

spalding classic car club and east elloe

No 142 April 2020

NEWSLETTER

What's On

MORE INFORMATION AT www.seeccc.co.uk/events

Sunday 5 April – SUNDAY BRUNCH MEET

Organiser David Chapman says gather at 09:45 for 10.00 at the Murrain at Grey Park Farm Cafe (pandemics permitting), adjacent to the Jet fuel station on the A17 at East Heckington, LE20 5QG. Choose from either their Full English with Tea or Coffee for £9.00 or pick and mix from the full breakfast menu on page 2 (Tea or coffee extra).

CANCELLED

Sunday 26 April – DRIVE IT DAY RUN

Organised by Steve Saunders and Liz Bollons. Save the date. Full details to follow shortly, these will be posted on the website and sent out to members in a separate email – or see the April newsletter...

CANCELLED

FOR THE OPTIMISTS AMONG US...

Saturday 9 May – CLASSIC TEAM LOTUS Visit organised by Patrick Limming. Details have gone direct to those members attending.

Tuesday 12 May – CLUBNIGHT RUN / PUB MEAL

Organised by Charles & Celine Cornish. The plan is to leave Spalding Market Place by 6:30, so meet up from 6:00 pm. Run heading to The Plough at North Kyme, nr Sleaford, LN4 4DJ. Menu on page 4; selections by Tuesday 5th May by email to charlescornish67@gmail.com or telephone 01775 840300. The pub can accommodate any food allergies/intolerances but they will need to know beforehand, contact them on 01526 861400 Quote: Spalding Classic Car run of 12 May.

CHAIR-MANN'S CHATTER

Joy Mann jmann@seeccc.co.uk



I hope this newsletter finds you in good spirits. These are certainly testing times. As you know, the team here at SEECCC has been working hard to put together myriad events, outings, visits and the usual "drive, dine and chat evenings". **The current Covid-19 crisis means many of these forthcoming events will have to be postponed; the club's website**

www.seeccc.co.uk will show updates. Unfortunately, other events may have to be cancelled altogether but that would be the absolute last resort. Feel free to contact me if you're unsure at the email address above.

Throughout the last few days the Mann household (I should clarify, I am referring to Nigel and I. "Household" made it sound as if we have staff!) has been extremely low-key for us. The cars have never been as clean (Don't tell him I said this!) but I can confidently say I have not felt the urge to leap into domestic action and I still have the usual stack of ironing.....unfortunately.

I threw myself, however, with unusual enthusiasm, into the task of a 1,000 piece jigsaw! On emptying the box's contents, Nigel said "Haven't you done that before?" which I thought was quite funny....

I have also encountered the delights of attempting to join the thousands waiting online in the hope of bagging a grocery delivery. My position in the virtual queue, 117,427th, meant in reality, allowing for the social distancing requirements, I was 133 miles away from any groceries! Needless to say, I aborted the mission.



This SEECCC Newsletter is edited by Adrian Cunnington — acunnington@seeccc.co.uk ☎ 01406 364795

Find us on Facebook at Spalding & East Elloe Classic Car Club and Twitter @spaldingclassic

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You will see from the listing above, our brunch meet on Sunday 5th and Drive-it-Day later this month have both surrendered to the latest regulations. And understandably so.

Finally, my thanks to Craig Fowler who organised last month's Ayscoughfee evening (and supplied all the biccies!) plus those who have worked so hard to organise other events. We will look forward to trying out the routes and destinations later in the year. Fingers and toes and all that!

Look after yourselves, stay safe,

Joy

P.S. Any interesting snippets / classic car tales for future newsletters would be gratefully received. Email Adrian, our Mr. Editor, at seeccc@btinternet.com

SNIPPETS

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

Patrick Limming has "40 years worth" of motoring literature including a selection of car magazines, Jaguar and BMW brochures, road tests etc, plus other brochures ranging from Aston Martin to Volkswagen. He says, if any members would like any of it, it is free to a good home! He will distribute to any takers "once we are allowed out again". Contact him at limmipatri@aol.com

POLOS STILL AVAILABLE

Those new Club polo shirts in navy or grey are popular, so do get yours now! They cost £9 each - please call Joy on 01775 723856 if you would like to order or email jmann@seeccc.co.uk.

