



**JEC Essex Thameside**  
*Sharing the passion*

**ISSUE No. 130 FEB. 2018    ESSEX THAMESIDE REGION**



*Club meetings are the 1st Tuesday of the month at 8pm:  
The Langdon Hills Golf & Country Club ,  
Lower Dunton Road, Bulphan, Essex, RM14 3TY  
Tele: 01268 548444*



# ESSEX THAMESIDE REGION

## 2017/2018 COMMITTEE

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**Gill Cain**  
Membership Secretary

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**Committee Members:**  
Neil Shanley, Robert Cain, Mary Monk



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# MAY 13<sup>th</sup> BATTLESBRIDGE OR FAVERSHAM OR BOTH?

Members wishing to attend the **Classic Car Show at Battlesbridge** need to let me know as soon as possible. Arrangements are to be made soon and commitments need to be undertaken. Once numbers are known space will be reserved. Please, please, do not leave it to the last minute **Faversham** as there will be no guarantee parking space on the stand will be available once **Transport**



booking made. Contact Doug

Warren at:

[dwarren169@](mailto:dwarren169@btinternet.com)

[btinternet.com](mailto:btinternet.com)

Mary Monk is

arranging a visit to the  
Transport Weekend. Travel Lodge

have been offering very discounted

rooms should you wish to make a weekend of it.

The club has attended this event over the past few years and all have had an enjoyable weekend. Please contact Mary in the first instance at:

[mary\\_monk53@hotmail.com](mailto:mary_monk53@hotmail.com) If you wish to book a room at

the Travel Lodge near Faversham go to:

[www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/21/Canterbury-Whitstable-hotel](http://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/21/Canterbury-Whitstable-hotel)



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# CLASSIC & SPORTS CARS

## by the lake



100% going to the St Nicholas Hospice Care, based in Bury St Edmunds, providing key services in and around West Suffolk and Thetford. Since its conception they have raised in excess of £250,000 for the Hospice with the event growing in size, quality and fundraising year on year.

It's a great day out for all the family and in aid of a great local charity. Set within the beautiful grounds of Hall Farm, Bury St Edmunds, and bordered by the tranquil lake, it is an ideal setting to present the vast array of vehicles on show. The show also includes a select range of exciting local food outlets, from traditional hand-made gourmet burgers and hot dogs to oriental offerings of curries, Thai and duck wraps. Greene King's range of beers and craft ales and, of course, ice creams, tea and coffee and cake are also on offer. They also have a traditional arts and craft market and a separate children's play area. **If you are interested in attending this event, please let me know a.s.a.p. as space HAS to be booked in advance.**

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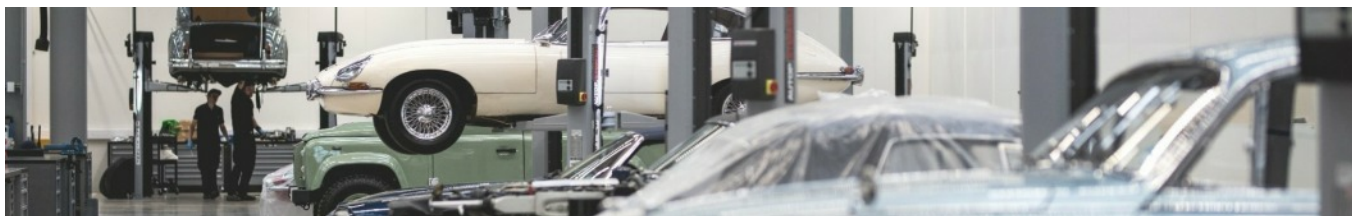
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# JAGUAR HEALTH CHECK

Jaguar Land Rover has opened a new £7million Classic Works headquarters in Coventry, which it describes as “the heart and soul” of its fast-growing global business restoring, maintaining and selling older vehicles.

The opening marks the 60th anniversary of a history-making domination by the Jaguar D-type of the classic Le Mans 24-hour race, which scored first, second, third, fourth and sixth places in the 1957 running of the classic. In all, Jaguar has won Le Mans seven times, the first victory in 1951.

