supercharged roadster roaring along in the early summer, maybe stopping at a motel in Cuyahoga Valley National Park as he travelled east. 'I had a wonderful time,' recalled Hoe in the ACD Bulletin. 'It was a delightful car to drive, a winner all the way, but after a complete check-over, retiming the valves and other adjustments, it went like a bomb.'

Cunningham immediately repainted J-563 in a two-tone scheme with olive over a dark blue sweep panel including the radiator shell, and smaller, more modern lights were fitted. Appropriately registered 'DUSY', the great car was much enjoyed by Cunningham around New England, and maybe he even took it down to the Pequot Yacht Club in Southport. It's easy to picture the SSJ parked on the harbourside next to *Columbia*, Cunningham's beautiful America's Cup racing yacht.

In the early 1960s, Cunningham relocated to California where, together with curator Burgess, he founded a new automotive museum in Costa Mesa. The SSJ was repainted again in the more discreet two-tone grey scheme that it retains today. The great car certainly didn't become a static exhibit and, as well as occasional concours appearences, Burgess recalled that Cunningham once took J-563 out to Muroc Dry Lake for a speed event. Here, running with home-built hot rods and streamliners, the American thoroughbred was timed at 126.6mph.

The SSJ remained a star exhibit in the museum until Cunningham sold the entire collection to Miles Collier in December 1986 and it crossed America again to a new facility in Naples, Florida. This car seems to attract the ideal custodians and Collier, with his refreshing philosophy on preservation and authenticity, was the perfect owner for the following three decades. As well as it being a major attraction at the new Revs Institute, Collier regularly showed the two-tone wonder at concours events including Meadow Brook Hall, where it was displayed with the Gable SSJ. Collier also loves driving his collection, and highlights included Sam Mann's Duesenberg Tour in California, where J-563's mighty performance was confirmed against other Model J and SJ cars. Based around the majestic central coast of California, exploring Highway One and mountain roads near San Simeon, the SSJ was in its element as Collier discovered. "We'd wait at least 30 minutes after all the other Duesenbergs had departed and then drive easily – as we thought it – to lunch, where we'd arrive 30 minutes early," he recalled. "The SSJ is just that much faster than other Duesenbergs. I loved driving it."

Auction specialist David Gooding, who was on the tour riding in the ex- Gable Rollston JN Convertible, vividly remembers being overtaken by the SSJ. "Miles wasn't driving like a lunatic, but the car just blasted by with ease," he says. "The tour visited Hearst Castle, where Gable and Cooper may have been party guests. To see 15 Duesenbergs led by the SSJ was special."

Some Duesenberg histories maintain that the Cooper SSJ was built first, and it was only after Gable saw a newspaper article that he expressed an interest in a similar car. The screen legend is said to have visited the factory showroom and was offered a two-month loan of a matching SSJ. The loan turned into six months, but possibly his partner Carole Lombard insisted that one Duesenberg was enough and he just kept his Rollston Convertible until the 1940s. Amazingly, no pictures have been discovered of either Cooper or Gable with SSJs.

When Collier decided to sell the SSJ to fund 'Meaningful Ventures', an automotive research and education programme, Gooding & Co was selected for the auction. Finally, Gooding got the chance to drive this legendary American car for a preview video. "We took it over to Ventura County for filming, where the roads are quieter. Coincidently, Ojai is where the second owner Reese Milner lived and the roads felt really evocative. It was a strange feeling driving by the gates of Milner's Rancho La Vista estate."

After admiring the SSJ since childhood, including visits to the Cunningham Museum as a boy with his father, Gooding had high expectations and the car didn't disappoint: "It's like a Duesenberg on steroids. The shorter chassis is perfect for that engine and it sounds great, particularly when you operate the exhaust cutout. It doesn't have the steam of the Mormon Meteor, which I've driven extensively, but it must have close to 300bhp. The power is very smooth right through the range, and in second the acceleration is spectacular, but even in top it just wants to go. The three-speed change is good once the 'box is warmed up and the steering is very light. It's much better than any vintage Bentley I've driven, but the brake pedal is heavier. The handling feels responsive and predictable. On the mountain roads you can really throw the car around. It was a massive box ticked to drive the SSJ, and it's a shame Duesenberg didn't make more."

At Gooding & Co's Pebble Beach auction this August, bidding rocketed way past the conservative \$10m estimate, the hammer finally coming down at \$22m (£16.6m), making it the most valuable pre-war car ever sold at auction. It will remain in California with one of the finest collections, where it'll keep company among supercharged European exotics. "It's now with another great enthusiast who won't touch it cosmetically but just likes to drive his cars," says Gooding. "I wouldn't be surprised if we see it on the Colorado Grand next year." Just imagine this supercharged Duesie roaring up Highway 133 amid the glorious autumn colours, with the pristine West Elk Mountains as a backdrop.

Clockwise from top: twotone grey in Cunningham's second repaint; stunning supercharged 'eight' with its signature chrome flexi outside exhausts; rakishly low windscreen; a rare photograph of J-563 taken in Los Angeles during the early 1940s, when Reese Milner was its owner

**Thanks to** David Gooding and Mathieu Heurtault; all images copyright and courtesy of Gooding & Company: www.goodingco.com

### TOP TEN

# SILVERSTONE MOMENTS

Counting down the circuit's most unforgettable races and biggest characters, to mark its 70th birthday

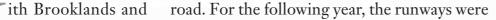
WORDS JAMES PAGE PHOTOGRAPHY MOTORSPORT IMAGES



### 1 Mansell's charge

We could have filled much of our *Top Ten* with Nigel Mansell's British GP heroics – in 1992, for example, he was on pole by almost *two seconds* – but his 1987 victory stands out. The weekend was a straight fight between Mansell and his Williams teammate Nelson Piquet, who threatened to ruin the party by claiming pole and leading for most of the race.

Neither of them had planned a tyre stop, but a severe vibration forced Mansell to dive into the pits on lap 35. He emerged nearly 30 secs behind with only 30 laps to go, and for a time failed to trim the gap; 10 laps later, he threw delicate fuel calculations to the winds, turned up the boost and went for it. Riding on a wave of home support, he slashed Piquet's lead and caught him with just over two laps to go. Into Stowe, with the Brazilian frantically scanning his mirrors, Mansell dummied left before switching to the inside. The roar of the crowd was clearly audible as he muscled past and went on to claim a memorable victory. **Anorak fact** Despite a new, tight chicane before the final corner, Mansell crossed the line during qualifying at 189.418mph





Donington Park out of action following WW2, the attention of British motorsport fans shifted instead to the disused

airfields that were then dotted around the UK. In June 1948, the Royal Automobile Club announced that it had arranged to lease one of those from the Air Ministry, and only a few months later Silverstone hosted its first Grand Prix. That inaugural event was won by the Maserati of Luigi Villoresi, and the circuit used parts of the old runways as well as the perimeter

abandoned and Silverstone assumed the basic outline that it would retain until 1991.

It was a simple but fast layout, and anyone who saw Ronnie Peterson going through Woodcote, or Nigel Mansell at Stowe, is unlikely to forget the experience. No doubt countless drivers have fond memories of the old Club Circuit, too, the design of which encouraged all sorts of final-corner derring-do. Even some Silverstone test sessions are remembered decades later, such as Ayrton Senna's 1983 try-out for McLaren. Our shortlist focuses on the major meetings, but hopefully it goes some way to honouring the circuit's long and illustrious history.

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### **2** Hill pursues Clark

After 50 laps of the 1965 British GP, Jim Clark had a huge lead over Graham Hill, but then the engine in his Lotus started misfiring. Soon afterwards, Clark noticed that the oil pressure was dangerously low in corners, forcing him to coast around them. BRM urged Hill on, but he'd been suffering with a soft brake pedal so, as one reporter put it, a car that wouldn't go was being chased by one that wouldn't stop. Despite Hill's valiant efforts – and a new record on the final lap – Clark held on by 3.2 secs. **Anorak fact** Hill never did win his home Grand Prix, but his son Damon did – at Silverstone in 1994





### **3** Cleland vs the BMWs

After a rain-hit practice session, British Touring Car Championship title contenders John Cleland, Will Hoy and Tim Harvey all lined up mid-grid for the 1992 showdown, but by the closing stages of the race they were running fourth (Hoy), fifth (Harvey) and sixth (Cleland). Behind them was a charging Steve Soper – Harvey's BMW teammate – who was recovering from an early spin.

During a frenetic penultimate lap, Harvey put "a fairly aggressive manoeuvre" on Hoy, which led to them both running wide. That allowed Cleland and Soper to slip past, and shortly afterwards the latter dived inside his Scottish rival - the live television footage cut to the Vauxhall's on-board camera just as Cleland raised his middle finger at the BMW. His mood didn't improve when Harvey also swept past and was let through by Soper into a potentially title-winning fourth place. Cleland immediately tried to barge his way back into contention - the Vauxhall tipping onto two wheels as he did so - but Soper retaliated in kind and they collided again at Luffield. Both spun into retirement, Harvey was crowned champion, and Soper wisely sat tight until a furious Cleland had stomped away. **Anorak fact** Few people now remember the epic three-way battle for the race win. Andy Rouse pipped Jeff Allam by half a length, with David Leslie only 0.7 secs behind in third



### 4 Rindt and Stewart's dice

If ever you need confirmation of how different from today was 1960s Formula One, consider the opening day of the 1969 British GP meeting. Lotus failed to turn up for first practice, so Graham Hill occupied himself by hopping into a Brabham – its regular driver, Jacky Ickx, was running late. When Lotus did arrive, Hill learned that his 49B had been sold – he was saddled with a four-wheel-drive 63 until Jo Bonnier offered to lend the reigning World Champion *his* 49B. All of the wheeling and dealing was forgotten come the race. Jackie Stewart had emerged as F1's benchmark, and that afternoon he and Jochen Rindt were in a class of their own. Time and again they swapped positions while pulling away from the rest, and matters were settled only when Rindt was forced into the pits – the rear-wing endplate on his Lotus had worked loose and was fouling the tyre. After a further stop for fuel, he finished a dejected fourth – poor reward after such an absorbing duel. **Anorak fact** Rindt had been delighted to secure not only pole, but also one of the £100 bonuses on offer during the final practice session

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### **5** The modern era begins

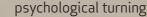
The first race to count towards the new World Championship of Drivers was held at Silverstone in May 1950, and it was a royal occasion. King George VI and his wife Queen Elizabeth were there, having taken the royal train to Brackley, where a fleet of limousines was waiting for them – they completed a ceremonial lap at the stately speed of 20mph.

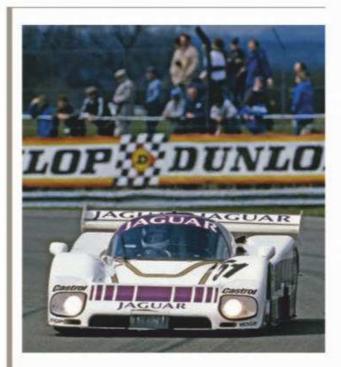
There wasn't much else to be patriotic about. The new BRM V16 wasn't ready, and even if it had been it wouldn't have provided much opposition to the Alfas. The Italian team comfortably secured the first four grid spots courtesy of Giuseppe Farina, Luigi Fagioli, Juan Manuel Fangio and Reg Parnell. Come the race, Farina and Fangio eased away from the field; when the latter retired with eight laps to go, Farina was left to take victory and would go on to become the sport's inaugural World Champion. **Anorak fact** Details of prize money were published in the programme – Farina got £500 for his efforts

## **6** When Martin Brundle beat Ayrton Senna

The 1983 British Formula Three Championship wasn't much of a contest until Silverstone on 12 June. Entrants could choose to score points in either the British or European Championships, and such was Ayrton Senna's advantage in the former after winning the first nine races that he opted for the latter. Needing to close the gap in the domestic series, Martin Brundle initially stuck with that, but it meant running on slower British-spec tyres. After being only 12th fastest in first practice, the Englishman switched to the European competition, bolted on the faster tyres, and took pole position.

He led away, too, and for once Senna was on the back foot. When he crashed out and Brundle romped to victory, it marked a

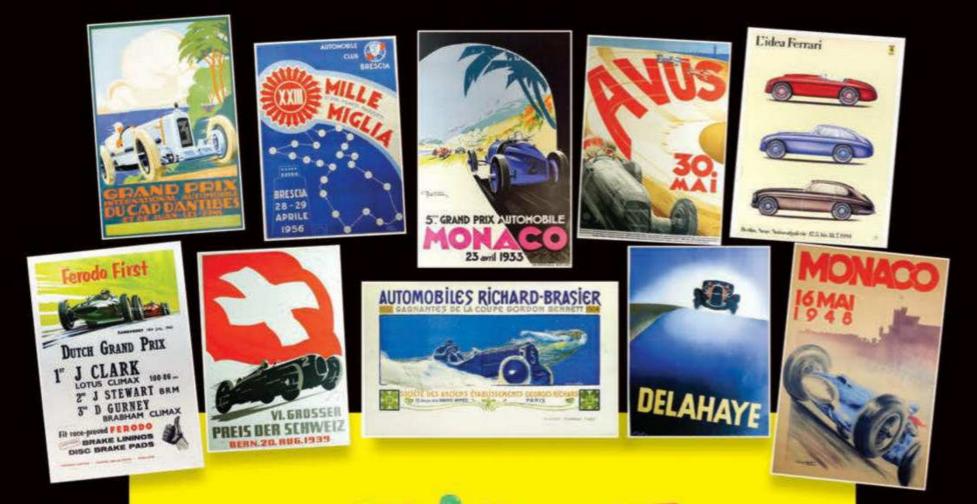


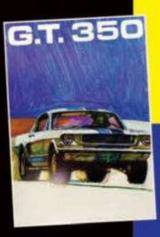


### 7 Changing of the guard



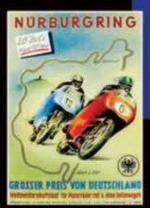
point. Brundle won six of the following nine races, although Senna eventually clinched the title at the final round. **Anorak fact** The only other person to win a race in that year was Calvin Fish, after Senna crashed into Brundle at Oulton Park and eliminated them both Lancia had been an occasional thorn in Porsche's side, but the German firm had nonetheless swept aside all before it in Group C. That changed when the TWR Jaguars arrived, and their first win came in the 1986 Silverstone 1000km. The XJR-6 of Derek Warwick and Eddie Cheever took victory after an entertaining battle with the Lancia of Andrea de Cesaris and Alessandro Nannini until the LC2 retired. The second-placed Porsche of Derek Bell and Hans Stuck was two laps down. **Anorak fact** After a long delay in the pits, de Cesaris went back out and broke the lap record by a staggering two seconds with a new best of 1 min 13.95 secs





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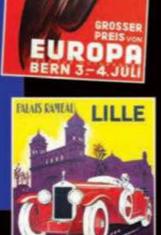






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### 8 Rosberg's record lap

Despite the chicane that had been added at Woodcote following the 1973 accident (below), average speeds had risen to the point where all eyes were on the 160mph barrier at the 1985 British Grand Prix. During Friday's first qualifying session, the Williams of Keke Rosberg got closest, the Finn claiming provisional pole at 159.668mph.

Although the track was dry on Saturday afternoon, the weather looked ominous. After everyone had taken their first runs, Rosberg was again quickest but a fraction short of the magic number. Then there was a rain shower, and that seemed to be that, but with just over 20 minutes remaining the sun reappeared and out they went again. At the very end of the session, Rosberg flashed across the line to stop the clocks at 1 min 5.591 secs – 160.925mph.

**Anorak fact** Not only were there still damp patches at Becketts and Stowe, but Rosberg's car was also later found to have a slow puncture...





### 10 González beats Alfa

When the new Formula One regulations were introduced for 1947, Alfa Romeo immediately became the dominant force with its beautiful 158, and that success continued into the World Championship era. In 1950, six grands prix counted - as did the Indianapolis 500, but let's not get bogged down in technicalities – and Alfa Romeo won all of them. In 1951, the updated 159 picked up the baton, and not until July 1951 - after nine consecutive victories - was the Turin manufacturer beaten in a Championship Grand Prix. It happened at Silverstone, where José Froilán González took pole position for Ferrari and finished more than 50 secs clear of his countryman Juan Manuel Fangio. **Anorak fact** Ferrari also won the next two Championship Grands Prix, in Germany and Italy, courtesy of Alberto Ascari

### 9 Mayhem at Woodcote

A major accident shouldn't be classified as a 'highlight', but there's no doubt that this shunt in the 1973 British Grand Prix was a significant moment in Silverstone's history. Jackie Stewart had a clear lead by the end of the first lap and could have been gone for the afternoon, had not all hell broken loose behind him. Jody Scheckter spun at Woodcote, hit the pit wall and drifted back into the middle of the track, where he was collected by everyone else following. Andrea de Adamich suffered a broken ankle and – for cars, if not yet for motorcycles – it spelled the end for Woodcote, one of motor-racing's great corners. **Anorak fact** Nine cars were eliminated in the shunt, including all three Surtees, leaving team owner John to mutter dark comments about "drivers trying to win the race on the first lap"



## Heading south of the river in an Austin FX3, the original black cab, and its successor, the FX4

WORDS ANDREW ROBERTS PHOTOGRAPHY TONY BAKER

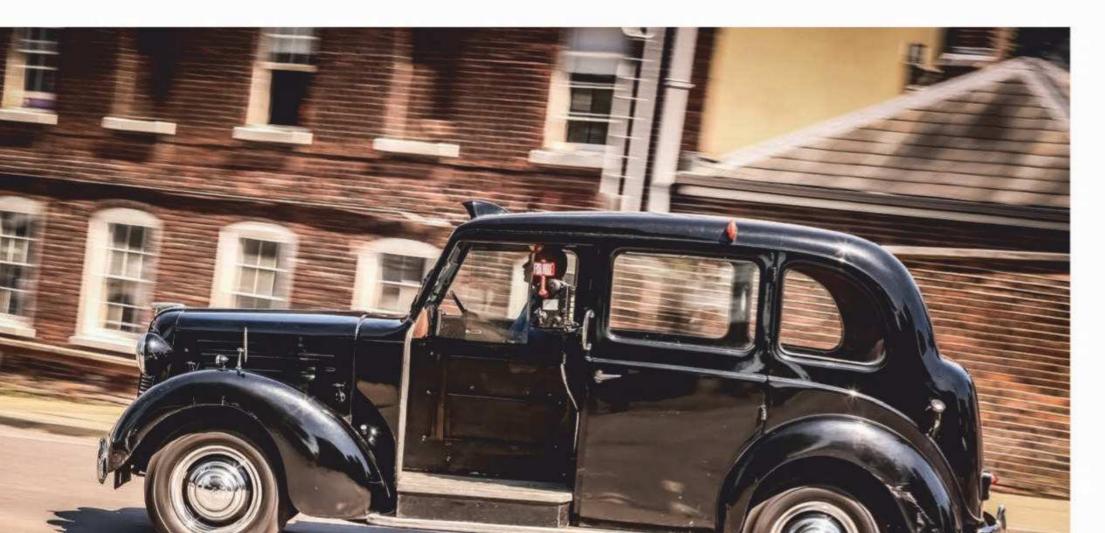


f 1948 was the year of the Jaguar XK120, the Land Rover, the Citroën 2CV and the Morris Minor, it also marked the debut of another car that merits the rare accolade of being correctly referred to as 'iconic'. It is no hyperbole to suggest that the Austin FX3 and its 1958 successor, the FX4, are vehicles that came to define the landscape of post-war London.

The FX3 was commissioned by Mann & Overton, which then held the concession for the Austin taxi chassis throughout the capital, and Longbridge gained the contract to design the new all-steel cab in 1945. The vehicle was to be constructed by Carbodies of Coventry. Naturally, it would have to be approved by the Public Carriage Office (PCO) of the Metropolitan Police as complying with the Conditions of Fitness regulations. Its *raison d'être* was to combine an all-new chassis with modern coachwork, while power was from the familiar 2199cc 'Big Four', because prototypes fitted with the 1535cc unit from the Austin Light Twelve proved incredibly slow.

"The FX3 was quite an achievement because it was built under tight economic circumstances after the Second World War," remarks Anthony Blackman, owner of our two cabs. "If you look at the grille and the bodywork, you can see the way in which Austin made use of surplus Sixteen parts. The Carriage Office ensured that there





It almost seems alarming to see the open luggage platform these days, but it was hugely useful for carrying large cases and steamer trunks

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were wide-opening rear doors and that the armrests were sufficiently narrow for the width of the back seat – you can see that it's a very accomplished design." The drive to the rear axle was by an open propshaft with Hardy-Spicer universal joints, via a four-speed gearbox. A three-speed transmission would have been less suited to the demands of working in the city.

The FX3 took a bow at the Mann & Overton showroom on Wandsworth Bridge Road in June 1948. Cabbies were impressed by the sealed cabin with a partition to the left of the driver – previous Austins left the operator open to the elements. There was also the bonus of integral Jackall hydraulic jacking, while the FX3's smart appearance looked as contemporary as any new A70 Hampshire or A90 Atlantic. The dashboard featured full instrumentation, the seats were upholstered in leather and there was provision for a heater. The opening windscreen aided both demisting and the negotiation of Piccadilly Circus during a pea-souper.

In 1949, the FX3 became one of the first city cabs to be fitted with a two-way radio – this innovation was celebrated in the 1954 B-feature *Radio Cab Murder* – and in 1951 the hydromechanical braking was replaced by an all-hydraulic set-up. This was also the taxi that created the tradition of the 'London black cab'; that was the standard finish, and many operators were reluctant to pay extra for another colour. Austin sold the chassis alone for conversion into ice-cream vans, hearses, shooting brakes and newspaper-delivery wagons, and also offered an FL1 Hire Car version, which lacked a division and featured a bench front seat and four doors. The latter remained a comparatively unusual sight, however, because the FL1 was subject to Purchase Tax, while this charge didn't apply to taxis from 1953 onwards.

One belated development was the introduction of the diesel-powered FX3D in 1954, a Longbridge response to the aftermarket conversions to Standard, Perkins and even Borgward units offered by several firms. Lower fuel bills more than offset the price of the engine change and the D cost just £95 more than the petrol-powered model. Its sales were further enhanced by the impact of the Suez Crisis, which prompted a temporary return to fuel rationing. The FX3D eventually outsold FX3 to the ratio of nine to one – which makes Blackman's 1956 cab a rare machine today.

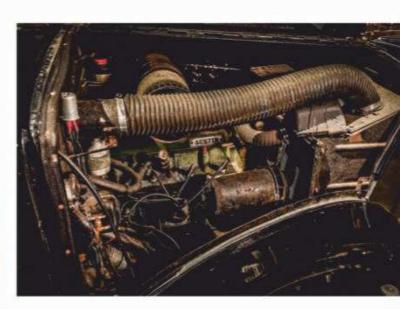
As with all later models, the trafficators had been replaced by 'bunny ear' indicators above the B-pillars because the semaphore arms had proved vulnerable to damage by clumsy passengers. From a 2018 perspective, the Austin FX3 appears to be very tall and exceptionally narrow. The height of the bodywork reflects an era in which men wore hats; the bowler did not disappear from London until the mid-'70s.

### **AUSTIN FX3**

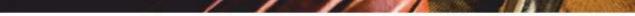
**Sold/number built** 1948-'58/12,435 (inc FL1) **Construction** pressed steel chassis, steel body Engine all-iron, ohv 2199cc 'four', Zenith carb Max power 67bhp @ 3800rpm Max torque 116lb ft @ 1700rpm Transmission four-speed manual with synchromesh on the top three ratios, RWD Suspension: front beam axle, hydraulic dampers, anti-roll bar **rear** live axle, semi-elliptic leaf springs Steering cam and gear Brakes drums Length 14ft 5in (4407mm) Width 5ft 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in (1715mm) Height 5ft 11in (1804mm) Wheelbase 9ft 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in (2810mm) Weight 3192lb (1448kg) **0-60mph** n/a **Top speed** 50mph **Mpg** 18 **Price new**  $\pm 910$  **Price now**  $\pm 12,000$ 

'A diesel-engined FX3 appeared six years after launch, and eventually outsold the petrol version by nine to one '





Clockwise from above: Blackman's FX3 is a petrol manual from 1957; period adverts in the rear; Marconi radio innovation was the Uber of its day; 'For Hire' flag was unique to the FX3 – the driver had to open the partition to use it; the cab is snug, but separated



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But what is the Austin like on the road? "The FX3 is not especially heavy to drive, providing you keep with the original crossply tyres," says Blackman. "It is a well-sorted design, and it attracts attention." This is a mild understatement, because a huge number of tourists want to pose with the FX3 – an understandable response to a vehicle of such innate charisma.

The passenger compartment is akin to being ensconced in a gentleman's club and there is the sound of that engine, as redolent of the past as the gong on a Daimler ambulance or the clank of Button 'A' in a public telephone box. The surroundings of our location in Chatham only intensify the illusion of being *en route* to the Port of London Authority headquarters in Charterhouse Street, although the fine weather is the antithesis of the standard image of the Austin FX3. For true authenticity, the headlamps should be battling with drizzle or thick fog somewhere near Wandsworth.

In the late 1950s, Longbridge was claiming – with justifiable pride – that: 'You see more Austin taxis on the streets of London than any other single make of cab.' Which was no great surprise because it had few rivals: the in-house Nuffield Oxford was a casualty of the creation of the British Motor Corporation, and while Beardmore taxis were lauded for their quality, they could not compete with the dominance of the FX3. They were still plying their trade in the West End in 1968, by then a sight on a par with steam trains or Lyons Corner Houses as relics of the past that were still encountered during the 1960s. Nor was this the end of the narrative, because as recently as the early 1970s it was still possible to find them looking for fares in seaside resorts, by then appearing highly incongruous alongside Hillman Avengers and Ford Cortina MkIIIs, but still ready to work.

