



Area 57 (Enfield) Newsletter

Web Site: www.jdcarea57.co.uk

E-mail: info@jdcarea57.co.uk

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It has been agreed that there will not be the usual club meeting on 5th December as the room will be in use for the Museum Christmas Party, featuring Linda Styan, a singer who has previously appeared at the Enfield Pageant. Any EDVVS member is welcome to attend, however they would like to know numbers for catering purposes, so please contact the Museum if you intend to go.



The Christmas dinner at the Bocket Arms on FRIDAY 9th December is now booked. The time is 7.30 for 8.00.



As we won't be meeting on Monday 5th, the next time we get together will be our Mince Pie night on Monday 19th December.



We had a substantial number of people at the last meeting and, on a chilly November evening, it is always good to see new members come back.



The Classic Car Show at the NEC takes place this weekend, and some members will be visiting this event.



The following article was contributed by Margot Tetsell

BERTHA BENZ'S GRAND DAY OUT

I know this is not about Jaguars, but I thought this an interesting piece anyway, and shows that it is not always the men who forge the way in car manufacturing!

The name Mercedes-Benz is well known to most people today but how many people know the contribution Karl Benz's wife Bertha Ringer Benz made?

They married in 1872 and she used part of her dowry to invest in Karl's iron construction company. Unfortunately, due to an unreliable business partner, the business failed. The couple eventually established Benz & Cie producing industrial machines and static gas engines, which proved successful. Karl then turned his attention to developing the first true automobile.

Unfortunately Karl Benz became something of a joke due to the first displays of his invention going quite badly, one even crashed into a wall terrifying onlookers. Bertha realised the automobile quickly needed publicity, particularly as there was competition from Gottlieb Daimler.

So, on the 5th August 1888 Bertha and two of her sons took the Benz on a 66-mile trip from Mannheim to Pforzheim to visit her mother.

In addition to having to locate pharmacies along her route to fuel up, she repaired various technical and mechanical problems and invented brake linings. After some longer downhill slopes, she ordered a shoemaker to nail leather on the brake blocks.

Her return trip was followed by an avalanche of publicity and within a decade Karl's company, Benz and Cie, became the world's largest automobile company.

Today, Bertha's journey is celebrated every two years in Germany with an antique automobile rally. Karl had written in his memoirs 'Only one person remained with me in the small ship of life when it seemed destined to sink. That was my wife. Bravely and resolutely, she set the new sails of hope'.

(Parts of this article are taken from the Daily Express 19.10.16)

