

spalding classic car club

— and east elloe —

NEWSLETTER

No 185 - November 2023

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 5 November

CLUB MEMBERS' SUNDAY MORNING MEET

Baytree Garden Centre, Weston, PE12 6JU - from 10 o'clock. Just turn up!

Sunday 19 November

CLUB MEMBERS' BRUNCH MEET

The Warehouse, Setchey, King's Lynn, PE33 0BE

BOOK NOW!

Neil & Pamela Williams are organising this meet. Head south out of Lynn along the A10 to Setchey, then turn right by the speed camera & garage for a Sunday Brunch. We will arrive at **10.00 am**.

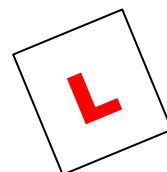
Afterwards, if you wish, you can also choose your Christmas Beer from The Warehouse, shop for Christmas gifts in the Antique Centre, or spend the rest of the day in King's Lynn or on the coast.

Please order from the Breakfast Menu on page 5 and email it with your names to Neil & Pamela at wilhaven@lineone.net (or telephone 01553 841857) All orders must be in by **Sunday 5th November**.

Tuesday 21 November

CLUBNIGHT TALK BY STEPHEN BROWN

This light-hearted talk comes highly recommended as driving instructor Stephen Brown joins us to relate some of his experiences from the left-hand seat. Meet at 7.30 for 8pm prompt start at the Tigers Clubhouse in Park Road, Holbeach. £3 per head in aid of LIVES. Organiser of this event is Steve Le Sage steve@lesage1.plus.com



Sunday 10 December

SEEECC CHRISTMAS LUNCH

LAST FEW PLACES!

The Black Horse, Main Street, Baston, PE6 9PB – 3 for 3.30 pm sit down.

All members will have already received an email from Joy Mann in the second half of October with details of this year's lunch and it is reported that places are booking very fast. The cost is £25 per person, including your first drink on SEEECC! There's a menu on page 4 and you can contact Joy on 01775 723856 or at jmann@seeccc.co.uk

See next month's newsletter for early details of our 2024 events programme



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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Chairman's CHATTER

Steve Le Sage Acting Chairman steve@lesage1.plus.com ☎ 07950 472372

MADEIRA, OCTOBER AND SHE'S BACK!

Christine and I were on holiday on the island of Madeira with friends at the beginning of October. It's not only the home of Cristiano Ronaldo, but it is also renowned for its beautiful landscapes, specie plants and superb gardens. Madeira is often referred to as The Garden Island and is also famous for its home-produced selection of great wines and, if you are brave enough, there is a quarter mile downhill sledge basket ride you can try! Back in the day, Sir Winston Churchill also favoured the island spending a lot of time in the port of Camasara de Lobos, where he was often seen with paint brush and easel.



The island is only 35 miles long and 14 miles wide, with a population of approximately 250,000, but it boasts of being the home of over 2,000 classic cars! Funchal (the capital) holds a classic car rally every May which in itself is famous, with up to 500 cars taking part in the two-day time trial event, on public roads in and around the city.



Cars enter the event from all over Europe with many coming from France, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Germany, Spain and mainland Portugal.

Christine and I were fortunate to accidentally come across the rally whilst walking into Funchal on our first visit to the island and a couple of very interesting hours were spent at the side of the road watching the drivers and passengers taking the rally very seriously. Expensive engines were screaming out in the heat of the midday sun whilst travelling at speed through the local streets.



As we were away in Madeira, I wasn't able to attend our most recent brunch meeting at Waterside Garden Centre on Sunday 1st October, although I was reliably informed by Nigel Mann that the morning was a great success. I'm told there was lots of good chat and nice food whilst, more importantly, the weather remained fine throughout the morning allowing members to get their cars back home in the dry! Our thanks go to Joy and Nigel for organising this event.

For our October clubnight, we had an evening visit to the Witham Oil Company in Lincoln, one of the largest private oil suppliers in the country. Our hosts for the evening were their M.D., Nigel Bottom, and his daughter, Tessa. Nigel gave a presentation of the company's history and how they make different grades of oils. His talk was informative but entertaining; there were a few technical bits but nothing that was too taxing. We then had a tour of the factory including the blending site. Their hospitality was second to none; our thanks to Nigel and Tessa for a great evening.



An old Austin delivery vehicle owned by Witham Oil was on show as part of SEECCC's tour at their Lincoln factory

We are now heading into November and, although my reign in the chair has been short and sweet (three months to be precise), I am pleased to be able to welcome Joy back into the Chair after her

sabbatical. Hopefully, she is now well and fighting fit after being nursed and totally pampered by Nigel over the last few weeks.

