



JEC Essex Thameside
Sharing the passion

ISSUE No. 135 JULY 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
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ESSEX THAMESIDE REGION

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MUSEUM OF POWER

On Sunday 27th May a number of members attended the Breakfast Meet at Museum of Power at Langford, Nr. Hatfield Peveral for our first visit to this site since 2008! Checking back on my photos of the last visit in 2008, I was surprised to see that the event was in the same field as we were at on this Sunday. My recollection was that we were in a much smaller area closer to the museum. Having attended various other breakfast meetings throughout Essex, it was refreshing to go to a site that caters for so many cars. As we entered the site, there were a number of mobile catering establishments dotted around the field but the members chose to use museum's cafeteria. This is manned by volunteers and the money from visits and catering goes towards the upkeep of the museum.

Many cars participated in the event which is held on the last Sunday of the month, the next meeting being 24th June. Although there were a number of 'ordinary cars' parked in the field, there were also, a number of classic's, American and interesting cars.

If the weather is good and you want an early breakfast on a Sunday morning while viewing the attending participants, this is a worthy attraction to visit. See you next month, weather permitting!



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Jaguar enthusiast is appealing for information about his rare 1985 converted sports car

Please help me trace history of precious Jag

By SEAN DAVIES
sean.davies@echo-news.co.uk

A JAGUAR enthusiast who unearthed a rare gem is pleading for help in tracing the car's history.

Paul Arnold, 56, is now the proud owner of a black 1985 Jaguar XJS 3.6 convertible which had been languishing unloved and unused in a garage for the past 20 years.

The car was one of just six that was converted during the Nineties at Kent Elms Coachworks, in Rayleigh, and Paul is keen to trace anyone who may have worked for the company.

The rare Jaguar only cost Paul a measly £1,350. The car enthusiast says he couldn't believe his eyes when he spotted the Jaguar hidden under a pile of boxes in an Epping garage.

Paul said: "It will be beautiful one day."

"I was tipped off that this Jaguar was in a garage in Epping and supposedly it had been in there for a long time."

"It was like something off of the television, we pulled open the garage door and it was piled high with boxes."

"I couldn't believe what I was seeing. I don't think the car has been outside for 20 years, which is a real shame because it is an amazing piece of work."

"It was my birthday the day I saw it, so I thought I had better treat myself."

"It helped that it was a very good price, so how was I supposed to resist?"

Two years later and the car is still being brought up to scratch, but with the final pieces of the puzzle being put together now, Paul is keener than ever to trace the history of the vehicle.

Although he is unsure of the exact history, he believes the conversion was done in Kent Elms Coachworks.

He's unsure how much he's spent doing the car up since, but had no hesitation in spending cash restoring the model.



■ Discovery – the Jaguar was discovered covered in rubbish in an Epping garage

He is planning to show the car across the country next summer, but knowing the origins of the converted vehicle would be a huge boost to himself, and other Jaguar enthusiasts.

Paul, of Stanford-le-Hope, added: "It was a hard top coupe originally, but it was converted to a canvas roof. They only did six cars in total, so it is very rare, and it would be good to get an idea about those early days."

"If I could speak to one of the guys from the garage, they would be able to fill in the gaps in the history."

"I imagine they must still be in the trade, or living in the area."

If you worked for Kent Elms Coachworks, or have any information, contact Paul at paarnold100@gmail.com



■ Beauty – Paul Arnold's very rare black 1985 Jaguar XJS 3.6 convertible

Back in 2017, a local Essex paper, the Echo News, ran a story on member Paul Arnold's wonderful Jaguar XJS 3.6 cabriolet. As you will see from the story above, Paul has been trying to find out more information regarding his car. It started life as a coupe, but at some stage in its life was taken to Kent Elms Coachworks in Rayleigh to be transformed into a cabriolet.

When the XJS first hit the streets back in 1974, most manufacturers, including Jaguar, abandoned the idea of a open top two seater sports car due to world opinion, particularly the USA. It wasn't until 1983 that in an attempt to satisfy the US market, which had changed its stance on convertibles, Jaguar came out with an XJ-S cabriolet which offered a degree of hand finishing with a rear section fold away hood and front targa panels. This was launched as a special order only with a 3.6 litre engine but later a 5.3L V12 engine was added. It wasn't until late 1987 early 1988 that the XJS was totally re-engineered and a convertible model introduced. So in between 1973 and 1987, companies such as Kent Elms Coachworks, went about undertaking a transformation of the existing coupe and made it into a cabriolet of which Paul's car is one of only 6 known to be transformed. If anyone knows of any information regarding Paul's car or any other converted XJS undertaken by Kent Elms Coachworks, could they please contact him by e-mail at paarnold100@gmail.com

SERIOUS COMPETITION FOR JAGUAR'S F-TYPE?

