

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 8 December

CHRISTMAS LUNCH – at the Black Horse, Main Street, Baston. PE6 9PB. Gather from 3.00pm for 3.30 sit-down. Fully booked. Reminder of the menu opposite; all you have to do is remember what you picked!

Tuesday 14 January 2025

CLUBNIGHT QUIZ – a light-hearted, non-mind-blowing quiz for the New Year. Organised by Adrian & Caroline Cunnington and Duncan & Marian Russell. Venue: Tigers Club, Park Road, Holbeach. Gather from 7.00pm for 7.30 start. Teams of 2,3 or 4. £3/head for Club charity.

Chair Mann's CHATTER

Joy Mann Chair jmann@seeccc.co.uk ☎ 01775 723856

Festive greetings to one and all from the SEECCC HQ in Grange Drive! We hope you have a jolly Christmas and look forward to seeing you out and about in 2025.

No doubt we'll catch up again soon, we've 70 booked in for our Christmas lunch on Sunday 8th but if you can't cope with that level of excitement then we hope to see you on 14th January for the Cunnington/Russell teaser evening!

Thanks to all for your support and generous contributions over the last year. Our nominated charity, PHAB in Spalding, has received more than £3,000 which will help keep their minibuses rolling. More funds headed into the PHAB coffers following Tom Gibbard's fascinating talk at the Tigers Club last month. Thanks Tom! We received fab feedback from all who supported, only wish we'd had more time!

None of this would ever happen without the amazing input from our fellow Committee members who are currently plotting and planning the 2025 calendar; a provisional version should be available in next month's newsletter. Big thanks go to Steve Le Sage, Adrian Cunnington and my hubby Nigel who have just about managed to keep me on the straight and narrow during the past year! Thanks also to all those who put together the 2024 events and to those who are already arranging our 2025 outings, we are so very grateful.

Here's to many happy miles in 2025!

Joy.



MENU : CHRISTMAS LUNCH – 8 DEC



To Start

Chicken liver pate, red onion chutney
Baked ciabatta stick

Leek and Potato Soup
Fresh Baked Bread

Breaded Brie Bites, Cranberry Dip
Garden Salad

Glass of Orange Juice

For mains

Roast Turkey

Roast Beef

Mixed Nut Roast

All served with Pig in Blanket, Stuffing, Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes, Roasted Carrots, Honey Glazed Parsnips, Brussels, Broccoli and Gravy.

Pan fried Fillet of Scottish salmon
Sauté Potatoes Tenderstem Broccoli and Hollandaise Sauce

For Dessert

Christmas Pudding
Brandy Sauce

After Eight Cheesecake
Vanilla Ice Cream

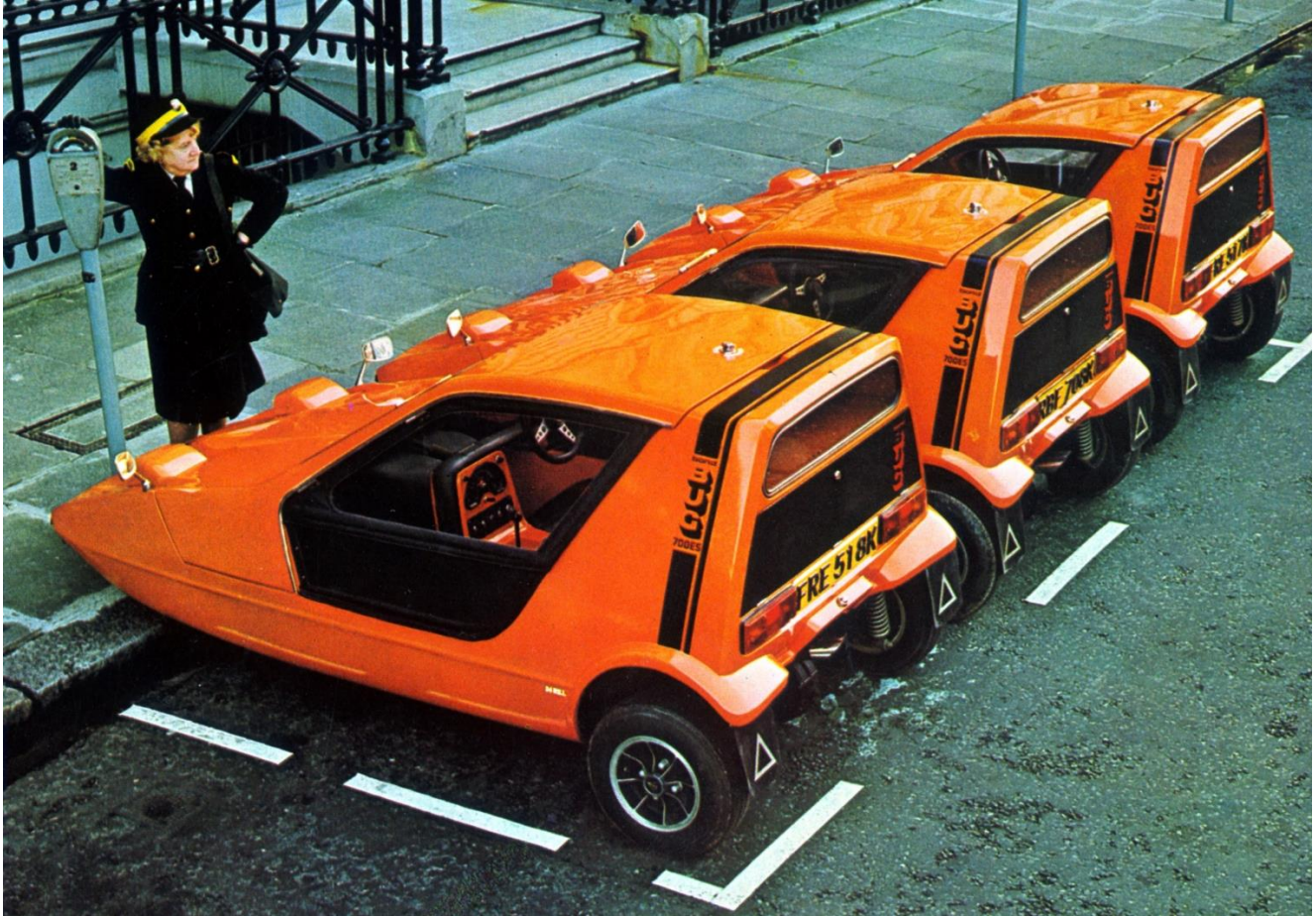
Vanilla crème
Homemade Shortbread Biscuits