I would like to thank the Committee and my friends for the support I have received whilst deputising as Chair. I must say it has been enjoyable and a privilege to serve such a friendly and successful club.

Before handing over the reins, I'll finish by saying it would be nice to see you at Baytree Garden Centre on Sunday 5th for another Club get together and then on Sunday 19th November we look forward to Pamela and Neil's Brunch Meet at The Warehouse in Setchey, near Kings Lynn.

Last but not least, on Tuesday 21st November, do come along and enjoy the amazing Stephen Brown's talk on his Driving Instructor exploits. All the details are on page 1. I hope to catch up with you all soon.

Steve

BLACK HORSE, BASTON

SEEECC Christmas Lunch: Sunday 10 December, 3 for 3.30 pm

STARTERS

Leek & Potato Soup(vg)(gfa)

Toasted ciabatta

Prawns

Marie rose sauce and croutons (gfa)

Chicken Liver Pate

Red onion chutney & toasted ciabatta

MAIN COURSE

Choose from: **Topside of Beef, Turkey Crown or Nut Roast (vg)**
with roasted potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, stuffing balls & seasonal vegetables (gfa)

Pan-fried salmon *with lemon butter, new potatoes and vegetables*

DESSERTS

Christmas pudding (gf)

Brandy sauce

Raspberry & white chocolate cheesecake

Raspberry ripple ice cream

Tarte au citron

Vanilla ice cream

Cheeseboard

Crackers, cheddar, brie, celery, grapes, and red onion chutney

£25.00 per head

Drink on arrival and tea & coffee included

NOVEMBER 19th BRUNCH MEET

The Warehouse Taproom Bar & Restaurant, Setchey, PE33 0BE
Breakfast Menu

Toasted Teacake - £2.50 (G, D)

Full English Small - £7.50

Pork Sausage, Smoked Bacon, Free Range Egg, Hash Brown, Field Mushroom,
Tomato, Baked Beans & Toast. (G, E, D, SD)

Full English Large - £12.00

2 Pork Sausages, 2 Smoked Bacon, 2 Free Range Eggs, 2 Hash Browns,
Mushroom, Tomato, Baked Beans & Toast. (G, E, D, SD)

Vegan Breakfast - £10.50 (VG)

2 Vegan Sausages, 2 Hash Brown, Mushroom, Tomato, Baked Beans & Toast. (G)

Breakfast Roll - £8.00

2 Pork Sausages, 2 Smoked Bacon, Free Range Egg in a Ciabatta Roll. (G, E, D, SD)

Eggs Benedict - £5.50 Small/ £10.00 Large

Smoked Bacon, Poached Egg, Hollandaise Sauce on a Toasted Breakfast Muffin.
(G, E, D, SD)

Eggs Royale - £6.00/£11.00

Smoked Salmon, Poached Egg, Hollandaise Sauce on a Toasted Breakfast Muffin.
(G, F, E, D)

Eggs Florentines - £5.00/£9.50

Spinach, Poached Egg, Hollandaise Sauce on a Toasted Breakfast Muffin. (G, E, D)

Smoked Salmon & Scrambled Egg - £9.00

Scottish Smoked Salmon, Scrambled Egg, Lemon on a Toasted Breakfast Muffin.
(G, F, E, D)

American Pancakes - 3 stack - £6.50

Banana – Banana and Maple Syrup (V, G, E, D)

Blueberry – Blueberries Cooked in Syrup (V, G, E, D)

Bacon – Bacon in Maple Syrup. (G, E, D)

Food Allergies & Intolerances: If needed please ring & speak to the Warehouse staff about the ingredients in your meal before placing your order. <https://www.thewarehouseaproom.co.uk>

Where free range eggs are available, they can be fried, poached or scrambled.

Allergen Key: (G) Gluten, (D) Dairy, (SD) Sulphur Dioxide, (CR) Crustaceans, (M) Molluscs, (F) Fish, (SO) Soya, (C) Celery, (E) Egg, (MU) Mustard, (L) Lupin, (S) Sesame, (P) Peanuts, (V) Vegetarian, (VG) Vegan.

Send choices to Neil & Pamela Williams at wilhaven@lineone.net, or telephone 01553 841857. Deadline is **Sunday 5th November**.

ROVER MUSINGS from our President

Just a short report on what has been a rather frustrating season with our GP1/1.5 Patrick Motors Rover SD1.

Many of you will have read here before that the car was purchased from the late Martin Thomas who originally built and ran the cars in period. Our car was chassis number 1 and had been languishing in the back of Martin's garage for nearly 40 years. With the continued success of historic racing, Martin decided to recommission the car and turn it into money. Unfortunately, the person Martin employed to do the work normally worked on tractors and wasn't very good at building race cars. So, we have had lots of remedial work to do to put right what he bodged. But, having had two class wins and an overall win last year, we approached the 2023 season with optimism.

