

spalding classic car club and east elloe

No 153 March 2021

NEWSLETTER

Chair-Mann's CHATTER

Joy Mann jmann@seeccc.co.uk

This month for a change, instead of "Chatter", confessions of Part-time Motor Traders!

NIGEL - A couple of years ago, we had an absolutely immaculate, old shape limited edition Mini Sprite for sale, a one owner car with a mere 17k miles (I'm even slipping into sales mode already!!)

Potential purchasers weren't exactly forming an orderly queue, but eventually a chap rang from deepest Kent, asked numerous pertinent questions and arranged a viewing. Based on the fact he was driving some distance we thought he must be fairly serious.

Anyway, bang on the allotted hour, he and his wife/minder/carer tipped up, coffees were brewed and having discussed the weather, state of the economy and recent happenings on Coronation Street, the viewing commenced. I remember he took a clip board out of a briefcase along with a torch and I fully expected a white laboratory coat or even full PPE to be the next thing to emerge.

Three and a half hours later, yes 3½ hours, he must have inspected every item attached to the little Mini to the point where his (quite normal) wife was getting seriously p'd off with him, I was on the verge of suggesting he make a decision or go away (or words to that effect.) That poor little Mini had endured more scrutiny than Astra Zeneca!

Eventually, he concurred the car was probably better than described, acceptable to him but the problem was the spare tyre was under-inflated!!

Fortunately, I resisted voicing my thoughts and yes, he did buy it!

JOY - Another chap travelled from London after work one evening to inspect a beautiful Jaguar S Type we had for sale. Engaging in chat over the hospitable cuppa we discovered he lived in Royal Wootton Bassett but spent the working week in London. I commented I had family in RWB, naming my cousin, a local builder. He picked up his phone and rang his wife who was out for the evening with my cousin's wife.....! Small world!



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

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> We delivered a Triumph Herald convertible to a purchaser in Surrey and subsequently met the man's mother, Barbara, a very capable, sprightly, late 80s lady. Whilst Nigel organised the Herald, I struck up conversation with Barbara, having noticed a Gtech vacuum cleaner parked in her hall. "How do you get on with your Gtech, Barbara? I've been toying with the idea of buying one." In a flash, she rigged up said vacuum, handed it to me and suggested I "Do the hall, stairs and landing! See what you think....."

A few years ago we sold a Nissan Micra to a local man who simply arrived cheque in hand, turning down the offer of a test-drive. "Oh, I don't want to use it, I just want to park it outside mine to stop the bu**ers who keep blocking my drive!"

Finally, an event that always brings a smile. When I moved to Spalding 20 years ago I had to relocate my business, a reputable introduction company. My matchmaking resulted in lots of happy couples skipping off into the sunset together.

One year Nigel and I actually received a Christmas card that was very simply addressed to "Honest John and The Madam", (not even a house number.....) Grange Drive, Spalding. Says it all really.....!!

Joy

ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR RUN 2021

Due to the latest round of Government Covid-19 restrictions, we have been forced to move the Club's Annual Classic Car Run, originally planned for 6th June, to a new date.

It is now planned for the event to be held on **Sunday 15th August 2021.**

The plans for the event are outlined below by organisers *Alan & Jackie Aistrup*:

Well!! Our first year of organising the annual car run did not exactly go to plan! However I can say, without fear of contradiction, that it was not our fault!!! **Bloody Covid!** (please excuse my French). With so few events taking place in 2020 and so many of our freedoms curtailed, we continue to prepare for 2021 with optimism and, following Boris' latest announcement, anticipate that the summer will bring about a modicum of normality. I am sure we are all looking forward to removing the dust sheets, pumping up the tyres, charging the battery and coaxing those engines back into life again (stale fuel permitting!). At least for us, the route planning is all in place and all of the venues are now on board, subject to any restrictions in force on our new date.



We have been able to secure the same venues following last year's cancellations and, although we have been prevented from using our traditional first weekend in June, we hope there will be no significant clashes with other local events.

>



just south of Lincoln. Guided tours of the centre will be on offer for those who wish to participate, or you can just wander round on your own. Please note that entry to the exhibition hall is not included in the deal.

We are so looking forward to getting together again with old friends and with like-minded people to talk a “load of old codswallop” about our cars, present and past. To see what “new” vehicles are out on show and just being out there, together in a social group. This is, as we now know, a freedom that we did not fully appreciate until it was taken away from us. On a positive note, however, with the pubs closed, I have lost three stones in weight - but I can’t wait to put it back on again!! (Perhaps not, eh?)

We hope to see as many of you as possible later in the year...

Alan and Jackie Aistrup

EDITORIAL

Another month’s gone by so it’s another Newsletter. The difference this time is that there’s some light at the end of the Covid tunnel and we have news of some events, albeit still a few weeks away, with more to follow I am sure. OK, the first one is online but it’s our AGM on 30th and we hope you will be able to join us. **Just click on the link in your Newsletter email.** Also, a quick thank you to Mr & Mrs Mann and also Mr & Mrs Alan Aistrup for providing a significant amount of content for this edition of the Newsletter. **Ed.**

SNIPPET

► This guy was charged with dangerous driving during the recent cold snap! *(with thanks to Warwick Banks)*



East Elloe Motor Club Limited

Affiliated to Motorsport UK

operating as

spalding classic car club
and east elloe

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Online on Microsoft Teams

Tuesday 30th March, 7.30 pm

To join: simply click the link in your Newsletter email

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2019 AGM
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Chairman's report including votes of thanks
5. Subscriptions
6. Rule changes: Club Secretary
7. Treasurer's report for financial year to 31.10.20
8. Appointment of auditors
9. Election of Officers & Committee:
President; Vice-President; Chair; Vice-Chair; Club Secretary;
Treasurer; Club Directors; Committee Members
10. Date of next AGM
11. Any other business

Advance nominations for Officers & Committee to be emailed to the Club Secretary, Adrian Cunnington, with current members as both proposer and seconder to: seeccc@btinternet.com by noon on 30 March 2021. Proposals can also be made at the meeting.

