

No 147 September 2020

Forthcoming Events

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

Sunday 6 September

BACON BAP RUN to Bulwick organised by Joy & Nigel Mann **FULLY BOOKED**

Monday 14 September

VISIT TO CAISTER CAR MUSEUM organised by Joy & Nigel Mann

Join us at Caister Castle Car Collection, NR30 5SN – www.caistercastle.co.uk – **book with Joy asap**. The museum has a staggering array of classics to peruse. Bring a seat and a picnic and catch up with us, from 11.00 am / 11.30am – it's well sign-posted from the A47. Entry will cost around £13 depending on numbers – the more the merrier!

Sunday 20 September

RUN & PICNIC AT TOM WEBSTER'S organised by Jean & Paul Pollard

This event has an optional run from the Vista in Spalding (PE11 2RA) gathering at 12 noon and leaving around 12-15 for Tom's, with an aim of everybody arriving there at around 1pm. You can go straight to Gosberton if you wish but please still aim to arrive at 1pm.

After we have all had our picnics, there will be a (socially-distanced) treasure hunt in Tom's garden. We are limited to the number of people who can gather at the moment to 30. It will be first come, first served for the places available; please book your places with Paul & Jean by emailing jean_and_paul@hotmail.co.uk. Full details will be sent by return.

Monday 21 September

REVIVED CLUB TRIP TO THE PEAK DISTRICT organised by Trevor & Jenny Overson

CHAIR-MANN'S CHATTER

Joy Mann jmann@seeccc.co.uk

Husbands? Who'd have 'em? – I have two in my life. One, my ex, has written a book during lockdown about his life after me and the other sold my car whilst I wasn't looking!!

So, my quest this month is to find new transport, ably assisted no doubt by the errant husband (Nigel, not ex...). Just to clarify, my ex and I divorced amicably more than 20 years ago and I am proud to confess I received a thank you card along with my decree absolute!



continued...



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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Back to my current predicament, we are on the lookout for a new set of wheels, ...the usual scenario in the Mann Household. Please let us know if you have something interesting** to sell so Nigel can polish our beloved BMW estate and pop it back in the garage for another snooze.

The jury is still out on what to buy although Mr. Mann is leaning towards an all-electric vehicle. We had a very illuminating test drive recently although I'm not entirely convinced my use of the accelerator was the most economical. There's certainly a knack to it (well, that's my excuse...). We both covered the same distance, 18 miles, but Nigel managed to gain extra miles and I lost capacity! His reputation is clearly still intact.

Anyway, I digress, back to business. We have been bowled over by the response to the events we have held and have planned; thank you for your support. Do book straightaway to avoid disappointment as spaces are often limited due to the dreaded Covid.

My latest predicament is deciding whether we can actually organise anything for our usual Christmas lunch. It looks as though Toft Hotel is no longer trading so ideas for other suitable venues would be greatly appreciated. Prime considerations - we must ensure the suitability of the dining facilities and everyone's safety is paramount. So, get yourselves some thermals ready for the colder weather as we could find ourselves gathering outside rather than in! "Honest John's" ears are now pricked – I can see he's scheming – do we have any leftover thermal stock in the garage??!!

Look after yourselves, stay in touch,

Joy

** Please let us know if you have anything to sell, Nigel needs a project.

SNIPPETS

- The Classic Team Lotus Tour being organised for the Club by **Patrick Limming** is being reorganised for Saturday 14 November. As we mentioned last month, Patrick will be in touch with everyone who was part of the original booking to make arrangements. However, if anyone else is interested in joining, please contact Patrick at limmipatri@aol.com

- Thanks to **Sally Tucker** for these snippets which apparently are actual excerpts from church bulletins or were announcements at services:

Ladies, don't forget the jumble sale, a chance to get rid of any things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving great pleasure to the congregation.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00pm - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet on Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7.30pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.

The Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last week: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

RACE REPORT

Brands Hatch 22/08/2020

Following lockdown, this meeting was to be our first race with the Lola in 2020. But our Friday afternoon car continues to frustrate, and further problems meant we did not even get out for qualifying - c'est la vie. But the weekend was not a total waste as Robert jnr was once again sharing Nicholas King's Mustang in the touring car race.

The Mustang is not over-developed but is probably better-suited to long races (as evidenced by Spa 6 Hrs class podiums) than to a one-hour sprint. Qualifying did not go well as the normal Mustang weak-spot struck again and Robert was left with a box full of neutrals. Richard Doe was again tending to the mechanicals and, with just a few hours before the race, he worked hard to get the car back in good health by race time at 17.15. But only 3 laps had been achieved in qualifying which resulted in a grid slot of 25th of 31 so it was a rather lowly start; a certain member of the team didn't even qualify, but it didn't seem to matter!!

Weather for the race was cool, cloudy but dry. It was a rolling start (which Robert is normally good at) but that recalcitrant gearbox meant 25th was 28th by the time they got to us so he had rather a lot to do! By the time we got to the driver change, Car 51 was up to a realistic 15th although the timing screens showed them as 9th OA - they had not taken into account driver changes.

Like Robert, Nicholas was extremely race-rusty so his first lap was slow but he was quickly into the groove and maintaining an excellent pace.

Gordon England and I were sitting on the track side at Surtees, enjoying being Statler and Waldorf and giving marks for style - not something the Mustang could really be accused of having much of. Robert was certainly the most lurid and occasionally troubling the apex while Nicholas was slightly more reserved and was rewarded with an 8/10 from the judges!



With Steve Soper/Mann being removed from the results for what reason I do not know, King/Oldershaw were finally classified 14th overall. So a big thanks to Richard Doe and, of course, Nicholas King.

Robert Oldershaw

FICTIONAL DETECTIVES QUIZ: ANSWERS

MORSE Code

Terry and Bill? **SCOTT & BAILEY**

It might be a hoar one... **FROST**

Worked in the Channel Islands **BERGERAC**

Kings Markham was his patch **WEXFORD**

GIDEON of the Yard

A Fascist **BLACKSHIRT**

Battle of Hastings **NORMAN CONQUEST**

Brick structure + Her Majesty **WALLANDER**

Lives in Cabot Cove **JESSICA FLETCHER**

Simon Templar was the **SAINT**

The Bard & Ann **SHAKESPEARE & HATHAWAY**

Type of Ice Cream **MAGNUM**

D.I. and compass point

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR WEST

Formby and Maggot? **GEORGE GENTLY**

? Rudge **BARNABY**

British Soldier and 2 old pennies

TOMMY & TUPPENCE

P D James Detective **ADAM DALGLIESH**

Advantage **BOON**

Always had a lollipop **KOJAK**

A fast bird of prey **FALCON**

Peter Falk plays this one **COLOMBO**

George Simenon's detective **MAIGRET**

? Allen was in White Christmas **VERA**

Della Street was his secretary **PERRY MASON**

Was he a distinguished person? **THE TOFF**

Two Phonetic alphabet names **JULIET BRAVO**

Hastings helped him **HERCULE POIROT**

Moriarty was his foe **SHERLOCK**

You'll see these at the riverside **DCI BANKS**

PARAPROSDOKIANS

The first time I heard about paraprosookians, I liked them. They are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is often humorous (Winston Churchill loved them).

- Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
- The last thing I want to do is hurt you... but it's still on my to-do list.
- Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- We never really grow up -- we only learn how to act in public.
- War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
- I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
- In filling out a form where it says, "In case of emergency, notify...", I answered "a doctor."
- Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
- You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
- To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first, and call whatever you hit the target.
- Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
- You're never too old to learn something stupid.
- I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

All of this page courtesy of Chris Livesey

Jensens Unite in the States

Some years ago I had an inspiring conversation with Alan Smith, once Jensen Owners Club (JOC) Chairman, proposing the idea of a trip to the USA with our Jensens to join the Americans at their East Coast Nationals (ECN). What a memorable journey it was!

