

spalding classic car club and east elloe

NEWSLETTER

No 148 October 2020

Forthcoming Events

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

SADLY NOTHING – PLEASE SEE BELOW...

Chair-Mann's Chatter

Joy Mann jmann@seeccc.co.uk

Should my October Chatter begin... "Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed"? Or, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again"?



I've given both consideration, perhaps for a nanosecond, and I'm definitely with the latter! The trials and tribulations during September have been frustrating, to say the least. We have been working hard behind the scenes, organising various events, only to find we must put everything on hold again for the time being.

So, apologies to all those who were looking forward to being out and about; I'm sure you understand we have to abide by the Government's latest rules. The biggest disappointment for many was the cancellation of the Peak District jolly and the Gosberton Picnic & Treasure Hunt. Thanks must go to all those involved in organising the events and to Club member, Tom Webster, for offering to host the Gosberton gathering.

Sadly, we are unable to plan anything else for the time being but would greatly appreciate any contributions for forthcoming newsletters. Please send to Adrian on seeccc@btinternet.com

The only consolation from all of this – next year's calendar of events will be an absolute breeze!

Finally, thank you for your continued support, stay safe and keep sane!

Joy

STILL 'CAR-LESS IN SPALDING' – MORE NEWS NEXT TIME!



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Ancient & Modern Wordsearch

There's **more than 40** car makes from all eras of the motoring past to find in this grid: forwards, backwards, up, down and diagonal!

See how many can you find!

Please send your entries to me at seeccc@btinternet.com. Answers next month.

AC

E	L	V	A	B	R	I	S	T	O	L	V	O	D	W
E	H	C	S	R	O	P	R	D	N	A	G	R	O	M
A	M	Z	O	E	M	O	R	A	F	L	A	B	V	B
D	R	O	C	C	O	O	P	E	R	D	B	M	A	T
A	L	F	R	M	F	H	S	A	N	R	E	V	O	R
A	L	L	A	R	D	I	M	A	R	A	E	W	F	E
N	H	P	M	U	I	R	T	C	L	I	U	F	I	B
E	D	S	E	L	H	S	G	A	L	P	L	L	A	M
S	M	A	R	T	E	I	D	I	R	A	I	E	T	U
N	A	V	R	U	S	N	O	B	L	E	R	N	Y	H
E	F	A	D	N	O	G	A	L	V	I	S	E	E	M
J	B	X	B	B	J	E	L	A	N	C	I	A	N	A
A	E	U	Q	I	G	R	U	L	L	A	T	E	M	T
A	C	M	I	S	O	P	E	L	L	O	T	U	S	R
K	G	O	W	N	I	T	R	A	M	N	O	T	S	A

The Metrosexual Male



Barn-find spares, repair or restore, your choice!

1995 ROVER METRO 115SLD

I rescued this little blue Metro from a garage that was being pulled down. I don't know much about it but I know a bit. It's a 1995 Rover 115SLD, the last of the Metros made so it has a diesel engine 1527cc. It was bought by an older lady in 2004 she drove home parked it up and sadly passed away not too long after; it had been parked there since. It was last due to be taxed and MOT'd in Oct 2005. The clock shows it'd done just less than 61000 miles.

At some point it has been filled with plant pots and other stuff (as you'll see from the pictures). I cleared it out and bought it from the new owner of the property and then I brought it home. Then my wife spotted it and here we are...

I have no keys, no V5, no paperwork, just the car. The mice have snacked on the wiring, the gear stick gaiter and probably lots more. I had to break the steering lock to move it but the engine runs; there was no battery and I cut the fan belt off because the alternator was stuck but once I'd got power (battery) to it, the engine started and ran without smoking.

I've had the interior out and cleaned it as this was essential before I got in it/ played with it - apparently! The seats, door cards and carpets have all come up quite well...

PLEASE BE AWARE THIS IS FOR SPARES OR REPAIR. IT'S NOT A RUNNING USEABLE CAR, IT IS A PROJECT. BREAK IT, STRIP IT, RESTORE IT WHATEVER YOU CHOOSE BUT YOU'RE BUYING A LOT OF BITS IN THE SHAPE OF METRO NOT A CAR.

SOLD AS SEEN.

This gives you the gist of the listing I wrote for the poor little blue car (pictured above) that had languished in a lean-to for 15 years. It

was buried up to its cills in muck and mud, it looked like it was being reclaimed by nature. I couldn't remember the last time I had seen

one of these cars. I needed an excuse to rescue it, then I remembered the



article in our February 2019 Club newsletter about [Ian Stancer's] Rover rally car (above). Eureka - that was it!!



