

spalding classic car club

and east elloe

NEWSLETTER

No 175 - January 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYBODY!

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 8 January BAYTREE MONTHLY MEET – from 10 o'clock at PE12 6JU. Note later date due to New Year holiday. Breakfast/refreshments available.

Tuesday 10 January CLUBNIGHT QUIZ – 7.30 pm start for our first clubnight of the New Year, kindly organised again by Tim & Karen Davies. Teams of 4. Details below.

Sunday 5 February BAYTREE MONTHLY MEET – from 10 o'clock at PE12 6JU. Breakfast/refreshments available.

Tuesday 7 February CLUBNIGHT TALK – 7.30 pm start for our clubnight talk by Paul Cooper, Assistant Coroner for Lincolnshire. Tigers Social Club, 7 for 7.30 pm. Note this event is on the *first* Tuesday, not the usual second.

Our 2023 calendar is taking further shape - see page 4 for more information



Contact
timdavies@btinternet.com

This month's clubnight is our Just-for-Fun Quiz organised by Tim & Karen Davies

Teams of 4 maximum.

Wide range of subjects – not just classics!

At Tigers' Social Club, Park Rd, Holbeach, PE12 7EE

Gather from 7pm for 7.30pm start.

◀ Please let Tim know if you are planning to attend.



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

Find us on  Facebook at **Spalding & East Elloe Classic Car Club**

Spalding & East Elloe Classic Car Club - a specialist section of East Elloe Motor Club Ltd - www.seeccc.co.uk
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Chair-Mann's CHATTER

Joy Mann jmann@seeccc.co.uk

I'm not usually stuck for words but Sunday, December 11th saw me "speechless"! Your generous gifts were totally unexpected and Nigel and I are very grateful, thank you. I'm pleased to report the poinsettia is still alive although there have been worrying times and I've concluded nurturing my 17 foster children was probably less tricky... and that's saying something!



Speechless, however, is probably the M.O. I should adopt, having dropped a few clangers over the last year. I guess you recall my statement about the club's "cracking pair of Bristols"? Well, this pales into insignificance when you hear the next blooper...

...The young girl serving us in the local EE shop looked horrified when I nudged Nigel and said "Show her your Woodie, you've got a picture of it on your phone!" She'd only asked us what a classic car looked like...!

But I simply cannot confess what I said to our postman who was re-delivering a package that wouldn't fit through our letterbox... Oh, the embarrassment. (No, this is not another caption competition!)

Enough waffle, back to the business of SEECCC – we are looking forward to another busy year and the team is already coming up with ideas for events, drives and outings. You will soon be receiving your annual run invitation and although Sunday, June 4th seems a long way off, it really isn't. I must also remind you that bookings for the Spalding Flower Parade, Saturday, May 13th, need to be made this coming week. So, do let me know if you're willing to display your vehicle on our club stand. Please email me, jmann@seeccc.co.uk

Don't forget our usual Sunday Baytree meet on the 8th, weather permitting, and our January Quiz night (just for fun, nothing too serious!) is on Tuesday, 10th. Then we have the Assistant Coroner for Lincolnshire coming to talk to us in February, on Tuesday, 7th. Both these clubnight events will be held at The Tigers Bar in Holbeach; enter PE12 7EE in your sat nav.

Huge thanks for your support of our 2022 events, we hope to see you out and about over the coming months. Wishing you all the very best for the year ahead - here's to many happy miles!

Joy

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

- Like **Joy & Nigel**, I was both surprised and delighted to receive the presentation at the Christmas lunch in recognition of input to the Club over the years. My thanks to all involved; it was greatly appreciated. Thanks also to **Jenny & Trevor Overson** for various levels of subterfuge in organising the collection.
- Well done to **Jean Treversh** who was this year's recipient of the M'Duck Trophy for contributions to the Club from a non-Committee member. Jean had volunteered to help out with planning and admin for several events including the 50th birthday bash and the Christmas lunch. See the pictures on page 5.
- Thanks to **Alan and Jackie Aistrup** who have been busy mailing out provisional details of their 2023 Annual Classic Car Run which will run on Sunday 4th June:

spalding classic car club — and east elloe —

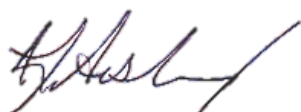
Dear Classic Car Enthusiast

2023 Annual Classic Car Run

As we approach the close of yet another year, thankfully one that has been less disrupted than the preceding two! It is time to look forward to the summer months and to getting out and about in our much cherished cars. Again, it has fallen upon Jackie and me to put our annual run together and we very much hope you will be able to join us on **Sunday 4th June**. This time the event will be centred on the Grantham area and will follow the traditional format including a Sunday lunch stop at a country hotel.

