

No 146 August 2020

Forthcoming Events

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

Tuesday 11 August

~~CLUBNIGHT RUN AND BARBECUE~~ organised by Phil & Jean Treversh **CANCELLED**

Saturday 22 August

VISIT TO THE WEST ACRE JAZZ PICNIC organised by Jenny & Trevor Overson **FULL**

Sunday 6 September

(ANOTHER) BACON BAP RUN to Bulwick organised by Joy & Nigel Mann **BOOK NOW**

See Chatter below for more

CHAIR-MANN'S CHATTER

Joy Mann jmann@seeccc.co.uk



In the words of Diana Ross....."I'm coming out!" – this is not a reference to any closet, this is me being released back into the wild. I am really looking forward to catching up with folk and a bacon bap at Bulwick on Sunday 2nd and the jazz picnic in 3 weeks' time. And, so it would seem, is everyone else! Spaces for both events were snapped up in double-quick time. Thanks to you and your collective enthusiasm to be back on the road!

During the committee's recent al fresco meeting here at Grange Drive, it was decided we would concentrate on outdoor events where possible and fortunately we have the weather to assist us in our quest. Thanks to Paul and Jean Pollard for offering to put together a September run out and picnic, kindly hosted by Tom Webster in Gosberton.

Also, Nigel and I will be organising a September visit to the Caister Castle Car Collection, a chance to blow the classics' cobwebs away! If you've never been, it's well worth the effort, a staggering array of vehicles and memorabilia. More details on both events via email shortly.

Please keep an eye on your inbox and the club's website for any updates. It is vital to book early for events with restricted numbers to avoid disappointment.

If you have any ideas or flashes of inspiration please do let me know. Finally, one other piece of good news, the club's coffers are healthy and our 2020 expenditure has been low. So, we will be extending your membership free of charge until the end of May next year!

My thanks, once again, for your continued support.

Joy.

P.S. You may not hear from me for a while - I am being investigated for stealing swimming pool inflatables.....I've got to lie low!!!



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FICTIONAL DETECTIVES QUIZ

courtesy of Chris Livesey

1. ? Code
2. Terry ? and Bill ?
3. It might be a hoar one...
4. He worked in the Channel Islands
5. Kings Markham was his patch
6. ? of the Yard
7. A Fascist
8. Battle of Hastings
9. Brick structure plus her Majesty
10. Lives in Cabot Cove
11. Simon Templar was the ?
12. The Baird and Ann
13. Type of Ice Cream
14. D.I. and compass point
15. ? Formby and Maggot
16. ? Rudge
17. British Soldier and 2 old pennies
18. P D James Detective
19. Advantage
20. Always had a lollipop
21. A fast bird of prey
22. Peter Falk plays this one
23. George Simenon's detective
24. ? Allen was in White Christmas
25. Della Street was his secretary
26. Was he a distinguished person?
27. Two Phonetic alphabet names
28. Hastings helped him
29. Moriarty was his foe
30. You will see these at the riverside

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

The article by Neil Jervis will conclude in a future issue.

AUGUST NEWSLETTER WEIGHTS & MEASURES QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Blackpool seafront: **MILE**
2. Michael? Labour Leader: **FOOT**
3. Find these on a fish: **GILLS**
4. Regal Distance: **ROYAL MILE**
5. Small insectivore mammal
6. ? Gang: **CHAIN**
7. 7 of gentlemen: **LEAGUE**
8. Staffordshire one: **KNOT**
9. Work out: **FATHOM**
10. ? Maid: **METRE**
11. Snow leopard: **OUNCE**
12. Forehock of pork: **HAND**
13. ? Stick: **YARD**
14. Chick pea: **GRAM**
15. Hear of these at the races: **FURLONG**
16. Measure of land 4,840 sq yds: **ACRE**
17. Twelfth of a foot: **INCH**
18. 45 ins (hist): **ELL**
19. Enclosure for animals: **POUND**
20. 5½ yds are ?: **ROD**
21. Sounds like this one sings: **QUIRE**
22. 20 grains (arch): **SCRUPLE**
23. 112 lbs: **HUNDREDWEIGHT**
24. Take a wee one: **DRAM**
25. ? of cloth: **BALE**
26. Rank: **GROSS**
27. Sounds like you live here...: **OHM**
28. Extent of bridge (end to end): **SPAN**
29. Seventh day after a festival: **OCTAVE**
30. Head: **NOGGIN**

Thanks to Chris Livesey



'BACON BAP' RUN: 2 AUGUST

Spalding - New Lodge Farm, Bulwick





The Lotus Effect (Part 2)

Firstly, apologies to all of you (?!) who were waiting with bated breath for the continuation of this saga last month; an imminent house move sort of took over! What, with no 'East Emmerdale Street' as well it must have been tragic for you all!

So, when we left off a couple of months ago, it was three Lotus' down and I had just traded the last one in for something even more expensive and troublesome: this being a house of course!