I looked through the windows (after cleaning a patch) and it was full to the brim. Full of utter c**p; fire grates, plant pots, literally any old iron. I guessed this was not the final act of the one careful lady owner. However, I was not perturbed by this because my plan was to rip it out and turn it into my rally car. With bucket seats, 4 point harnesses, a roll cage. Oh the plans I had... So I enquired about the car: *"Yes mate, £100 take it or leave it, no keys, no V5 but you can have everything that's inside (that swung it!) - we want it moved quickly as we're pulling the shed down."*

As it was my birthday (and my wife Josie was at home), I thought I'd treat myself. Thus the deal was done. I had previously mentioned the idea to her so, when I arrived home whistling cheerfully, she declared: *"You've bought **that** car haven't you? It's not coming here, it's not going in front of the lounge window - I don't*

want that as my window box all summer, thanks very much". That was June 2019.



Before moving the car I thought it best I empty it. To do so, I needed to get it open. This meant breaking into what was now my own car. To this day I can't believe that I went to the trouble of using masking tape around the door frame to protect the paint!! Honestly this was the least of the car's troubles. After breaking the seal, the overwhelming stench of **RAT** hit me. This got me a bit worried. I then started to empty the car, the list of stuff is too long to detail; suffice to say we have plenty of plant pots and watering cans. But I did get £5 for the scrap metal I weighed in. Then I could see the full scale of the rodent damage. After moving the car I found there were three rat holes in the ground below; it seems I had bought their conservatory!!

Luckily we have good neighbours. They are more understanding than my wife. One is a mechanic and has a car transporter, the other has a large garden with his own collection of 'donor' cars. They understand a man's needs! These boys were to prove invaluable as one moved it and the other stored it. I removed the interior and jet washed it, then used the other half's Vax on it (shsssh!). Then - as so often happens - work, life and reality got in the way and the whole project stalled for nearly a year.

My friend's wife (backed by mine, I suspect) began to get a bit tetchy about how long it had been there; comments such as *"I thought Neal's 'it'll only be a minute' was long but Jon's is on another scale"*. Pressure was upon me to get it sorted. But, with the help of my friends, we were able to get the little car

running. While doing this, I realised what a good mechanic my friend was and how little I knew about cars. As most of the wiring harness had been eaten, I was delighted to see he got it running with the addition of two bits of wire and a battery. Amazing! It had 15 year old diesel in the tank yet it still ran on it and ran sweet.

But by now I had admitted to myself that this was too big a project for me. The best thing to do was to put the innards back in and list it on eBay. So, now how best to describe it? I have always believed honesty is the key, so that was the basis of my ad you've already seen.

My wife was excited to see it had 8,018 views and 178 watchers and, fortunately, several bidders. At this point it owed me £95; the £100 purchase price less the £5 scrap payment. I started the auction at £99 no reserve. It had to go. Really it did. So after 7 days and a few questions it did sell to Kevin from Birmingham who was very excited on the phone (he sounded much like Timothy Spall) at the classic car 'bargain' he'd just "won". I hoped this elation was not to be short-lived... it wasn't, he has since collected it and is still very happy with it. At a profit of 347%, I am sure there's many a car dealer would like to make that much with such little effort.

At the end of this experience, this is what have I learned:

- We need a bigger garden
- Unattractive cars make a better percentage profit than any decent car I have ever sold
- I am pleased. Pleased that a little bit of English motoring heritage is set to be restored in Brum. Pleased I didn't contract Weil's disease. Pleased that Karen next door has announced that "We can be friends again now, Jon".

I am also excited because Karen's husband has announced there's room for two more cars at his and the mechanic round the corner has decided to retire early so he's available 24/7 as he likes a project to do. I'm now thinking about a Fiat Tipo. See - happiness is everywhere... almost!

Jon Saunders

CAPTION COMPETITION



Phil & Sally Tucker have sent in this photo of them taken a few years ago when they owned this Yamaha 650cc Drag Star.

Can those of you with inventive minds out there come up with an appropriate (and clean!) caption?

Please send your entries to your Editor at seeccc@btinternet.com by 30 October.

SNIPPETS

■ Very sad to see that Bristol Cars Ltd has bitten the dust (again). Most of the remaining assets were recently auctioned and some have been 'rescued' by the Bristol Owners Heritage Trust. For anyone interested there are details available at <https://bristolownersht.com/2020/09/08/liquidation-of-bristol-cars-and-the-results-of-the-online-auction/>

■ A quick but polite reminder that the seeccc@btinternet.com email address, from which the newsletter is sent out, finds its way to Adrian Cunnington as Club Secretary and Newsletter Editor. So, if you reply to the newsletter email, it goes to Adrian, not Joy. If it's our leading lady you want to email, please do so at jmann@seeccc.co.uk – thank you!