A trip too far perhaps? Fifty year old Jensens crossing the Atlantic, covering thousands of miles, driving in hot humid temperatures at high altitude in the Appalachian Mountains; what could possibly be keeping me awake at nights? Actually, not as hard as one might think, the hardest part was making the commitment. Shipping - should we use a container? Is this the only way? What route to take? I started by emailing key people within different car clubs: "It would be fun to drive our own classics along Route 66". I got a reply from the Triumph Stag Owners Club, who had done this in conjunction with a classic car tourist organisation, they forward me a shipping agent and after contacting them agreed to send someone to home in Spalding, my home, to discuss the plan. I needed help and called John Bell, a JOC Member. His experience with motorbike and car trips was invaluable. The joint meeting was a success and the plan was set, but this plan had to be placed on hold, as John sadly passed away.

My enthusiasm and spirit for the event continued over the next few years, then with interest growing on the JOC Forum. Where to drive? The romantic notion of driving all of the Route 66 had to be parked for another time, logistically too far from the 2018 ECN venue in Black Mountain, deep in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. 'Country Roads' and plenty of them, stretching for mile after mile, in some of the most spectacular scenery in the whole of North America, perfect for the mighty V8 and so kind of our American cousins to lay this on for our Jensens! Offering the famous Skyline and Blue Ridge Parkway Drives, this provided the drive into the event.

With the focus upon the ECN for four days, I then contacted JOC Member Clive Bishop, who has experience in this field and we devised a two week tour of some 2000 miles. We sent out emails to all club members and soon gained replies. From an initial meeting of interested parties the Team and cars were set: At the first meeting with the shipping agent we discovered a raft of paperwork, necessary for shipping, driving in the USA and complying with the stringent regulations of the US Customs at the port of entry in Baltimore. The

numerous forms have to be accurately completed and forwarded in advance of shipping to the relevant authorities. Upon travel agent Clive Bishop's recommendation, I contacted Scenic Classic Car Tours. Their very helpful representative Kieran helped to formulate our route from the port of entry, including the ECN, scenic drives, hotels with comprehensive and detailed list of places of interest at each stop. Once approved and confirmed by the Team, the detailed itinerary was fully presented in a handy folder for each car.

Contact was made with the joint organisers of the ECN, Don and Kathy Pritchard, (USA) who were overjoyed at the news that 'The crazy Brits' were coming! Don and Kathy could not have been more helpful with the shower of emails that descended upon them thereafter! Word soon spread through the US East Coast Jensen owners who were quick to offer their help and much appreciated advice, expressing wishes to join the convoy en route. This is when I started thinking to myself, just what have we done! With four other UK cars and eight other eager members willing to take the plunge, it was the right thing to do! So bookings began.

Despite some very tense moments between the shipping agents and the Team before departure, the cars were shipped from Southampton UK to Baltimore USA in May and were about ten days in transit under the roll on roll off system. The total paperwork involved totalled some 7 separate documents, plus car insurances (yes, two types), flights and health insurance. Accommodation was booked through SCCT, with individuals booking the ECN venue separately. A final meeting, before leaving, where a complete check list was used to cover everything, from spare parts to insect repellent, which proved invaluable to all!

On Friday 1st June, the adventure truly began with the team leaving at various times from London Heathrow for Washington. Eventually, that night ten bleary eyed and very excited Jensenites gathered in the Hotel bar in Arlington, USA, immediately causing interest due to our, 'so cute accents'! For the next two days Washington provided us with a wealth of famous sites, monuments and the most amazing complex of Museums of the Smithsonian Institute. Our first encounter with a US JOC member was with Marc and Kandy Zitleman on the Saturday night who organised dinner out and had assisted with our Triple A memberships (just in case).