The new Classic Works facility, the largest of its type in the world at 150,000 sq ft, is situated close to JLR’s recently opened SVO base, which upgrades latest models to customers’ requirements. Classic Works will be supported later this summer by the opening of another new classic cars facility in Essen, Germany.

JLR launched its classic cars business a little over a year ago, initially using facilities inside the old Browns Lane factory, from which it has already produced a limited run of “continuation” Lightweight E-Types. It is now beginning a similar run of nine XKSS models.

Director Tim Hannig describes Classic Works’ core mission as being to improve, restore and support older Jaguars and Land Rovers, and to find and restore vehicles it subsequently sells to new owners under a Reborn Legends programme. Last year Hannig announced a plan to rebuild Land Rover Series 1 and two-door Range Rover models for sale, and expanded his offering this year to embrace an initial batch of 10 Series 1 E-type Jaguars. Classic Works also accepts commissions for improving or completely restoring cars, and supports these activities by offering a range of spares (more than 30,000 items so far) and services.

They are also offering a health check on owners cars, as well as servicing. The health check is an 8hr inspection of the vehicle, which covers 121 points of observation, check and test on the car, including a road test.

Following the inspection, a report is collated and issues found are categorised Red, Amber & Green for priority. Each issue is explained and given a proposed solution which is all accompanied by an estimate to rectify. From this information, we can jointly agree a proposal for work going forward with a timescale for immediate, and future actions.

At present, we cannot offer this as a "while you wait" undertaking, as our workshops are not geared up for this, or the owner being present during the inspection. However, what we do offer is, once the health check is completed and the notes prepared, bringing the car onto our sales room inspection ramp and talking through the findings around the car.

Health Checks are £800 + VAT and we are currently looking at a lead time of 4 weeks on any new work requests. Our workshop rate for subsequent work is £100/hr +VAT. However, until 31<sup>st</sup> March, JEC members are entitled to a 20% discount, provided the work is carried out by that date.



# OIL CHANGE

Have you ever experienced one of those days when you are doing a job you have successfully done a hundred times and one that you could teach your pet hamster to perform.....and then it all goes wrong?

May first, 2017 was one such day. It would have been appropriate if it had been the first day of the previous month, but that's life. The weather was being kind so I decided to treat RGB 43G to an overdue service especially since earlier in the year at Stoneleigh Spares Day I purchased some special oil from Classic Oils that I was keen to try out. It is their finest classic 20W/50 motor oil with added zinc to further reduce wear in the engine. Their discounted price was on a par with the local retailers of the standard stuff. Armed with a few litres plus various filters, points, plugs...and Classic Oils antifreeze, I set about servicing the Jag.