CHANGE OF DATE

The Club's 3 night spring trip to Losehill House Hotel in Derbyshire has been postponed to September due to Covid-19. Those booked on the trip will be informed of the new details.

AND FINALLY...

Five blokes in an Audi Quattro arrived at the ferry checkpoint. Tracey, in her brand new uniform, stops them and tells them: "We can't let you on the ferry. It is illegal to have five people in a Quattro. Quattro means *four*. One of you will have to get out and stay behind."

"Quattro is just the name of the car," the driver replies disbelievingly. "Look at the papers: this car is designed to carry five persons."

"You can't pull that one on me. This is Tracey you're talking to here," she replies with a smile. "Quattro means four. You have five people in your car so you are breaking the law. I can't let all of you onto our ferry. It's more than my job's worth."

The driver is now steaming and replies angrily, "I've had enough of you. Call your supervisor over. I want to speak to someone with more intelligence!"

"Sorry," responds Tracey, "but Rylan is busy with those two blokes in the Fiat Uno!"

APRIL CAPTION COMPETITION

entries to seeccc@btinternet.com by 25 April please





MARCH CAPTION COMPETITION

Thanks for your various entries... The winner? You choose!

‘The shamferky should connect to the chemiso to energise the erkmeflip’

‘I don’t know about SU, it looks more like it’s US to me’

‘What’s the matter? Piston broke!’ ‘I know how you feel mate.’

‘Oh! engine you say?’

‘These cheap glasses you got me Steve ain’t much good. Should’ve gone to Specsavers!’

‘I told you: crap in the carbs!’ ‘How often do I have to do that then?’

MAY CLUBNIGHT MENU

Car Club Menu

12th May

2 Courses- £15.95

3 Courses- £19.95

Also included are teas and coffees



Starters

Tomato soup
with toasted bread

Prawn cocktail
baby gem lettuce, Marie Rose sauce

Chicken liver parfait
with toasted ciabatta and caramelised red onion chutney

Mains

Steak and ale pie
with creamy mash potatoes and market vegetables

Haddock goujons
with chips and tartare sauce

Beef lasagne
with dressed side salad and garlic bread

- Aubergine and roasted red pepper lasagne
with dressed side salad and garlic bread

Desserts

Sticky toffee pudding
with caramel sauce and vanilla ice-cream

Lemon cheesecake
with a mixed berry compote

Chocolate brownie
with vanilla ice-cream



A CAUTIONARY CLASSIC CAR TALE

In early December, back in 2012, my latest copy of *Classic Car Mart* arrived, and I turned, as usual, to the advertisements of classic car dealers I'd dealt with in the past. Richard Hill, of Pembrokeshire Classic Investments had already provided me with two classics – the 1958 MG Magnette ZB Varitone (which I'd sold on to Mel [short for Melton, as in Mowbray, rather than Mel, as in Melvin] Baxter in Spalding) and the white 1968 Rover 2000 TC (which I'd part-exchanged for the Grampian Grey MGB GT Mk.I with West End Garage of Somersham) – and now, from the latest advertisement, looked likely to provide me with a third. It was another MG Magnette, but this time it was the later Farina styling (that had been shared with the Austin Cambridge, Morris Oxford, Wolseley 16/60 and Riley 4/72) that caught my eye. A 1965 Mk.IV Farina Duotone in Rose Taupe over Old English White, with Terracotta leather upholstery, no less!

As always, it was unusual. You didn't see many of them about, and, as a champion of the unusual and the unloved, I was attracted to it. I knew that the Farina model had come in for criticism of the badge-engineering of BMC, and its handling when launched as the Mk.III in 1959 compared with the ZB, but this had been addressed with up-rated suspension and engine size in the Mk.IV. Richard Hill would take my Farina Grey Wolseley 1300 automatic in part-exchange, and a figure was agreed over the phone. He would bring the Magnette on his trailer to Strensham Services, almost into Herefordshire, on the M5, that was roughly halfway between his Pembrokeshire premises and Holbeach, and I would drive the Wolseley down to meet him there. The car swop would take place on Wednesday, 12th December 2012.

