

March/April 2024

NEWSLETTER



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SPRING IS HERE!
TIME TO GET YOUR MOTORS READY TO RUMBLE!



WANTED

MARSHALLS

FOR

STANLEY PARK

AND

LYTHAM GREEN

Contact : enquiries@bvpg.co.uk

Upcoming Club Meeting

Thursday April 11th 2024

EGM

Extraordinary General Meeting

ALL Paid-Up Members Invited To

This Important Meeting

Please Attend If You Can!

FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS

This is a great opportunity to tell us about activities you're happy with, anything you would like to see in future or changes.

Feedback is always welcome, anytime!

Please contact us: enquiries@bvpg.co.uk

SPRING & SUMMER
Event Invitations
for Members

See Inside...

Blackpool Vehicle Preservation Group

Online: www.bvpg.co.uk

Find us on facebook: [blackpool vehicle preservation group chat](#)

CHAIRMAN'S CHUNK



Hello, and welcome to our Spring Newsletter. Yes, Spring. Isn't it good to see the days lengthening and being able to look forward to getting our vehicles out and enjoying their use - hopefully in better weather after all the rain we have had.

I am very pleased to report that, after our pleas, two members of our Group have come forward and applied for the two vacant positions on our committee. Robert Egford has applied for Secretary and Kenny Davis for Treasurer. Both are highly qualified for those positions, and perhaps, more importantly, are willing to help us out and enable us to continue as a successful organisation.

In order that they may take up these positions, an 'extraordinary general meeting' is being arranged for them to be formally enrolled. News of when this will take place will be circulated as soon as it can be arranged.

Once these positions have been filled, we can look forward to a well organised year with our group gatherings like the concourse evening and our shows at Stanley Park and Lytham Green, plus, possibly, other gatherings throughout the year.

Of course, these shows do not happen on their own, and I can report that our two main shows are currently being arranged with the representatives of Blackpool and Fylde Councils.

So we can again look to the future with optimism. Let's enjoy our vehicles and the membership of our Group.

Have a lovely Spring and Summer, and I look forward to seeing you at our meetings and various events throughout the year.

BILL SWINDLEHURST

Chairman

Remembering Jim Swaites...



Jim was a BVPG member for many years, culminating in time spent both on the committee and finally as the club's Chief Marshal, which included the all important planning of the sites for our annual shows.

Many will remember Jim as a friendly, laid back, colourfully dressed gentleman, who liked to make the most of life's simple pleasures, including travelling abroad, restaurants, and indulging in his enthusiasm for four wheeled motors - a case of 'just one more for the road', something for all seasons.

Jim had an equally colourful enthusiasm for his collection of motors, including a sporty (and very sparkly) Maserati convertible and Jaguar XK8 coupe, plus a no less reserved, quirky but cool, surf-ready Suzuki camper van that was kitted out with a mini bar, surfboard style table and chequered flag flooring for a fun, winning impression.



Jim certainly stood out wherever he went, and it will be hard to imagine that he won't be with us at our shows as usual, he will be missed by many.

He has left us with fond memories of his cheery character and the knowledge that he lived life as fully and 'colourfully' as he did.

EDITOR'S VOICE

Dear Members,

As Easter has passed us, this year's show preparations are well under way.

To ensure that you reserve your places for both main shows, please send me your entry forms by 1st May.

I hope some of you are able to support one or both of the Fleetwood classic/vintage vehicle displays, and also Farmer Parr's Vintage Rally & Family Fun Day. All free to enter.

The shows run smoothly because of the kind support of members assisting with some of the duties and responsibilities required of the Club by the Local Authorities.

One of the more pressing requirements is the supply of sufficient Marshals to ensure safety requirements are met. If you are able to volunteer, whether for a full day or part day, please contact myself, as soon as possible. We are also looking for a Chief Marshal. There is information about marshals later in this newsletter.

I hope members can spare the time to attend April's club meeting this week to participate by voting for the replacements to fill the vacant committee posts and new company directors.

Let me know what your thoughts are on the Newsletter content, anything you would like to see, or not see. Please provide your own stories and photos for upcoming issues, these can be scanned and emailed, or passed to myself at club meetings. If there are no articles submitted, the newsletter may take the form of a basic bulletin to keep members informed of events.

For events of interest to club members, I welcome member input. In time, it is intended that a 12 month diary of upcoming events of interest will be added to the website (which I hope will be a first stop for you all looking to check out the days or weeks and event options throughout the year).