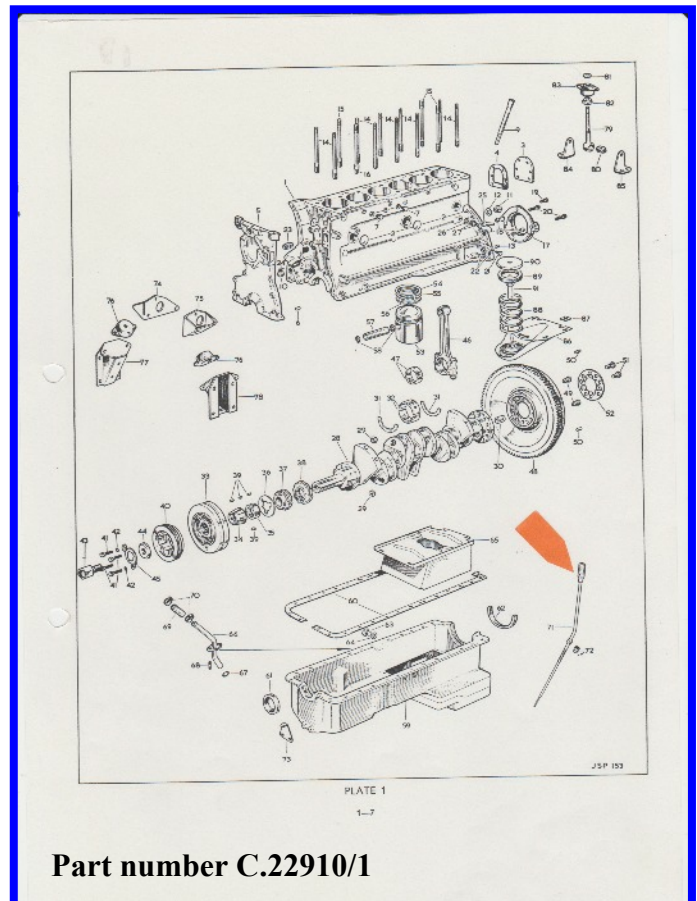
*Located in engine*

“hook” and out of the adaptor tube – well, some of it was. The handle and about two inches of chrome plated stick emerged into daylight but the majority of part number C.22910/1 remained firmly ensconced in the tube and sump. Oh dear! Fortunately, the 420 was still safely drivable and together we were able to attend most of the year's shows.

But what about that dipstick? The item is made up of two “rods” joined by a spring about a third of the way down from the top of the handle. The steel pin joining the top handle part with the bottom part had sheared leaving both the spring and bottom section inside the adapter tube and sump. Probably caused by metal fatigue..... after only 49 years use.

The first action was to find a replacement. At this point, you realise that the world is not awash with Jaguar 420 dipsticks. I rang Ken Jenkins only to find that he had recently sold his only spare to a member who had suffered the same fate. It was Pat Callis, as ever, who came to the rescue. I first met Pat at a Spares Day several years ago and am always amazed at the treasure trove of hard to find parts for 60's Jags that he maintains. Once the replacement arrived, it was time to remove what was left of the existing item. How hard could it be? As it turned out, it would have been easier to teach Diane Abbott to count and vote Tory at the next election.

All appeared to go well until I started the engine and much of my prized new oil evacuated itself from the sump via the oil filter. Yup, I had creased the “O” ring seal as I screwed the filter canister back into the filter head. Deep joy. As luck would have it, most landed in my clean oil tray below the car and was therefore retrievable. I managed to remove the canister and change the seal for a spare, by now I was soaked in oil, but I managed to sate the Jag's thirst with around 12 imperial pints of this vital lubricant. Next act, check the oil level. A quick flick of the handle and the dipstick was withdrawn from its locating



**Part number C.22910/1**





*Fret saw blade*

Not to be beaten, a length of stainless steel wire was procured with the intention of slipping it between the stick and the side of the tube and lifting the stick by friction. No chance, it wouldn't fit down. Still on a roll, it was decided to hammer it flat and put a slight curve on it to help lift the stick. This we did, but the recalcitrant part remained stubbornly in place whilst the flat wire glided quietly past, no doubt helped by that slippery classic oil. Finally, with



*Tube with part stick removed*

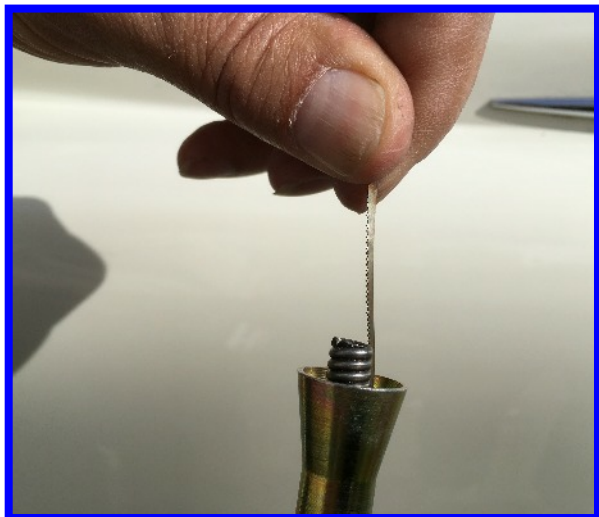
all options exhausted, Bob King, who happened to be passing and decided to join in with the fun, suggested the use of a fret saw blade. A very small fret saw blade with its locating pin cut off at one end. The theory behind this is that once inserted between the spring at the top of the stick and the wall of the adapter tube and then slightly twisted so that the teeth faced inwards, there would be enough purchase on the spring to allow the teeth to engage with the spring coils and so enable the stick to be withdrawn. An ecstasy of fumbling later and I hadn't yet succeeded. It was whilst I was, dejectedly, packing up that Bob requested a thin flat-bladed screw driver. Why, I asked. Because, said Bob, I need it to stick through the spring coils emerging from the tube. (he had given it one last go) Once secured, we were able to pull it free from the black abyss below and insert its replacement. Job done and Bob even repaired the old one. Hopefully, I will not need a spare, but I will keep that saw blade just in case. See the accompanying photo re-enactment. Thanks to Bob and everyone else who contributed to the resolution.