I set off in good time from Holbeach, and was hampered by both freezing fog, and an accident which closed part of the M6. The diversion on A-roads seemed to take for ever, until I was able to again access the M42/M40 and finally the M5. I was able to contact Richard on his mobile, so he knew I was running late. Finally I arrived at the Services, with the Wolseley having run immaculately, under difficult circumstances, all the way from Holbeach. Richard unloaded the MG from his trailer, loaded the Wolseley, and off he went! Here I was, a long way from Holbeach, with an unknown classic which I was going to attempt to drive all the way back to South Lincolnshire, on a day where the weather was deteriorating and the light was soon failing!

Before setting off, I wanted to evaluate what I'd got. Some of the typical black BMC flick-switches on the walnut fascia were unlabelled, and I knew I'd need wipers and lights at some stage of the journey back. I also needed to check the steering-wheel controls, and familiarise myself with the heating and ventilating. Having moved from the Wolseley's 1968 'F' registration to the MG's 1965 'C' plate, I knew that there would probably now be only single-speed wipers and a single-speed heater blower, and that I might find de-misting a problem on a day like this. I cautiously drove the first 30 miles or so up the M5, evaluating the car and trying to feel as comfortable as possible. I'd need to fill up before too long (classic car dealers never leave much fuel in a tank!), and stopped at the next Services, just before the M5 and the M42 met. I then continued along the M42/M40 and onto the M6 until I joined the M69 to Leicester. For years I'd used a route by-passing the city centre and bringing me out on the A47 towards Peterborough. There was a lot of practice in stop/start motoring on this part of the journey, and I became used to both clutch and brakes.

The light was really bad now, and I had to work out which of those flick-switches did what. I pulled up and checked the side and tail lights, and the dipped headlights. My dip-switch was still on the floor, and I checked that it worked. As always, with cars of this age, the lights were not brilliant. They were adequate, and, in the rain, I just had to drive according to the road conditions. Suddenly, along the A47, in the dark un-lit Leicestershire countryside, all the car's lights went out. I hastily pulled off to the side of the road, and hoping that the reflectors were good, I tried to investigate. No interior light was working, but it seemed plain that one of the black flick-switches was making a bad contact.

I managed to re-instate the lights without having to get out of the car into the wind and rain, but knew that the same thing could easily happen again!

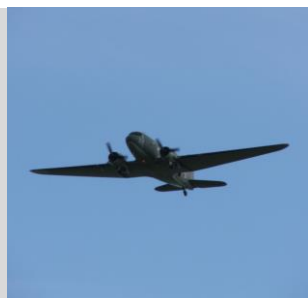
I made it back to Holbeach at around 7.00p.m., thoroughly worn out by the typical tribulation of using a 47-year old car in worsening weather and light. A trip to Mike Jakeman the following morning to evaluate the problems was definitely called for. People were right; the Farina Magnette, although having some charm and comfort, was not in the same league as the 'Z' series for atmosphere. Looking back, I see that I kept FNN 891C for one year and eight days, having covered a total of 3,215 miles over that period. As with all my classics, I have work done on them over a period of time, making them as reliable as possible. I even joined two old friends from College, driving down to Waltham Abbey to collect them, and then onwards to the Weald & Downland Museum near Chichester for a classic show. The car behaved impeccably, and the up-graded lights shone me all the way back up the M11 towards Holbeach.

Then, as always, this little voice in my head told me to get rid, and try something else; so this reliable car, which did what it said on the tin, but didn't excite me, had to go!

David Shepherd

'MAGNIFICENT MEN' AEROPLANE QUIZ

by Patrick Limming



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



J



K



L



M

For a closer view please use the zoom control on your screen (lower right on Word). Answers next month

MAKES & MODELS TEASERS

Just a few teasers to keep our brains whirring.....all the answers are either **car makes** or **models**. Enjoy!

Roundheads and _____	>	
_____ Hugo	>	
John Steed & Emma _____	>	
_____ were _____	>	
H.M. Queen Elizabeth is one	>	
Signs of the _____	>	
Afternoon mathematician	>	
Golf club	>	
_____ blossom	>	
Avoid	>	
_____ side up	>	
Sounds arachnid	>	
Expensive 'girlfriend'	>	
Less important	>	
Select group	>	
Caught in the _____	>	
Small & mischievous	>	
Small & mischievous	>	
Small & mischievous	>	
George Town	>	

Courtesy of the Mann 'household'! Answers next month

Thanks for your various contributions – some have been held over to next month – Adrian.