Also in time, the newsletter will be available on the website for all to download, as well as updated forms for shows and memberships. The website will hopefully become the best place to glean all information about the club and its activities.

I hope you all have an enjoyable Spring and Summer (and perhaps remember to take a few snaps to send in).

Duncan Hayhurst

Newsletter Editor
& Vice Chair/Rally Organiser

WANTED

BVPG Needs Marshals

To avoid the persistent annual difficulties of looking for volunteer marshals for Stanley Park and Lytham Green shows, we are looking to build a list of names who can be relied upon to take up the marshal mantle.

What do marshals do? They assist with directing vehicles into spaces and/or ensuring vehicles depart safely around pedestrians.

Mostly, a visible presence is all that's required, as very few vehicles depart before the very end, so there is much time to enjoy the shows while possibly being 'available' to assist.

If helping arrivals, it will mean arriving at a slightly earlier time or for departing vehicles, leaving a little later.

A ratio of marshals to vehicles is required by councils to comply with health and safety policies.

Without sufficient marshals, our shows are at risk of being on a much smaller scale or being cancelled due to non compliance or viability.

In short, marshals are the mainstay of our shows, and 'mandatory' in council speak.

Above all, you will be doing a valuable service to the community so they (and you!) can continue to enjoy our shows into the future.

A stiff pointing finger and knowledge of family-friendly hand gestures and waving techniques are useful but not essential.

On the day, you will be provided with a very fetching limited edition BVPG hi-viz over jacket which is sure to compliment your outfit and impress your friends. They are guaranteed to get you noticed!

Being a BVPG member is not essential, all volunteers are welcome, so please pass it on to someone else who may be interested.

Contact a BVPG Officer or

email enquiries@bvpg.co.uk

Members have been kindly invited to bring their
Classic/Vintage vehicle to celebrate:

FLEETWOOD DAY

Sunday 5th May 2024

EUSTON CRESCENT

A free day of entertainment, activities & stalls

Open to general public

11.00hrs - 17.00hrs

Space for 20 Classic/Vintage Vehicles

*If interested in supporting this event,
please contact ASAP for details:*

email: enquiries@bvpjg.co.uk

or call: 07990 237548
M-F after 6pm or weekends

Members are invited to bring their
classic/vintage vehicles to:

A Community Event

FLEETWOOD MEMORIAL PARK

Park Road, FY7 7AQ

Sat 13th July 2024

Space for Approx

30 Classic/Vintage Vehicles

(Details To Be Confirmed)