*Neil Shanley*

What, and lose all that precious oil again, not to mention dropping the front suspension assembly.

There has to be an easier way involving a lot less spannering and oily bits. One wag did suggest turning the car upside down and letting gravity do the work. Hmmmm.

The first sensible and most popular idea was to employ a small but powerful magnet to drop down the adapter tube and haul out the remains of the stick. It didn't work. How about unscrewing the said tube from the engine casting? This would involve removing the rear exhaust manifold and pipe to gain space to use some form of gripping tool. Also the tube is pressed into the block on this model not screwed. My garage said that by tapping it with a hammer it would eventually loosen, but try swinging a hammer down there. I had even bought a spare tube – the last one on the planet – just in case I damaged the old one in the process. Another one bites the dust.



*Withdrawing the remains*

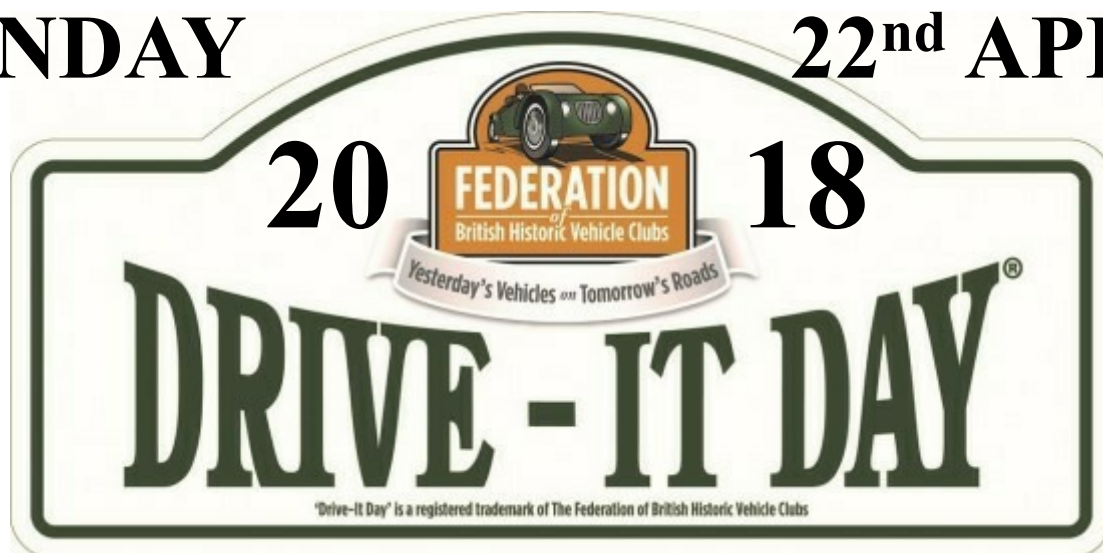
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*The broken stick*

# SUNDAY

# 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL



The Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs® 'Drive It Day' takes place every year to help raise awareness of the large and important extent of the classic vehicle movement in the UK. Essex Thameside Region has been supporting this event for a number of years and this year we intend to do the same and have arranged a trip to Greene King Brewery in Bury St. Edmunds. Three tours have been agreed with Greene King consisting of 12 members for each tour. Please note that there are over 100 open tread metal steps to climb to the roof, so the tour is not suitable for anybody with walking difficulties.

Those members that are not successful in obtaining a place on the tour or perhaps do not want to visit the brewery other points of interest in Bury St. Edmunds are available to visit. Rich in history, visitors have lots to discover. Find out about Bury St Edmunds role in the Magna Carta, the story of Saint Edmund, and where a French Tudor Queen rests.

Visit the Abbey ruins, the site of one of the most important medieval monasteries in Europe, and wonder at Suffolk's only cathedral.

Explore medieval streets and architecture, Georgian squares, Britain's last remaining regency theatre, and the town's literary links to Shakespeare, Charles Dickens and Norah Lofts.