Please make a note of the date in your diary and we will send out entry forms early in the New Year when all of the details have been finalised.

Kind Regards and Seasonal Greetings



Alan and Jackie Aistrup
2023 Classic Car Run Organisers

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CAPTION COMPETITION!



Thanks for more of your suggestions for our New Year caption competition featuring Chris Shallice, Steve Le Sage *et al*. Pick your favourite from this lot...

Trust me I'm an estate agent, they really were this big!

'...but Steve, all I said was, I'd like to weigh them before we carry on! '

I was told she said they were a nice pair, but I know my Bristols and I am sure one of them wasn't original.

I have a nice little two-bedroom bungalow which would suit you, Steve: no kitchen or bathroom, but it has 10 garages.

Seriously Steve, I did see Nigel in a pink Porsche

And then the wheel fell off!

New Year diet? That's not a totally ridiculous suggestion, to be fair, Chris...

The caption competition will return at a later date.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

pictures by Patrick Limming



2023 CLUB CALENDAR

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Organiser</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Su	8 Jan	Classic Car Meet	SEEECC	Baytree Garden Centre
Tu	10 Jan	Clubnight Quiz	T & K Davies	Tigers Club, Holbeach
Su	5 Feb	Classic Car Meet	SEEECC	Baytree Garden Centre
Tu	7 Feb	Clubnight Talk by Paul Cooper	J & P Pollard	Tigers Club, Holbeach
Su	5 Mar	Classic Car Meet	SEEECC	Baytree Garden Centre
Tu	14 Mar	Clubnight Visit*	G Faulkner	tbc
Su	2 Apr	Classic Car Meet	SEEECC	Baytree Garden Centre
Tu	11 Apr	Clubnight Meet*	J Mann	tbc
Su	23 Apr	DRIVE IT DAY RUN	S Saunders & L Bollons	tbc
Su	7 May	Classic Car Meet	SEEECC	Baytree Garden Centre
Sa	13 May	Spalding Flower Parade: static stand	SEEECC	Castle Field, Spalding - see Chair-Mann's Chatter
Tu	16 May	Clubnight Run	C & C Cornish	
Su	21 May	RUTLAND SHOW	N & J Mann	Oakham
Su	4 Jun	CLASSIC CAR RUN	A & J Aistrup	Ancaster/Marston etc
Tu	13 Jun	Clubnight	tbc	
Su	25 Jun	Lincolnshire Heights Sunday Lunch run	S Le Sage	Stamford/Grantham area
Su	2 Jul	Classic Car Meet	SEEECC	Baytree Garden Centre
Su	2 Jul	CLASSIC CAR RUN	KLDMC	tbc
Tu	11 Jul*	Clubnight Run	tbc	
Su	6 Aug	Classic Car Meet	SEEECC	Baytree Garden Centre
Su	13 Aug	BOSTON SHOW	BCCC	Hubbert's Bridge
Tu	15/22 Aug*	Clubnight Run	A & C Cunningham	tbc
Sa	2 Sep	SLEAFORD SHOW	SCCMS	Lafford Terrace, Sleaford
Su	3 Sep	Classic Car Meet	SEEECC	Baytree Garden Centre
Tu	12 Sep*	Clubnight	tbc	
Su	1 Oct	Classic Car Meet	SEEECC	Baytree Garden Centre
Tu	10 Oct*	Clubnight	tbc	
Su	5 Nov	Classic Car Meet	SEEECC	Baytree Garden Centre
Tu	14 Nov*	Clubnight	tbc	
Su	3 Dec	Classic Car Meet	SEEECC	Baytree Garden Centre
Su	10 Dec*	CHRISTMAS LUNCH	tbc	

*Provisional: further information to follow.

Some dates may be cancelled or additional dates added.

PRESIDENT'S PRONOUNCEMENTS

Rover SD1 Group 1½ Touring Car



© Steve Glendinning Motorsport Images

Well, after about 15 years of sports prototypes from Radical, Juno, Gunn and two historic Lolas, we have now moved on to the beast shown above.