After 10 years in service, the FX3 was the archetypical 'London Taxi' and virtually a mobile landmark, which posed a considerable challenge in the creation of its successor. Work on the FX4 commenced in 1956, with styling the responsibility of Jake Donaldson of Carbodies and Eric Bailey at Austin. The 2.2-litre diesel engine (a petrol motor would not be offered until 1962) was mounted further forward on the box-section chassis, which meant enhanced cabin space. Meanwhile, beneath that new coachwork there was independent front suspension. The prototype was passed for approval by the PCO in July 1958 and trialled by York Way Motors Ltd, with the FX4 being the star of the Commercial Vehicle Show. Official sales began in November, although full production didn't get under way until late 1959.

If the FX3 belongs to a world of Demob suits, police telephone boxes, gas-lit alleyways and films with Nigel Patrick as the debonair leading man, the Austin FX4 was indicative of late-1950s

### **AUSTIN FX4**

Sold/number built 1958-'97/43,225 (inc FL2) Construction pressed steel chassis, steel body Engine all-iron, ohv 2178cc diesel 'four,' Zenith carb Max power 55bhp @ 3500rpm Max torque 89lb ft @ 2800rpm Transmission Borg-Warner three-speed auto, RWD Suspension: front independent, by wishbones, coil springs rear live axle, semielliptic leaf springs Steering cam and peg Brakes drums Length 14ft 11<sup>3</sup>/4in (4566mm) Width 5ft 8<sup>3</sup>/4in (1740mm) Height 5ft 9<sup>1</sup>/2in (1765mm) Wheelbase 9ft 2<sup>1</sup>/2in (2810mm) Weight 3809lb (1728kg) O-60mph n/a Top speed 59mph Mpg 25 Price new n/a Price now £10,000

'The FX4 was indicative of late-'50s renewal, a cab for the capital city of the Routemaster bus and Brutalist architecture'



The FX4 arrived to much acclaim in 1958, and did away with the FX3's separate front wings and side-opening bonnet



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renewal. It was a conveyance for the capital city of the Routemaster bus and Brutalist architecture. Because the FX4 was based on the same chassis as the FX3 it had a similar wheelbase, but although it was just one inch wider and only four inches longer, the latest Austin taxi appeared a far more substantial machine.

The most remarkable aspect of the FX4 was the lack of an open luggage platform, thereby bringing an end to the tradition of the cabbie opening the side partition to pull down the 'For Hire' flag on the meter. "A three-door prototype was shown at the Commercial Vehicle Show," says Blackman, "because there was still the belief that there was a need to carry heavy suitcases and steamer trunks alongside the driver." This version never entered production, however, and the FX4 became London's first four-door taxi.

The front compartment was better suited to the cabbie's needs, with a far more comfortable seat and an improved heater and demister in contrast to the optional set up on the FX3: "It was so convoluted that you needed to be travelling at 50mph to feel the benefit!" This also meant a fixed windscreen, while one item of equipment that was originally absent was a rearview mirror – left off to ensure additional privacy for the passengers in the back.

The last variant of FX4, the London Taxis International Fairway, was built in 1997, and at first glance Blackman's taxi appears to be all-too familiar. Then you notice the badge on the bonnet, the 'For Hire' sign above the windscreen, the side lamps atop the wings and those distinctive indicators. Inside, the folding seats face forward, and in place of a sliding division there is a porthole for communication with the driver. WLP 316 dates from 1959 and it is believed to be the oldest FX4 in the world.

The new taxi was considerably heavier than its predecessor, and Blackman notes that it can feel a little sluggish when compared with the FX3. A lot of cabbies initially complained that they couldn't pull away from the kerb with a full load of passengers, while the Borg-Warner transmission increased fuel costs; many drivers regarded an automatic gearbox with some suspicion, too. BMC's logic was to minimise fatigue, but in practice many drivers often experienced some difficulties in getting to grips with this new system. By 1961, the FX4 was available with a manual 'box sourced from the Austin Gipsy.

The early Austin FX4 lacked soundproofing because the PCO believed it to be a potential fire hazard. The result, as eloquently demonstrated by Blackman's taxi, is an engine note amplified in a *Spinal Tap*-style 'up to 11'. The arrival of WLP 316 on location has the power to quell virtually all conversation. This issue would not be rectified until the FX4 had been in production for a decade; post-1968 models are recognised via their ADO16 Mk2 tail-lights, more comfortable front compartment and slightly more restrained noise level.

By the end of the 1960s, almost all London taxis were Austin FX4s. The British Motor Corporation had intended it to be replaced by the ADO39, a project initially headed by Alec Issigonis and David Bache, but this was a victim of new management after the Leyland takeover. The Bailey/Donaldson design would remain in service for another 45 years, and when the last Fairway was decommissioned in 2012, two generations of Britons couldn't remember a time when it was absent from the nation's taxi ranks.

As with any great motor car, it is the smallest details of the FX3 and the FX4 that evoke the recent past. The sound of the meter flag being lowered, or the flashing 'bunny ear' as it acknowledges a cry of "Taxi!" on the mean streets of Kent. Best of all, an advertisement above the partition recommended that punters call WATerloo 7722 for a ride. By the end of our day with these black cabs, it is very hard to resist the temptation to make that call, or to imagine the fantasy journey concluding with Sid James, Sam Kydd or Fred Griffiths grumbling miserably about their 6d tip: "Are you sure you can spare that, guy'nor?"

**Thanks to** The Historic Dockyard Chatham (www.thedockyard.co.uk); London Vintage Taxi Association (www.lvta.co.uk)





Clockwise from above: sturdy diesel is sluggish; Blackman believes WLP 316 is the oldest FX4 in existence; two-way radio was introduced in '49; vintage cues include the illuminated 'For Hire' sign; early meter; Spartan cabin – it took cabbies a while to













## THE SL THAT CAME INFROM THE COLD

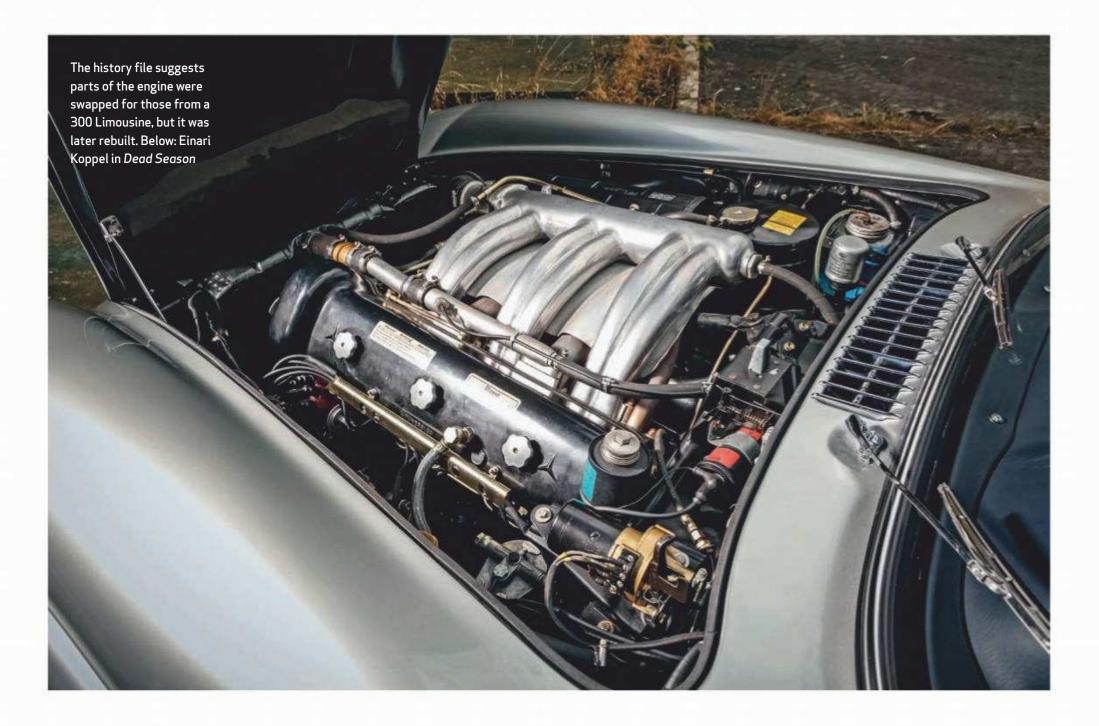
Thought to be the only Gullwing that was exported new to the Soviet Union, this Mercedes has led a remarkable life

WORDS JAMES PAGE PHOTOGRAPHY TONY BAKER











ot often do you find a car that has rumours of KGB involvement, high-stakes card games, movie stardom and even a tenuous link to Vladimir Putin in its history. But this

Mercedes 300SL spent the first three decades of its life in the Soviet Union – a technological wonder of the Western world that arrived

behind the Iron Curtain at a time when Nikita Khrushchev was championing what he saw as the impending victory of Communism over capitalism.

Its mere presence there at the height of the Cold War is a story in itself. So is the fact that it was eventually brought back to Germany and restored, and is now kept in pristine condition by its current owner, Anatoly Evdokimov. A young Russian who speaks quickly and passionately about classic cars, Evdokimov has enthusiastically embraced the challenge of separating fact from fiction when it comes to this particular 300SL. He's also living proof of how much Russia has changed over the past few decades. "My dad was a keen driver," he explains. "A really good one. He put me behind the wheel - of a Lada – when I was six years old. It not only gave me a proper shot of adrenalin, but it also taught me how to drive, with no power steering. This is how Russians become Russians! I was sitting on his lap, he was changing gears and I was steering. From that moment on, we would do lots of road trips. I was besotted with cars.

"I got my driving licence aged 18, but I didn't appreciate cars the way I do now. I didn't go into their history and see their significance in that way. I had a Porsche 911 turbo, which was my obsession from the age of 13. I started adding a bit of power to it, and that's when somebody said, 'You really ought to think about buying a proper car, a car that's a wonderful machine but also a good investment.' I'd never really thought about cars in that way.



Private ownership of a car during the Soviet era was a complicated business. You had to apply for a permit and the government put quotas in place. If you worked for a particular company, it might be given a certain number of cars, which in turn were allocated to lucky workers. Having gone through all of that, people tended to hang onto their prized possessions, so there wasn't even a secondhand market as such.

There were ways around it, of course, most of

which centred on two considerations: money and power. But even then, we're still talking about homegrown cars here. Foreign machinery was even rarer, and exotic foreign machinery – such as a Mercedes-Benz 300SL – was practically unheard of.

"It wasn't possible at that time in the USSR," says Evdokimov. "It's so surreal. Unless you were at the very, very top of the hierarchy - Mikhail Gorbachev or whoever - or you were a Gagarin or similar, there's just no way you could have owned a car such as that. And even if you did, driving it around would not have been a good idea at all. You couldn't show off wealth in that way." The first thing Evdokimov did was look up the name of the person on the SL's document of ownership. "Quickly it became obvious that this guy was indeed a very special gentleman," he says. "He was an aircraft engineer with multiple awards of the highest order for extraordinary achievement." The man in question seemed to be Alexander Mikulin, who designed Russia's first liquid-cooled, piston aero engine, as well as the

"I bought a Porsche Carrera GT for crazystupid money, and was blown away by it. Then James [Cottingham] called me and said, 'I know you've been considering a Gullwing, but there are a few things we should really look into because there's something about the car's papers.' I thought it could be anything, but when he gave me the passport, the USSR document of ownership, that's when my eyes opened..."

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engine for its first jet airliner, the Tupolev Tu-104: "But there was one thing that didn't fit the story – the guy was too old. When I looked up the name, his age made the whole thing lose any sense. Then I found out that he had a son, and the son was also named Alexander. He was a skilled driver who was often called on to perform stunts in movies. It was his name that was on the document. But, even being a stuntman, having a car like this in your own name wouldn't make much sense. It's just a crazy story."

It didn't get any less crazy the more Evdokimov looked into it. The document of ownership placed the 300SL in the Soviet Union during the 1980s, but it had apparently been there for almost its entire life. The 300SL Register noted only that it was completed on 30 July 1956 – there was no information listed about its early owners or subsequent life – but it's thought that it went straight to Russia, making it surely the only Gullwing to do so.

One theory is that the KGB arranged for it to be imported, and it ended up at a fuel research 'Vladimir Putin revealed that *Dead Season*, in which this SL starred, inspired him to become an intelligence officer'



actually dealt with the import of the car. The KGB is an organisation; there still has to be somebody who deals with it. His name wouldn't be mentioned anywhere for obvious reasons, but he seemed to have the car."

In 1968 it turned up in *Myortvyy Sezon* (*Dead Season*), a moodily shot, black-and-white Russian film starring Donatas Banionis. He plays a Soviet spy, Ladeynikov, tasked with tracking down Dr Hass, a German war criminal who's working on a poison gas that he'd tested during WW2. Ladeynikov hooks up with Ivan Savush-kin – a prisoner in the camp where Hass used to carry out his experiments – in order to stop him. It's a typical spy thriller of the time – hepcat soundtrack, lots of smoking, laughable fight sequences – and opens with a warning from a very serious-looking old man about how evil capitalist countries such as the UK and America were working on chemical weapons.

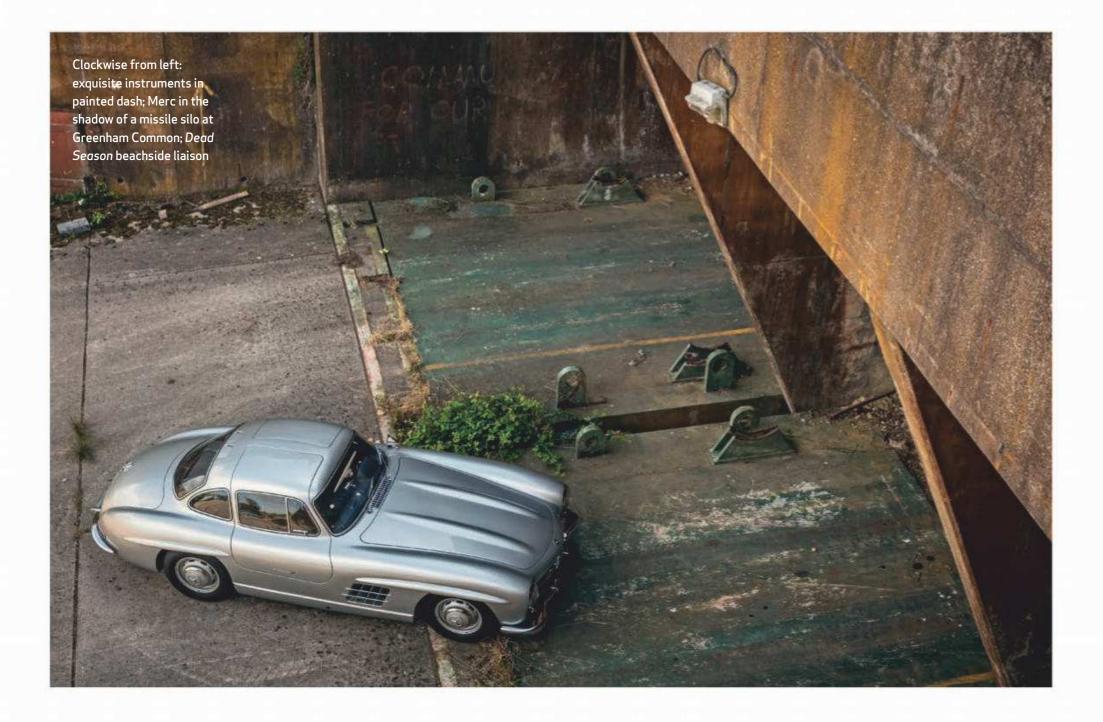
The film uses various locations and is a carspotter's delight, with everything from Ford Taunus to Hudson Hornet and GAZ Chaika making an appearance. By far the best entrance is reserved for the SL, though, which comes roaring through the countryside to the accompaniment of badly dubbed engine noises, then arrives on a beach, where it performs a perfectly executed powerslide around a 1932 Lincoln. Whether doing that, gliding over cobbled back-streets or just sitting in a car park, the Mercedes is an other-worldly presence in otherwise dour surroundings. An interesting footnote to its appearance is that Banionis - who starred in a number of highbrow films during the 1960s and 1970s - met Vladimir Putin in 2004. The President apparently confirmed that Banionis'

institute in Leningrad – now St Petersburg. In its history file are notes made much later suggesting that its engine was removed in order to study Mercedes' innovative fuel-injection system, and replaced with one from a 300 Limousine. By the time it was restored in Germany in the late 1990s and early 2000s, however, the original engine was back with the car, and it seems far more likely that the research institute simply removed the injection system itself.

How long the 300SL stayed in Leningrad is unclear, but in those early years it's thought that it was looked after by Boris Znamenski, as Evdokimov explains: "He was the guy who







performance in *Dead Season* had inspired him to become an intelligence officer.

The fact that the SL stayed in Russia meant that its subsequent custodians must have been very well connected. At some point, it was acquired by Gennady Grushevsky, a successful powerboat racer. After Grushevsky came Mikulin – the name that appeared on the ownership document – but there are differing theories about how he came to get his hands on it. By far

the most appealing is that Mikulin – who'd staked a Chevrolet Impala that was apparently registered to production company Mosfilm – won the Mercedes in a marathon game of cards that took place in the exclusive Nikolina Gora district west of Moscow. The more prosaic version is that the car spent a while off the road during the 1970s because of problems maintaining the injection system, and that Grushevsky eventually traded it for Mikulin's Audi.

"The end of it all was that the car was

alone totalled DM41,897, but the DEKRA assessment went on to praise its overall condition and original specification. Shortly afterwards, it arrived in the UK, which is where Evdokimov keeps it, pointing out that, in Russia: "The season changes are not nice at all."

Mikulin once said in an interview that he found the 300SL not to be the ideal everyday companion, and Evdokimov's early impressions were along the same lines: "When I drove it for



100% there. It's amazing that they've managed to carry that through over the years.

"My favourite detail is actually the dials. I love watches and when I look at them, the craftsmanship is on the level of Swiss watchmakers. It's so beautifully made – it's so fine in every way."

The Russia of 2018 is very different from the Russia into which the SL was imported in 1956. Its freedom and wealth have led to a burgeoning classic-car scene: "First people get money and

> then they start spending it on all the things that are fashionable. They then start to look deeper and have the ability to appreciate other things. That's what's happening. The country is opening up and it's becoming more popular.

"Cars are a very special topic because people have always appreciated the arts - architects, poets, painters. But very few were able to view a car as a work of art. That's definitely changing. There are probably more classic cars in Russia than I or anyone else knows about." During the Cold War, the rhetoric was based around 'them and us', East vs West. As a musician who spends much of his life travelling, Evdokimov is part of a new generation of enthusiasts - the latest Russian custodian of this charismatic and quite possibly unique 300SL, but different in every other way from those who came before. "A car breaks the ice between people," he says. "In every man there's a boy. We talk about cars and our differences fade. We connect."

shipped out of the USSR to Germany," explains Evdokimov. "There's a little stamp that basically says the car was sold through a commission store."

This was during the 1990s, after the Cold War had thawed and the Communist regime had crumbled, and in fact there had been rumours that the Mercedes had perished in a fire. While those proved to be wide of the mark, it was clearly a little tired – its 2004 DEKRA report goes further and says that it was in 'a terrible state' when it arrived from Russia – because its file documents a thorough restoration process. The rebuild of the engine and gearbox

the first time, my friend and I took it through London and I thought we were going to cook in there! It was so unbearably hot – I felt like one of those chickens turning in an oven. It was not a particularly warm evening, either."

He nonetheless describes being "infatuated" with the 300SL: "Even if someone had put me in it and told me to close my eyes, I'd have known it was a Mercedes-Benz. The DNA is

**Thanks to** James Cottingham at DK Engineering (01923 287687; www.dkeng.co.uk); Shane Prater



## ARESE BEHIND THE SCENES

These previously unseen photographs from the '60s shine a light on a golden era for Alfa Romeo

WORDS MICK WALSH PHOTOGRAPHY ALFA ROMEO CENTRO DOCUMENTAZIONE/QUATTRORUOTE ARCHIVE

he early '60s was an important transition time for Alfa Romeo. Prior to WW2, the Milanese firm's annual production had only once topped 1000 cars, the automotive division being just one element of a broader portfolio ranging from commercials to aero engines. With the success of the Giulietta, however, output rapidly expanded and by 1960 had reached 33,606.

Production had been based at Portello for generations, but ambitious plans in the early '60s for a new range of more affordable cars required a larger factory to satisfy demand. A site was found 10 miles north in Arese, located conveniently near the *autostrada*. While much of the mechanical assembly initially remained at the old plant, the new facility was designed for mass production and the first floor opened in 1963 with the relocated Giulia Ti line. The first car completed at Arese, however, was a Sprint GT - as presented to the press on 9 September. Engineers had planned for an annual 150,000 capacity, and the 100,000 mark was passed for the first time in 1969. Alfa management was rightfully proud of the new factory, and thankfully its development was extensively photographed. Only recently has this vivid record come to light, revealing a pre-automated time when Alfas were hand-built and finished by a dedicated workforce. From the intense heat of the foundry, where the aluminium engines were cast, to crash-testing at Balocco, these previously unpublished images offer a fascinating window into life at 1960s Alfa Romeo.

These are not edited press shots, but an authentic view of working life. The equipment at various production stages makes an interesting study, such as the huge Eustacchio presses that stamped out panels or the early IBM computers in the test department. Likewise the people, with muscular men removing still-glowing crankshafts from the moulds or female workers fitting wiring on harness plans. Sales manager Enrico Sala and other management took regular tours around the assembly lines of the new facility.

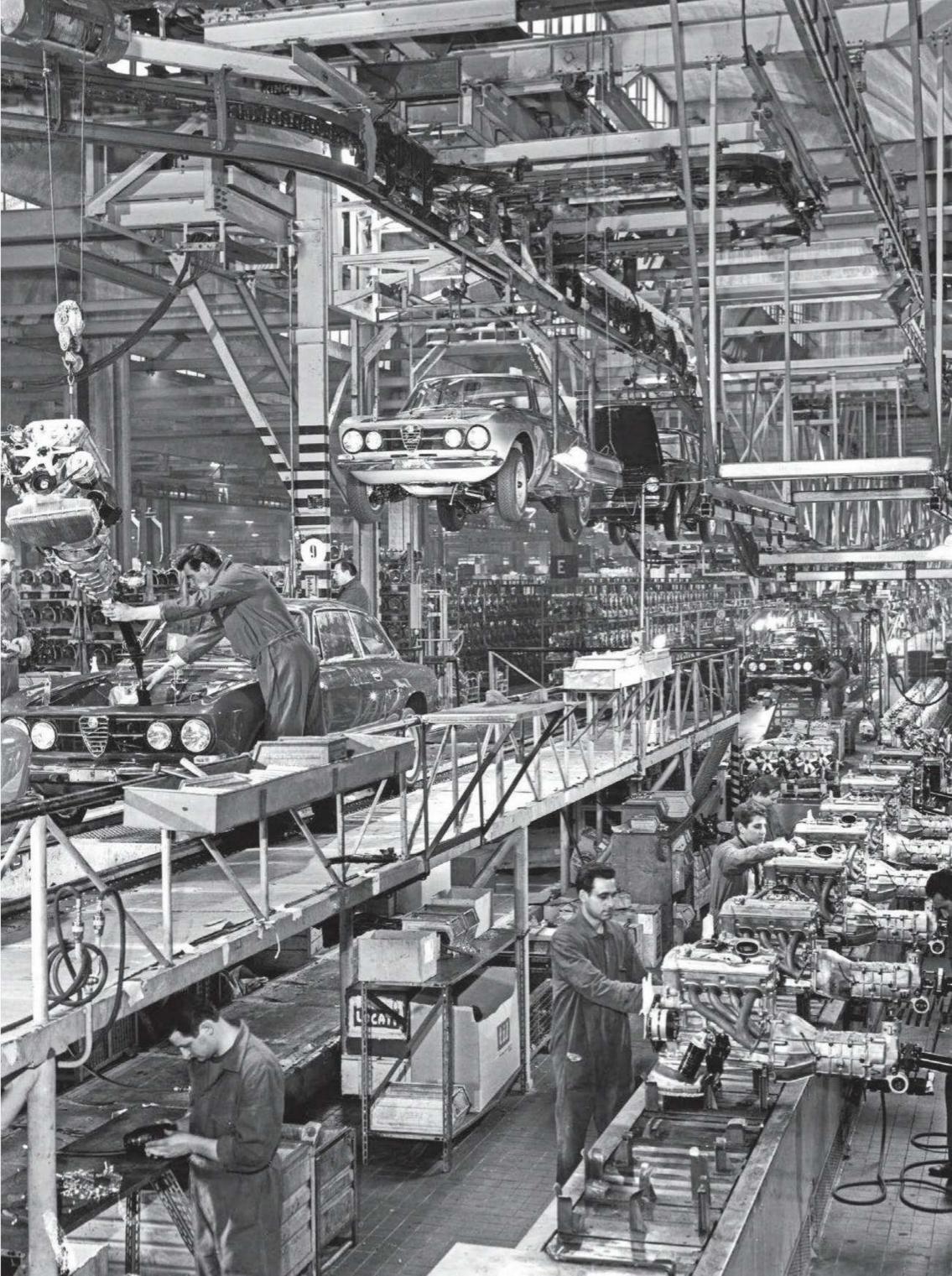
These remarkable images were discovered by German enthusiast Patrick Dasse in the factory archives. As well as press shots of various 101and 105-series models, Dasse found thousands of negatives of the newly completed Arese plant. With the encouragement of Dr Marco Fazio, manager of the Centro Documentazione, Dasse began planning a series of ambitious books. "I've never met anyone with so much dedication and such deep love for Alfa Romeo as Dr Fazio," says Dasse. "Without him, this project would never have seen the light of day."