*If interested in supporting this event,
please contact:*

email: enquiries@bvpjg.co.uk

or call: 07990 237548
M-F after 6pm, or weekends

**Members Are Invited To Just Turn Up With
Their Classic or Vintage Vehicle To:**

Vintage Rally & Family Fun Day

10th & 11th August 2024

Farmer Parr's Animal World

Rossall Lane, Fleetwood FY7 8JP

~~~ Free Entry ~~~

Animal Experiences

Tractors & Tractor Rides

Vintage & Classic Cars

Static Engines

(Free Entry To Museum for Vehicle Exhibitors)

AUTOJUMBLE

Now Spring is here, time to have a clear out and sell
those surplus classic & vintage spares, & advertise
them in your newsletter!

Contact editor@bvpjg.co.uk

A Change To Scheduled Event...

Bleasdale Tower Gardens PR3 1UY

18th & 19th May 2024

Open Weekend (As Planned)

But: NO Classic Cars & Bikes shows

Other activities on these dates not affected

MEMBERS FEATURES

Member's Showcase

Show off your vehicle, tell us a little about
you, and the vehicle history, restoration,
achievements at shows or rallies

Memory Lane

Tell us tales of your motoring exploits, first
or favourite motors, or perhaps you worked
in the automotive or coach building
industry?

Member's Corner

Hints and tips or anything else vehicle
related you want to share.

Contact editor@bvpjg.co.uk

The Joys Of Old Car Ownership – By Robert Egford

I am sure that all old vehicle enthusiasts are familiar with the alternating feelings of frustration and satisfaction that owning an old car can bring. In particular, we sometimes allow the frustrations of dealing with issues that our own capabilities leave us ill-equipped to manage, whilst we mostly overlook the enrichment of our lives that old vehicle ownership can bring, unless we positively embrace it.

This is a tale of how some of my own experiences have underlined my belief.

THE 1970s

In 1978 I was going through a period of moderate success in my career, and was working as part of a management team (of a major national chain store retailer) in stores in and around central London. I had always had an interest in old cars, but had never had the financial wherewithal to actually *own one*.

In 1979 I joined the *Sunbeam Rapier Owners Club*, which had been formed a year earlier by the Club's founding Chairman, a long time Rootes enthusiast. I was introduced to a fellow Club member who in subsequent years has turned out to be the premier restorer and leading expert in the Sunbeam Rapier marque. This man has run his garage business from its base in the Forest of Dean since 1975. He is still working as hard as ever in his late 70's, and has turned out most of the U.K.'s finest quality Rootes restorations.

This member introduced me to my first Sunbeam Rapier, a 1958 Series 2, for which I commissioned a full restoration of over a two year period, and (I am pleased to report) is now one of the finest examples of an early car left in the U.K., as the present owner undertook a second full restoration in 2019, the car having passed through eight owners.



My First Rapier, 1979, Post First Restoration

The 1980's

I became the National Events Secretary for the Rapier Club in 1981/2.



YWK 1, The only Surviving Works Sunbeam Rapier

The Club's founding Chairman had been researching the history of his Sunbeam Rapier works rally car, YWK 1, which had been used as a backup vehicle in the 1960's.

Rootes used five Sunbeam Rapier cars for the rally campaigns, registered YWK 1 - YWK 5. Other famous cars were used in racing, (notably) by Sir Stirling Moss and Jack Braham et al.

As part of this research, the Chairman had contacted the Public Relations Director of Chrysler/Peugeot Talbot, who was our guest Judge at one of the first of our two day National Rally events.

I was tasked by the Club committee with trying to arrange a Peugeot Talbot factory visit, and our guest judge advised me to contact Des O'Dell, who was the Motor Sport Director of Peugeot Talbot. Des O'Dell is one of the most well-known figures in U.K. motor sport, having been mentored in his early career by John Wyer at Aston Martin.

Des was a superb intuitive engineer and enjoyed an exceptional career as competitions manager for Rootes, Chrysler, Talbot and Peugeot. Des led his teams to considerable success on the international stage and was personally responsible for helping kick-start the careers of such great names as Henri Toivonen, Colin McRae, Richard Burns and Jonny Milner to name but a few. (*Motorsport Magazine, 1979 Rally Feature online:* <https://www.motorsportmagazine.com/archive/article/january-1979/51/chrysler-competitive/>)

I wrote to Des, who invited me to visit him at the competition department in which was located the final preparation building of the old Humber works in Humber Road Coventry. I met him on a Friday afternoon at the works, which was a huge cavernous building consisting of a large workshop, which in 1982 was developing the 1983/4 Group B cars, the Peugeot 205 T16's. These cars were built in France under the guidance of Jean Todt, but were engineered by the U.K. Team.

The first of these cars, a 'mule', was fully built up in full livery and registered B999 RAC, later driven by Ari Vatanen.



1984 Peugeot Rally Mule , B999 RAC

There were many historic cars in the building covered by branded car covers, and Des showed me the trio of Lotus Sunbeams from the WRC 1979-1981, including the fabled KKV 444V.



Works Talbot Sunbeam

Des's personal car was a quartz blue/moonstone blue Avon Sunbeam Lotus presented to him by Peugeot Talbot in recognition of the triple Lombard RAC World Rally victories, and was registered RAC 123. The car had only travelled 18 miles at the time and was bequeathed to Des's son on his death in 1999.