Back in 2013 Jaguar's F-Type was launched. The F-Type is the perfect flagship for Jaguar. Whichever version you choose, it gives a thrilling driving experience, and this is almost universally acclaimed as one of the best-looking sports cars on sale. Together, these two points explain the F-Type's success, as it satisfies the demands of driving enthusiasts and the style-conscious in one package. However, the motoring press were suggesting that prior to its launch it was to compete against the likes of the Audi TT, BMW Z4, Mercedes SLK, Porsche Boxster, to name just a few. The design of the F-Type was stunning to many enthusiasts, but Jaguar decided not to compete in this segment but to up its game to the more expensive cars such as the Porsche 911. Big mistake in many people's opinion. Prices started at £58.5k for the 3.0L V6 340bhp model to virtually £80k for the 5.0L V8 model. Well off the price of the Audi TT, BMW Z4, Mercedes SLK and Porsche Boxster which for similar type performance, were all starting at around £40k. The Porsche 911 started at £82k, so the F-Type did undercut it, but was not as refined, composed or comfortable as the 911 and this car had been around and had developed for a lot longer.

Now 6 years old, what future is there for the F-Type? They have recently introduced a four cylinder 2.0L turbo version but this still has a RRP of over £50k. BMW are coming out fighting at the end of 2018/ 2019 with a completely new Z4 sports car, much cheaper than the F-Type, but far more striking in its appearance. The suggested starting price for the Z4 is around £35k. Obviously there are likely to be 'add-ons' which will bump the price up further, but the same can be said for the F-Type, which, as indicated starts at £58.5k. See picture below of the Z4 concept shown recently at Pebble Beach, USA.



We haven't heard any word from Jaguar regarding any other sports cars in development particularly in the £30k to £40k price range, although there has been rumours of an XE Convertible, but this is not really a sports car in the same vein as Mercedes SLK, Audi TT, BMW Z4 and Porsche Boxster. Neither has there been news of any upgrades to the F-Type, which, unless addressed, will leave Jaguar scratching around for sales. The competition is hotting up and Jaguar needs to respond and quickly, unless they want to lose out in this market sector.

(Views of the Chairman)

SEEN IN SEATTLE

Seattle with approximately three quarters of a million inhabitants, is not big by American standards, but it is the largest city in Washington State – and one of the fastest growing cities in America. Surrounded by vast forests it is easy to see why the early European settlers made logging its number one industry. Seattle was also a gateway to Alaska during the Klondike Gold Rush in the nineteenth century, and much money was made equipping those early prospectors. In the first half of the twentieth century, it became home to the Boeing Aircraft Company. Founded by Bill Boeing in 1916, it is one of the largest of its kind in the world. It was here that Starbucks opened their first coffee shop and Tom Hanks suffered a bout of insomnia.

In more recent times, it has become a centre for software, internet and biotechnology companies with household names including Microsoft and Amazon who have their offices in the city. Bill Gates lives here and Jimi Hendrix was born in the city. (and not a lot of people know that!) If you ever visit, do take in the iconic Space Needle built for the 1962 World's Fair which dominates the city scape. Vaughn will be able to fill you in on the construction details.

Enough of the Travelogue, let's get into what this piece is about. Yes, it's cars! Seattle has an abundance of them, and occasionally, you do catch sight of something interesting cruising the streets whether on a special outing or just being used to go from A to B. So, read on and I'll share with you some of those which I caught on camera.

Starting with one of my favourites – a Cadillac Eldorado Convertible of around 1976 vintage seen here outside the Space Needle. Sporting a V8 with a staggering 8.7 litre displacement, it barely made 200 horse power and was the last of the line of true Caddy Convertibles. And it was front wheel drive!