A lot was happening around this time, (1983) including plans to build a new shop. I had decided that the only way to afford another Lotus was to grow the business, so that meant a bigger sales area. I went cap in hand to the bank to ask for a loan, and one of the questions was 'why do you want to build this new shop?', so I told him the truth, 'I want another Lotus, and the only way I'm going to get one is by earning more money'. Fortunately, the bank manager thought that was an excellent reason and approved the loan!

After a three-year battle with the planners, which ended up with the House of Commons involved, I finally had my new shop, and the first thing that went up was my 'Lotus count-down calendar', with a target of three years. I was really lucky, as the opening coincided with the time when the banks were throwing money at people, and things went very well; so well in fact that after two years I decided it was time to order my first new Lotus; the Peter Stevens designed Esprit Turbo.

I decided it would be a nice surprise for Alice if I didn't tell her, so I had five months on tenterhooks, trying to not let anything slip, while the car was being built. I thought I would go the whole hog and arranged to have the car delivered to Hambleton Hall Hotel, near Rutland Water. So the first thing Alice knew was when she found a note in the bread bin, requesting she be ready to leave by 6.30 that evening. When we rolled up at Hambleton she didn't know whether to thank me or kill me, as she hadn't prepared for somewhere that swanky. (My 'surprises' usually involve the recycling centre or a trip to a wet and cold Snetterton!)

Redemption was at hand when she found a new outfit in our room's wardrobe, which just happened to be her size! After partaking of good food and wine we retired to bed, where I think Alice maybe slept more than I did!

My cover was nearly blown the next morning, as Alice spotted the car coming down the stairs. Luckily, as she hadn't seen the new-model Esprit before, she mistook it for a Ferrari! I think 'gobsmacked' would probably describe Alice's reaction when the car was handed over to me: it took three days to convince her that I had bought it and it was not just on loan!



This new model was a big improvement on the old one; it rode like a luxury saloon and yet the handling was still pure Lotus brilliance. But the biggest change was in overall refinement; this really was a car for crossing continents in now, which we did on several occasions.

All was well until a phone call from Pat Thomas of Kelvedon Motors, who just happened to have one of the new 'SE' models on demo. Like a fool I went to try it, and boy was it fast. Really fast! Power was up from 210bhp to 264, courtesy of a chargecooler, and torque from 199lb ft to 260. This may not sound a lot by today's standards, but you have to remember it was only shifting 1,300kg, so 0-60 only took 4.7s - not too shabby by today's standards and proper quick in 1990. The temptation was too strong and, in 1991, I took delivery of what was going to be my last, and best,



Esprit. We had four terrific years with the car, but as work and gardening seemed to demand more of my time it seemed a waste to have all that investment only being used on high days and holidays.

The solution provided itself in the shape of the Elise. This was one of Lotus' worst kept secrets, so when they denied any such car was imminent, I told them that I would place my order anyway, and then when they did decide it existed, I would be at the front of the queue!

The Esprit was put up for sale, and fetched such a good price that there was quite a lump of cash over after allowing for the Elise. The sensible thing would have been to pay off some of the mortgage, but the money would also buy a trip out to New York on Concorde and a return on the QE2. Unusually for us we went with the irresponsible option; best money we have ever spent!

Unfortunately, the gestation of the Elise was about on a par with that of an elephant! I should have taken delivery in May, but eventually received my car on September 9th 1996!

It really was a case of whether they would get the car to market before the receivers moved in; Lotus have always operated in a perpetual cash crisis, but this was bad even for them. My anticipation was heightened the week before delivery, when we were sat on the next table to a journalist at Brands Hatch, who had an Elise on road test. I asked him if all the hype about the Elise was true and he simply replied 'It's the best fun you'll ever have with your trousers on', and I don't think I could put it any better.

So here we are 24 years down the road and I still love my Elise, and the more digital and detached modern cars become, the more I love it!

I think this one will stay until either I am too ancient to get in it, (not an easy job with the roof on now!) or the rule makers hound it off the road.

As an aside, the aforementioned house move prompted me to donate my 40 plus years of Lotus memorabilia to their archives, and in return they

provided me with a 'certificate of provenance' for the Elise. It appears my girl was the 70th customer car built, and the first and only one in Ruby Red during that model year, so she's a bit special!

And so, my saga ends. Next month: some of the most interesting underpants I've owned!!



Hope to see you all soon.

Patrick Limming

SNIPPETS

- The Classic Team Lotus Tour being organised for the Club by Patrick and postponed in May is back on for an October or November date. Patrick will be in touch with everyone on the original booking over the next week or so to make arrangements. If anyone else is interested in joining, please contact Patrick at limmipatri@aol.com
- There remains one place for 2 persons available on the Club trip to Losehill House Hotel in the Peak District on September 21-24 (3 nights). Contact Jenny Overson if you are interested: 07736 271113.
- Covid-19 restrictions have regrettably led to the cancellation of the AMCT autumn trip to Herefordshire in September.
- **AND FINALLY, an old one...**
Many moons ago, Datsun were having gearbox problems. Urgent parts were flown into the UK but unfortunately the aircraft's freight door failed and some cargo was lost. All was resolved when the police got a report from an alert member of the public, who said that in his area it was raining Datsun cogs...