Cheese Board

Tea and Coffee

FULLY BOOKED

CAPTION COMPETITION



Quite a popular one this, with a number of entries along similar themes:

'You three little Bugs think you're smart little BUGgers, but all three will be fined for blocking a public footpath with your noses'

'I don't know; there are three of them, and they still don't make one proper car'

'I wonder what the collective noun is for a group of these things'

'Now, do I give them one ticket between them, or one each?!'

'I've never had a threesome before...'

'Well, that's a bit of a bug-ger!'

'How sweet, my first triBUGulation - and the colour matches my hair'

'Okay, which one of you boys is 'Mann' enough to take me for a ride..?!'

'Well, I'll be bugged!'

Thanks for your entries. Perhaps best you pick your own winner? Ed.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13		14	15	16			17	18	
19		20		21					
		22			23		24	25	
26		27				28			29
		30				31			
32		33			34				
35				36					

ACROSS

1. David or Jack?
6. Head office
8. Mercedes variant
11. Lotus for the Continent?
12. Goes that fast it's airborne?
13. One classic Rover
14. Not the RAC
16. Chinese head since 2012
18. New to F1 in '26
19. Two of these for a Wolff?
20. Country code for 3 down?
21. See 34 across
22. Big pinholes?!
24. A boot not a trunk
26. Kamala for a few weeks more
27. A green country
28. & 29 down. A pair of Billys
30. Christmas weather?
31. Mary modelled it
32. Kings' transport
34. & 21 across. The big red guy
35. Variant of 31 across
36. Appropriate car for those delivering 21 down?

DOWN

1. This time of year?
2. Nosey friend of 34 across
3. Max's favourite colour?
4. Peter Gabriel album (1986)
5. Trans Pennine Express
6. Close relation of 30 across?
7. Venue for F1 of late?
8. Ford supercar?
9. You'll perhaps have this at Yuletide?
10. Middle Eastern capital
15. Sports car for 30 across?
16. Fruit and brandy with it for Xmas?
23. Churchyard trees?
25. Nickname of World Rally starter?
29. See 28 across
31. TT island?
33. Red Bull has its 6 across here.

**CHRISTMAS
CROSSWORD**

Solution next month

REMINDER: CALENDAR 2025

As mentioned by Joy in her Chatter on page 1, the Club’s calendar for next year is now being worked on and will be ready in its earliest form for release in your **New Year newsletter**.