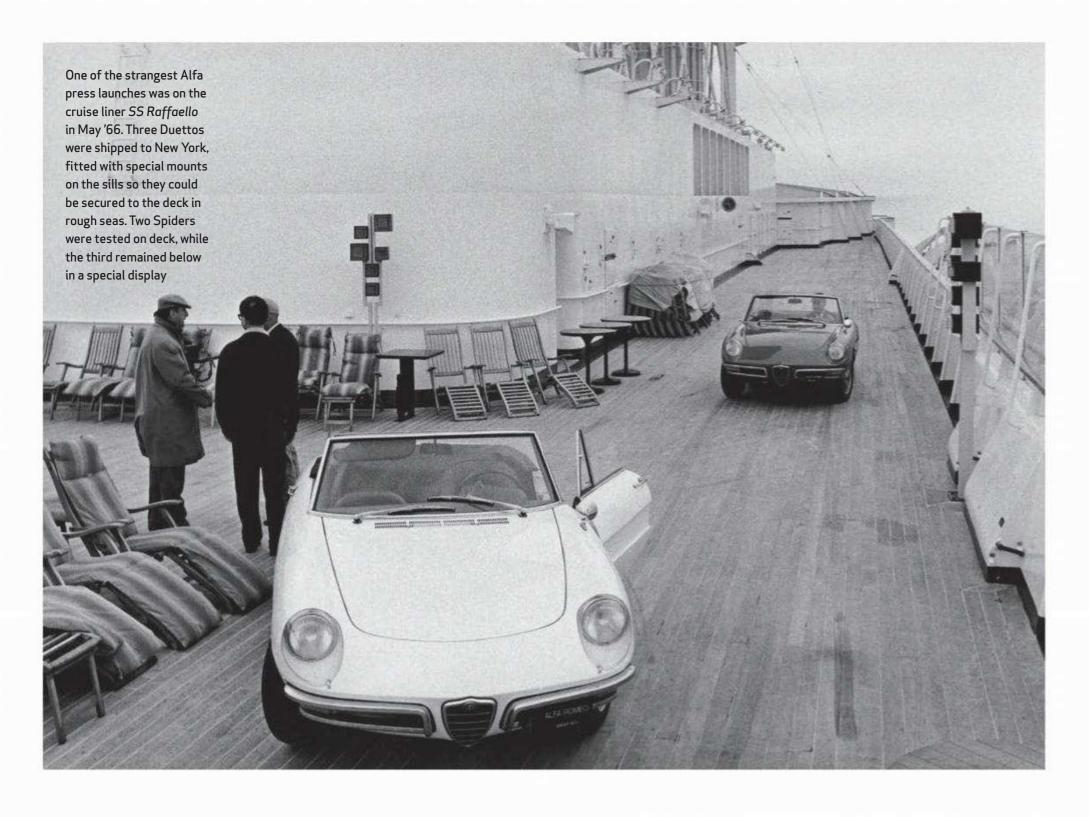
Above: a welder applies the finishing touches to the A-post join of a bare Giulia GT body during production at the Arese plant, while a visitor looks on. The body pressings were entirely welded together by specialist workers as the assembly moved along the line

**Thanks to** publisher Dingwort Verlag: www.dingwort-verlag.de

Right: not a robot in sight. A spectacular shot of final assembly in Hall 2 at Arese, with Berlinas and GTs coming through on the overhead track, ready for engines and gearboxes to be installed. After this, the final stage was the fitting of the radiator and interior before tuning and testing

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Left: an Alfa Romeo GTC is enlisted for *Extraordinario*, a new promotional film about the Pirelli Cinturato shot at Monza in 1965. The open four-seater has its windscreen removed to avoid reflections, and is being driven by a perturbed Juan Manuel Fangio. The director, cameraman and heavy kit proved too much for the GTC's suspension Above: once the go-ahead was given to develop the production Montreal, Alfa went to great lengths to hide the new GT during testing at Balocco and on the public roads. In spring 1968, a *Quattroruote* spy photographer caught the V8 prototype testing with an estate-style disguise – two years before the car was unveiled in Geneva

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Oh, for a time machine to travel back to the 1968 Turin show! The impressive Alfa range of Spider 1300 Junior, GTA, Giulia GTs and Berlinas are shown beside the long-tail T33 sportsprototypes that finished fourth, fifth and sixth at Le Mans. The modest display featured wood parquet flooring emblazoned with the famous Alfa badge

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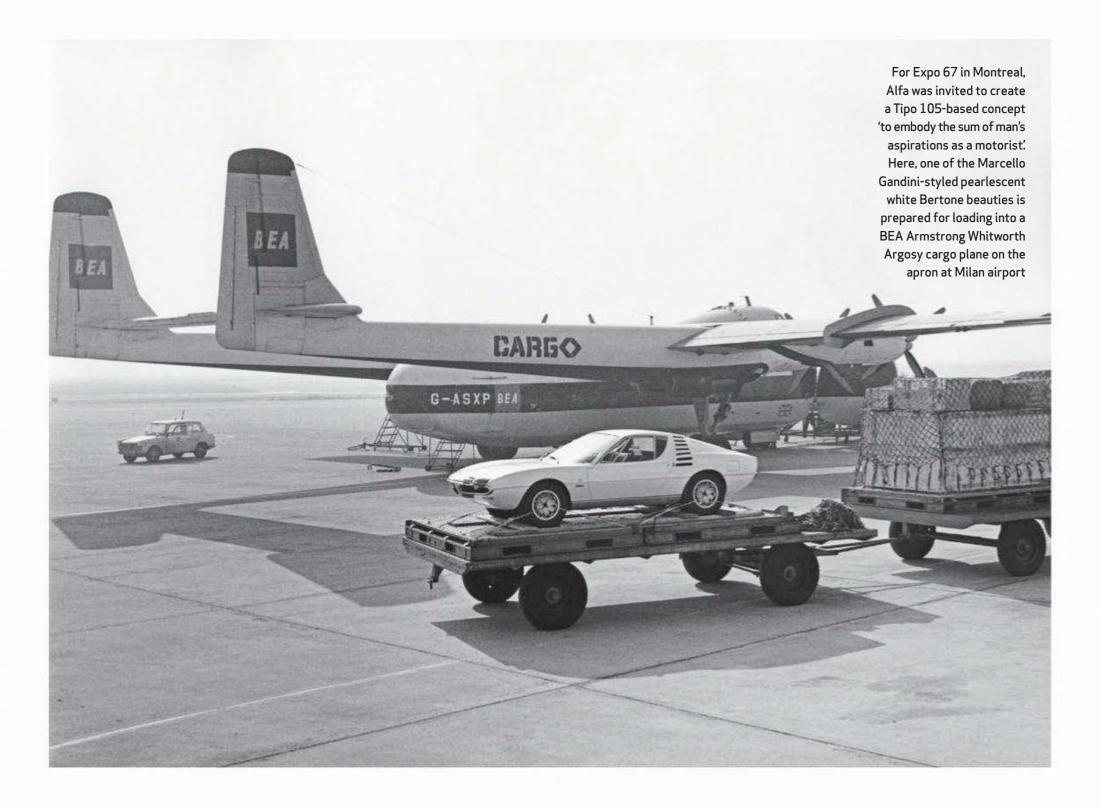
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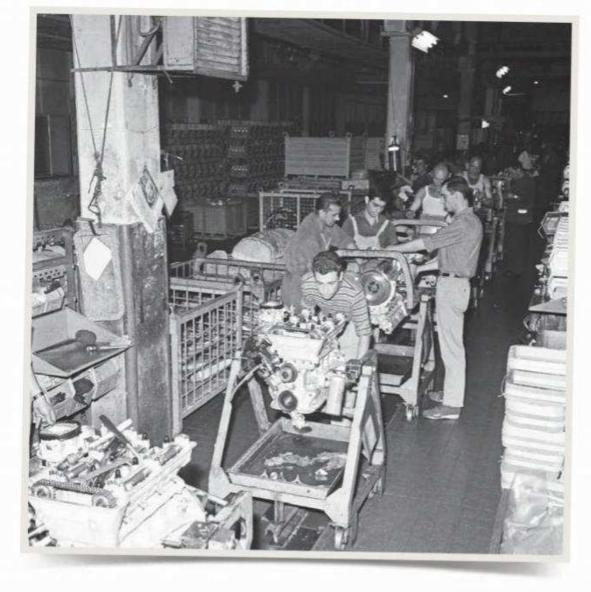
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Above: Alfa has a long history with Zagato, and in '69 design of a new coupé began in the Terrazzano di Rho workshops. In this photo, Elio and Gianni Zagato inspect work on the Ercole Spada-designed prototype, based on a Tipo 105 Spider platform, as it nears completion. Minor differences include the dash and wider rear arches Right: in addition to the foundry and forge, the old Portello works featured engine assembly. After castings had been machined, they were taken to the production line. Here, in the hot summer of 1963, workers torque up the classic twin-cams before valve covers are fitted and the engines are trucked over to Arese



## ROLLOF HUNDER

Drop everything and head to Northern Ireland on a wild TVR chase? It's an offer that's too good to resist, for an epic classic road trip

WORDS ROSS ALKUREISHI PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES MANN



flippant comment from me over a couple of beers is all it took for Paul Jackson of Bristol-based TVR specialist Amore Autos to commit my willingness to memory. Having been regaled with tales of derring-do from his business partner Mark Cosh's recent trip to Bulgaria to buy a dark-blue TVR Tuscan, when he cut a futuristic glassfibre swathe through eastern and central Europe back to their base, my reply – "If you ever do anything like that again, give me a shout" – is most definitely now in play.

"Where? When?" I ask. Then: "That soon?" A quick glance at the mounting to-do list on my office wall is followed by: "I'm in." Of course, the most difficult aspect of any road trip is getting it past my partner, who is already of the mind that "messing around with old cars" barely constitutes working. And as for two days on the road in a sports car... best not to repeat that particular opinion. God loves a trier, though, which is how I find myself the following day at Bristol Airport with a ticket for its Belfast equivalent, and still absolutely no idea as to the identity of our target vehicle – well, aside from one rather big three-lettered clue.

Jackson arrives, proffers a handshake and, reading my mind, states: "350i and Chimaera." Excellent: an old-school V8 'wedge', plus an even more powerful, curvaceous V8 from the newer wave. "Private sale," he continues. Great, what could possibly go wrong? From top: Blackpool duo at the dramatic Titanic Belfast building; vendor Hawthorne with Jackson in the shadow of the Harland & Wolffe Samson and Goliath cranes; Cerbera chases its ancestor – both wear non-standard alloys







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From top: Chimaera interior marked a big step forward in quality - knob between the seats opens the doors; 400 has Rover V8 in 3950cc, 240bhp form; TVR duo feels wide on narrow lanes at the foot of the Wicklow mountains





Plenty, if Cosh's trip is an indicator. Appar-

#### 'The chassis reverberates underneath as a second V8 explosion shatters the morning air, before settling to a deep rumble'

Several "we're here" and "where?" calls later, the penny drops: we're at different airports. It's Keystone Cops time, but I booked my flight first and who knew Belfast had two?

The portents of doom begin to shift upon seeing the TVRs. Fully prepared and ready for the off are two notable milestones of the Peter Wheeler years: a Nightfire Red V8 wedge, in all its short-tailed, pointy-snouted glory, and the second offering of that bold new '90s era, the Chimaera, here in Cherry Red, its glassfibre moulded sensuously rather than aligned with a set-square. After quick inspections of each, both look to be in fine fettle; the 350i's colour wins, but I know which I prefer the looks of and unceremoniously grab the Chimaera keys.

The cabin is all leather, brushed aluminium and thick red carpeting, but fire it up and any illusion that this is a luxury car disappears. The chassis reverberates underneath as a second V8 explosion shatters the morning air from the 350i, before it, too, settles into a deep, low rumble. With a quick wave we're off, destination Rosslare on Ireland's south coast - route to be decided. Although we're a wee bit behind schedule, our only real time constraint is making tomorrow morning's ferry for Pembroke.

As we roar onto the A12, the Chimaera is already impressing with the glorious noise from its aftermarket sports exhaust – it sounds mighty good: one part cannon, one part Snap, Crackle and Pop. A worry when picking up an unknown classic can be the vagaries enacted upon it by previous owners – it's amazing how positive or negative an effect these can have, even with a car so simple in formula as the Chimaera. As we hit the city centre, roofs down, for a whistle-stop sightseeing tour, there's huge pleasure to be had from blipping the accelerator at traffic lights. It's reassuring to see the 'professional' in the lane beside me doing exactly the same, as we communicate via our 16 cylinders.

We take in the awe-inspiring Samson and Goliath cranes, and of course Eric Kuhne's phenomenal, sharp-edged Titanic Belfast building – all from our driving seats. "Did the same lad design your car?" I shout, ignoring my companion's scoff as we downchange and power out of town: time to get some miles under our

ently the Tuscan performed with aplomb, but an insurance mix-up led to the driver being stopped 30 minutes in and bundled into a police van. "We were given incorrect advice not to register the car on the Motor Insurance Database," says Jackson. "It was within minutes of being impounded, but they couldn't work out how to get in. During the delay, Mark called me and I was able to get it on the MID immediately. With a bit of persuasion, he was on his way." As we descend into the Northern Irish capital, we're welcomed by a dark, imposing sky. Vendor Ian Hawthorne calls to arrange our pick-up point, but when we arrive there are no cars.

wheels. At Lisburn we take the A1 south, flashing past Hillsborough Castle.

Already it's clear that the Chimaera is the consummate open GT. The 4-litre V8 is so flexible, pulling from low down in the rev range, yet with instant power always on tap – overtaking is a pleasurable cinch: you see your space, bang, and you're inhabiting it. The steering is nicely weighted, while the small, short-travel gearlever shifts with a pleasingly mechanical precision and the stiff throttle constantly reminds you of the sheer clout available beneath your right foot. Best of all is the cabin, which lifted the quality of the marque's interiors to new heights.

### TOUR AUTO 2019 Optic 2000

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#### 'Throw in some vivid red leather and a centre console that looks like an afterthought, and it all gets a touch confused'

Just south of Newry, we pass effortlessly into the Republic of Ireland - something that would have been impossible during the 350i's production life and even at the start of the Chimaera's. The clouds, which had started breaking some 15 miles north, are now much more sparse and warm sunshine floods the land. As Jackson and I spar with each other, giving rapid bursts of acceleration before tucking in and allowing the other to barrel through, I'm aware of two things: just how good the 350i sounds, and a slight but distinct warming to its origami looks.

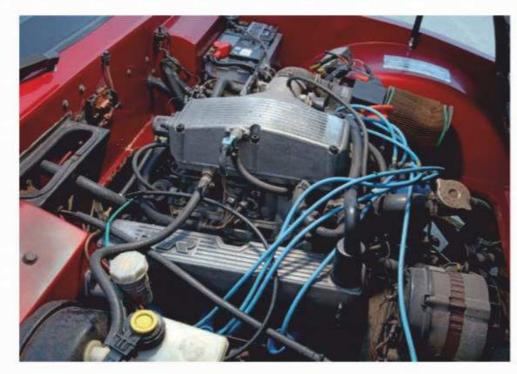
In no time we're on the M50 circumventing Dublin, amid heavy traffic that materialised seemingly out of nowhere. However, all's not well with the Chimaera – ah, the dreaded TVR reliability demons, but it feels more like a tyre issue. I gesticulate to Jackson and we pull over to confirm a flat tyre. The spacesaver spare is fitted quickly, redundant wheel lumped into the passenger seat - where else? - and after locating the nearest tyre shop, it's soon having a new one fitted while we grab some lunch.

After I've eulogised about the Chimaera driving experience, Jackson offers his perspective. "They're our bread-and-butter," he explains. "The model accounts for more than half of all TVR production. Year-on-year they've gone up 10% in value, for the past four or five, yet you can still get a decent runner from £10,000. Below that you're looking at a project, and chassis outriggers, interior trim, paint or engine work can each cost around £2k. There's also choice in terms of engine size: most are 4-litres, but the 'big daddy' - a late Mk3 5-litre - will cost £25k or more. Get a good example of any and the running costs are reasonable – as with the 350i, you can usually budget less than £1000 a year."

We swap cars and head south off the main thoroughfare on to the R115. As we climb into the Wicklow Mountains National Park, it's time also for a change of environment to find out how good the TVRs are on the tight and twisties. The first thoughts on the wedge are that the cabin is certainly of its era - lost somewhere between the walnut dash and piped-leather seats of the previous generation, and the move upmarket of the next. Throw in some vivid red leather, and a centre console that looks like afterthought,



Above: wedge at rest on Rosslare beach - brightred additions lift the angular interior, but the glovebox lid was originally veneered. Right: the Buickderived, all-aluminium Rover V8 makes 197bhp in 3.5-litre form for the 350i



information to your fingertips. Don't get on until we hit Rosslare at dusk. The cars are the throttle too early, but once the wheels are quickly deposited at the hotel and I'm persuaded straight, power on with a blare from the big-bore to have a pint of Guinness. I wouldn't normally touch it back in the UK, but this is delicious exhausts. There's a lot of fun to be had here. As the mountains echo to the crackling exersuggesting that they're keeping the good stuff tions of twin TVRs, my confidence builds. With for themselves. A quick bite to eat and it's off 197bhp and 220lb ft torque, however, I'm occato bed, eardrums throbbing, to sleep the sleep sionally reminded to take care by a rear-end of the contented petrolhead. twitch. It's amazing to think that the company Having failed to discuss the 350i's merits the stumbled on its strident V8 formula by default, night before - blame the black stuff, the craic and fatigue – we do so on the top deck of the ferry. choosing to replace Ford V6 with Rover V8 to remove the American link for the political mine-It's a glorious day, and bodes well for Wales. "The 350i is the car that got me in to TVRs," field of the wealthy Gulf States. With evening threatening, we join the M11 at explains Jackson. "And today it still gives you the Junction 20 and from there it's foot to the floor best bang for your buck. The pre-cat sound is

and it all gets a touch confused.

The chassis feels more crude than that of the later car, and crashes a little over imperfections in the road, sending a judder through the thick glassfibre body. However, it's a long way from the shake, rattle and roll of earlier TVRs, and the suspension remains compliant on all but the worst surfaces. That's a good thing, because matters are beginning to get decidedly choppy, and as we hit a healthy-sized bump I'm glad I'm in this car and not the lower Chimaera. Many sporty V8s would flounder on roads such as these, but enter a tight corner in the 350i and the steering loads up, feeding a flow of

glorious, but the styling is completely Marmite – loved and hated in equal measure. I think of them as in-between cars – they're undervalued and playing catch-up, both dynamically and in terms of looks. You do get the full TVR experience, though, and if you're easy on the throttle it'll return 30mpg – plus they are fantastic value: £4500-8000 for a decent runner, and £10-12k for the best, although we sold a 420SEAC for three times that amount recently. It's also easier to see the rot on a wedge, because the body doesn't hide the chassis outriggers like the Chimaera."

That's got me thinking, so at Pembroke I keep the keys to the 350i for the journey to Pendine Sands, where we stop for an ice cream and, with the museum closed, visualise the ghost of Parry Thomas and 'Babs' tearing along the sand. I get it now, the 350i. It's the founding father of the modern breed, even the looks are growing on me – and, for a Scot, the price helps, too... Clockwise, from right: rumbling on to the ferry at Rosslare harbour; Jackson changes Chimaera wheel on the M50 outside Dublin; driving into the low sun across the Irish border; parked among the palm trees at Rosslare beach



'There's prodigious grip – just don't put the power down too soon, or you'll be pointing back the way you came'





I'd still have the Chimaera 400, though. Compared to the mechanically identical Griffith, it's still affordable. And there's time for one final blast in the glorious Brecon Beacons; we roar up through Carmarthen to Llandovery, then dive headlong into our playground. Jackson and Cosh regularly guide TVR Car Club driving tours here, so I'm in safe hands. Hot on the 350i's heels, the Chimaera is proving just as adept, but it strikes me that both cars are endowed with a slight 'sledgehammer trying to crack a shelled peanut' approach to cornering.

The steering is sharp and, while it lacks a hot hatch's poise in bends, it's taut and planted at speed, with prodigious grip from its wide rear tyres – just don't put the throttle down too soon, or you'll be pointing back the way you came. That, of course, is the very essence of TVR: a frisson of danger, created by a complete lack of safety aids and a barrel-load of power. Crossing the Severn Bridge heralds the beginning of the end of our journey, and in 15 minutes we're back at Amore Autos' workshop, where we're greeted by Cosh. "Pretty epic," says the man who knows a thing or two about marathon drives. Having completed nearly 600 miles in a day and a half, through four countries – and with the roof down – that's exactly how these two windswept and sun-kissed heroes feel.

Our two TVRs have performed without fault, and there's no doubt that either offers a firstclass entry into Peter Wheeler's world of big, brutal V8s, with both being perfect fare for either a lenghty road trip or a B-road blast. This duo is a vital reminder of the Blackpool firm's transition from the world of the traditional to that of the modern classic.

**Thanks to** Paul Jackson and Mark Cosh at Amore Autos: www.amoreautos.co.uk





TVR 350i Sold/number built 1983-'90/c950 Construction tubular steel chassis, glassfibre body Engine all-alloy, ohv 3528cc V8, Lucas electronic fuel injection Max power 197bhp @ 5280rpm

#### **TVR CHIMAERA 400**

Sold/number built 1992-2003/c6000 (all) **Construction** tubular steel chassis, glassfibre body Engine all-alloy, ohv 3950cc V8, Lucas 14CUX electronic fuel injection Max power 240bhp @ 5250rpm Max torque 270lb ft @ 4000rpm Transmission five-speed manual, RWD **Suspension** independent, by double wishbones, coil springs, telescopic dampers, anti-roll bar Steering power-assisted rack and pinion Brakes discs, with servo **Length** 13ft 3in (4015mm) **Width** 6ft 1in (1865mm) Height 4ft (1215mm) Wheelbase 7ft 6in (2282mm) Weight 2337lb (1060kg) **0-60mph** 5.1 secs **Top speed** 152mph **Mpg** 24 Price new £27,850 Price now from £8000

Max torque 220lb ft @ 3500rpm Transmission five-speed manual, RWD Suspension independent, at front by double wishbones, anti-roll bar rear semi-trailing links, transverse links; coil springs, telescopic dampers f/r Steering rack and pinion Brakes discs, with servo Length 13ft 2in (4013mm) Width 5ft 8in (1727mm) Height 3ft 11½in (1206mm) Wheelbase 7ft 10in (2387mm) Weight 2213lb (1004kg) O-60mph 6.5 secs Top speed 134mph Mpg 20 Price new £16,320 Price now from £5000

"Obviously the Formula One dream didn't quite happen, but I was bloody quick in single-seaters when given decent equipment"

> After more than five decades going wheel-to-wheel with – and commentating on – motorsport's greats, David Hobbs is never short of a story to tell

WORDS RICHARD HESELTINE PHOTOGRAPHY TONY BAKER/AUTHOR/MOTORSPORT IMAGES





he anecdotes tumble thick and fast. David Hobbs is on a roll, laughter bouncing off the timber-panelled walls of the Segrave Room at Brooklands as each yarn unspools. As a racing driver, the Wisconsin-domiciled Briton competed in everything from Formula One to Can-Am, via endurance racing and even NASCAR. He did so over 32 seasons before parlaying his experience into a secondary career as a commentator. Listen to him discuss his time as a wheelman, however, and it soon becomes clear that it wasn't all japes and giggles. Success was earned, and often the hard way, as is made abundantly clear in his new autobiography, Hobbo: Motor Racer, Motor Mouth. It all began with a visit to Mallory Park in the late '50s. "I had considered racing motorcycles; I had a 500cc Triumph Speed Twin, and hardly ever fell off, which I thought was a good sign," he deadpans. "I remember watching Tony Lanfranchi racing his Elva and it dawned on me that cars might be a better option. Naturally, I decided to race my mum's seven-year-old Morris Oxford. It was her daily driver and had a sidevalve 'four' plus a Mecha-Matic transmission devised by my dad." Hobbs Snr was an accomplished engineer, whose clutchless 'box was evaluated by several mainstream car manufacturers: "He'd done some prototype work

Clockwise from top left: Le Mans debut alongside Gardner in Elite; seventh in the McLaren M23 at the 1974 Austrian Grand Prix; leading the 1968 Guards Trophy Motor Show 200 at Brands Hatch; 1969 Sebring 12 Hours with Mike Hailwood in GT40

apprenticeship. I made my debut at Snetterton in April 1959; the engine gave up at peak revs on the Norwich Straight."

for BMC, and in his

factory was a B-series

engine, also attached

to a Mecha-Matic.