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VP AUTOFILE NIGEL MANN

First Car

A 1970 Morris 1100. My first job was working in London and commuting from Muswell Hill to Piccadilly using bus and tube, so thought it a reasonable idea to buy a motorbike for the commute which I did with Mr Barclays lending me £150. Unsurprisingly, my dear mother didn't agree with my eureka moment so persuaded Dad to buy me the 1100, not even a 1300, on the understanding I sold the 'bike!! To the fellow 'bikers amongst us it was a Yamaha 125 AS1.



Favourite Car

Fondest memories of and now becoming remarkably rare, probably because they have all rotted away, was a **Mk 3 Vauxhall Cavalier SRi**. I know it was nothing special but I really enjoyed that car.

Picture shows the SRi on tow-car duty with an autotest Mini. I remember it was quite a challenge to get the trailer out of the wet grass field!



Current Classic(s)

Morris Minor Van, Renault 16 (yes I know, before you say anything, but I love its quirkiness!!) and **MGB Roadster**.



The Car I Regret Selling

This definitely has to be my **Porsche 911 3.2 Carrera**, sold in 2009 and now worth at least three times what I sold it for. Then again, it was sold to finance an **Aston Martin V8 Vantage**...



The Car I Regret Buying

I had sold my **Mk5 Ford Cortina** in Solar Gold [Yes, I actually specified gold, plus, to make matters worse, it had a brown vinyl roof and brown velour upholstery, but then again it was the eighties!] and was waiting for the Cavalier mentioned above to arrive, so I bought a hearing aid beige **Austin Maxi** (my description, not BL's!). I paid £84 which included £44 worth of road tax. I think it used more oil than petrol. Luckily, I managed to sell it for £150 when the Vauxhall arrived! Not really regretted buying as it served a purpose, but what a dog of a car!! The pic shows the Cortina on a beach somewhere as I assume you know what a Maxi looks like, but equally you probably know what a Cortina looks like! I also specified an 'S' pack which included sports suspension (on a Cortina??!!) and go faster driving lights. Blimey, I'd hit the big time!!



Fondest Memories:

Probably an E30 **BMW 325i Touring** that was not only my everyday car but a superb East Elloe Motor Club road rally car, with Mr Editor Cunningham on the maps! Apologies to Mike & Abby as I haven't many pics of the BMW...



Dream Car:

One car I lust over is a **BMW M1** - but that's way beyond my pay grade! Somewhat more realistic (but still way beyond a head office sanction!) is a **Porsche 930 911 Supersport**. However, a **Ferrari F430** also floats my boat, but I couldn't put up with having to service it every 10 minutes!

Memorable Moments:

After I had retired from racing and sold my car, I borrowed a friend's 1984 **Reynard Formula Ford** to do a couple of races in a championship for pre-1985 cars, one at Cadwell Park and another at

Snetterton in 1996. The car was an absolute dream to drive and set up so well I managed to put it on pole for both races. (It was so good I reckon a blind orangutang could have done the same!!)

The Cadwell race I managed to win with fastest lap, while at Snetterton we were leading until the penultimate lap and going into the final corner, Chris in second place (in the yellow Lola in the pic) outbraked himself in an attempt to overtake and took us both off. We both regained the circuit, him finishing third with me fourth. He rang me the next day to apologise....again!



Weird/funny moments:

I suppose this is a weird moment, but some may consider it funny. In the late seventies, we were competing in all-night road rallies with a Mk 1 Escort Mexico. [Incidentally, I sold it in 1980 for £750, Mexicos now commanding over £30,000. Story of my life!!]

Anyway, we were somewhere in the back of beyond near Woodhall Spa tramping on to make up time, rounded a bend and somehow found ourselves impaled against the end of a bridge parapet with one of the poles through the windscreen. How this happened, I still haven't got a clue. Possibly my navigator (not Mr Cunningham) mis-called the bend (unlikely), bend was wet and muddy (probably), I fell asleep (doubtful) or I ran out of what limited talent was available (most likely!). Robin Randall at Deeping St Nicholas re-jigged the car and it lived on to compete once again before being sold!



Next month – you? Email seeccc@btinternet.com

WORDSEARCH - Can you find the car parts in the grid?

Find and circle each of the words from the list below.

Words may appear forwards or backwards, horizontally, vertically or diagonally in the grid.

Accelerator pedal	Airbag	Alarm	Axle	Battery	Bonnet
Boot	Brakes	Carburettor	Chrome	Clutch	Cruise control
Dashboard	Diesel	Door	Engine	Exhaust	Fog lights
Fuel Tank	Gearstick	Handbrake	Headrest	Heater	Horn
Hubcaps	Indicator	Numberplate	Oil	Petrol	Radiator
Radio	Seatbelt	Sparkplug	Speedometer		Steering wheel
Sun visor	Sunroof	Tyres	Windscreen wiper		Wing mirror

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

With thanks to Alan Aistrup

Solution next month