But it’s not too late! If you have any suggestions for events, please email your ideas to Joy at jmann@seeccc.co.uk. Thank you.



spalding classic car club
and east elloe
CLUB CALENDAR 2025

Date	Day	Event	Organiser	Venue
14 Jan	Tue	Club Night Quiz	Cunnington/Russell	Tigers Club Holbeach
11 Feb	Tue	Club Night Talk: Riky Ash Stuntman	J & N Mann	Tigers Club Holbeach
2 Mar	Sun	Sunday Brunch Meet	SEECCC	Baytree, Hilgay
19 Mar	Wed	Midweek Lunch	TBC	TBC
25 Mar	Tue	Annual General Meeting	SEECCC	TBC
6 Apr	Sun	Brunch Meet	J & N Mann	TBC
27 Apr	Sun	Drive It Day Run	S Saunders & Liz?	Moor Fm, Newborough
4 May	Sun	Sunday Brunch Meet	SEECCC	TBC
11 May	S	Spalding Flower Parade	TBC	Baytree, Weston
18 May	S	Spalding Flower Parade	TBC	Spalding
25 May	S	Spalding Flower Parade	TBC	TBC

SNIPPETS

- ▶ The Club has been contacted by the owners of a 1985 Ford Escort Mk III ‘Laser’ which has been barn stored in recent years. The car has covered 70k genuine miles but is currently a non-runner and would need recommissioning. Any member who might be interested in acquiring the vehicle is asked to call William on 01406 363673.
- ▶ Ivy’s farm shop at Swineshead, PE20 3NG is holding its classic car meets on the first Sunday of the month through the winter from 10am.
- ▶ Bourne Motor Racing Club has its first club night of 2025 on Thursday 9 January. Their speaker will be Peter Digby, the Chairman of the British Racing Drivers’ Club. Peter has been a director of the BRDC board since 2021 and is a former chairman of the Motorsport Industry Association. He recently negotiated and secured a 10 year extension to host the Formula One British Grand Prix at Silverstone. Peter was previously at the helm of transmission maker Xtrac who build transmissions for a large share of the global motorsport market.

Doors at the Bourne Corn Exchange open at 7pm and Peter will begin his presentation at 8pm. Guests and visitors are welcome. For further details on BMRC events, visit their website at <https://ournemotorracingclub.co.uk/>

SPANNER IN THE WORKS

If you believe classic cars are not sexy and mechanics are unromantic, then think again as *Stuart Gibbard* introduces us to Nigel, motor repair man – the fastest spanner in the East.

Joy knew that this was the man she wanted to spend the rest of her life with. She had known from that very first moment not long before Christmas. She remembered that first encounter as he confidently manoeuvred his Morris Minor service van into her drive. Maybe it was the ease with which he gently crashed the gears from first to second.

Joy's heart had been all a flutter since he slowly walked across to her, smoothing the creases out of his boiler suit with his large, capable hands; his hob-nailed boots crunching on the gravel. She gasped with delight as he pulled his massive King Dick out of his pocket, marvelling at how he handled his wrench with such practiced dexterity.

He held out his hand. She took it, aware of the comforting feel of grime under his fingernails. She looked up into his nasal hair, almost swooning under the heady influence of Swarfega.

"Nigel, motor repair man," he introduced himself. "I understand you have a problem with your Volkswagen."

She took him across to the car, desperately trying to keep her emotions under control. Their eyes met across the bonnet.

"You have a plug out," he said, softly. "Don't worry, I'll soon have you firing on all cylinders again."

It was the most beautiful thing anyone had ever said to her.

"Do you want a screwdriver?" she blurted out, at a loss for words. Nigel reached across and touched her hand with his outstretched fingers, aware of the feeling of electricity between them; he was leaning on the high-tension lead.

Nigel knew he could not let this moment pass or he may lose her forever.

"Do you want me to grease your nipples?" he asked, nervously fearing rejection. But Joy replied with the words he had been waiting to hear: "Would you change my oil?"

[more >](#)

Nigel, trembling with expectation, sank to his knees under the sump. He looked across at her. The brake fluid in her hair glistened in the morning sun. He opened his mouth as if to speak. She put a finger to his lips, aware of a glob of *Agricastrol* gear oil on the end of his nose.

“Don’t speak,” she said. “I know. You want a 5/8th spanner.”

Nigel felt his mouth go dry. He just managed to whisper, “Whitworth”.

Joy slipped her hand into his toolbox and gently caressed his nuts. It was more than Nigel could take. His sump plug exploded with a thrust of hot oil that ebbed and flowed into tiny waves in the drip tray below.

Afterwards, as they shared a flask of cold tea and a Woodbine, Nigel explained that he could never be a one-woman man as he had too many customers to service. Joy felt let down, but she understood; a girl like her could never tame a man that broke wind so fearlessly and could clear his nasal passages with such a casual flick of the finger.

Oh, well. At least she had an enjoyable afternoon’s motoring ahead of her. And there was always old Steve who helped out with the gardening. Things were much better between them now that he’d had his new truss fitted. She went to look for a gallon of petrol for the Beetle.

Nigel looked wistfully across at Joy’s bib-and-brace overalls as she leant over to fill the fuel tank. He’d no regrets; the road was long, and it was at least five miles back to the depot. He waved as he grated the Morris van into reverse; in the same motion, he flicked his cigarette butt in a perfect arc. It landed in the neck of the fuel filler. The explosion could be heard for miles...

(Note: The names in this article have been changed to protect identities.)



Merry Christmas everyone!