This was levered into

the Oxford along with

a pair of SU carbs that

I bought for a quid

from Daimler, for

whom I was serving an

A year later, the then 20-year-old graduated to his father's Mecha-Matric XK140, and inverted it first time out at Oulton Park: "I phoned dad and told him what happened. He said: 'I know, I saw it on television. You broke it, you fix it.<sup>3</sup> By then I was a Jaguar apprentice, because it had taken over Daimler, and I managed to purloin a few bits: bigger SUs, disc brakes and so on. I then started to win races. That attracted the attention of 'Lofty' England, who was a legend at Jaguar. Lofty put in a good word, which led to me driving E-types and Mk2s for Peter Berry. "Around that time, Ford was proposing to make dad's gearbox an option on various models, so I persuaded him that we should promote the transmission by racing it seriously. We bought a Lotus Elite and then set about converting it. I won 14 races from 18 starts in 1961, and also

had my first-ever international foray in that car, competing in the Nürburgring 1000km race alongside Bill Pinckney. We were supposed to be in the 1300cc sports-car class but Les Leston protested the gearbox because it was non-standard. My having beaten him at Brands Hatch a week earlier might have had something to do with it. We were moved into the 1600cc class and shouldn't have had a chance against the quadcam Porsches, but we won. The prize money was four times better in that class, too!"

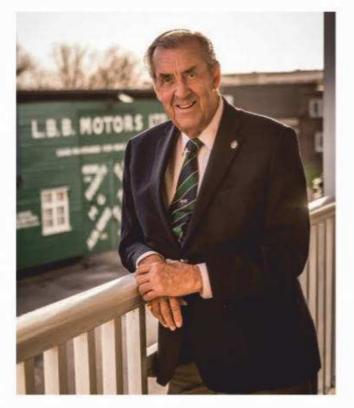
A year later, Hobbs made his Le Mans debut aboard a different Lotus: "Team Elite offered me the drive for 1962 alongside Frank Gardner. We finished eighth, won our class and also claimed the Index of Thermal Efficiency. I did the 24 Hours 20 times, and that was perhaps the best race of them all and on many levels. That same year, I went back to the 'Ring with my Elite, and took along as my co-driver a fellow Jaguar apprentice: Richard Attwood. We led our class until the engine overheated. In return, 'Atty' let me drive his Cooper Formula Junior at Oulton Park. It was my first start in a single-seater." Hobbs won by 13 secs: "On the strength of that, I was offered a Midlands Racing Partnership Formula Junior drive for 1963. My teammates, all in Lolas, were Attwood and Bill Bradley. At Silverstone, I had a cracking race with Denny Hulme in the works Brabham. We swapped the lead repeatedly, only for my



gearlever to snap off. Denny just pipped me. At Le Mans, Richard and I shared the Lola Mk6. [Marque founder] Eric Broadley drove it from Bromley to the circuit on trade plates. The race ended in the barrier at the Esses after the Colotti 'box jammed, but the important thing was that I was being offered drives at a serious level."

Outings in Formula Two led to a Formula One seat with Tim Parnell's equipe for the '65 French Grand Prix at Clermont-Ferrand: "He had a BRM V8-engined Lotus 25, the deal being that I would tow the car there behind my Ford Cortina GT. I didn't make it to France, though, because a five-ton laundry van pulled out in front of me near Aylesbury and I hit it with enough force to knock it over. I spent the next three weeks in hospital. Once I got out, I drove a Lola T70 for David Fletcher and won the Guards Trophy at Mallory Park among other races, but I still wanted to do single-seaters. I drove an F2 Lola T61 at Barcelona in April '66, then Parnell offered me a ride in the non-points Syracuse GP. I finished third behind the works Ferraris of John Surtees and Lorenzo Bandini. At the end of the race, Tim said, 'Bloody 'ell Dave, I thought you'd 'ave done better than that...' "Bernard White, Lord Hanson's brother, then asked me to drive his GT40 in the Springbok Series alongside Mike Hailwood. He was great fun and loved the ladies. Mike never seemed to eat breakfast and dinner with the same one. I also

"Mike Hailwood was great fun and loved the ladies – he never ate breakfast and dinner with the same one"



drove Bernard's 2-litre BRM in the British GP at Silverstone, and finished eighth. After that, he sent it to Mosport for the Canadian GP. I finished ninth. I then landed a dream drive with the Gulf/Wyer team for '68. I would drive a GT40 alongside Paul Hawkins, while Jacky Ickx and Brian Redman would share the sister car."

The dream soon soured, however: "I didn't get on with the team manager, David Yorke. He was in love with Jacky, and the little Belgian had him wrapped around his finger. I enjoyed the GT40, though. At Daytona, Paul and I were challenging for the lead at half-distance, but then a bit of wire wore a hole in the bag tank. At Sebring, we were leading until 'Hawkeye' had a coming together with Liane Engeman's AMC Javelin. We then won the Monza 1000km race, which included some of the old banking. Later on that year, Paul and I were a lap ahead of Ickx, who was sharing his car with countryman Lucien Bianchi, but then Yorke put out the 'EZ' sign; I was obliged to relinquish the position. It made no difference to anything which of our cars won, so I was not happy. The Gulf boys weren't, either. We bumped into them at the airport a day later and they handed us \$1000 each – by means of an apology, I suppose. It was more than the team had paid Paul and me to do the race." For '69, Hailwood replaced Hawkins and the great mates were serious contenders for honours at Le Mans: "Ickx and his then co-driver Jackie

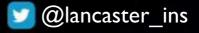


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Oliver lost time following the first-lap accident that claimed John Woolfe, but we were well clear. What did for us was the brake pedal going straight to the floor during my second stint. I was doing 200mph down to Mulsanne Corner and had to take to the escape road. I limped to the pits and Yorke batted away what I said and told the mechs to change the pads. I knew it wasn't the pads, but they changed them anyway and off I went. At the end of the pitlane, I gave the middle pedal a prod and almost ran over a marshal. I did a full lap with no brakes and pitted again. They then discovered that a wheel weight had been fitted on the inside of a rim rather than the outside and it had snagged a caliper pipe. By the time they had replaced it and bled the system, we'd lost a chunk of time. We ended up third." In the '70s, Hobbs carved out a niche racing in the USA: "John Surtees built an F5000 car in which I won the 1969 Dublin GP. He then sent it to North America and I won a ton of races; I lost the Formula A title by one point despite having missed the first five rounds. That was a major turning point in my career. I was third in the points a year later, despite having started my season in July. That led to me driving for Roger Penske in sports cars and selected IndyCar races for '71, and also for Carl Hogan in F5000. I won the championship with Carl, and shared Roger's Sonoco-sponsored Ferrari 512M with Mark Donohue in the USA and at Le Mans. Mark was

Clockwise from top left: second at Watkins Glen in McLaren M20 in '73 was a highlight; Peterson/Hobbs BMW retired from the '78 Daytona 24 Hours; third in 1983's Spa 1000km in a Porsche 956; Hobbs' Mondello Park win on his F5000 debut in 1969

going well until halfdistance, when I heard an almighty clatter from the back of the car as I exited Turn 4. I was just ahead of Rick Muther in the Sugar Ripe Prune Special. Rick spun to avoid hitting me, smacked the wall and ricocheted back on to the track and took me out. That was my first Indy 500. I did it four times, with a best finish of fifth in 1974." While Hobbs continued to make fleeting appearances in Europe that decade, most memorably in the Broadspeed Jaguar XJ12C, the USA remained his happy hunting ground: "For me, the most enjoyable period was the three seasons I spent driving the McLaren-run BMW 320is in IMSA [1977-'79]. They produced around 680bhp and had incredible turbo lag. I did most of the races solo, but drove with Ronnie Peterson in long-distance events." Scroll forward to '83 and Hobbs won the Trans-Am series aboard the John Dick-fielded, Budweiser-liveried Camaro, while also racing for John Fitzpatrick in

a chippy bugger, but

he worked like a dog.

We led so many races

in that car in '71, but

just couldn't win any.

Driving at Indy was

incredible, too. I was

in Mark's Lola-Ford

from the year before

and everything was

assorted Porsches that were famously sponsored by future jailbird Jerry Dominelli (aka J David). Our hero rounded out his driving career at Dijon in 1990, where he shared a Joest 962C with Jonathan Palmer: "I had done little racing that year and wasn't fit enough. We finished eighth and I knew it was time to stop."

Asked to name his favourite race, the answer comes as a surprise: "I cannot pick one, but if you will allow me two... The Formula Junior race at Silverstone in '63 when I battled with Denny Hulme was fantastic, because way behind us was the cream of up-and-coming talent. Obviously, the F1 dream didn't quite happen. I did all of seven World Championship Grands Prix spanning eight years, but that race showed that I was bloody quick in single-seaters when given decent equipment. My other favourite race was another I didn't win. I drove a works Lola T310 in Can-Am in 1972, and it was the worst car I ever sat in. A year later, I raced Roy Woods' McLaren M20, which was one of the best. It was no match for the Porsches, but at Watkins Glen I finished second to Donohue's mega-horsepower 917-30 and ahead of all the other Porsches. I derived a lot of satisfaction from that." Pause. "There were lots of races I should have won. My career has been full of 'what ifs' and 'maybes', but on balance I did all right."

Thanks to www.brooklandsmuseum.com

# OLDS FAITHFUL

You never forget your first love – and Gary Lord won't, because he still owns the Oldsmobile 442 he bought at 15

WORDS GREG MACLEMAN PHOTOGRAPHY WILL WILLIAMS





"Dad downshifted and jumped on the gas before shouting 'Oh, sh\*t!' – he immediately thought he'd given me a loaded gun"

e all remember 'the one that got away'. The single car from our past that slipped through our fingers as the bills began to mount, enthusiasm for effecting endless repairs waned, and real life temporarily took precedence over a love of old cars. But not so Gary Lord. Against the odds, this Californian managed to hold on to his first car – a 1966 Oldsmobile 442 – before eventually committing to a restoration so meticulous that it would send a concours judge weak at the knees. Oldsmobile had form when it came to the muscle-car revolution, having become an early pioneer of the segment by dropping its first postwar V8 – the Rocket – into the mid-sized 88 in 1949 to create the legendary, NASCAR-storming 'Rocket 88'. Yet it was its GM stablemate, Pontiac, that built on the theme in the 1960s.

Prompted by a management decree to withdraw from competitive motorsport in 1963, the firm switched its emphasis to street performance and shoehorned the Catalina and Bonneville's thumping 389cu in V8 into the forthcoming second-series Tempest to create the GTO.

The new car proved to be an overnight

four-speed manual gearbox and fruity twin-pipe exhausts – giving rise to the '4-4-2' moniker.

For all its efforts, Olds was late to the party, and while the finished product impressed well enough, marketing and advertising fell short of expectations. Punters either didn't know what it was, or didn't know that it existed, and only

success, and was enough to stir its in-house rival into action. Fearing that it could be left behind, Oldsmobile responded by repeating the trick with its cooking-model Cutlass. A team led by John Beltz, Dale Smith and Bob Dorshimer mated this everyday workhorse with the firm's top-spec 310bhp, 330cu in (5408cc) engine. "It's as if they stuck a powerful engine in your grandmother's grocery-getter," smiles Lord. The company's flagship V8 was fitted with the latest performance enhancements, usually the preserve of police interceptors, including trick air filters, high-quality conrods and main bearings, joined by a beefy four-barrel carburettor, around 3000 were sold in the first year.

Things improved in '65, thanks in no small part to another engine swap, with the 330cu in V8 making way for a monster 400cu in (6555cc) unit that put out 345bhp and 440lb ft, giving the 442 the performance to match its rivals; 0-60mph took just 5.5 secs, with the quartermile covered in 15 secs flat. Changes were made beneath the skin, too, with bigger tyres, firmer springs plus front and rear anti-roll bars contributing to a leap forward in handling ability, and a subsequent marked improvement on the salesroom floor. By the end of the year, Oldsmobile had shifted more than 25,000 units. "One thing







Clockwide from above: rare tri-carb manifold boosts power by 10bhp; proud 21-year-old Lord with dad and the Olds; the 442's handling was hailed in period, but today seems slightly less sporting – early personalised plate was a 16th-birthday present from his parents

that Oldsmobile did a bit differently to the other GM A-body cars is to put a sway bar on the rear end to give it a little more rigidity," says Lord. "That was its edge over the GTO."

Ultimately, it was a later generation of Olds that first caught this enthusiast's eye. "Back when I was 15 or so, I saw an amazing car in a used car lot, which I later found out was a 1970 442, says Lord, who was drawn by the car's curvaceous styling – an echo of the designs emerging from the carrozzerie of Europe - with its streamlined rear profile, steeply raked 'screen and sloping boot. But his path to Oldsmobile ownership took a fateful turn early in his search. "I said to my dad, 'I wanna get a 442!' So we looked in the local newspaper listings and found one for sale – I didn't know the years," explains Lord. "When we went out to look at it, we realised that it was totally different, being a much older version of the 442. But I fell in love with it and bought it then and there for \$750."

The car that won Lord's heart was a 1966 convertible, which differed from previous generations with its all-new bodywork that did away with the staid, slab-sided and square design of old in favour of 'Coke bottle' styling. Flared arches and broad hips gave a more sporting appearance, while the engine was up to 350bhp – enough to cover 0-60mph in just 7.1 secs. "Being 15, I couldn't drive when we went to pick it up," says Lord, standing beside his pride and joy. "But my dad was with me and we took it out on a straight expressway outside of San Jose. He downshifted and jumped on the gas before shouting 'Oh, sh\*t!' – he immediately thought he'd given me a loaded gun." Gary's mother wasn't too pleased at the prospect, either, assuming that, because it was a convertible, he would roll it. "But trust me, there's no way you're flipping one of these things," smiles Lord. "The day I turned 16, I got my driving licence and went straight home to tell my mom, 'I'm

taking the car.' She said, 'I don't think Dad got your insurance...' and I replied, 'No, but I did!' Given his chequered past – he was already driving way before he had a licence, and he wrecked his father's car – my dad assumed that I would do all of the stupid things he did."

In the early years, and with a limited budget, Lord tried to keep the car on the road with varying degrees of success: "It was in rough shape when I bought it – it had been used well and it was constantly breaking down. I was calling Bob's Tow Truck company once a month to get it towed – we were on first-name terms." "These things weren't built for longevity, and by the time I got it in '76 the car was 10 years old," says Lord. "For the next couple of years I worked in a gas station, and I'd save up for parts. One of the first things I bought was a set of tyres – the old ones were bald, so it would just spin out in the rain. I did a lot of drag racing, too: those were fun but dangerous days."



Clockwise, from above: reconditioned seats and door cards were stitched by hand; Lord enjoys a familiar view on local roads around Monterey – the four-speed manual suits the V8's torque; Gary and wife Tami on their wedding day with the Olds, then sporting a white vinyl top





For the following decade Lord used the 442 as his main car, driving it to and from work every day. During that time, he and his father decided to carry out an amateur restoration, with the main objective being to keep the car in roadworthy condition while improving its tatty appearance. "We disassembled all of the trim in order to do the bodywork, then had a friend of the family paint it," says Lord. "I fitted a new roof and re-covered the two front seats - it looked pretty darned respectable!" With life moving on, and his interests leading to other cars, Lord parked the Olds at his parents' house, where it remained in storage before getting a run out on his wedding day: "We ended up moving to New Hampshire for three years, so trucked it out with us and stuck it in the garage, then trucked it back. It ran the whole time - it was always driveable. There were a few times early in our marriage when we were short on funds – such as one year when we

needed a washer and dryer – and I said I'd sell the car, but my wife said, 'No, we're not doing that.' So we hung on to it for all those years."

By 2000, the 442 was once again beginning to show its age, and Lord decided the time had come to embark on a full restoration. "I wanted it as if I had bought it new," he says, "as if I had gone down to the dealership and specified it myself." The man chosen for the job was Jeff Lilly, a muscle-car specialist from San Antonio who had just completed a nut-and-bolt rebuild of a '67 442. "Having finished virtually the same car, he knew exactly where all the right fasteners were and where to find them, and the correct colour of paint for the engine and all of the chassis components," explains Lord. But the project hit a snag early on when a fire ripped through the paintshop at Lilly's Texas ranch, thankfully leaving Lord's car unharmed but damaging a number of other customers' cars. "He wanted to make every one of the 20-or-so

damaged cars right, so he said it would be at least two years before making a start on my car," says Lord. "He ended up having it for eight."

The majority of 1966 442s left the factory fitted with Rochester Quadrajet carburettors, but Lord's dream specification included an option introduced that year - the first tri-carb manifold Oldsmobile had offered since the 1950s, designated L69. Thanks to the trio of two-barrel carburettors, coupled with a return to the factory 10.5:1 compression ratio, power was bumped up to 360bhp. "Unfortunately, that means you have to run it on 100-octane fuel, which is \$10 per gallon here!" laughs Lord. Few convertibles benefited from this increased performance, and even fewer featured a fourspeed manual 'box and Posi-traction 4.11 diff, making this car something of a rarity. After being advised by Lilly that a black paint finish would better show off the lines of the Olds, friends and family were consulted and



"The only non-factory items on the car are the door mirrors, which I just couldn't find – everything

door mirrors, which I simply couldn't find. Everything else is original from 1966."

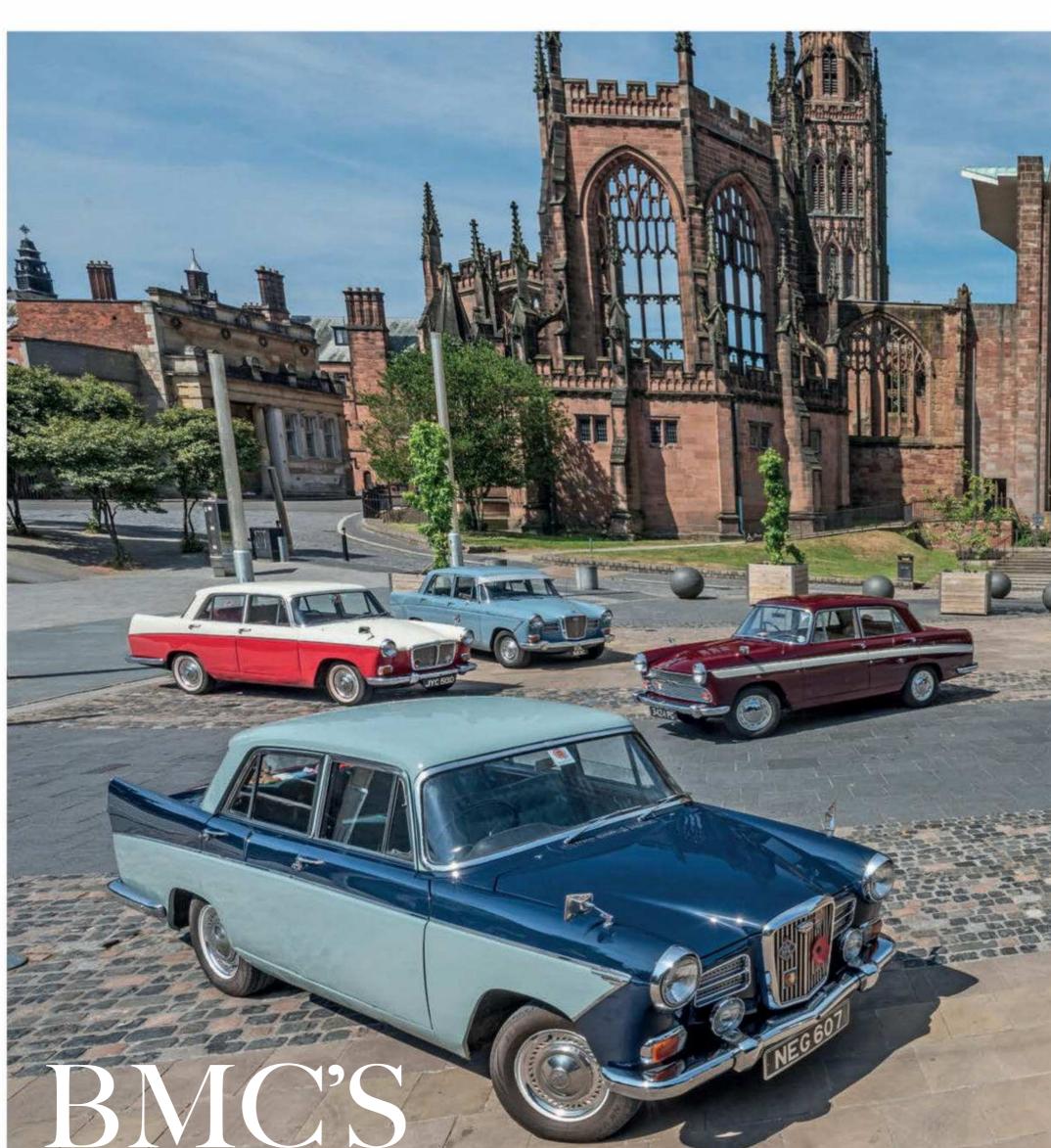
Compared to restoring a Pontiac GTO, where nearly everything is available, sourcing parts for the less-common Oldsmobile proved an adventure in itself, and Lord committed countless hours to online research and longdistance phone calls. "I found a guy in New Jersey who had a warehouse full of 1966 and '67 parts," he explains, eyes brightening at the memory. "The bumpers are new-old-stock they had never been on a car and were still in their original boxes. The Rallye wheels were unused originals, too, while the dashboard pads were perfect – they didn't need anything doing to them. The dash inserts are also new-old-stock because trying to restore a dash like that, with all of the different finishes, is virtually impossible. Everything else was refurbished." Following the restoration, Lord exhibited the car extensively, but this summer marked the first

time it had been shown in eight years as it took to Carmel's Ocean Avenue during Monterey Car Week. It's now set for an easy retirement, being driven on high days and holidays.

"By old-car standards it's pretty comfortable," says Lord. "It's a big car, but in its day these things were pretty hot - there wasn't much in the high-school parking lot that could beat it. By today's standards, though, it's a boat! It just cruises along and it's got stock exhausts, so it isn't too loud or obnoxious. As for cornering... well, let's just say that these things were meant to go in a straight line. Quickly, yes, but they were meant to go straight." With another show season now under its belt, Lord only has one more ambition for the car. "My eldest son just proposed and they're going to get married down here in the Carmel Valley," he says with a smile. "I'm hoping he'll want to use this for his wedding, the same way his mom and I did. That's what I really want."

#### else is original from 1966"

the decision was taken to keep the 442 in its original shade of white – although the white vinyl roof was thrown out in favour of black cloth. "At a concours event, that would be the differentiator between me and the guy next to me," explains Lord. "But I didn't restore it for a concours show. That wasn't my objective. I wanted to take a different approach with it – to use as many new-old-stock components as I could find. I didn't want there to be any reproduction parts on the car, so the only non-factory items are the



# AFFAIR B

Born of a Latin liaison, the Farina range brought a dose of style to post-war Britain

WORDS ANDREW ROBERTS PHOTOGRAPHY JONATHAN JACOB





ixty years ago, the British Motor Corporation launched its second collaboration with Battista 'Pinin' Farina, an all-new range that appeared to symbolise post-war renewal as clearly as tower blocks emerging from bomb sites.

The seven cars gathered in front of Coventry Cathedral describe the history of a badgeengineered classic that today is often taken for granted, but one that, in its own modest way, had originally caused quite a stir.

#### Wolseley 15/60

When BMC presented the 15/60 in December 1958, it ran the risk of causing apoplexy among many of its customers. The outgoing, Gerald Palmer-styled 15/50 was one of the most attractive saloons of its generation, and the famous marque was, to paraphrase Viv Stanshall's Sir Henry at Rawlinson End: 'English as tuppence, changing yet changeless as canal-water, nestling in green nowhere' - indeed, it's easy to imagine Stanshall as a Wolseley owner. Furthermore, those tail-fins might have deterred customers who had no desire to be regarded as a skiffleband leader by association. Yet to experience this 1961 example owned by Tony Spearman is to appreciate how the timber- and hide-trimmed cabin was more than sufficient to quell any doubts over the 15/60's identity; this was indeed a true Wolseley. Spearman regards his 15/60 as "comfortable and very stylish" - and this was the very formula that appealed to Wolseley drivers who wished to experience this brave new Italian-styled world without compromising their social status. The







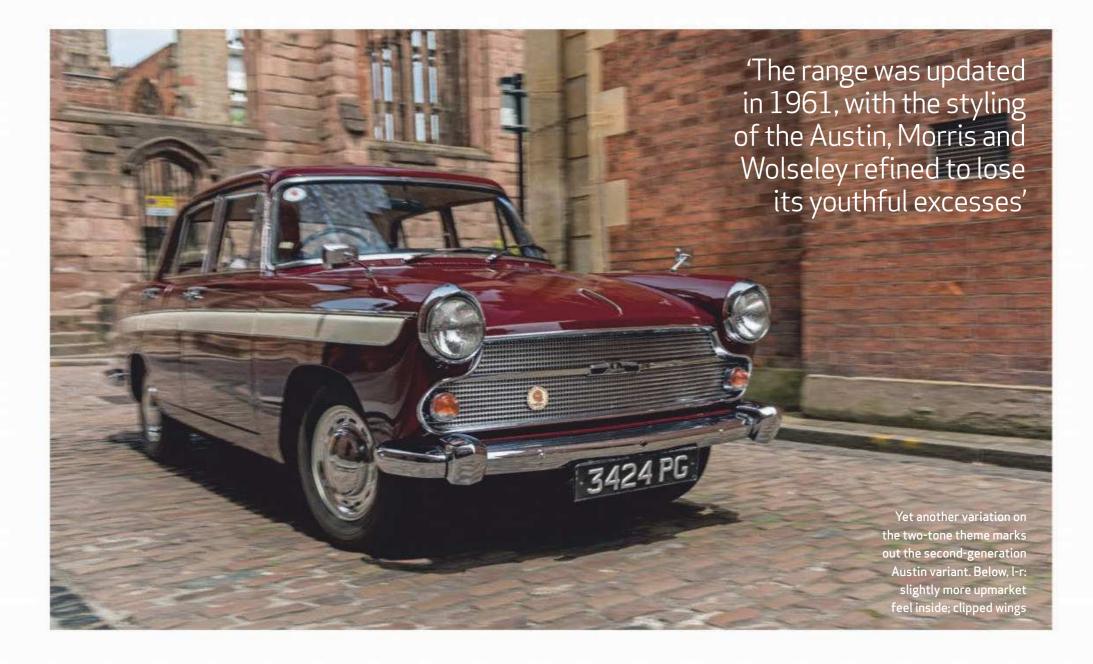




engineering was utterly straightforward, from the B-series motor to the cam-and-peg steering, but this made for easy maintenance and there was at least a floor-mounted gearlever. Only the Austin and the Morris were available with an optional steering-column change.