During one stay, we visited Whalers Cove, by Lake Washington in the region of Bellevue – an expensive and upmarket area of Seattle. It was the day previous to this that I had purchased a copy of "Collectible Automobile" not only because it is an excellent American classic car



magazine but also because it contained a spread on Cadillac Eldorado's 1967 – 1970. Of the vehicles featured it was a '69 model in the rare Firemist Mauve which I particularly liked. You can imagine my surprise when walking down to the lake shore I glimpsed the front end of a similar car parked in the residents' car park area. I had to go in and take some shots and it was then that its owner, a Mr Jon Abood, came out to greet me and talk enthusiastically about his pride and joy. And, yes, you've guessed it, this was the very one featured in the magazine



that I bought the day earlier! Small world. Incredibly, this was not the only classic in the 'hood. Only a few yards away (they still use Imperial Units in the States), sat a Lincoln Continental – I guess a Mk IV from around 1970. Frank Cannon drove a Mk V in the mid 70's TV series. You could land a helicopter on the bonnet it's so vast. What's not to like? But, there's more! Parked on the roadside close by we came across a Chrysler 300 needing a little love. This '68 Primrose 2-Door Hard Top housed a 440 cubic inch V8 (there's those Imperial Units again – 7.2 litres to you and me). I'd love to clean that one up.



If you ever get to Seattle, you must take the ferry to Bainbridge Island. Situated in the Puget Sound Basin, this small genteel region hosts some interesting metal, including; a Mercury Cougar convertible from around 1973 and a mid-eighties Lincoln Town Car, both daily drivers. The latter was the first American car to employ a 4-speed automatic overdrive transmission and, later on, the first to use an overhead cam V8. Matthew McConaughy used one in the movie "The Lincoln Lawyer". Catch up with this film, great twist at the end. The island is home to the Bainbridge Vodka and Gin Distillery, which we always visit just to see the Chevy 3100 Pick Up truck – my favourite of all the forties/fifties Pick Ups. But the car I always make a



pilgrimage to see is permanently under a car cover. Unfortunately, I lost the photograph I took when it was for sale a little while ago. I still think I should make an offer. I'll leave you to guess what it is. Nobody does muscle like



Detroit and it would be impolite not to include an example here. I caught this one on camera during a visit to Snoqualmie. Located to the East of Seattle, it

has a great waterfall...and some nice cars. The car you see is Chevrolet's entry into the muscle car market. It is a 1967 Chevelle SS 396 (I think), the SS moniker standing for Super Sport. This 325 hp 2-Door Hard Top was, I believe, based on the mid-sized Malibu and offered only during the '66 and '67 model years in this body style. A beaut! And, what was parked next to it – a gorgeous Jaguar XJ6 X358 which was quickly replaced by a more interesting Series III XJ6 in pristine condition.



Staying with the feline theme, and back in Whalers' Cove (again), we spied an immaculate XJ-S V12. A Vanden Plas

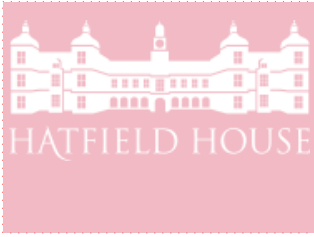


X300 or X308 was seen on the outer ring road and to round off, we spotted a new black F Type convertible outside Macy's. There were a few other Brits to note, however, – a green MGB Roadster (very nice), a Frog Eyed Sprite, similarly coloured but sadly not in the same condition and an MG TF - actually seen in Vancouver Island – but I wanted to keep the MG thing going. The most unusual depository for old UK cars that I saw was in the crowded yard of British

European Ltd in Aurora Avenue N. The photo was taken from a speeding public bus – they don't waste time over there. A blue Mark X and a Triumph TR 4(?) are clearly visible though.

Neil Shanley





Club visit to Hatfield House Sunday 15th July 2018



Hatfield House is the home of the 7th Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury and their family. The Estate has been in the Cecil family for 400 years. Superb examples of Jacobean craftsmanship can be seen throughout the House.

In 1611, Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury built his fine Jacobean House adjoining the site of the Old Palace of Hatfield. The House was splendidly decorated for entertaining the Royal Court, with State Rooms rich in paintings, fine furniture and tapestries.

Superb examples of Jacobean craftsmanship can be seen throughout Hatfield House such as the Grand Staircase with its fine carving and the rare stained glass window in the private chapel. Displayed throughout the House are many historic mementos collected over the centuries by the Cecils, one of England's foremost political families.

