

APRIL 2013

As last month's Newsletter was a fortnight later than usual due to the extra meeting for the AGM, obviously not a lot has happened since then. I'm grateful to Graham for his article to fill things up a bit this time. Hopefully it might encourage other people to look back over their car owning history and do a small write up.



Dick and Eric went to Stoneleigh spares day despite the winter weather. The field where they usually park was waterlogged but they had some inside parking.



Just time to book for the Breakfast Run on 14th April.



The next event that I have on the calendar is the Bedfordshire Classic Car Show at Woburn on May 5th/6th. It runs from 10am to 5pm.



Don't forget that the Pageant is getting closer, so please contact Eric if you haven't already done so. Dare we hope that by then the weather may have got a bit warmer. The Museum weekend beginning on 5th April is a Midsomer Murders theme, but I doubt if the weather will resemble summer at all. We are away on 19th April weekend with the XK and Alan & Barb's E type, staying at a hotel in Tadcaster. From the forecasts at the moment it may not have warmed up by then either.



Plans are well underway for the Grovelands Park centenary celebrations which will be on May 18th and 19th not just on the 18th as I said last time. There should be plenty going on with a good range of cars from different years plus a dog show, live music refreshments etc.



A few of us are booked in to a hotel at Melton Mowbray for the weekend beginning Friday 13th September. If anyone else wants me to make enquiries about availability, let me know.



What Cars Have You Had?

By Graham Smart

We all love our Jaguars, that's why we joined the club, but what lead us to the marque, what did we start with, I don't think too many of us had a Jaguar as a first car, more a longing for, one day

My first car was a green Hillman Super Minx - FGO 386 bought for £20. I then had a succession of Fords; a 1300 Cortina Mk2 - KOR 367 F, followed by a red 1600GT - POY 362F, and another 1600GT - OXG ???G. I then discovered the joy of the automatic gearbox, and went for a Cortina 2000XL auto, a 1974 model in dark green. Then the first baby arrived, so I went for another Cortina 2000XL but an auto estate, got the pram in the back no bother. That was a bit heavy on petrol so I went for a MK1 Escort estate 1300XL. I then went through a period of large saloons and then back to small engined cars as money was tight and another nipper was on the way. So a V8 Rover 3500 auto P6 GUU 260N took us to Cornwall; too juicy so when we got home I swapped it for a 1.3 Cavalier - JYA 241Y, but it was too much to drop that far, so next up was a 2.8 Granada Ghia auto in blue -SFR 899T.

This little and large theme continued, as we got a mortgage and money was tight, next up a Mk4 Cortina 1.6L, then a Granada 2.9i Ghia auto in silver, back to a Mk4 2.0 Cortina Crusader manual and then a slate grey Granada 2.0 Ghia auto hatch back shape -G859 XLB.

I was driving past a dealer in Ilford and saw a dark blue 4.2 series 3 Jag, I did a deal with the Granada, and then had Jags for the next 16 years. Wayne lived down the same road as me and he also had a series 3. I got chatting to him and discovered that he did a bit of welding so, as I needed the inside wheel arch seals done, Wayne got the job.

We both joined Area 57 around 1997. I can't remember exactly what happened but I had a Vauxhall Carlton 2.0 CDX for a very short time, I part exchanged that for my Gunmetal grey 4.2 sovereign - C240 OAV, bought from a certain Wynn Thomas, no laughing Alan!! Having got my fingers burnt I bought a club member, (Dave Gould's) XJ40 Daimler 3.6 - F565 RPC with 199000 miles on the clock. I sold that with 225000 miles and got my money back! Next was a another XJ40, a 4 litre Sovereign in solent blue with cream leather - J681 LTJ. We went to Scotland in that and filled up 3 times there and 3 times back! I bought Karen a cherished reg so the next cars all had C3 KJS on them. Next up and into the Internet age I bought a 3.2 X300 auto in ice blue with 60000 on the clock from Ebay. I took a big chance, having only seen the pictures, but it is probably the best car I have owned. I later sold it to Dick Rogers, who still has it.

While having the Jaguars I found the only way I could afford to run them was to have an every day car for work, so I had various Fiestas, Escorts, a Skoda a Nissan Micra, and two Corsas! The last one bought from Vicky, Wayne's wife.

My last Jaguar was an S type 3.0 SE auto in Topaz which I took to all the Pageants and breakfast runs, but finally the price of fuel beat me, I traded it in for a silver 2.0 TDCI Mondeo 6 speed manual EK54 GXC. My eldest son already had one and I had driven his. Overnight I went from 18mpg £70 a week to 50 plus mpg £60 every 3 weeks !! I really miss my S type but

Lets hear from other members, Wayne's story would be a good one, if he can remember them all!!