The Wolseley's looks contrived to embody a spirit of urgency; 1958 also marked the opening of Britain's first motorway, and the advent of the Subscriber Trunk Dialling. The 15/60 never claimed to be a ball of fire, but it successfully blended tradition with modernity.

**174** Classic & Sports Car **December 2018** 



#### Austin A55 Cambridge MkII

By April 1959, the Farina range was established with the Austin as the starting point of the fivecar line-up. The Morris Oxford Series V was slightly more expensive, the 15/60 was for the progressively minded bank manager, while the twin-carb MG Magnette MkIII and Riley 4/68 featured slightly less exuberant fins.

Although it was not the first BMC product to make use of its various marque identities, the Farina established the template for an elaborate hierarchy of badges. The thinking at Longbridge was that an Austin customer would display such brand loyalty that they wouldn't dream of buying an Oxford from the local Morris dealer.

The A55 Cambridge MkI was an agreeablelooking machine, but the MkII was far more flamboyant without falling into the social abyss of being considered 'spivvy'. When the Austinbadged Farina was launched, many buyers considered it to be less transatlantic in appeal than the Ford Consul, the Hillman Minx and the Vauxhall Victor F-type. A potential Austin customer might have also considered an Ensign, but although the Standard made its debut just 18 months before the Cambridge, it still conveyed a sense of ration-book utilitarianism. Roy Presdee's splendid 1961 MkII looks radiant in its Tartan Red over Farina Grey. It is a vivid reminder of the impact made by the A55 MkII nearly six decades ago, offering quasimunicipal values in a smart new suit - which is just what buyers at the time demanded.

#### Austin A60 Cambridge

In October 1961, the Farina range was updated. The wheelbase was elongated, the track slightly widened, the B-series engine enlarged (from 1489 to 1622cc) and, on the Austin, Morris and Wolseley variants, the styling refined to lose its youthful excesses. The A60 succeeded the A55, with cars such as Ivan Mole's 1963 Cambridge widely regarded as the bedrock of the range.

By the mid-'60s, however, the A60 not only stood apart from BMC's front-drive products, but also faced intense competition from Dagenham as Austin drivers transferred their allegiance to Ford within months of the Consul Cortina taking a bow in 1962. BMC's plan to replace the Farina with a front-drive design eventually led to the 1964 Austin 1800 'Landcrab', and the Cambridge soldiered on virtually unaltered until the radically different Maxi arrived in '69.

The soundness of the concept is illustrated by the fact that A60s still operated as rural taxis in the early '80s; this was a car of integrity, one that would get you to your Swanage holiday guest-

#### SPECIFICATIONS (ALL MODELS)

**Construction** steel unitary Engine all-iron, ohv 1489cc/1622cc 'four' (2433cc 'six' for Wolseley 24/80), fed by single/twin SU carburettors Max power 52bhp @ 4350rpm to 85bhp @ 4400rpm Max torque 82lb ft @ 2100rpm to 123lb ft @ 1650rpm Transmission four-speed manual (threespeed automatic for Wolseley 24/80), RWD **Suspension**: **front** independent, by wishbones, coil springs rear live axle, semi-elliptic leaf springs (anti-roll bars f/r from A60) Steering cam and lever Brakes drums **Length** 14ft 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in-14ft 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in (4432-4534mm) Width 5ft 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in (1613mm) **Height** 4ft 11in-4ft 11<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in (1499-1518mm) Wheelbase 8ft 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in-8ft 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in (2521-2549mm) Weight 2465-2935lb (1118-1330kg) 0-60mph 25-18.2 secs **Top speed** 76-87mph **Mpg** 28-19 Price new £837 18s 9d (MO Traveller) to £1225 (Wolseley 24/60) **Price now** £5-15,000

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#### Morris Oxford Series VI Traveller

Countryman (Austin) and Traveller (Morris) versions of the Farina were launched in 1960, and got the same facelift as the saloons a year later. Chris Poulter's Oxford Series VI dates from 1966, and it's easy to understand why they had a devoted following throughout the '60s. In comparison, the Vauxhall Victor FC or Hillman Super Minx estates lacked the *BBC Home Service* ethos that the Farina station wagon embodied. The Traveller was capacious, well-planned – one nice touch was that the rear seat could be arranged in a sleeping position – and the integrated styling gave real showroom appeal.

Furthermore, Poulter's Oxford demonstrates the Farina's capacity for development: this practical Q-car has an MGB cylinder head, along with an MG overdrive and front disc brakes. The result is a car that was recently driven around mountain roads in Snowdonia - "Where other tourists feared to tread," smiles Poulter. The Morris looks smart, but few Traveller owners were interested in glamour. They would not have cared less about 'London: The Swinging City' as Time magazine famously called it. That land was the province of beatniks and demented followers of fashion, and thus distanced by any decent Traveller driver. When the square-jawed Marina replaced the Oxford in 1971, it marked the end of an era. Just as decimal coinage overtook £sd, a 'proper' Morris with a starting handle and a fascia resembling a 1940s radiogram was succeeded by a car whose spiritual home was the concrete shopping precinct. What price progress?





#### MG Magnette MkIV

Replacing the Magnette ZB, one of the finest sports saloons of the '50s, presented a major challenge. The MkIII that arrived in February '59 had pleasing lines, twin SU carbs and the classic half-octagon speedometer, but was not greeted with universal praise from the flat-hat brigade.

Two years later, the MG was modified into the MkIV, gaining the 1.6-litre engine, then in May 1968 it became the first Farina to cease production. Jeremy and Judith Carrington's '66 Magnette is not only one of the rarest post-war cars to wear the octagon, but also a reminder of how the MkIV was somewhat misjudged. This stylish Farina is not so much an heir to the ZB as a charming touring car in its own right. The MG's closest rival, the Vauxhall VX4/90, was for sales managers with Bob Monkhouse smiles and a table at the Berni Inn, while the average Magnette driver might have collected horse brasses when taking time out from the chartered accountancy practice in rural Dorset.









#### Riley 4/72

The Riley was the Farina flagship and, although it cost more than a near-identical Magnette, the owner gained a tachometer and the prestige of driving a car that was 'as old as the industry, as modern as the hour'. The 4/68 arrived in 1959, replaced by the larger-engined 4/72 in late '61.

Early Farinas were seen as faintly raffish, but by the late '60s they were comfortably conservative – more formal than the Riley's key rival, the Humber Sceptre with its rockabilly looks. Inside, the 4/72 is redolent of a suburban villa, but owner Trevor Porter points out that it is a lively drive: "It keeps up with traffic, so you don't have to worry about delaying other cars." He also notes that the top shade of its duotone paint, Arianca Beige, was unique to the Riley – another touch of distinction in a car that offers circumstance without self-conscious pomp.

#### FRENCH FARINA: THE PEUGEOT 404

BMC's Farina range was built across the globe, from Australia to Argentina, but was never a true 'World Car' in the manner of the Peugeot 404. The French car was a near contemporary and of a comparable size, and also had a body styled by Farina. But when the 404's 15-year production run ended in 1975, it had achieved more than 1.8m sales in France alone, yet competition and BMC's focus on the 1800 limited the British model to as few as 30,000 per annum in the mid-'60s.

Peugeot had a far simpler line-up, a less chaotic industrial base and greater quality control, while badge-engineering was commonly a substitute for true development on the other side of the Channel. The 404 was available with fuel injection and in chic Coupé and Convertible forms, plus the eight-seater Familiale sold across Africa and South America. Had BMC possessed a sense of focus, the Farina family might have been

#### Wolseley 24/80

'Light sixes' dominated Antipodean new car sales in the early '60s, so BMC-Australia created the Austin Freeway and Wolseley 24/80 as replacements for its  $1^{1}/_{2}$ -litre models. There was only a limited budget for body mods, but a slightly longer wheelbase made for greater passenger comfort. The B-series engine was extensively modified and given an extra two cylinders to create the 2.4-litre Blue Streak 'six'

The Freeway and 24/80 were unveiled in early 1962, the Austin as an entry-level car for the fleet/taxi buyer, the Wolseley to tempt local motorists away from Holdens, Ford Falcons and Chrysler Valiants, plus imports such as the Nissan Cedric. The duo was facelifted in 1964, a year before production ended. Robert Hogg acquired this rare example three years ago: "It was imported into the UK in 2002, and has been back on the road for the past two years."

The standard 'box was a column-mounted three-speed manual, but Hogg's Wolseley has the optional Borg-Warner auto: "The engine is high-revving, but it is a beautifully smooth unit and the 24/80 makes a great touring car." The Wolseley outsold the Austin, and was warmly regarded by the local motoring press. As the advertisements of the period extolled: "Space, comfort, elegance, power, safety. What more do you need in a motor car?"



similarly expanded – but 'might have been' is all too often associated with the BMC/BL saga.



**Thanks to** Coventry University (coventry.ac.uk); MG Car Club (mgcc.co.uk); Cambridge-Oxford Owners' Club (www.co-oc.org); Wolseley Register (www.wolseleyregister.co.uk)





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# **TRIUMPH IS BATTERED AND BRUGED**



TRIUMPH 2500TC RUN BY Greg MacLeman OWNED SINCE June 2017 PREVIOUS REPORT August

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For the second time as a classic car owner my blood ran cold; climbing out of the Triumph, ready to tuck it away in the garage, I noticed the offside rear wheel's alarming camber – a problem that had been cured just hours before with the installation of the new rear end. I jacked it up and was stunned to see that the new studs had all but completely pulled out of the old aluminium trailing arm, with nothing but the hub nut separating me from disaster during the 70mph blat back from Thatcham. The car was totally undriveable and I'd had such a scare that I parked it and left it for two weeks.

Time, however, wasn't on my side, and I needed to get the car fit for a long-weekend getaway to Bruges. Attempts to fix it in-situ were foiled by the ageing locking wheel nuts – the one on the damaged rear wheel refused to budge. Unable to limp to a garage, I called the AA, who gamely tried (and failed) to free the wheel, in the process destroying the nut and knackering the alloy.

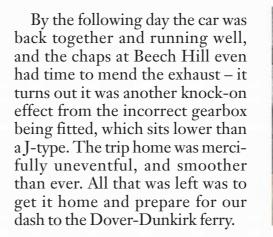
Will de la Rivière at Beech Hill Garage came to the rescue and I had the car transported to Reading for fettling. Classic Driving Develop-



Clockwise, from left: on the ramps at Beech Hill Garage; both the nut and stud were destroyed; original trailing arm was too thin to helicoil



ment – supplier of the brilliant CV driveshafts – managed to send a replacement hub stud overnight, and it took John Alexander at Beech Hill just minutes to drill it out. The situation was worse than I thought: with so little metal surrounding the stud holes, a new trailing arm was needed. My wife, Laura, saved the day this time, driving from London to Wins International in East Grinstead to collect the part, bring it to the garage and shuttle me home. Incredibly, we're still married.







The trip perhaps sounded more of an adventure on paper than it was in reality, given that the drive from Croydon to Dover was longer than that from Dunkirk to Bruges, but once on the other side we ditched the motorway in search of scenery. The area is quite industrial and, with the exception of Veurne, the best architecture came when we arrived in Bruges.

Anyone who's tried to find the Zand car park will no doubt be familiar with the accidental detour we took through the heart of the city, where the car got loads of attention from tourists. Hopelessly lost, I eventually saw a policeman and turned down a road to ask for directions, which proved a mistake: the officious toad stung us with a  $\notin$ 58 on-the-spot shakedown, nearly reducing Laura to tears.

Discretion being the better part of valour, we decided to leave the car in the underground car park for the rest of our stay, but couldn't

#### 'Hopelessly lost, I saw a policeman and turned to ask for help – the officious toad stung us with a €58 fine'

resist an early morning sprint through the centre on our final day (which turned out to be 'No Car Sunday' – you couldn't make it up).

The run to the ferry was easy, and I was chuffed to meet a group of Triumph owners waiting in the queue – even more so when I realised that the starter was playing up and we needed a bump-start.



LAND-ROVER SERIES II RUN BY Martin Port OWNED SINCE September 2016 PREVIOUS REPORT November

So far, life post-head-gasket failure has been okay. An irritating whistle that appeared at low revs and idling made itself known – loud enough for Mrs P to come out of the house and ask what on earth the noise was – but that seems to have subsided. Safe in the knowledge that it is probably down to a break in the carburettor spacer gasket, allowing air to be sucked in, I have new ones now on standby, ready to fit when I get a moment – although it's not so bad as to affect the running.

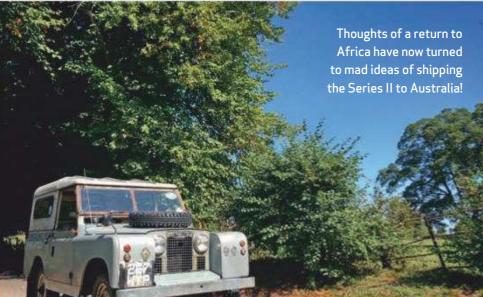
The 'endless' summer had to end at some point, of course, but the Series II and I made the most of it with door-tops removed and plenty of trips around the Berkshire countryside. Conveniently, just as the break in the weather was about to appear, I locked up the 88in and disappeared off to Western Australia for a couple of weeks to do some photographic work. Regrettably, it was the other side of the country to where Philip Kohler (first owner of 267 HYP) grew up in Wallaroo, but it was nice to pay a visit to his homeland.

I soon discovered that although Land-Rover exported all over the world, Australia in particular has its fair share of Solihull-built offroaders, the vehicles having been used in all walks of life – from agriculture to mining. As such, it's not particularly difficult to stumble across a well-used or ripe-forrestoration Series One or II. Indeed, it took us literally hours to find a stunning 'trayback' parked at the back of a winery. Unfortunately it wasn't for sale, but it will one day make excellent transport around the vineyard that is now its home.

Despite leaving Australia in his late teens, Philip Kohler was proud enough of his roots to paint the outline of his country – and of a kangaroo – on the doors of the Series II as he travelled around Africa. Those are now rather faded, and unfortunately the large 'Australia' plate on the tailgate was lost before I bought the Land-Rover. If anyone knows if this was a period item available to buy as opposed to something he had made, please let me know.

My visit to his homeland did help me to resolve one missing item – the stone-guard fashioned from woven mesh that remained fitted until his return to the UK in 1963.

Thanks to the efforts of our host, Andrew Rogers, I now have a section of suitable mesh on order that is about a quarter of the price of anything I have been able to source locally. Unfortunately they don't ship to the UK, though, so I guess I'll have to go and collect!



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AND IN OTHER NEWS...

#### **MG MAGNETTE ZB**

After far too long in silence, there are finally rumblings of activity at the bottom of the garden, as the brambles that

surround the MG's garage are cut down and the doors opened, following an exciting offer of help from a surprising source. More details very soon – I don't want to tempt fate! **AC** 

#### TRIUMPH TR4

Following the Donington wheel-loss drama, the next outing for 'Chuck' was the Silverstone Classic where it failed to cover itself in glory yet again. All weekend it struggled to pull above 4000rpm, and I had a

frustrating time racing an Alfa for last place before handing over to co-owner James Mitchell. He managed just over a lap before retiring with a stuck throttle. **JB** 

#### **RANGE ROVER**

The Range Rover has gone to W123 World for a detailing session, mainly focused on the engine bay and involving repainting and replating the brackets and ancillary parts. Next up, repainting the wheels and getting some periodcorrect tyres, if funds allow. **MB** 

#### **VW BEETLE**

Later, Dunkirk 'Little Ship' enthusiasts Justin and Pete threw their weight behind us at the Dover end, and we had lots to chat about: it turns out readying a boat to cross the Channel is one of the few endeavours more time-consuming than preparing a Triumph!

#### **THANKS TO**

Beech Hill Garage: www.beechhillgarage.com
Classic Driving Development: classicdrivingdevelopment.co.uk





Wonderful 'trayback' found north of Perth



Australia sign on tailgate remains missing

The Beetle has been crying out for attention, but at last we now have a plan in place to sort and repaint the rusty doors. And now that the old heat exchangers have decided

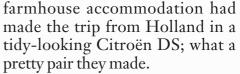
exchangers have decided to stick in the 'melting foot' position, it's time to source new ones before spring! **MP** 







'We were happy to make it trouble-free, and still had time for an evening digestif as we enjoyed the sunset'



On the journey home, it would have been rude to not take time to swing by Le Mans and drive the Mulsanne Straight, and at a nearby supermarket it was fun to have a Pontiac Firebird park alongside us.

Nine days, 808 miles and rather a lot of transmission fluid later, we were home, all smiles. I've fallen even more in love with this car now – and the many grins and thumbs-up we got every day in France didn't hurt!

A couple more items have been added to the to-do list – find where the transmission fluid is leaking and get the gearbox shifting properly and the car idling happily – but it was a brilliant trip.



FORD MUSTANG **RUN BY** Lizzie Pope **OWNED SINCE** October 2017 PREVIOUS REPORT October '18 ..........

My '65 Mustang might not need an MoT certificate these days, but it's never a bad idea to let a fresh set of eyes give your classic the onceover, especially before a road trip. I couldn't think why it should be anything other than a formality, but I'll admit to some relief when the ticket was issued - it was reassuring, too, ahead of the longest drive since taking ownership. The diff oil was topped up and a few checks made, then we were ready. A few days later, the car demonstrated its practicality; the boot easily swallowed luggage for two, plus the essential toolkit, and after giving our neighbours a silly o'clock eight-cylinder alarm call (sorry about that!), we were on the M3, heading to Portsmouth to catch our ferry to France. It might have been an early crossing, but it was 25°C and swiftly rising when we reached Caen, and as those in the moderns around us turned up the air-con and

programmed the sat-nav, we wound down the windows, unfolded the maps and hit the road.

We'd decided to not be over ambitious, but the Loire Valley is still a good few hours from the ferry. It was an easy drive, the car in its element, cruising along autoroutes. Happy to make it there trouble-free, we had time for an evening *digestif* as we enjoyed the dramatic sunset.

The next day, although the Mustang started first turn, the gearbox wasn't keen to shift. You may recall that in my previous report I said it was oversight and not a leak? I take it back. We'd packed some fluid, so topped it up and found a motor factor to replenish supplies, and all was well.

Indeed, fluid checking and topping up aside, the Mustang was a joy. All right, so there was that afternoon when I turned the key and nothing - or should I say rien happened. Some underbonnet fiddling revealed that the earth had come loose from the battery; all was fine once it had been reattached.

The holiday was also the first time I'd driven the Ford in the wet, which was less of a worry than what we found after our usually garaged car had been left outside overnight in heavy rain. I was concerned that the windows weren't sealing too well, but the seats were dry the next morning... unlike the footwells. With the water tipped out and the mats replaced, it was time to head out for the day, but I wasn't a fan of cold rainwater dripping on my bare, sandal-clad feet as I drove.

The holiday was superb and, as a bonus, some other guests at our

The DS wasn't the only

classic Pope encountered on French tour. Right: no





184 Classic & Sports Car December 2018



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#### HWM-CHEVROLET RUN BY Simon Taylor OWNED SINCE August 2000 PREVIOUS REPORT Dec 2016

The C&SC Show in association with Flywheel at Bicester was glorious. I can say this without bias because the inspired idea was nothing to do with me, nor was all the effort that went into it. I just turned up with thousands of other people to revel in that wonderful mix of classic cars and planes in action.

Except: on the way to Bicester my beloved Stovebolt – always the soul of reliability whatever I throw at it, hillclimbs, motorways, traffic jams, B-road blasts - suddenly died on me. We were bumper-tobumper on Friday evening's choked M40 when the engine stopped. Onto the hard shoulder. Bonnet off, poke around vaguely. Fuel pump pumping, so must be electrics. I hate electrics. I waggled every wire I could find and eventually it started, but because it might stop again I pottered along the hard shoulder to Exit 9. We got to Bicester with no further trouble. On Saturday the Stovebolt ran brilliantly around Bicester's twisty, bumpy little course, lots of rubber smoke off the line, lots of right boot to kick the tail out and conquer the understeer, lots of fun. But come Sunday morning in the hotel car park it wouldn't start. Eventually it coughed into life and I got to the paddock. Bicester, of course, is home to a cornucopia of classic car businesses, and I reckoned somebody must be able to sort me out. I chose a well-known one, but it'd better be nameless, because they're a good bunch and everyone drops the ball sometimes.

The lad there changed the coil, but no better, so I left the HWM (thumbed a hilarious lift back to London with Jules Balme in 'Wooly Bully') and he promised to give the electrics a total going-over. He quickly found it was down to a loose wire at the master switch – which of course I could have found if I hadn't been so gormless - but while he was about it he changed the distributor (although it was working fine), plus plugs and plug leads. He also took it upon himself to alter the throttle linkage to my three downdraught carbs. As soon as I drove away after collecting it I realised my poor old friend was desperately unhappy. It wouldn't tick over, the acceleration was blunted, and it was running hot. The Stovebolt never runs hot. Clearly the timing was way off. Also the throttle linkage was horrible, not smoothly progressive as before. I struggled back to London in a rage. Next day, faithful Colin Mullan reset the timing and sorted the throttle linkage, and my friend was back to its usual raucous self.



Stovebolt looks best on the road sans roll-bar. Flat 'at is a necessary piece of equipment

When I phoned the head chap at the Bicester shop he was mortified and at once waived the bill (which included labour at £72 an hour). But I thought it fair to pay for the distributor, coil and plug leads.

Since then I've done two great charity events - Kop Hill Climb, which I enjoy every year, and a new one for me, Firle. This used to be a proper hillclimb, steeply rising to the top of the cliffs over the Sussex coast, until it was stopped after a bad accident in 1967. Now Rob Bryant and his team run an untimed revival, which has an authentic '50s atmosphere and attracts an eclectic mix of cars, from VSCC specials to a Morris Traveller with a Ĉhevy V8 and immense supercharger. It was called Minor Alterations, and was driven to the event. The hill is steep and narrow, with a challenging long left-hander just before the finish line. The Stovebolt lapped it up, after which we drove home (Sunday night jams on the M23) coolly and happily. Life is back to how it should be.



Minor Traveller with, um, four more pots



Kop Hill: McLaren Senna drew more crowds

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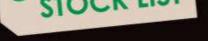
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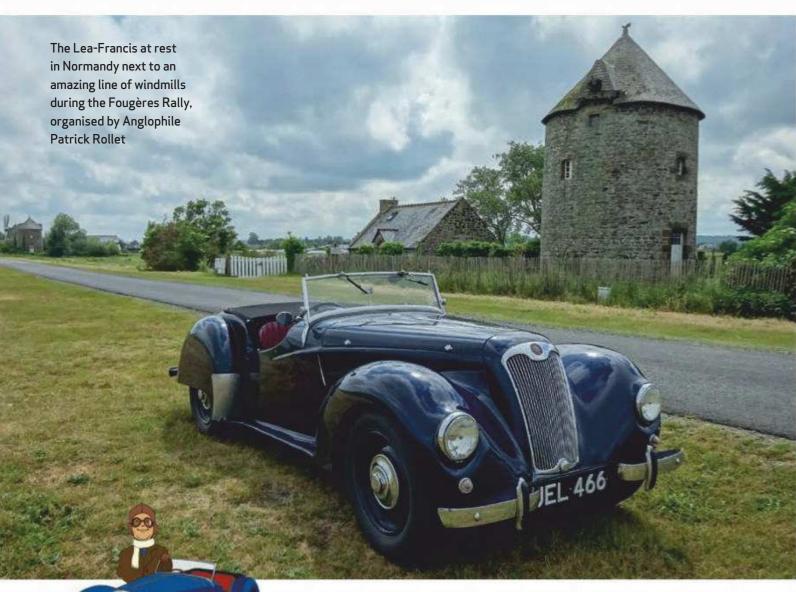
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#### **OUR CLASSICS**



#### LEA-FRANCIS 14HP SPORTS RUN BY Mick Walsh OWNED SINCE 1963 PREVIOUS REPORT Nov 2017

Now that the engine is back to full health and run in, the LeaF has had an active summer with club events, runs to VSCC Silverstone and the Revival, and a trip to France.

Although JEL doesn't officially need an MoT, we still like to take it for a test because it's a reassuring way to get a good check-over underneath. Our trusted tester in Barnes always calls the car "the nota-Morgan" and failed to pass it after spotting a broken shock-absorber arm. Thankfully, specialist Barrie Price had one in stock, so co-owner John Blundell drove out the next day to collect the £102 spare, and called in at David Simpson's workshop on the way back to fit it. The damper had broken off completely but, such is the lively ride of the LeaF, we hadn't noticed the difference on the road. The tester was amazed when the car was presented again the following day, with the new part fitted. Because John planned to take his Lea-Francis 'woodie' to Le Mans, the Sports was enlisted for the



British classics tackle the Fougères Rally

Fougères Rally in Normandy from 23-29 May. The 180-car entry always features a strong group from across the Channel, and Bristol was this year's nominated marque, with 30 entered. To keep JEL company, Ian Dilmot-Smith came from Kent in his 2½-litre Sports.