Hatfield House was completed in 1611. It was built by Robert Cecil, first Earl of Salisbury and son of Lord Burghley, the chief minister of Elizabeth I. The deer park surrounding the house and the older building of the Old Palace had been owned by Elizabeth's father, Henry VIII, who had used it as a home for his children, Edward, Elizabeth and Mary. It was while she was living in the Old Palace, in 1558, that Elizabeth learned of her accession to the throne.

The Cecils' former home was at Theobalds, also in Hertfordshire. In 1607, Elizabeth's heir, James I offered to exchange Theobalds for the Old Palace and manor of Hatfield. A draft Parliamentary Act of exchange survives in the Cecil Papers at Hatfield, dated May 1607. Salisbury began building work immediately. The main architect of the house was Robert Lemyngge but Simon Basil, the Surveyor of the King's Works and Inigo Jones also contributed to the design.

Salisbury had been appointed Lord Treasurer in April 1607 as well as Chief Secretary, but, he became ill and died, aged only 48, in April 1612. Although he was buried in Hatfield, he didn't live to enjoy the house that was to become the home of his descendants the Cecils, for the next 400 years.

Today, Hatfield House is the home of the 7th Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury.

The club is planning a visit to this wonderful House on Sunday 15th July at 11am. It is located near Hatfield, in Hertfordshire (postcode AL9 5HX). A group rate of £16 pp + free audio guide has been arranged. Maximum persons 30.

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CLIENT FACEBOOK REVIEWS

Steve Fish

21 November 2017

What can I say. I was resigned to getting my car re-sprayed as the paintwork was well, tired to say the least. But Mario convinced me he could rejuvenate it. I'll admit I had reservations but boy, did these guys do a fantastic job! If you flick through the posts you'll see my red Capri. What a transformation. I cannot recommend these guys highly enough! The time they have taken into getting me to love my car again is phenomenal! Thank you so much!

Richard Noble

4 January 2018

Excellent job on my XK. An 11 year old car now looks like better than when it was new!

Lee Browning

6 January 2018

Highly recommended, amazing work, you need to see it to believe it. Blown away with the final result.



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REGIONAL EVENTS / OTHER EVENTS				2018
MONTH	DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
JUL	SUN	1 st	8am	Maldon Motor Show - Contact Bob Cain for passes at cain451@btinternet.com FULL
JUL	TUES	3 rd	8pm	Club Night Langdon Hills Golf & Country Club
JUL	SUN	8 th	6.50am	Beaulieu Museum "Simply Jaguar" Event. Bookings can be made on-line in advance for £10 or £12 at the gate on the day. All Jaguar cars welcome. Link: https://www.beaulieu.co.uk and search for Simply Jaguars on their event page. Club members going to this event are to meet up at Grange Motors at 6.50am, leaving at 7am prompt.
JUL	SUN	15 th	10am	Hatfield House Guided Tour Meet up at Grange Motors at Brentwood to travel to Hatfield House. Entry fee £16 pp. Payment needed by July club night. Contact Doug Warren dwarren169@btinternet.com
JUL	SUN	29 th	9am	Ingatestone Classic Car Show. Donation required for charity of £6 per car. Contact Richard Gibby for tickets. Limited space. E-mail rwgibby@gmail.com
JUL/ AUG	TBA	TBA	TBA	Beadles Jaguar Southend New premises launch. B148 W Mayne opposite Toomey's Motor Village, Rochford.
AUG	SUN	5 th	TBA	DeHaviland Aircraft Museum Being arranged. Details to follow.
AUG	TUES	7 th	8pm	Club Night Langdon Hills Golf & Country Club
AUG	SUN	19 th	9am	Hyde Hall Motor Show with the JDC Various car clubs will be attending this now annual event. Free entry arranged. Passes will be issued nearer the time. Contact Doug Warren at dwarren169@btinternet.com
SEPT	SUN	2 nd	TBA	Classics by the Lake. Bury St. Edmonds. Further details nearer the time.
NATIONAL EVENTS				2018
JUN/ JUL	Fri/ Sun	29 th / 1 st	TBA	Jaguar Summer Festival 2018 See details at: https://jec.org.uk/events/jaguar-summer-festival-2018
JUL	Sun	28 th	9am	Simply Jaguars at Beaulieu Motor Museum, Beaulieu, Hants. An event for Jaguars of every age. Book tickets in advance at https://www.beaulieu.co.uk/simply-jaguar-2018
JUL	Fri/ Sun	20 th / 22 nd	TBA	Silverstone Classic 2018 See details at: https://jec.org.uk/events/silverstone-classic-2018

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