Des took me through to his large office, part of the old Humber office suite, and one of the walls was lined with floor to ceiling shelved glazed cabinets, holding all of the companies historic trophies from the 1950/60's including the Monte Carlo cups inscribed to the likes of Shelia Van Damm, Peter Harper & Rosemary Smith. All of the glass shelves were very dusty and all of the cups and shields were severely tarnished.



To my surprise Des asked me to select a trophy, which he would re-inscribe and present to the Club to be presented each year to the member who contributed most to the life of the Club.

I naturally chose a very impressive cup, which Des had refurbished and re-engraved, named the 'Gerry Spencer Memorial' trophy after his favorite race/rally mechanic.

Des duly presented it to the Club in 1984. (Image opposite depicts Des presenting the trophy to me at a Club A.G.M.)

Des had prepared a couple of large cardboard boxes on his desk, which contained all of the remaining original Rootes rally films, produced by Stanley Schofield complete with Raymond Baxter commentaries, who was a works co-driver. These were all 16mm, but I had them later converted into VHS for sale to members to raise Club funds. He also presented me with volumes of Rootes technical bulletins and factory build records from the 1950-1970s, which the Club later presented to Rootes Heritage Trust, as they covered all marques.

Through my long association with Des, we were fortunate to be able to assemble many of the rally cars including the London to Sydney Marathon Hunter and YWK 1 at one of our Club national rallies.



Des & I Sharing Our Passions



1968 London To Sydney Works Hunter

Des was a true enthusiasts' enthusiast, a wonderful raconteur and he and his wife visited Kathy and I at our home in South Wales on many occasions after my visit.

It was my privilege to know Des as he and I would probably have never met aside from my old car hobby.

It is these memories and fun times I had with old cars and most of all the people involved with them, that has led me to purchase another Sunbeam Rapier, a 1962 3a, this September 2023. This car is very original and showing 49k miles and is currently being prepared for more regular use by the restorer in the Forest of Dean. My wife Kathy and I recently visited our friend and his wife, and renewed a friendship of 43 years (and counting).

The last time I drove an old car was in 1991, when I sold the last of my Sunbeam's, a Rapier and an Alpine. I am apprehensive to say the least...!?

Famous Massey Piece Found In Local Museum

Massey Ferguson 35

This is an unusual tractor in that it was built in France.

The Massey Ferguson 35 was in production between 1957 and 1964 when it was superseded by the Massey Ferguson 135. We think this one was built in 1958 and cost £450.

The tractor replaced the famous "*Little Grey Fergie*" a very popular tractor which had the 'three point linkage' system, which linked the tractor to its implements and enabled it to manipulate them so well, that they virtually became part of the tractor.

There are some differences between this tractor and those made in England. The main one is that it is a sort of left hand drive, the first gear and reverse are the opposite way around to the English version.

The fuel injection pump is a Lavalette 'in-line' pump, whereas the UK version has the CAV rotary fuel pump. It was also fitted with a French oil pressure gauge and temperature gauge, both of which had to be changed when the tractor was restored, as the dials had faded.

The lights are designed for the continent: the French version has yellow lights, the German has white.

Also continental is the downswept exhaust and the rocker cover has valve settings in French and a gap setting measured in millimetres.

The original red paintwork has faded a little in the sun, which is part of the old farm appearance.

The attachments or implements are a Ferguson transport box – which cost £17 10s 6d originally, and four steel milk kits.

Thank you to Farmer Parr's Animal World, for providing photos and details about this old character, an exhibit in the vintage museum. (Did you spot the BVPG hat and fleece?)



2024 Diary Dates

Monthly Meetings (2nd Thursday)

Fleetwood Cricket Club, Broadwater, FY7 8AS

11th APRIL - Guest Speaker, Tony Cowell, former RNLI
coxwain

9th MAY

Members' Special Events

Thursday 13th JUNE - Landlord's Choice

Farmer Parr's, Rossall Lane, Fleetwood

Thursday 11th JULY - Concours (Venue TBA)

Event Invitations For BVPG Members

Sunday 5th May - Fleetwood Day, Open 11am - 5pm

Euston Crescent, FY7 6BN

(Free for upto 20 cars – Contact BVPG Enquiries)

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Saturday 13th July - Fleetwood Memorial Park

Warrenhurst Road FY7 6TU

(Free for up to 30 cars – Contact BVPG Enquiries)

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10th & 11th August - Vintage Rally & Family Fun Day

10am Start

Farmer Parr's Animal World

Rossall Lane Fleetwood FY7 8JP

Free entry – Just turn up (no booking required)

Free entry to museum if arriving with a classic or vintage car

Annual Shows

Stanley Park, FY3 9HU - 25th August

Join us in the beautiful Italian Gardens for this popular show,
usually around 250 classic & vintage vehicles.

Lytham Green, FY8 5QJ - 8th September

A fabulous old time seaside location for our second popular
show that welcomes an impressive display of around 450
classic & vintage vehicles.

Contact Us

Chairman

Bill Swindlehurst

01772 633369

Vice Chair & Rally Organiser

Duncan Hayhurst

07990 237548

Club Secretary

(Vacant position)

Treasurer

(Vacant position)

Membership Secretary

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