Always keen to make the most of a rally trip, John works in other local diversions. Taking the Caen



Charles and Liz Teal pose with their Austin

crossing, he called in at Bayeux to see the famous tapestry and the D-Day museum. The rally is a relaxed run on deserted minor French roads, with regular stops at local *châteaux*. The finish at Fougères is in the grounds of the castle before a parade through the town. It's a very social event with some fun enthusiasts, including Mark Elder from The Motor Shed at Bicester Heritage with his Alvis 12/50, while Sandy Doggart's Aston DB2/4 was a favourite car. The LeaF ran faultlessly on the French trip and seemed to enjoy the smooth back-roads.

A more demanding navigational event was the Lea-Francis Owners' Club's annual scatter rally based at Aynho Wharf near Banbury, and 10 LeaFs turned out for the challenge of plotting a route visiting 10 local churches for clues to questions devised by Colin and Sarah Poyter. With John's brother-in-law Charles Teal on the maps, the task proved harder than expected, but after a frantic 70mph blast back to the Holt Hotel, we ended up winning a box of chocolates.

The longest trip of the summer was a first visit to the Beamish Run in June. Held since 1971, the event is open to pre-1956 cars and motorcycles, with 150 entries enjoying a 150-mile route through County Durham and Cumbria. Highlights included impressive runs up Askrigg Bank and Tan Hill, and, despite the grey weather, hundreds turned out to cheer the rally on. After a wet final day, the LeaF dropped onto three cylinders on the dark run to the hotel. Thankfully, however, the following morning it was back onto all four for the 270-mile trek home.

Our early start convoying down to the Goodwood Revival on the Friday with 'Julio Balmez' and his rumbling Lincoln was blessed with sunshine, but we were surprised by how few classics we saw *en route*.

The climax of the summer was the LFOC's Autumn Tour of Wiltshire. Among the 20 cars were four other 14hp Sports, headed by organiser Nigel Fowler's car, which he recently bought from Germany and restored. With fine weather and a lovely group of cars, the event was the perfect end to a great season in which JEL has covered 2500 miles with total maintenance costs of just £217. Classic motoring doesn't get better value than that.



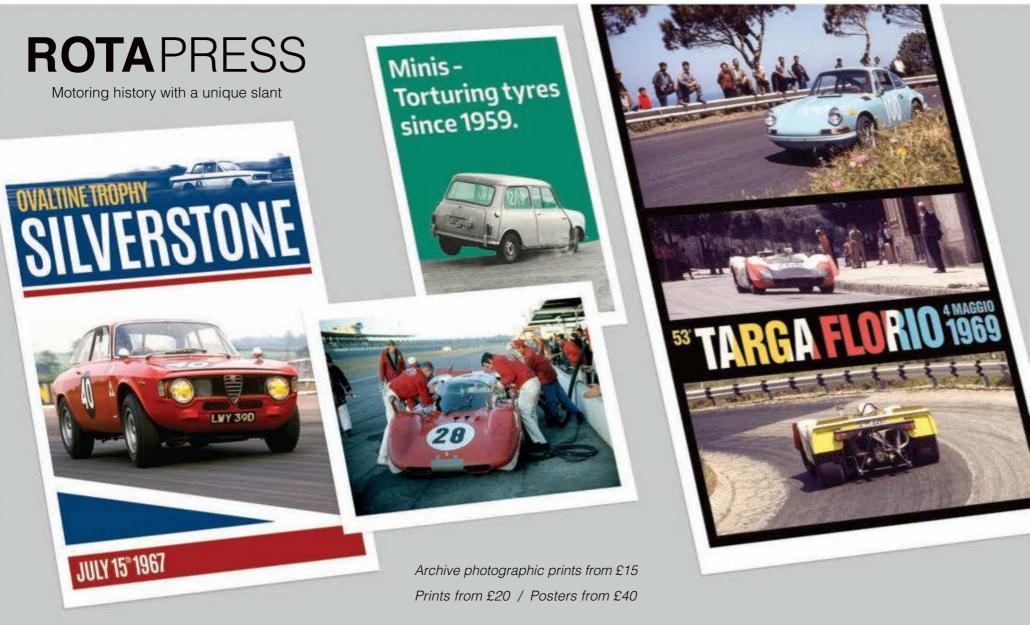
Goodwood Revival. Right: broken shock-absorber arm was soon fixed

Lincoln after fun run to

Dwarfed by Balme's



188 Classic & Sports Car December 2018



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## FORD ANGLIA 100E

OWNED BY Stephen Prior FROM Midhurst, West Sussex FIRST CLASSIC Austin Seven Ruby (AOV 816, where are you?) DREAM CLASSIC Mercedes-Benz 540K Cabriolet B BEST TRIP London to Zürich in my 1931 Lagonda

Whenever I see a car advertised for sale as having the 'same owner for 40 years' I wonder how such feats of longevity could come about. Imagine, then, the shock when I realised one day that I had owned 'Elsie' (LCJ 286), my beloved Ford Anglia 100E, for four decades. In 1977, I regularly drove myself to school in my father's 1929 Austin Seven Top Hat saloon, then my daily driver, and it continued to be so for my gap-year job in '78. A few months in, a loud bang from the back axle signalled a broken crownwheel. This was the last straw for my father so the Top Hat was sold (I bought it back five years ago). So

I started borrowing moderns to get to work, but I really needed a car of my own – something to take to university later in the year. I had seen Elsie the year before, when it was advertised in the local paper – even then a car from 1954 stood out in the small ads. In the end it was my friend Nick who bought it, but his lack of funds meant the Ford was soon back on the market; £220 and a bottle of Guinness changed hands and it was mine.

Elsie is a rare survivor of the very early 100Es, chassis number 1830, first registered on 19 February – I have only ever come across one earlier example. These models have some distinctive features, such as a removable T-key for opening the boot, minimal rear lights and much smaller brakes. It was in very good condition, other than a fairly typical Ford nasty of the period: rot around the top of the front shock absorbers, soon fixed by a trip to the welder. One morning in September 1978 I set off for Nottingham University, but 12 miles from home there was another loud bang as I lost the last 18 inches of the exhaust pipe. A brief stop was made to fix some stout twine around the remains of the exhaust system, a repair that lasted for my first year at university.

As one of the few student-owned cars, Elsie was soon pressed into service on 'Rag Raids', touring the Midlands loaded to the gunwales with Rag magazines to be sold for charity. This was also the time of my one claim to sporting fame as a member of the British under-21 shooting team, and on many weekends I made the five-hour trip each way from Nottingham to Bisley, home of British shooting. On my last trip to Bisley in summer 1979, the main oil seal on the crankshaft gave out, leading to me topping up with oil more often than petrol. Lack of funds meant that Elsie was then laid up for the rest of my university career.

Graduation marked the start of many years working overseas, but Elsie soon became my brother's first marital car. I returned to the UK in the 1990s, when Elsie was once again used as my daily driver, although when I got a company car it got less use. She still comes out often for jobs such as commuting and the school run, but also recently the 300-mile round trip to my father's funeral – he'd told me not to buy the car: "It'll never last!"

In recent years, the engine has

been rebuilt and she's had a respray and new headlining. So we're ready for our next 40 years together.



Send hi-res photos (300dpi) and 700 words to martin.port@ haymarket.com or to the p12 address. For Guy Allen gen see: www.guyallen.co.uk



Proud owner Prior with his beloved 100E

Respray done, Elsie is fit for 40 more years



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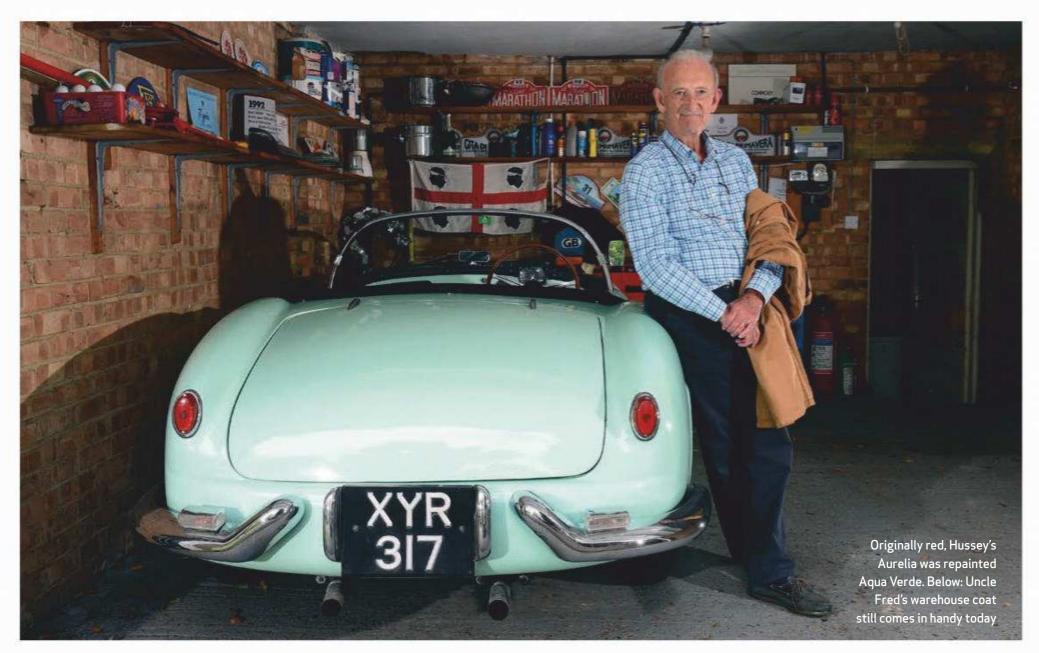


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# ANTHONY HUSSEY

A rally enthusiast whose love for cars grew from working with his uncle at Connolly

red Connolly was a hands-on boss. The second generation of the leather-working dynasty – and the driving force behind Connolly's association with every desirable car – Fred liked staying close to his product.

"Every couple of months, even in his 70s, he'd disappear into the warehouse and 'sort some leather' to keep his hand in," says his nephew Anthony Hussey. "He'd take his warehouse coat from the peg in his office and put it on over his suit. "They were the kind of brown cotton coats everyone wore. The company bought them in bulk. When the original Connolly closed down in 2002, I grabbed it before it was chucked out. Now it hangs on a hook in my own garage." Hussey regularly dons the well-worn garment whenever he has odd jobs to do, even if the task involves being flat on his back below his Lancia Aurelia B24 Spider. "I had it on this morning, in fact," he chuckles. "The Lancia has recently had a new petrol pump fitted, and I was underneath the car to check it. I don't mind if Uncle Fred's coat gets grubby. That's what it's for, and it has been washed several times." Connolly Brothers began as a cobbler in London's Euston Road in 1878. John and Samuel Connolly's little business was soon repairing belts, horse reins and harnesses, all of which they eventually manufactured. This led

WORDS GILES CHAPMAN PHOTOGRAPHY WILL WILLIAMS





in 2002. Hussey retired, but it was by no means the end of things. The Connolly brand was acquired by fashion house Joseph, and survives today in the hands of Isabel Ettedgui, (widow of founder Joseph Ettedgui), who has opened a swish new shop in the heart of Mayfair.

"The things in the Connolly shop today are utterly beautiful, and there's also a corner for my cousin Jonathan, who sells our leather, including the traditional Connolly Vaumol. Ferrari got wind of that; we weren't keen to supply the main production again, but we do Ferrari's retrims and rebuilds."

Restoration is something Hussey faced when he crashed his Aurelia on the Le Jog rally a few years ago: "I knew the car could be fixed, even though there was rather a lot of damage. At the same time, I fancied a change of colour from its original red to this light Aqua Verde." Hussey has tackled dozens of classic rallies among the 200,000 miles he's racked up in the Lancia, on top of whatever the original Italian owner, racing driver Pietro Ferraro, put on up to the point where the engine was changed. "It's a bloody beautiful drive," he enthuses. "I bought it on the advice of [motoring journalist] 'Steady' Barker, who told me to get this instead of a Jaguar XK140 or an AC Ace Bristol because it was so much better balanced... and so it gets you anywhere much faster!"

on to coach hoods and seats, and then car seats for coachbuilders. Thanks to Samuel's son, Fred, the business boomed along with the motor industry in Britain and the USA.

Hussey joined the family firm as, he says: "Basically a rep, selling leather to car manufacturers. Mind you, that did include Ferrari. When Enzo Ferrari went into road cars, he wanted the same smell that you got in a Rolls-Royce or a Jaguar. I suppose it helped that our Italian agent had been at school with him."

Despite the worldwide reputation of the Connolly name, the original business closed

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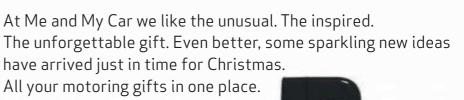
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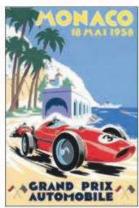
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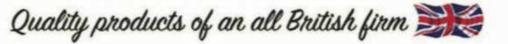
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#### **196** Classic & Sports Car December 2018

# THE SPECIALIST

# CREATIVE THINKING

Coachbuilder Daniel Longford loves to mix traditional with modern techniques in his Hampshire workshop

WORDS PAUL HARDIMAN PHOTOGRAPHY WILL WILLIAMS

or a youngish bloke – although he's been in the business for 20 years – Daniel Longford Clazey has an impressive car CV behind him. He's made bodies for Alfa 8Cs and one of Jim Stokes' new Alfa 158s, and

he's designed and built a series of one-offs, the latest of which is the elegant Lagonda Rapier shown here: "The owner had some idea of the cars he likes, such as the Peter Wenman Zagatostyled Rapier and the Type 54 Bugatti Bachelia," says Longford. "I used a coachbuilder's drawing, lowered the radiator and drew out the new design to scale – it's a useful way of checking wheel travel. I then scaled it up from there."

It sounds so easy, but Longford has worked with and learned from the best: "I spent 10 years at an Aston Martin specialist, but moved down here to the New Forest to gain more experience on a broader range of cars." He'd started amassing tools before his move, and there's an impressive collection of three wheeling machines as well as the usual rollers and folders, plus a full set of 40 profiles, or sweeps, hanging from the wall in the light and airy workshop: "Each one is curved <sup>1</sup>/sin more than the last, which you use to make sure the curves are the same on both sides. Do it once, and do it right.

"I use two wheeling machines together because it's quicker – one usually has a flatter wheel for the main body of the panel and the other has a higher crown for the curved areas. I've converted the smaller wheel to run a kart tyre and had lower wheels made to my specification. I can vary the pressure and therefore the contact area on the panel, so I can move a radius such as in the running boards on the current job." The middle machine was made in the '20s by

Ranalah, and the next job in is a Rapier with a Ranalah body: "It's great to be using a wheel from the same company that made the coachwork, and it may have made the actual body."

There's a bandsaw, too, to cut templates and ash frames: "On the woodwork, I've had a lot of help from my friend in the north-east, Geoff Henderson, a retired coachbuilder. He was good enough to give me his drawings for the Abbottbodied Rapiers, among others."

Steel frames are an option, too. "That's the Italian style, and it takes up less space," says Longford. He's not averse to incorporating modern materials to do a better job: "I like to produce an original car, but one that is discreetly improved with modern technologies – with the owner's consent – such as bonding as well as wrapping aluminium skins, to give a stronger frame that's sealed from the wet, and using modern compounds to stop galvanic corrosion."

Longford considers his chassis jig to be crucial – his own Alvis 12/70 is currently sitting on it, waiting for a rebuild: "It's really important. It's fairly normal to find some accident damage on an 80- or 90-year-old car, and it is essential to have a solid, straight base to work from. Fortunately a ladder chassis doesn't require a huge amount of energy to straighten, but the jig also has a hydraulic ram and pulling arm if needed.

It then becomes the datum for the frame build, and provides a level base to measure from and give an accurate body. "The Rapier had been damaged and then badly repaired - which was picked up and straightened when it was on the jig." Each body takes up to a year: "The next job will take me until March, and the Rapier owner has just bought a Hispano-Suiza V8 aircraft engine, so he wants me to find a chassis." Which means the Alvis isn't getting a look-in for now.

Clockwise from main: Longford is currently creating a bespoke Lagonda Rapier; one of his three wheeling machines; working on a new timber frame; taking measurements from a scale drawing



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# THE BLUE OVAL HITS NEW HEIGHTS

A brace of hot Fords set new records at Silverstone Auctions' 29 September sale at Dallas Burston Polo Club, Warwickshire. First was a one-owner 1990 Sierra Sapphire RS Cosworth 4x4 showing just 13,310 miles and offered with a comprehensive history file including every tax disc and MoT test certificate. It's believed to be one of the first six supplied to the UK and made  $\pounds 52,750$ , more than  $\pounds 20k$ above its upper estimate. For fans of '70s performance cars, a 1972 Escort RS1600 also established a new benchmark. In period-correct Le Mans Green, this superbly restored saloon raised £70,875.

Another car with its roots in competition was a 1984 Renault 5 Turbo 2. The unrestored 16,898mile car changed hands for a strong £86,625, while a 1982 Audi quattro, understood to be a right-handdrive prototype that had spent 20 years in storage, sold for £49,500. Also believed to be a factory development car was a 1966 MGC GT. Built some eight months before production officially began, the MG had lost its original engine and auto 'box, but retained a number of unique features including a horizontally slatted grille. In the correct Riviera Silver Blue but beginning to show its age, it made £20,475.

Silverstone's annual Porsche sale at the same location the previous day had some similarly enticing lots. A 1998 911 (993) turbo S was one of only 26 UK right-hookers and eye-catching in rare Pastel Yellow, helping it to achieve an impressive £185,625. A 1978 928 that was remarkably unmolested down to its period-correct single door mirror - looked like a lot of car for £14k. Elsewhere, a beautifully restored 1958 308 'Super' N tractor was the antidote to modern Porsches with its air-cooled 2466cc three-cylinder diesel. It sold for just under £20k, helping the auction house hit £3.2m over the two sales.



Pastel Yellow is an unusual shade for a 911 turbo S, and helped this 1998 oneof-26 car to £185,625 at the single-marque sale



# Porsche pitstop in Oxfordshire

Independent marque specialist Autofarm (www.autofarm.co.uk) will be among the first tenants at a new Porsche-focused business park opening in 2019. Situated just south of Bicester in rural Oxfordshire, Boxengasse (German for pitlane) will provide 25,000sq ft of bespoke premises for services and hospitality in a 100-acre outdoor event space surrounded by lakes and woodland. For Autofarm customers, the additional space will mean improved facilities for the firm's engine and gearbox department, while the company has also revealed plans to create a dedicated alignment and track-day set-up facility. Find out more at www.boxengasse.com







#### Rare convertible DS commanded €425,500

GT icons set sale records at Zoute

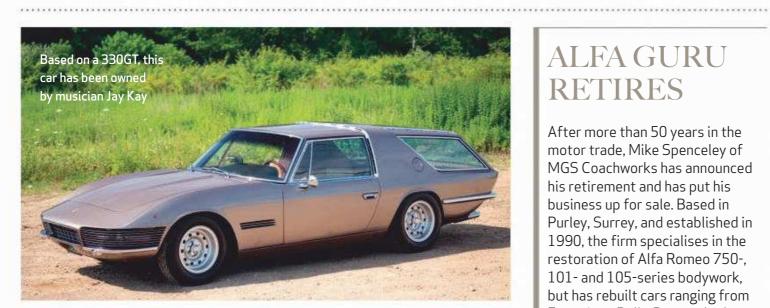
Bonhams achieved a total of €8.25m at its sixth annual Zoute sale in Belgium on 5 October, with the highest price going to a 1962 Aston Martin DB4. Presented in concours condition following a five-year rebuild, the matchingnumbers Series V Vantage was one of only 17 left-hand-drive cars produced with faired-in headlights, and had spent most of its life in California. It sold to a European bidder in the room for €1,212,250, establishing a new auction record for the model. Offering similarly timeless elegance and pace, a superb 1960 Ferrari 250GT Series II also set a new benchmark, the Pininfarina Coupé soaring past its

pre-sale estimate of €600-800,000 to change hands for €989,000.

For fans of more avant-garde classics, few can upstage droptop versions of the iconic Citroën DS, and one such car clearly inspired bidders. One of only four produced to fuel-injected DS23 spec, the 1973 Décapotable sold for a vast €425,500. Ānother '70s open-top lot to do well, meanwhile, was a Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow that originally belonged to former world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali. With a €40-60k pre-sale estimate, the lefthand-drive 1970 HJ Mulliner Park Ward drophead went to a new home for a massive €132,250.

Other British models to capture bidders' interest included a 1936 Bentley 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-litre cabriolet by Jean Antem of Courbevoie; ordered new by André Embiricos, the curvaceous Derby Bentley made €408,250. Among the more sporting machines were a 1958 AC Ace - an original left-hand-drive example with the AC engine - that was sold to a bidder in the room for €322,000, and a 1956 Austin-Healey 100M that made €184,000.

Less sporty, perhaps, but still coming with impeccable competition history, was a 1954 Fiat 1100 TV. A Mille Miglia participant in both 1954 and 1955, the restored saloon sold for  $\in 150,650$ .



## **ALFA GURU** RETIRES

After more than 50 years in the motor trade, Mike Spenceley of MGS Coachworks has announced his retirement and has put his business up for sale. Based in Purley, Surrey, and established in 1990, the firm specialises in the restoration of Alfa Romeo 750-, 101- and 105-series bodywork, but has rebuilt cars ranging from Ferraris to Rolls-Royces. It also offers a brokerage service for customers looking to buy or sell classics. For further details, see www.mgscoachworks.com

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# Final Vignale Ferrari in LA sale

If you're a fan of futuristic coachwork, this Ferrari 330 consigned to RM Sotheby's 8 December sale at the Petersen Museum in LA could be for you. Built in 1967 and based on a two-year-old US-market car, it was the brainchild of Luigi 'Coco' Chinetti. The Italian coachbuilder's final creation on a Ferrari chassis (Vignale was killed in a road

traffic accident in November '69), 7963GT took pride of place on the carrozzeria's stand at the Turin Salon in 1968, featured in C&SC in December 2001, and in more recent times was owned by Jay Kay of Jamiroquai fame. If you want to stand out from the crowd, this Ferrari is being offered without reserve; see www.rmsothebys.com



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#### **THE MARKETPLACE**



Several people asked me about the Fiat 130 Coupé in Historics' sale that was allegedly one of my old cars. I didn't recognise the number or the silver paint, but it must have been the low-mileage car I bought from its first lady owner 20 years ago – complete with protective plastic still on the door cards.

The history on that car was epic: bought new from Tony Brooks Fiat (she chopped in a Flavia Coupé), it came with a selection of '70s sunglasses in the glovebox, the correct self-tuning radio/cassette player and perfect velour trim – now the 130 Holy Grail. Yet somehow it never ran wonderfully, despite being treated to new cams at one stage. Racing an XR2 down the M1 didn't do the head gaskets much good, and it eventually went to a pal with a matching 130 saloon.

I sold my SL320 into the trade and I'm now running the Mercedes 300TE and P38 Range Rover as daily transport, while steeling myself not to go over to Yattendon Garage in Berkshire where there's a Jaguar MkX that needs rescuing.

I was also offered a Lancia Beta Spider the other day, a project car

# Buckley's market matters

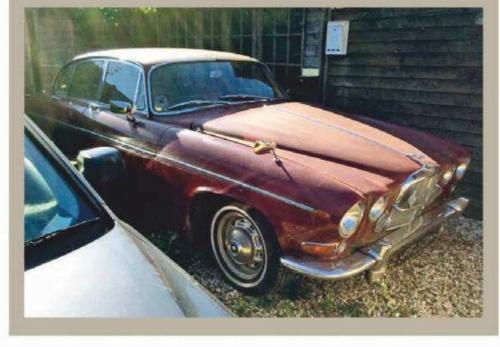
that had been off the road for 30 years but was dry-stored and solid. It might appear in the shed at some point, but it reminded me of the one that turned up at Ashton Technical College in the early 1980s. I was doing a Motor Vehicle Engineering City & Guilds, and as part of the practical coursework we had a miserable selection of wrecks to work on that would now be semidesirable, including a Triumph 2.5PI and a Ford Executive. The tutors included a Mr Smith, who sported a bald head and a Pilgrim Fathers type beard and, though a man of few words, was not short on wit. "Why have you given me an 'E',

sir?" asked one lad. "Cos there's no effin' Fs," came the response.

One day, a ripple of excitement ran through our workshop when a local lady donated a beige Lancia Beta Spider. It can't have been much more than five years old and was pretty tidy – so good, in fact, that our other tutor, who was younger and looked a bit like Noel Edmonds, immediately commandeered it for himself, to replace his rusty yellow GT6. To be honest, I'd have done the same.



Left: he's had so many of them that Buckley can't even remember if this is his old car! Below: MkX seeks a saviour, but could that be our man?