Leaving Washington on Monday morning for the Baltimore Docks proved to be the most arduous and longest day of the whole trip! From the start the omens were not good, a pair of booked taxis due to arrive at 6.15 am arrived an hour late, resulting in us hitting the Washington rush hour! The taxis became separated, drivers, even with sat navs, got lost. We took over the navigation and arrived at the Chesapeake Vehicle Escorting Office (CVE), a necessary escorting facility. Then our drivers were escorted to collect the cars, leaving everyone else in an unmanned office where the phone was rather busy. One colleague quickly took charge, fielding calls to the bemusement of customers not used to hearing his English accent! Meanwhile, the drivers were being processed through customs, clearing agent, dock master acquiring gate passes and finally to the cars hooray! Not quite. Five Jensens neatly in a line amongst hundreds of dull modern cars was a good sight. Following a walk round, jump in to start, first and second started, next two did not want to know, the fifth obliged. The third and fourth cars had flat batteries due to the dock handlers leaving the lights on! After 20 minutes charging, the third car was away, leaving the fourth, which needed a new battery. It's now lunchtime, so new battery after lunch! Finally, the Jensens roar out of the docks in stunning convoy at 2.30pm and headed to Lexington for 7pm. We will all remain indebted to the kind hospitality shown to us from Tracy and the team at CVE.

Refreshed in Lexington, we decided to take on a little of the stunning Skyline drive on the way to Gassmans Automotive, a remarkable classic car workshop and restorer of British cars. To our delight, amongst the many Jags, Triumphs, MGs and Healeys we discovered two Jensens waiting patiently for restoration, a 541 and 541R!, all housed in a series of inviting showrooms and immaculate workshops. A huge thank you to Mike Gassman, the owner, for inviting us and providing the fascinating tour. Upon Mike's recommendation for a lunch venue, the Jensens caused a stir as we roared into the Blue Mountain Brewery; the cars were surrounded, whilst we drank their beer and heartily enjoyed the lunch. This set us up for the Blue Ridge Parkway, what a spectacular drive through tree-covered undulating roads, turning into challenging twists and bends, putting the cars through their paces - if only driving could be like this all the time. There were plenty of vista stops straddling the ridge, with horizons stretching to the East and West. At one stop, a car pulled in, the driver jumped out saying, "Wow, Jensens, and five of them! My wife wanted me to stop and look at

the view, I said look at those Jensens". It transpired that this couple were also on holiday from the UK and the driver was shocked to see GB registered Jensens on the same road! "I just had to follow you until you stopped." Returning to the hotel we were greeted by Ken and Judy Hipple and Tim and LuAnne Waller, a fun night was enjoyed at Ruby Tuesday as fourteen sat for dinner.

Next morning Bob Lasater joined us and provided options for the route to the host hotel for the ECN. This saved a lot of time, with a lovely drive on the 1-81 road to Roanoke. Martin was charged with finding a suitable spot to photograph the convoy, easier said than done, but he succeeded. Just after Roanoke we waved good bye to Bob as the Blue Ridge Parkway was calling us back up to the mountains. At Floyd, on the Ridge, there was a quick steep decent down to get to the hotel in Black Mountain. This was quite a long twisting snake road, with the cambers set for driving. Jayne Bell, was quick to respond and soon left everyone, driving the agile C-V8 like a blue humming bird through the corners. Jayne had the biggest smile when we got to the bottom! That evening we received a mighty warm welcome from our new and some familiar American Jensen friends, at the Monte Vista Hotel, our base for the next four days.

Our time at the ECN was full of wonderful moments and gave everyone the opportunity to explore the area. Diane and I went to see her relatives who have a cabin in Serierville, Tennessee, about an hour and a half away. Others had a marvellous day out to Little Switzerland, with Bernie Polan leading the convoy off in his beautiful C-V8, followed by a swarm of Jensen-Healeys, Interceptors and a tango 541. Reminiscent of an Alpine setting, lunch was enjoyed with views across to Mt Mitchell 6,578ft, the highest point on the East Coast. After lunch the majority went panning for precious gems at the Emerald Village Mine, explain that little bag to the Customs Officer at Terminal 5!