The final Lola, a fabulous Lola 290, pictured here, went earlier this year having purchased the Rover at the beginning of last year. Unfortunately, the Lola has had a rather troubled time since leaving Weston. Collected by Dorset Racing for a customer of theirs, they went testing at Silverstone and the new proud owner was apparently enjoying the car immensely in the morning session and gradually building up speed.

Sadly, after lunch, he crashed into the pit wall near Woodcote corner. and has spent several weeks in hospital. The car was also badly damaged and now needs a new tub along with quite a few new bits...



Anyway back to the Rover. I have always been a fan of this Rover, although the Vitesse was above my pay grade in period, so I never actually owned one. We first saw this particular car at Silverstone three years ago at the Classic. This was after it had been recommissioned after standing in the back of Martin Thomas' garage for

almost 40 years. It was readvertised in the spring of 2021 and we decided to have a change and go saloon car racing.

One of the attractions of buying the car was that Mr Thomas, who had raced the car in period, wanted to be involved and come with us and offer us the benefit of his experience. Unfortunately, Mr Thomas was taken ill and subsequently died in the middle of 2021. It is probably a good thing it never happened because, as we delved into the car, we found that the standard of preparation was frankly appalling. Indeed, virtually everything we touched had been done on the cheap or bodged in some way. The oil plumbing, for example, had been made with agricultural hose which is made for a tractor to stand 2500 psi, whereas most cars peak at 120 psi! And, of course, motor sport hose is a lot more expensive than industrial hose... Then we had a clutch problem and, when the gearbox was removed, the wrong clutch release bearing had been fitted.

At the end of 2021, we had two races. In the first one, we came in 4th in class and, in the second one, after we became more used to the car, we won the class, although we were never really happy with how it went. A 300 BHP saloon car will never feel like the Lola but it should have some go. We convinced ourselves that the car was overweight and spent most of the winter removing weight. Come the spring, we decided to try and get a run at the 2022 Goodwood Members' Meeting and, with the help of Simon Drabble, we duly got an entry.

I hadn't been to Goodwood for 30 years and our driver son Robert had never driven there. We were teamed with Matt Neal, who some of you may have heard of, and so we had high expectations. But qualifying didn't go that well and we were not on the pace of the quicker Rovers and Capris although Robert was delighted that he was actually two-tenths quicker than Matt.

The race proved to be a bore as our car was so slow. The quickest Rover was running in the top 4, whereas we weren't! Matt took over from Robert and after about 3 laps the linkage attaching the back axle to the bodywork pulled out and Matt had to slow to get a finish - virtually last. There was a second race the next day which we would have started from the front but we were unable to repair the car, so we came home with me vowing to take the engine out and find some speed...

We duly removed the engine and took it back to John Eales, the engine builder, and he discovered by interrogating the ECU that at some point before my purchase, someone had buzzed it to 7600 rpm, bending two valves. Hence, despite sounding alright, it was around 80hp down on power.



We fixed the engine and headed off to do the first Group 1 Gerry Marshall race organised by the HRDC. This was at Snetterton, a circuit we hadn't been to for at least 5 years and, apart from Cadwell, near enough to be our home track. Quali went well and we were on pole until virtually the last lap when ex-BTCC racer Matt Jackson pipped Robert by a few tenths. So, a front row start but we were beaten off the line by Bill Shepherd's Mustang, going into the first corner in second position. We stayed there with Robert matching the Mustang but not really able to get close. But, after the pit stops, we came out in front, and it was a position which we were not going to lose. The Mustang finished a distant second, as his brakes faded towards the end and the rapidly-closing VW Scirocco driven by Mr Jackson came in third.

Our next race was also at Snetterton but this time had more modern touring cars mixed with the GP1 cars which not only have big HP, but also run on slicks. Rob aced the first half of a two-part race, winning the class. But the second race was not to be as, on trying to bleed the clutch, the slave cylinder decided it didn't want to play and that was it. We have since had two races at Silverstone - or not as the case may be. Both failures are down to how I believe this "ready-to-race" car was put together in such a crappy way. So, over this winter, we hope to build in some more reliability to a car which, at least, now appears to be competitive. Our thanks must go to Gordon England and Paul Stafford for their engineering input, to Barry Aistrup as the keeper of the keys and Nigel Rees for turning a shopping trolley into a race car.

Robert Oldershaw