# **AUCTION RESULTS** September's top 50 sales



One-owner Enzo with fewer than 6100km from new was the month's top seller, at £1.97m



Top-priced pre-war machine: £631k SS100



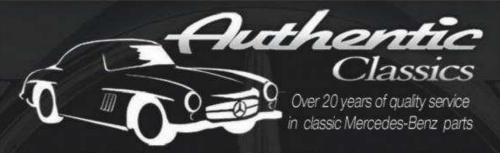
Gorgeous 250 PF Coupé, Historics, £426k

PRICE	CAR	SALE
£1,973,750	2003 Ferrari Enzo Ihd	RM Sotheby's, London, UK
£1,359,000	1964 Shelby Cobra 289 Competition Ihd	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£1,355,200	2015 Porsche 918 Spyder Ihd	Barrett Jackson, Las Vegas, USA
£1,191,000	1990 Jaguar XJR-11 Group C racer	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£1,017,500	1953 Ferrari 212 Europa Ihd	RM Sotheby's, London, UK
£933,125	1993 Porsche 911 Carrera RS 3.8	RM Sotheby's, London, UK
£930,000	1964 Ferrari 250GT Lusso Ihd	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£800,000	1955 Rolls-Royce Phantom IV Hooper landaulette	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£754,200	1957 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Roadster	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£631,000	1937 Jaguar SS100 3½-litre	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£563,500	1960 Aston Martin DB4 (to GT spec)	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£540,000	1924 Bugatti Type 30 racer	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£522,500	1931 Cadillac V16 sport phaeton	RM Sotheby's, London, UK
£511,750	1968/'69 Ford P68 'F3L' Group 6 racer	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£500,000	1971 Iso Grifo S2 7.0 lhd	RM Sotheby's, London, UK
£442,750	1972 Ferrari Dino 246GT	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£425,600	1958 Ferrari 250GT Pinin Farina Coupé Series I	Historics, Brooklands, UK
£402,500	1956 Fiat-Bartoletti 642 race transporter	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£381,875	1993 Porsche 911 turbo Cabriolet	RM Sotheby's, London, UK
£345,000	1933 Rolls-Royce 40/50 Phantom II Barker Continental	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£345,000	1948 Aston Martin 2-litre dhc	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£345,000	1989 Aston Martin V8 Vantage X-Pack	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£332,750	2016 Porsche 911R	RM Sotheby's, London, UK
£320,000	1957 Porsche 356A 1600 Reutter Speedster Ihd	RM Sotheby's, London, UK
£275,000	1969 Lynx-Jaguar XKSS 4.2 lhd	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£272,550	1955 Aston Martin DB2/4 3.0 Mulliner dhc	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£271,040	2018 McLaren 720S	Barrett Jackson, Las Vegas, USA
£264,500	1934 Aston Martin 1 <sup>1</sup> /2-litre Mk2 short-chassis	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£264,500	1961 Jaguar E-type S1 3.8 JDC Lightweight replica	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£255,300	1995 Rolls-Royce Corniche IV auto	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£250,000	1957 Bentley S1 Continental Mulliner fastback auto	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£250,000	1964 Lang-Cooper 2 Ford 289 Group 7 racer	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£250,000	1979 Ferrari 512BB lhd	RM Sotheby's, London, UK
£247,250	1973 Ferrari Dino 246GT	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£235,700	1962 Jaguar E-type S1 3.8 Lynx low-drag	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
6010 500		

£218,500	1935 AC 2-litre 16/20 competition	Bonhams, Beaulieu, UK
£218,500	1970 Maserati Ghibli SS 4.9 lhd	RM Sotheby's, London, UK
£216,200	1961 Bentley S2 Continental HJ Mulliner auto	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£212,750	1903 Panhard et Levassor 7hp A rear-entry	Bonhams, Beaulieu, UK
£209,000	1971 Maserati Ghibli SS 4.9 lhd	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£207,000	1967 Aston Martin DB6	RM Sotheby's, London, UK
£201,200	2009 Lamborghini Murciélago LP670-4	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£200,000	1924 Bentley 3 Litre Speed Model Vanden Plas tourer	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£195,500	1974 Jaguar E-type S3 Commemorative roadster	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£191,250	2018 Porsche 911 GT3 Touring	Silverstone Auctions, Porsche Sale, UK
£189,750	1924 Bentley 3 Litre tourer	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£189,750	2002 Rolls-Royce Corniche Final Series auto	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£185,625	1998 Porsche 911 turbo S	Silverstone Auctions, Porsche Sale, UK
£184,000	1972 Ferrari 365GTC/4	Bonhams, Goodwood Revival, UK
£184.000	1961 Jaguar E-type S1 3.8 RSP Lightweight replica	RM Sotheby's, London, UK

Prices include buyer's premium. Exchange rate used to establish Sterling equivalent: \$1 = 75p. For full sale results, see **www.classicandsportscar.com** 

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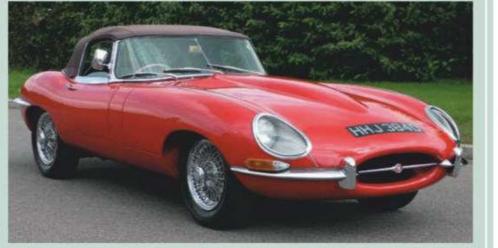
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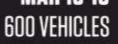
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# MASERATI QUATTROPORTE

The fifth-generation Trident four-door flagship is a tech-laden *tour de force*, so buy carefully words MALCOLM MCKAY PHOTOGRAPHY WILL WILLIAMS



utstandingly elegant Pininfarina styling with numerous classy touches make the Quattroporte V stand out from its rivals. The styling makes it look smaller than it is, and on the road it shrinks

around you, feeling poised and purposeful with 395-435bhp available to hurl its two-ton hulk along, accompanied by a great V8 growl.

With a wide choice of supersaloons from the early 2000s now dropping into the  $\pounds 10-20k$  bracket, it's interesting that the Quattroporte

which some people love, especially in paddleselect manual operation, but which is considered awkward and jerky compared to other modern transmissions when used in its fully automatic mode. It was joined at the start of 2007 by a sixspeed ZF auto that was mounted to the back of the engine; while some criticised this for lessideal weight distribution, in fact it only changed it from 47:53 to 49:51 (front/rear).

Rear seats are adjustable for height and rake, while some models have seats with cooling and massage functions. There's plenty of space inside, though the boot is small. Carrozzeria Touring built four stunning five-door Bellagio Estates in 2008-'09, but you won't find one – the only known sale was in 2013 for  $\in 117,600$ . Criticisms when new centred on the car being too focused a drive for everyday use; that perhaps explains why so many today have very low mileages, because most were bought as second cars for weekend outings rather than everyday use. If you find one of those that was also garaged (and you keep it so), you've a good chance of many years of enjoyable - and relatively troublefree – Maserati charm. Don't forget that in the UK, cars registered before 23 March 2006 will cost £305 a year to tax; later ones £535 a year.

# Trouble spots

**SUBFRAMES** Front and rear subframes can rot through, even on late cars

**BODY** The aluminium bonnet and bootlid skins suffer electrolytic corrosion

**TRANSMISSION** Choose carefully, because the DuoSelect transaxle doesn't suit all

has a strong following among classic car owners, significantly boosting Maserati Club UK membership. It's a car that evokes passion and heritage, and is a driver's car first and foremost. It's immensely – scarily – complex and you don't want to own one once they start going wrong, unless you're extremely handy and happy to fit secondhand parts. Significant electrical glitches affected even *Autocar's* road-test car, so low mileage is no guarantee of reliability.

Two transmissions were offered and are the most important choice when selecting which model to buy. At first there was only the sixspeed automated-manual DuoSelect transaxle, **CLUTCH** On DuoSelect-equipped cars, the clutch can have a short lifespan

**BRAKES & TYRES** These get heavy use and wear rapidly

**ENGINE** Cam variators can wear and rattle

**AIR CONDITIONING** A noisy compressor can be expensive to replace

**ELECTRONICS** These are hugely complex – so there's a lot to go wrong





Post-'08 facelift cars such as our featured example boast a more aggressive face. Right: stylish interior is lavishly appointed





The Quattroporte arguably got the balance right between pace, sporting drive and luxury, although it's geared towards enthusiastic drivers who will be happy to make a few sacrifices such as its prodigious thirst and a somewhat harsh ride – especially in GT S form, which also had a great growling exhaust bypass valve





Look for a recent 800A+ **battery** and ensure the many electrical functions work, including sat-nav, tyre-pressure and parking sensors, door mirrors etc



Check the **brake discs** for wear – they don't last long. Skyhook **dampers** are fitted to most except Sport and GT S: beware, new dampers are c£2k a pair





There's little to choose between the 4.2- and 4.7-litre **engines**; both are superb. All have red cam covers except 4.2 ZF-gearbox cars, which had blue. DuoSelect cars had dry-sump engines, ZF cars had a wet sump. Listen for rattly timing variators (on start-up and overrun), and look for oil and water leaks Here is ZF's auto **gearbox** with the paddleshift option. Early cars had the DuoSelect transaxle, an automated manual – only for enthusiasts Check seats' **electric functions**, plus all tech options. Rear shelf leather can shrink in the sun. Check footwells for water ingress (via door membranes)

#### **BUYER'S GUIDE**



# On the road

Every Maserati Quattroporte V should deliver effortless performance, good feel and great handling: anything less needs attention which will inevitably be expensive. The ride can feel a bit harsh, but there should be no knocks or clonks. Skyhook electronic adaptive dampers with switchable Normal/Sport modes reduce the harshness in the Normal setting without ever becoming wallowy; the S and GT S used fixed-rate shock absorbers and stiffer springs, contributing to an even more fierce ride.

Engine issues are rare; rattly timing variators are most common, costing c£1800 per side to replace. A rattle lower down in the engine bay, which goes away if you push 'ECO' on the dash, is a worn air-con compressor, well over £1000 to change. Budget c£850 per year for regular servicing, but keep plenty in hand for the unex-

# Owning one



Nick Waddington has a passion for Italian cars: "I love Italian design and have had classic Maseratis since 1992. I bought this 4.7 facelift five years ago. I didn't want a GT S – the ride is too harsh. I feel a sense of occasion every time

I drive it – the finish is so lovely, it just feels right. It's for high days and holidays – it's not a car for Waitrose runs. It's lovely for long distances, very comfy with an abundance of power: you can relax whatever the traffic, knowing that if there is a gap, you can go. I like the style of driving: lots of torque, not like a Ferrari where you're forever trying to keep it on cam. My only complaints are that the boot is a bit limited for four on a long trip, and the sat-nav is clunky. I keep it in a dehumidified garage and take it out every two to three weeks to keep it all working properly."

# Alternatives



**DAIMLER SUPER EIGHT** 2002-'09, 2762 built Classic XJ looks in an alloy body with adaptive air suspension and a supercharged 4.2 V8: it did 0-60mph in 5.3 secs. Check for rusty subframes and aluminium corrosion. **Price now** £10-20k



pected: new Maserati parts are very costly.

ZF transmissions are durable but the Duo-Select can eat clutches if driven badly (Maserati diagnostics can give a wear indication) and if it's slow or noisy changing, it may need new hydraulic selectors – each costs around £2000-2500.

Brakes are strong and effective but wear fast; ABS sensors corrode and are costly to replace. On ZF-gearbox cars, the electronic handbrake sticks if used infrequently and you have to rock it back and forth, switch off and reboot until it frees (or spend £1000+ on new cables and shoes). Quality tyres can be very expensive and last 8-15,000 miles, so check for wear and brand. "I feel a sense of occasion every time I drive it – the finish is so lovely, it just feels right – and it's ideal for long distances"

**BENTLEY FLYING SPUR** 2005-'12, c4500 built With a 6-litre, 552bhp twin-turbo W12 and adaptive air suspension, this is a highly competent driving machine, if scarily expensive to run. **Price now** £17-50k

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# The knowledge

#### TIMELINE

2003 Pininfarina-styled QP V unveiled
2004 On sale with 4.2-litre V8 and DuoSelect
2005 Sept Executive GT (inc 19in wheels, folding tables, massaging seats) and Sport GT (inc quicker gearshift, firmer dampers, sports exhaust, 20in alloys, red-accented Tridents)
2007 ZF full-auto 'box option added. Sept Sport GT S added (inc Brembo brakes, 20in alloys)
2008 Apr Facelifted styling, better nav/audio, DuoSelect and Skyhook suspension dropped; Sport GT becomes Quattroporte S (4.7, 424bhp, 174mph, 0-60mph 5.3 secs); Sport GT S gets
434bhp 4.7 and electronic exhaust bypass
2009 Mar Centurion Edition 4.2/4.7 for holders of black AmEx cards

**2010 Apr** GT S Awards Edition (126 built), black or gold, dark chrome trim, satin grey wheels **2012** Production ends

#### FACTFILE

**Sold/number built** 2004-'12/25,256 Construction steel monocoque, with some aluminium panels Engine all-alloy, dohc-per-bank, 32-valve 4244/4691cc V8, Bosch Motronic fuel injection Max power 395bhp-434bhp @ 7000rpm Max torque 333lb ft @ 4500rpm to 361lb ft @ 4750rpm Transmission six-speed rear-mounted DuoSelect automated manual or front-mounted ZF auto, driving rear wheels **Suspension** double wishbones, coil springs, telescopic dampers, anti-roll bar **Steering** speed-sensitive rack and pinion Brakes servo-assisted ventilated discs with ABS (front 330-360mm, rear 316-360mm) **Length** 16ft 7in-16ft 8<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in (5052-5097mm) Width 6ft 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>in-6ft 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in (1895-1885mm) **Height** 4ft 8<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>in-4ft 8in (1438-1423mm) Wheelbase 10ft <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>in (3064mm) Weight 4255-4387lb (1930-1990kg) **0-60mph** 5.5-5.1secs **Top speed** 165-177mph Mpg 10-24 Price new £77,000-85,900 (2007)

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#### **SPECIALISTS**

McGrath Maserati 01438 832161 Emblem Sports Cars 01202 722247

# OUR VER DICT

The Maserati Quattroporte V is one of the most competent and charismatic sports saloons of the new millennium. Just remember that this car is a highly complex and delicate piece of Italian engineering and be prepared to treat it as such – and you'll be punished if previous owners have not looked after it. Do due diligence, and buy the best you can: most examples are low-mileage, so don't pay a big premium for it.

#### FOR

Great styling, super power and lots of kit make this a very appealing four-door with a strong club following and support from specialists

#### AGAINST

There's a huge amount to go wrong so services can get very costly; the ride is too harsh for some and boot space is inadequate for four people



# One you can buy

Year 2007 Recorded mileage 91,178 Asking price £12,995 Vendor Inglebys, Middlesex; tel: 020 8954 4552; www.inglebysgroup.co.uk For ZF auto, tidy, well kept and a good price Against Shame about the careless jacking.

This pre-facelift car is a very late 'crossover' model that has the ZF auto; it wasn't registered until mid-2008. It was last sold in 2017 with a new service at 90,095 miles, for £18,000.

It is very well preserved, with a full service history and showing no warning lights.

The body has had no obvious paint and is unscuffed, with only a few small stone-chips and one tiny ding, plus a little lacquer flaking off the rear bumper. The tyres are well-treaded, 2015dated Pirelli P Zeros; the front alloys are lightly kerbed. The exhaust looks good. There's a little underside surface rust in areas and, sadly, the right sill has been jacked in three places, but it doesn't show unless you climb underneath. The cabin looks good and is wearing well, and all the electrics work. The leak-free motor is tidy; the fluids are less than 1100 miles old, clean and to level. The alternator belt looks new. It starts easily and drives well, tracking straight and with smooth brakes. The temperature sits in the middle of the gauge. It makes all the right noises, with no creaks from the suspension, and the gearbox is responsive. Sold with manuals, sat-nav package, two keys and an MoT (with no advisories) until July.



Tyres have a good amount of tread; the body presents well



Migliore Cars 01527 576355 Giallo 01732 364444 Highline Autos 01992 535513 The Maserati Shed 01329 834016 SuperCarClinic 01204 329240 Backdraft Motorsport 01908 648081 SB Race Engineering 020 3940 7515

WHAT TO PAY Late/low miles Average Early/high miles

4.2/4.7/GTS £20k/25k/27,500 £15k/£21k/£23k £9500/£18k/18k

Cabin electrics work, including rear window blind and seats



FSH with eight stamps, including one from Monaco in 2014

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## CASE HISTORIES Cars for sale we've tested this month



Tests are carried out by experts and are a fair reflection of the cars on the day they were viewed. They should not be taken as a full inspection, and buyers must satisfy themselves of a car's condition before purchase. Cars are sold without tax unless stated

# PICK OF THE CLASSIFIEDS Great classics you can buy

#### **1970 JAGUAR E-TYPE S2** £36,500

Automatic 2+2 in Old English White with original red leather interior and chrome wire wheels. Converted to RHD in early '90s. Drives superbly,



large history file, maintained by a specialist. Private sale – call 07919 397548 or 02392 464952.

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What is the future for the classic market generally? I think it's good, especially because classic events have become more like cultural and lifestyle shows.

What's your dream classic? I'm still very fond of pre-war vehicles – something that sounds like thunder, smells of Castrol R and fuel, and is a challenge to drive.

## **IN THE WORKSHOP** Essential products & services guide

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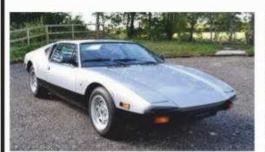
AC COBRA LIGHTWEIGHT 1991 · Grey / Black interior, 8,100 miles, comprehensive history file, 2 owners • £175,000



AC SUPERBLOWER COBRA 2000 · 1 of only 24 examples ever produced, Guards Red/Grey interior, 6148 miles, 2 owners • £125,000

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1974 De Tomaso Pantera LHD, £64,995



1963 Alfa Romeo Giulietta Sprint LHD, £24,995 2000 Aston Martin DB7 V12 Vantage RHD, £19,995



1997 Ferrari 550 Maranello RHD, £59,995





1965 Austin-Healey 3000 Mk.III LHD, £52,995



1959 Austin Seven Mini RHD, £19,995



1971 Rolls-Royce Corniche FHC RHD, £29,995



1972 Triumph TR6 RHD, £14,995



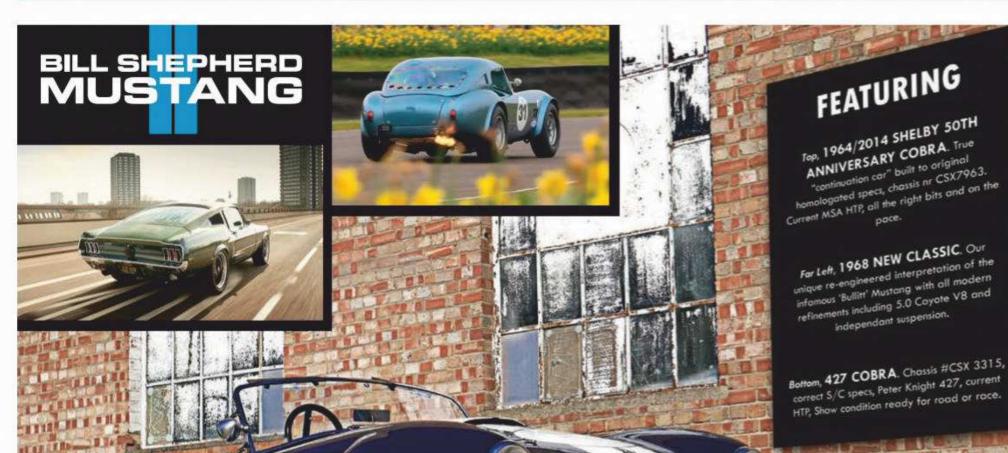
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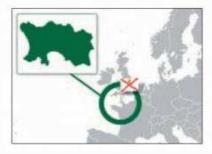


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1964 Porsche 356SC Coupe. Dolphin Grey with blue cord trim. The ultimate pushrod- family. RHD. Factory sunroof. engined 356.



**1957 Bentley S1 Cont. Park Ward Coupe.** 



1955 Porsche 356 Pre-A Speedster. Matching numbers and finished in its original colour of Design no. 701. Delivered new to a member of the DuPont A most charming, early Speedster. One of the last Pre-A examples. Previous owner for 40 years.

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**DB6 MKII VANTAGE** One of only 34 original Right Hand Drive examples built, this matching numbers Vantage has a known history from new and a recent engine rebuild by marque specialists

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1949 Bentley MK VI Sports Saloon: 2-tone Black/Silver w/ Black leather. \$57,900



1964 Chevrolet Corvair 2-Door Convertible: Burgundy with black. \$12,900

## **TRADES ACCEPTED!**



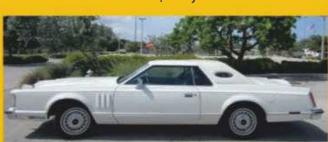
1957 Austin FX3 TAXI CAB: One-of-a-kind rhd with 4-sp on floor. \$34,900



1964 Volkswagen Beetle: California black plate, body-off resto, Green/Gray. \$22,900



1969 Jaguar E-Type: Red w/Tan, excellent condition. \$119,900



1978 Lincoln Mark V: Numbered car. Only 8 in the world, very rare. Only 19k miles. \$21,900



1970 Jaguar E-Type: White w/ Red interior and like-new black top. \$129,900



1976 Rolls-Royce Silver Shad-



1974 Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow: 2-tone Brown/Tan with Tan interior. \$13,900



1980 Mercedes-Benz 450 SLC:



1986 Chevrolet Corvette Hatchbackk: Gold/Tan, beautiful, 58k miles, Great price! \$10,400



1992 Jaguar XJS Coupe: Oyster

ow: 2-tone Yellow/Brown w/ Brown, 65k miles. \$29,900 Gorgeous Tan with Tan leather. Exceptional. \$12,900 w/Tan, beautiful example, 51k miles, \$13,900

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#### Mercedes-Benz 230 SL Pagoda



This gorgeous Pagoda has been completely restored, screw-by-screw, to better-than-new condition. The vehicle has been thoroughly mechanically refurbished, with special attention paid to the engine. **Mileage:** 10 km Colour grey, Interior leather grey

EUR 119.900, VAT not specified

Mercedes-Benz 300 S Convertible A 188

## Case histories



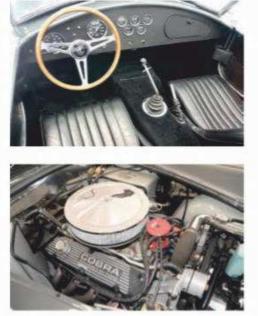
AC COBRA MKIV LIGHTWEIGHT Year of manufacture 1991 Recorded mileage 8886 Asking price £175,000 Vendor Redline, Surrey; tel: 01932 875435; www.redlineclassiccars.co.uk WHEN IT WAS NEW Price £115,000 Max power 350bhp Max torque 360lb ft 0-60mph 5.2 secs Top speed 134mph Mpg 22.1

.....

One of the first 26 (of 73) Lightweight MkIVs built by Autokraft between 1990 and '92, this car spent its early life in Japan, returning in 2009. Thunder Road and Redline have looked after it since, with Redline adding the older-style dash (which liberates more room inside). Other than that, it remains very original, still with its factory Rolls-Royce Graphite Grey paint, which looks good but closer up has cracking on the bonnet and rear deck, plus a chunk missing from the rear corner of the bonnet aperture. The wheels are lightly blemished in a couple of places, shod with Avon ZZs with lots of tread (and a matching, unused, 2008-dated spare). In the boot there's a full set of weather equipment, as-new and still with the car's serial number crayoned into the bag. Underneath, it's all clean and unscuffed, the original exhaust system still managing to look almost new, plus there are Redline's own anti-roll bars with poly mounts.

Inside, the seat leather is just starting to patinate gently, the carpets aren't worn and there are harnesses, Perspex sunvisors, glass wind wings and a chrome driver's-side roll bar. The heater controls are hidden away under the dash.

The motor is tidy and leak-free, and was dyno tested by Thunder Road in 2009 at 288bhp at the wheels, corrected to 356bhp at the flywheel at 5300rpm (regular MkIVs were 250-320bhp, on fuel injection). It's just been serviced, so the fluids are clean, and it starts easily with only a couple of spits through the air filter. On the road it's well-behaved, easy to operate and tractable, though of course plant it on a straight and it'll try to pull your ears off. The chassis is comfortable and clonk-free, and the brakes are smooth and pull up straight. The synchros all work well in the Borg-Warner T5 'box, but you still blip it because the noise is so sublime – though heel-and-toeing is hard even for a 5ft 8in driver because the long clutch forces you to sit quite close, when the steering-wheel rim gets in the way of your right thigh. Oil pressure is 55-60psi at 3000rpm and above, with temperature steady at just under 80°C. It will be sold with a good history file, including lots of bills for fettling, plus a new MoT.