Unfortunately, that optimism was slightly misplaced... Our first event was at Donington Park but it was a disappointment after we had brake failure during the race. This was something to do with the linkage in the footwell and perhaps we should have seen it, but it's an awful place to get to and see anything... Our next event was at Brands Hatch and the brakes were fine but sadly, when placed second, the car decided after the pit stop that it no longer wished to change gear. Stuck in third, Robert managed to get to the finish but was overhauled and finally finished 4th.

After that, it was a case of gearbox out - SD1s are notorious for having weak 'boxes and back axles - and both went away to be rebuilt. But the prognosis was not good and the advice was it might run ok for another year, but it might not. So, we ordered new gearbox internals from Quaife but the delivery date wasn't until mid-August and we therefore had little option but to put the old 'box back in. This we duly did and went off to Oulton Park with everything crossed but, unfortunately, we were out of luck and never made the race.

Quaife were as good as their word and the internals finally arrived but, by this time, we had also located some spare gearboxes (so we now have four!). One of them was checked over and fitted in the car but this proved not ideal as it was a road 'box and not really intended for a race car. A spot of testing would have been nice, but unsilenced test days are as easy to find as rocking horse poo so we had to be happy with a couple of trips down the drive!!



Silverstone was up next. Qualifying was dry and, with my advice that he take it steady for a lap or two, Robert's first two flying laps were both good enough for pole!!! We always knew that on the wide expanses of Silverstone we would struggle against Fred Shepherd's Boss Mustang and the Camaro of John & Jack Young and this turned out to be the case. Up to the pit stops, Robert kept the Camaro honest but the Mustang was long gone. *Warning: Racing driver excuse number 455 coming up!* Our driver had managed to pull his back and, although standing and sitting were ok, the physical effort of getting between the two was not easy, so a quick pit stop was always going to be tricky to achieve. This meant we managed to lose 18 seconds, finally finishing 16 seconds behind the Capri of Waterfield and Mitchell. Another 4th place resulted, which was a little disappointing but at least the car behaved, so we now start getting ready for next season.

Our thanks go to Gordon England and Paul Stafford for their work on the car and to Barry Aistrup and Nigel Mann for their help and support at the circuit. Finally, thank you to Steve Glendinning for the brilliant photos.

Robert Oldershaw



SNIPPETS

RECOMMENDED BY THE LIMMINGS AFTER 40 YEARS OF MARRIED BLISS!

At the risk of telling everyone what they already know, I thought it may be worth a mention in the newsletter about the **Caistor Castle Motor Museum**.

I took Alice there for our 40th wedding anniversary (!!!??) and it really is an amazing place. It is just outside Great Yarmouth, and was started by one man, but now houses a truly eclectic collection of over 200 cars and bikes, together with lots of other interesting stuff.

We went thinking we would spend an hour or so there, and ended up taking over four!



I have included a couple of pictures (above), but it really is well worth a look next time you're heading into the depths of Norfolk.

Patrick Limming

BOURNE MOTOR RACING CLUB: NOVEMBER MEETING

The speakers at the Club's next meeting at **Bourne Corn Exchange on Thursday 9 November are Ivan Dutton and Suzi Pilkington**. Doors open from 7 and their talk starts at 8pm. Guests are welcome.

Malcolm Kenwood writes:

We are delighted that Ivan and Suzi have managed to schedule a visit to the Bourne Corn Exchange. Ivan has forged a new career, at 82, with his popular video channel "Shed Racing" on YouTube with currently 17,000 subscribers and growing.

He is everything that is right with the classic car world, and he's the embodiment of why old cars matter. The Shed's popularity is due to his engaging content of his historic collection, fixing things, engineering things and actually driving them both in competition and thrashing them around his field outside the Shed!!

Both Ivan and Suzi have proud motorsport family heritage with Ivan's father Victor starting his career as a riding mechanic for the works Salmson team in the 1920's.

Victor started his own London Mews Garage working on Bugattis. In later years, Ivan took over and became one of the foremost experts in the marque trading as Dutton Bugatti in rural Buckinghamshire. In 2000, he passed the reins to his son, Tim.

I am certain that Ivan and Suzi will make our November meeting a very informative and entertaining evening.

ROSEMARY THORPE

We are sad to report the recent death of Rosemary Thorpe who was taken ill whilst on holiday in North America. Some long-standing members will remember Rosemary as she and husband Phil owned an Austin Healey and were members of this Club in its formative years. Our thoughts are with her family and friends at this difficult time.