A trip to Hendersonville Pinball Museum gave us the chance to release our inner Wizard! Kathy & Don had arranged for the machines to be set to free play so that we could play any machine dating from the 70's to the present day! This was followed by a 'Poker Run' - a scenic drive collecting six separate paying cards in sealed envelopes along the drive, winner holding the best hand, then a vast BBQ meet where we played their annual "Jarts" contest. We all joined in as pairs and two Brits reached the final; Diane and I were runners up!

The main ECN day is Saturday. An early morning Funkana is held, which includes driving your car slowly around a small course with various challenges connected to the runs you have been on. The car show began at 10am, strategically positioned in the town's Visitor Centre car park thus encouraging the public to view the 45 Jensens including the Brit cars helping to create a record for the event! All the members vote in the various categories and members of the public are encouraged to vote (over 100 voted) in the People's Choice Award. It was such a relaxing day spent in the North Carolina sunshine before the evening banquet, complete with red carpet and Awards!

Something we all admired was the way in which the East Coast Nationals was run; everyone was involved and contributed with the drives, BBQ, games and evening hospitality bar within the hotel. Simply financed through the Annual Live & Silent Auction, with donated items from the membership, visitors, JOC, US parts suppliers etc. Bernie Polan took the gavel, for the live auction and the events raised \$5,500 for the next meeting.

A highlight from the last days was most certainly our stay in Charleston, we took the Sunset Cruise with Jo and Simon seeing dolphins, sea turtles and Fort Sumter, where the first shots were fired to start the American Civil War. Others visited one of the earliest surviving plantations called Drayton Hall and the old town possessed a majestic charm. All of which was beautifully crowned by the renowned southern hospitality shown to us by Mike and Brandy Leonard who we all met for the first time at the ECN. Entertaining us at their home, and basking in their neighbour's astonishment coupled with Mike's father's glee at four UK Jensens parked on the drive, folk having arrived for cocktails followed by dinner at an excellent fish restaurant!! We bow to your gracious hospitality.

Our remaining time was spent in Atlantic Beach and Virginia Beach, providing a little sea and sand with interesting coastal drives, before the dash for Baltimore and flights home from Washington and New York. All the cars performed well, simply requiring fluids and, with a full tank at \$60, let's go again!

Back at Washington this reminded me of the film 'Oceans Eleven', where all are standing at the fountain in front of The Bellagio, reflecting upon what they had just pulled off, everybody leaving at different times to fly home or travel to New York

but I recall Martin saying, "One of the most amazing driving experiences of my life!"

This epic trip would not have been possible without the contributions made from the most amazing people: Bob Lasater, Tim Waller, Bernie Polan, Ken Hipple, Marc Zitlman, Mike and Brandy Leonard. Tracey and Team from Chesapeake Vehicle Escorting and Rick Worm from Hagerty Insurance. Very special thanks to Kathy & Don Pritchard and all of the East Coast members for their exceptional welcome, making us feel part of the Family.

We must not forget the Team who made the trip so memorable - *Martin, Zac, Simon, Jo, Jayne, Peter, Raj and Karan*; some started as strangers, but will now always be friends!

The trip was dedicated to the memory of our dear friend John Bell.

Colin & Diane Mayes

UK tours from AMCT

Following loss of itineraries in 2020 due to Covid, AMCT have released new dates for two tours during 2021 which may be of interest to Club members. These are as follows :

1/ Welsh Border Tour based (as before) at the Old Court Hotel, Symonds Yat, Ross-On-Wye : 16th - 22nd May 2021

2/ Lake District Tour based at Edenhall Hotel, Penrith, Cumbria : 12th - 18th September 2021

Both tours are 6 day events and include dinner, bed & breakfast with double room inclusive. Each day, Monday to Friday will include visits to varied venues such as car museums, steam train rides, river cruises etc. One day will be devoted to a mystery tour (about 60 miles) where the route will be given on the day and use of sat-nav is prohibited. A fully-detailed itinerary and a brief history will be provided.

Anyone interested in either of these events, please contact:

Brian Patmore

Email: allmarquecartours@gmail.com