Walk or cycle through picturesque parks, woodland and meadows. Enjoy the tranquility and beauty of the open spaces of the Abbey Gardens, Nowton Park, West Stow Country Park and Ickworth Park and Gardens.

The brewery tour cost £14.00 including tasting's of some of their range of beers including, IPA, Old Speckled Hen, Abbott Ale, Belhaven to name but a few. Bookings MUST be made by 1st March 2018.

Lunch is being arranged for all those wishing to participate and more details will follow.

Please confirm your participation on this event and pay the tour fee before club night on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**BOOKINGS TO BE MADE BY MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> OR EVENT WILL BE CANCELLED**





## HOW ABOUT A XJ6 SERIES 1 FOR THE 50<sup>th</sup> YEAR CELEBRATIONS?



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Finished in Old English white with navy leather and dark blue carpets the condition of the vehicle is truly remarkable with barely a blemish to be seen. Wholly original throughout, the vehicle has not been restored and presents exactly as a 48,000 mile car ought to, the condition totally belies the cars 45 years and imparts a huge sense of pride of ownership. The interior is in excellent order showing very little signs of use, the woodwork similarly in excellent condition. The original headlining is loosening slightly in places but so far is not sagging and is perfectly acceptable. Underneath the car is totally solid with no significant corrosion evident, the car has clearly been undersealed and stored in a damp free environment. There really cannot be many in this remarkable, original condition.

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REGIONAL EVENTS / OTHER EVENTS				2018
MONTH	DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
FEB	TUES	6th	8pm	<b>Club Night</b> Langdon Hills Golf & Country Club
MAR	TUES	6th	8pm	<b>Club Night</b> Langdon Hills Golf & Country Club
APR	TUES	3rd	8pm	<b>Club Night</b> Langdon Hills Golf & Country Club
APR	SUN	22 <sup>nd</sup>	TBA	<b>Drive It Day -</b> Greene King Brewery Bury St Edmunds. See details inside newsletter
MAY	SUN	13 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	<b>Battlesbridge Classic Car Show</b> More details to follow nearer the time.
MAY	SUN	13 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	<b>Faversham Transport Weekend</b> More details to follow nearer the time.
MAY	SUN	20 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	<b>Clacton Classic Car Club Show</b> Plough Corner, Harwich Rd., Little Clacton, Essex CO16 9ND. More details to follow nearer the time.
NATIONAL EVENTS				2018
FEB	FRI/ SUN	15 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>h</sup>	10am	<b>London Classic Car Show @ Excel Centre</b> Now in its fourth year, <b>London Classic Car Show</b> has established itself as one of the UK's best classic car events right in the accessible heart of the country's capital. Experience over 700 classic cars in London this February. <a href="http://www.thelondonclassiccarshow.co.uk/">www.thelondonclassiccarshow.co.uk/</a> Normal price per ticket is £25.00. However, go to this link and get tickets for just £20: <a href="http://www.groupon.co.uk">www.groupon.co.uk</a> and select London Classic Car Show then 'view deal'.
FEB	WED	28 <sup>th</sup>	8am	<b>JEC Track Day Brands Hatch</b> See details in last months newsletter.
MAR	SUN	18 <sup>th</sup>	10am	<b>Jaguar Spares Day</b> Stoneleigh-Park Exhibition and Conference Centre near Coventry, Warwickshire, CV8 2LZ. Need to find a Jaguar Spare or find the right supplier? Then join Jaguar traders and owners from all over the world at this Spares Day, £10 payable on the door on the day.
JUN/ JUL	Fri/ Sun	29 <sup>th</sup> / 1 <sup>st</sup>	TBA	<b>Jaguar Summer Festival 2018</b> The Club are hosting an exciting and fun-packed "all singing and all dancing" weekend based at the lovely Wroxall Abbey in Warwickshire. Members can book a package to stay at the Abbey throughout the weekend to be on hand for all the activities and fun. This year we are delighted to announce that Strictly Come Dancing stars Anton Du Beke and Erin Boag will be joining us to show off their dancing skills and even offer lessons. So get those dancing shoes on. More details will be released soon on ticket prices and what's on offer throughout the weekend, including any early bird offers.

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