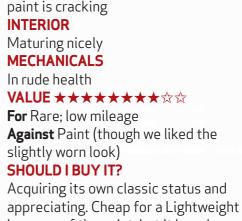
SUMMARY EXTERIOR Looks good, but the original



This Mercedes 300 S Convertible is a rarity because it was built only 203 times. A beautiful collector's item that has Matching Numbers. First Registration: 07/1953 Mileage: 22.350 km Colour white, Interior leather blue

EUR 549.300, VAT not specified

More information, photos and videos about the vehicles on our website classiccenter-koeln.de



appreciating. Cheap for a Lightweight because of the paint, but it has charm – and of course it can be very fast

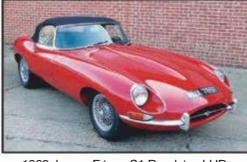




1956 Jaguar MK1 Man/OD 4.2 litre 'Fast Road Spec' £39,995.



1966 Lotus Cortina MK1 Race/Rally £29,995.



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2105. Only 4,500 Miles from New. A stunning example! With a very desirable private plate included with the sale! Arctic Silver. Quilted Venom red leather..Factory fitted optional extras - Premium pack (trim) Convenience pack.Metallic paint.. Rear parking sensors. Heated seats. Air conditioning. Silver brake callipers. Automatic/Paddle shift. Must be seen to appreciate! Will include an MOT & a service in the price. £39,750



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Vauxhall Engine. Has cycle wings, A stainless steel exhaust, full weather gear, 5 Speed, live axle, individual seats, heated screen, chrome headlamps & Mini type wheels. It's only covered 18,000 Miles from new & is a very reliable fun car! Will include a new Mot & service in the price.  $\pounds12,750$ 



#### LOTUS ELISE 111R

Touring Pack 2006, Only 39,000 miles in titanium grey with black leather. Full Service History with 10 service stamps in the book, Previously supplied by ourselves. This car is a very pleasant example & very worthy of an inspection. Comes with 3 month's part's & labour warranty, A new Mot & Service £21,950



#### LOTUS 135R

Ok collectors, look at me! I am one of the only 126 - 135R's built by Lotus Motorsport and just 50 were in Mirage Silver Mica - I am the very last! Purchased by Paul Matty Sports Cars from my first owner having covered just 2,000 miles. I was cosited in a carpeted garage from new. I was then sold to a lady in Scotland where I was transported to another house to slumber. I have now covered just 2,500 miles. I scrub up to look like new! Please someone buy me! I will not disappoint! £26,950



LOTUS ELISE SPORT 135R 2003

These very rare examples were assembled by Lotus Sport's & Performance. This is number 67. It has the very attractive Mica Blue paintwork with contrasting Blue/Black Alcantara trim. The spec includes:- Black O/Z wheels and of course the 135BHP upgraded factory engine. Good mileage for the age having done 54,000 with service history, this car is surely a good investment for the future. Comes with a new MOT & service. £17,995



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LOTUS ELISE S1

2000, In Azure Blue with full Black leather and a Blue hood. Very nice on the miles, having done just 59,000 from new. It has the later wheels. Comes with service history. We will include a new MOT & service in the price. Comes with 3 month's part & labour warranty. £15,995

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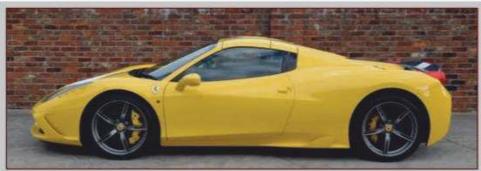


2013 Ferrari 599 Alonso 60 F1 Edition. A UK, 1 of 9 RHD supplied examples, delivered new on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 via JCT 600 Limited Leeds. Specified in the 150° Italia style of Rosso and Bianco with a tricolore spoiler complemented by a Nero alcantara interior with carbon fibre racing seats. Fitted with ceramic braking system, Giallo calipers and front & rear parking sensors. With a documented 2,333 miles from new, freshly serviced and complete with all factory supplied books, tools & charger. £484,850



1988 Aston Martin V8 Vantage Volante 'X-Pack'. RHD, UK Supplied example, chassis #15660 is 1 of 166 Vantage Volante X-Pack built. Finished with a Tungsten grey exterior and a Parchment interior with a black hood. Complete with an extensive restoration and service history file. A detailed service has just been completed with Aston Engineering Derby. £314,850

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2015 Ferrari 458 Speciale Aperta. A UK, 1 of 49 RHD supplied examples, #205524, delivered new on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015 via H.R Owen London. Specified in a Giallo Modena exterior, Blu NART Racing Stripe complemented by a Nero alcantara interior with 3d fabric and Giallo stitching, Nero alcantara headlining & Carbon Fibre racing seats. With complete documented history from new, this freshly serviced, immaculate example of the limited production 458 Speciale Aperta is available for immediate inspection. £584,850



2004 Ferrari 360 Challenge Stradale. A UK, RHD supplied example, chassis #135781, delivered on the 8th January 2004 via Graypaul, Nottingham, specified in a Rosso Scuderia exterior, complemented by a Nero leather interior, Rosso Stitching and fitted carpets in Gomma Nera, Carbon Fibre Racing Seats, 4 Point Harnesses and an Audio System with 6 CD Changer. With complete documented service history from new, an immaculate example of the very collectible, limited production, 360 Challenge Stradale. £198,850

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BENTLEY 4.5 LITRE BLOWER BY PETERSEN, 1928, ASTON MARTIN DB5 COUPE, 1965, Sage Green/ Green/Green, #14 built by Bob Petersen. \$P.O.A.



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JAGUAR XK-120 ROADSTER, 1950, Black/Tan, Silver/Red, Superb restoration/ownership history, California car from new, Ready for concours, touring/vintage rallies. \$195,000.00



PORSCHE 356A 1600 CONVERTIBLE D, 1959, Triple Black. Pebble Beach quality restoration, 4-speed, Matching #'s, C of A, Exceptional. \$ P.O.A.



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#### 1973 - Porsche 914 - 2.0, detailed high quality restoration. Still with the original books. Price - 42000 Euros



1991 - BMW Z1 with the very rare Wiesmann hardtop. 35000 km, all the original books and manuals. Fantastic throughout condition. Price - 65000 Euros

1976 - Porsche 911 Carrera 3.0 Targa, Porsche Certificate of Authenticity. Matching numbers. Price - 95000 Euros



1994 - Audi RS2, belts, tensioners and water pump replaced. All the factory extras. Price - 39000 Euros

1981 - Mercedes-Benz 500 SE, 110000 k, fantastic throughout condition. Electric sunroof, A/C, all the original books. Price - 22000 Euros



1995 - Ferrari F355 Spyder, manual 6-speed gearbox. All belts, tensioners, filters and tubes replaced. Price - 90000 Euros

1987 - BMW M3 (E30), high quality documented restoration. Original electric sunroof. Price - 68000 Euros



1996 - Bentley Continental R Coupe, 65000 km, impeccable with all the original books. Alpine stereo, Price - 79000 Euros

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2001 Aston Martin DB7 Vantage Volante Finished in silver Blue metallic with Black trim and Black hood. 52,000 miles with full service history. £39,950



1998 Aston Martin V600 Vantage Finished in Royal Blue metallic with Parchment piped Blue trim, Blue carpets. 28,000 miles with full Aston Martin service history with new clutch & new gauges. **£POA** 



201 | Aston Martin DBS Volante Finished in Hammerhead Silver with Lords Red (Burgundy) trim, 28000 miles and full service history. DBS emblems in the seat backs, grey carpet and black mohair hood. £110,000



1978 Aston Martin V8 Volante Original works demo car registered AML I. Manual gearbox car with huge history file going back to the '80s. In its original spec of Orchard Green with Beige trim. **£POA** 



**1958 MGA in Old English White with Burgundy** Rebuilt and restored by Oselli to a huge specification including 1950cc stage 2 engine, five speed gearbox, disc brakes, negative earth with alternator charging and electronic ignition. Chrome wire wheels, restoration history file and just 17,000 miles since nut and bolt restoration finished. **£POA** 

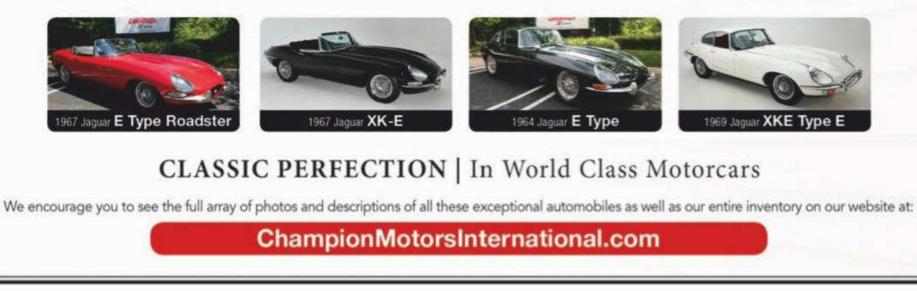


1957 MGA

Finished in Orient Red with Biscuit trim and Beige hood. Engine rebuilt to unleaded spec, new painted wire wheels and tyres etc. Car is currently left hand drive but can easily be swapped over. £34,000

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## Case histories

We test the classics that you can buy



## LOTUS ELISE 1.8i

Year of manufacture 1998 Recorded mileage 32,405 Asking price £16,250 Vendor Paul Matty Sports Cars, Bromsgrove; tel: 01527 835656; www.paulmattysportscars.co.uk WHEN IT WAS NEW Price £18,990 Max power 118bhp Max torque 122lb ft 0-60mph 5.8 secs Top speed 126mph Mpg 39

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This well kept S1 Elise, with leather trim, driving lights and metallic paint, has had four former owners, the last since 2010, and judging by the date codes he fitted a new set of tyres as soon as he got it, less than 5000 miles ago. There's a comprehensive service history, showing that it's had several cambelt changes and various new balljoints and track-rod ends – always a good sign with an Elise. There are eight stamps in the service book to 31,113 miles in March 2016, along with supporting bills, and it will be serviced again at sale.

The unusual Nautilus Blue paintwork shows only a few tiny, touched-in stone-chips on the nose. The rear wheels have a couple of kerbing marks on the rims, and the fronts have some scratches on the spokes; they're shod with well-treaded Avons all round. A can of Tyreweld remains in the front compartment, with nearby pipework still showing its original zinc plating. Underneath, the floorpan is not scuffed or grazed.

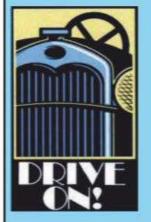
Inside, the seat leather is only lightly worn on the driver's side, hardly at all on the passenger side. The aluminium sills are barely scratched and the oftendamaged side trims are unworn. As usual, the silver paint on the steering wheel spokes is wearing slightly, but the rim isn't worn shiny and the dashboard plastics are perfect, as is the fabric top.

The K-series motor is very clean, with coolant like new and oil to the right level, though these will be renewed. It last had a cambelt and water pump at the previous service, two years and 1300 miles ago.

The engine starts instantly and behaves just as it should – revvy and willing, with a gearchange that's slightly more precise than in the MGF it came from. The chassis is free from any squeaks, creaks or rattles, with a typically firm ride and smooth, quiet brakes that are running iron discs instead of the aluminium metal-matrix items of the earliest cars, which are no longer available. The temperature settles at 84°C. The Lotus will be sold with a new MoT, spare keys, and three months' parts and labour warranty.



#### **SUMMARY** EXTERIOR Nice paint; a few marks



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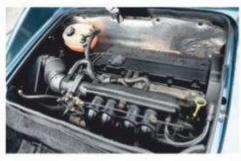
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on the wheels INTERIOR

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Alfa Romeo Giulietta Spider Veloce, 1958. AC Bristol Roadster, 1958. Bitter SC, 1984. Chevron B16 BMW S2, 2004. Diva GT 1300 C, road-registered. FIA. Diva GT 1300 Le Mans, alloy bodied. Ferrari 246 GTS, 1973. Fiat 130 4-door Limousine. Ford A-Roadster Hi-Boy, 1930. Grac MT-14B, 1972. Alfa 2.0 engine. FIA. Lancia Stratos, 1975. Lancia Delta EVO-2.

Maserati Bora 4.9, 1977.



Riley Sprite Prototype, ex works.

#### Lotus FJ 20/22. Maserati 3.7 Mistral Coupe. Restored. Mercedes 300 SEL 6.3, 1969. Mini Cooper S, 1971. FIA G2 racing-car. MG Magnette ZB racer, 1958. Morris Mini Moke, 1968. Moretti barchetta. 1955. Mustang GT Fast-back 2+2, 1965. Peugeot 402 Eclipse, 1937. Porsche 356 Pre-A Coupe. Porsche 911T, 1968. Porsche 911 2.4S Targa, 1972

 
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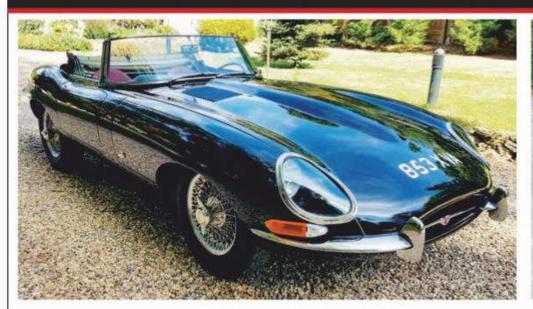
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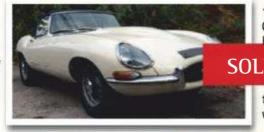
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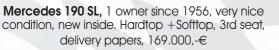
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MERCEDES-BENZ 280S Year of manufacture 1969 Recorded mileage 30,176 Asking price £16,995 Vendor The SL Shop, Stratford-upon-Avon; tel: 01789 337070; www.theslshop.com WHEN IT WAS NEW Price £3116 Max power 138bhp Max torque 165lb ft 0-60mph 9.8 secs Top speed 110mph Mpg 23

This interestingly specified W108 Mercedes was built in South Africa by Car Distributors of East London, and came to the UK in 2005. A large bracket under the front, plus an electrical socket on the left inner wing, suggests that it spent some of its time being towed.

The body is straight and rot-free, and the doors close with the proper Benz 'thunk'. It's been painted at some stage, but the only blemishes are some tiny bubbles under the bottom edges of the rear wings. The boot floor is excellent and the fuel tank has a shield, matching the sump-guard up front. All of the chrome trim is sound, and the radiator shell and bumper plating is good. At some stage the original steels have been replaced by 'Mexican-hat' alloy wheels, shod with 2009-dated Nankang tyres with plenty of tread but slightly cracking sidewalls. The exhaust is in good shape, dating from 2007 when the car was showing around 24,000 miles.

Inside, the red leather is creasing but not quite splitting on the front seats – a feed would help – but the rear is better. There's a small amount of damage to the back of the driver's seat, but the carpets and headlining are good, as is the timber, with the varnish to the dash-top finisher just starting to craze.

The motor is tidy and leak-free, with distributor cap, condenser and plugs dating from a £1200 service in 2016 by SS Motors that included rebuilding the carbs, master cylinder and servo. The coolant is topped-up and greenish, the oil dark and between the marks; there's a gloopy deposit on the fanbelt and pulleys.

It starts easily and drives sweetly, stepping off well thanks to lowish gearing. The ride is taut and the brakes sharp. There's a hint of vibration – probably wheels, possibly propshaft – and a tiny exhaust blow. The column gearchange is easy, though non-powered steering comes as an initial surprise. Oil pressure is the usual full-deflection 45psi at all times, with temperature at 175°F.

It is sold with original handbook and service book (three stamps, the last dated 23/6/69 at 5953 miles, at Oos Transvaal Garage) and a new MoT.



**SUMMARY** EXTERIOR Straight, rot-free body;

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#### decent chrome

#### INTERIOR

Good apart from slight damage to the rear of the driver's seat **MECHANICALS** 

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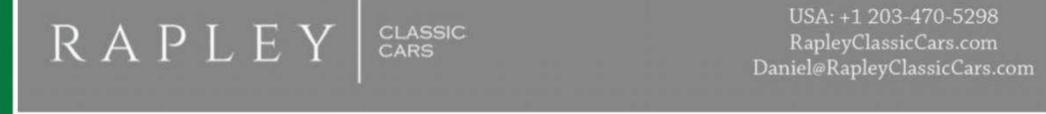


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## Case histories

We test the classics that you can buy



### **WOLSELEY NINE**

Year of manufacture 1934 Recorded mileage 7111 Asking price £10,995 Vendor Robin Lawton, Hampshire; tel: 07710 364945/07979 244195; www.robinlawton.com WHEN IT WAS NEW Price £179 Max power 30bhp Max torque n/a 0-50mph 27 secs Top speed 59mph Mpg 29

This delightful little saloon was restored by its current owner and put back on the road in 1996; he's only selling because he's restoring another car.

It's holding up well, with a very good standard of finish for a vintage or PVT car. The body is straight, and there's just one small paint run on the left side of the scuttle. The vinyl roof is in good shape and the sliding sunroof still works. All the chromework is smart, the doorhandles being original. The trafficators still work, and there's a removable warning sign on the back saying: 'No flashing indicators.' The tyres are well-worn Commanders, unused on the spare, behind which you'll find the jack and tools still in place.

Inside, it's nicely appointed, with a surprising amount of room in the back, and even the delightful fabric inserts are wearing well. The whole job looks as if it was done fairly recently, but is actually more than 20 years old. The leather to the front seats is just wearing in, the door trims and headlining are very good, and the roller blind on the back window still operates from its crank handle. The only real signs of wear are the heavily used pedal rubbers, plus some of the timber could do with refinishing, but that's an easy job to do at home.

The small overhead-cam motor is tidy, with new spark-plugs. The coolant is to a good level, the oil cleanish and near maximum. It starts easily and is sweet to drive, with good brakes for a 1930s car. It pulls well and offers more torque than you'd expect from just 1018cc. The back-to-front gearshift pattern is easy to adapt to, though the first-to-second change needs learning; 1935 cars had preselectors. Oil pressure on the move is 60psi, and the temperature gauge on the radiator cap reads normal. Even the grille badge still illuminates, 1934 being the first year that this feature appeared.

The Wolseley will be sold with a cancelled green logbook, plus handbook, wiring diagrams and a comprehensive file detailing the restoration and mileage since, all presented in a British Airways Engineering folder - which may be a clue to the quality of the restoration.



#### SUMMARY EXTERIOR

## Very straight and a good finish

#### **1957 JAGUAR MK1 TOTALLY ORIGINAL**



This right-hand drive Jaguar Mk1 saloon was sold new in the UK to a member of the Diplomatic Service, and accompanied him to Mauritius. When The Diplomat and the car returned to this country in January 1960 the Jaguar was registered '2894 CR', its current number. '2894 CR' is finished in its factory colour scheme of black and retains its original and beautifully patinated red leather interior. Arguably one of the most original Jaguar Mk1s surviving, the car is very well presented and comes with its near full history, original bill of sale, its original buff logbook, service records/MOTs, invoices, Swansea V5C document and MOT to March 2012.

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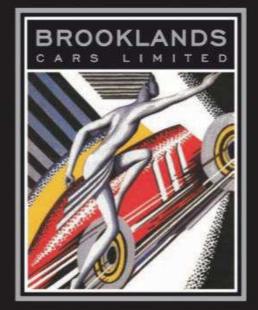
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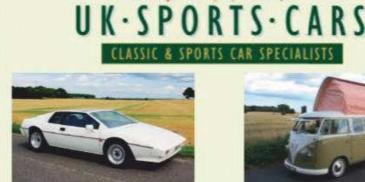
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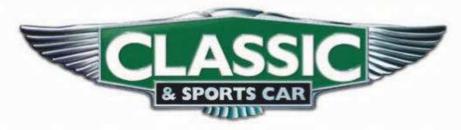
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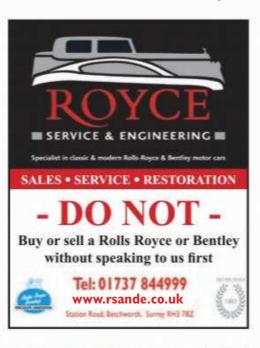
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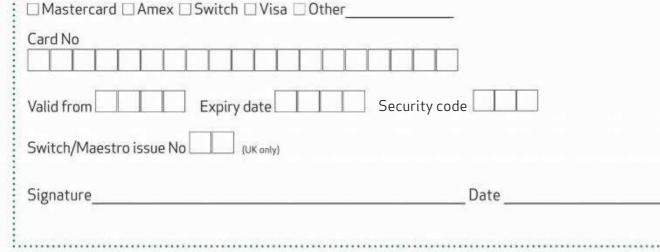
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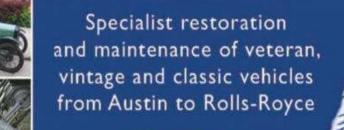
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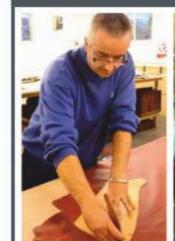


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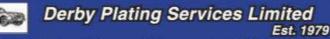
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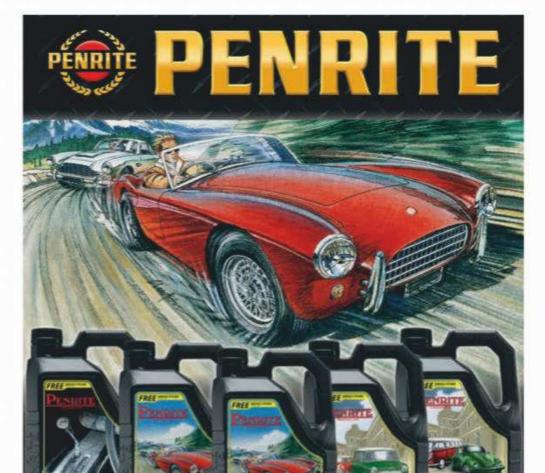
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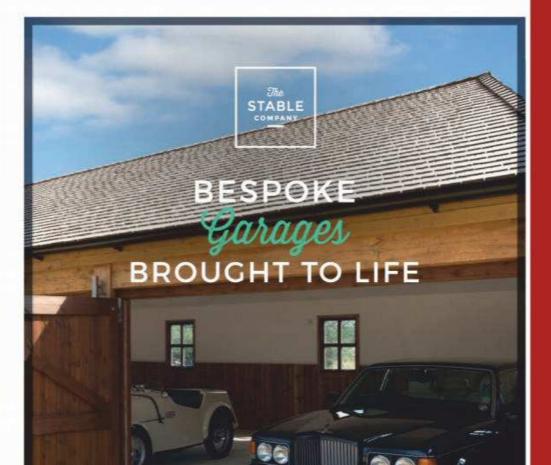
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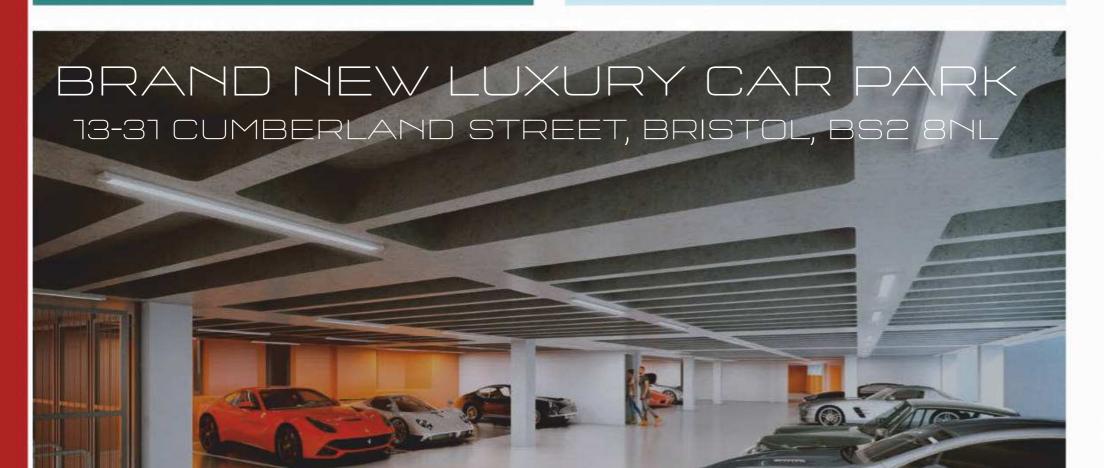
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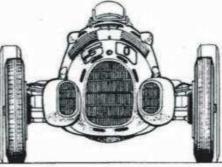
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Off-roading geeks will be pleased to see that its 4x4 credentials are undiminished – it still

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The source of the incredible sound is a 3982cc twin-turbo V8 making 577bhp-enough to shift this 2560kg behemoth to 60mph in 4.5 secs, and on to 137mph – or 149mph if you opt for the £2k AMG Driver's Package. The way it goes is laugh-out-loud entertaining: the tail squats, the nose lifts and it powers forwards like a cabin cruiser, leaving lesser cars bobbing in its wake. What's remarkable, though, is how it deals with that pace. The vintage bounce of old is gone, replaced by a firm but supple ride and astonishing poise for its mass. It's not clever enough to defy physics, of course, but behave with some decorum, make use of the vast (400mm front, 370mm rear) cross-drilled discs, and this huge machine will cover ground at an alarming rate. Yet for all of that, the real charm of the new G-Class is the way it retains the soul of the 1979 original. The doors still need a hefty slam; the central locking thunks home with the precision - and sound - of a rifle bolt; and you look out through an upright 'screen with the signature of Gottlieb Daimler in the bottom corner. Inside, the architecture remains pleasingly Cubist, yet overall space is tight. So it's not very practical, and not very sensible - but since when did a classic have to make sense? In the end, it's almost irrelevant that the new G is so much better than its predecessor, because this car is all about the theatre. And what a performance!

features a low-range transfer box and three locking diffs – but it's on the road where the greatest strides have been taken. Before setting off, you can choose between seemingly endless configurations for the engine, traction control and suspension, auto or manual operation for the nine-speed 'box – even two exhaust tunes: 'loud' and 'ridiculously loud'. The noise, like most things about this car, is faintly ludicrous. Yet at the same time, like most things about this car, it's also rather wonderful. Pedestrians and other road users seem to love it, too, with most giving a grin or a thumbs-up where you'd get animosity in a similarly vulgar Porsche or Audi SUV.





1969 BMW 3.0 CSL 'BATMOBILE', EX-SCHNITZER-BMW & ALPINA-BMW 1971 Nurburgring 24 Hours - 3rd place overall ■ Entered for the 1971 & 1973 Spa 24 Hours, 1973 Silverstone Tourist Trophy & 1974 Monza 6 Hours ■ Eligible for Motor Racing Legends Historic Touring Car Challenge & Peter Auto Heritage Touring Cup ■ Complete with valid FIA Historic Technical Passport & spares package



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