

Essex Thameside News

Nº 160 , August 2020



8.00 p.m., first Tuesday of every month. Langdon Hills Golf Club, Lower Dunton Road, Bulphan, Essex RM14 3TY



Chairman's message



Welcome to our latest newsletter.

Life has started to get back towards being normal, or at least the 'new' normal. We are trying to organise some meets or events for our members, but of course we still have a lot of restrictions understandably imposed on us by our government. Things can change day by day. Let's hope it all continues to improve as we go forward.

We will be holding a club night at Langdon Hills Golf Club on the 4th August, at 8pm. Under the present government rules, we have to limit the numbers that can attend to 28. Please contact me if you would like to attend. Food and drink will be available for purchase at the club. Please see my emails for further information.

Contents

Chairman's message.....	1
Jaguar XJ8 – versions	4
Funny Caption Photo	5
Movie car Quiz	7
Car Quiz, Name the Make & Model	10
Before They Were Famous Quiz	13
Jaguar XJ8 – Side markers	16

The Pie & Pint Inns are recommencing their monthly Saturday Breakfast club Meetings. The first one will take place on Saturday 1st August at The Castle, Great Leighs.

On the 16th August, we have a car meet being held in one of our members field, in Langford, Maldon. As it stands at the moment, under government limits, we have to restrict attendance to 30 people. Please see my emails for further information.

On Sunday the 23rd August, from 9am we will (hopefully) be attending The North Weald Airfield for a car meet. This event is being organised by The Jaguar Drivers Club. Food and drink will be available to purchase. It will not be publicized to the general public. I will email further details closer to the date.

Unfortunately, with all the restrictions at present, our Dinner Dance which was due to be held in The Ipswich Hotel on the 21st November has been cancelled. Hopefully we will be able to hold the event next year.

It was with sadness that we have taken the decision to postpone our Peak District Tour until September 20-21. It was decided with the present dining seating restrictions, and the restrictions in going to the local sights, that postponement was the best option at this time. We would like to organise a club trip in Europe next year, but before we can look at a trip, we will have to wait and see what the travel restrictions are next year, along with how well the world has coped with Covid-19.

In our newsletter last month, you will remember we printed the photos of our members cars whom had purchased 'Supporting the NHS: Stay Home rally plates'. You will be interested to hear that Dragonfly the company selling the plate raised £15,000 for the NHS through the sale of all the rally plates.

This month we have a new competition for you. A Funny Caption Competition. The member judged to have the funniest caption will receive an 'Essex Thameside Cap'. So, don't hold back, let's have your funny captions.

Graham Cook

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Forthcoming events in 2020

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, SOME OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS AND EVENTS MAY BE CANCELLED, AMENDED OR POSTPONED.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event details</u>
Saturday 1 August	08:00	The Castle, Great Leighs, Chelmsford. CM3 1NE Breakfast Club Car Meet
Tuesday 4 August	20:00	Club night meeting, Langdon Hills Country & Golf Club Restricted under government limits to 28 members – subject change
Sunday 16 August	12:00	Club meeting up in a members field, Lanford, Maldon Restricted under government limits to 30 members – subject change
Sunday 23 August	09:00	North Weald Airfield. Car Meet. Arranged by The Jaguar Drivers Club, area 33. Further details to be advised.
Tuesday 1 September	20:00	Club night meeting, Langdon Hills Country & Golf Club Restricted under government limits to 28 members – subject change
Tuesday 6 October	20:00	Club night meeting, Langdon Hills Country & Golf Club Subject to government restrictions of numbers allowed to attend
Sunday 18 October	10:00	<i>International Jaguar Spares Day, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ</i> <i>Entry fee £10 payable on the day.</i>
Tuesday 3 November	20:00	Club night meeting, Langdon Hills Country & Golf Club
Tuesday 1 December	20:00	Christmas meeting with quiz and special raffle, Langdon Hills Country & Golf Club

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Jaguar XJ8 V8 1997- 2002 versions.



As the owner of a nice low mileage 1999 Jaguar XJ8 3.2L V8 I thought I would look back in time at what other cars of similar size, engine and luxury were available at the time of this cars release. What other cars were there in competition to the Jaguar?

As I have copies of "What Car – Car of the Year Award" magazines going back to the early eighties, I thought I would look and see what was said about the car.

Featured in the 1998 magazine, the XJ8 V8 3.2L was awarded the 'Luxury Car of the Year Award' beating the BMW 735i and Lexus LS400 models. The magazine stated they were looking for: "The last word in comfort, refinement, ability prestige and opulence. We wanted effortless power and reassuringly good security, too. In short, the best that money can buy without costing the earth."

The Jaguar XJ8 3.2L met the challenge against the BMW & Lexus. The basic XJ8 3.2L was the 'Sport' model at £34,480 + £750 for metallic paint. The next model was the XJ8 3.2L. This was priced at £35,680 + £750 for metallic paint again. The difference mainly was that the Sport had cloth seats as standard (although leather upgrade was available at £1,065) and the XJ8 had leather seats as standard.

The BMW 735i was priced at £43,710 including metallic paint and the Lexus LS400 was £49,975.

So, the XJ8 was a competitive buy at the time. The 'What Car' magazine said in their 'Judges' Notes' that; "the international launch of the XJ8 was that Jaguar had

learned many lessons from the previous car. As a result, the new V8 was a BMW 7-series beater...

A 1,000 mile comparison with an Audi A8 2.8 and a BMW 728i revealed that the Jag outpointed them both on almost every count. And the Jaguar bigger brother, the 4.0L, duplicated the feat several months later, claiming the scalps of the Lexus LS400, the BMW 740i and the Mercedes S320. But the award goes to the Jag 3.2L because you will rarely miss the bigger engine's performance, though you'll appreciate the £5,300 saving and the lower running costs of the smaller engine car."

Going forward one year to the '1999 Luxury Car of the Year Award' and the Jaguar was pipped at the post by the 'new' Mercedes S320. The Jaguar was still 'Highly Commended' but a point to note was that the Mercedes had a price tag of £50,340, whereas the Jaguar 3.2L V8 was still only £36,405, a difference of nearly £14,000!!! The Luxury Car Award went to the Mercedes S320 for the following years, until 2004. with the Jaguar XJ8 4.0L getting the Highly Commended Award for the next three years. Interesting to note that from 2004, 5 & 6, the Jaguar XJ6 (X350 model) received the Luxury Car of the Year accolade, beating the Mercedes S320. Jaguar always fought back and were competitive in their pricing and standard equipment.

This is where, Jaguar owners are benefiting, there are many 1997 – 2002 XJ8's V8 3.2L & 4.0L engine cars available and are a great investment. Really low mileage cars are attracting prices between £10,000 to £15,000 or like me, they can be had for as little as £300, but expect to spend much more doing it up! They really are a great ride.

To sum up, as 'What Car' states in its commendation of the Jaguar XJ8, "...the most telling change is that the purrs and pulses emerging from beneath the bonnet are closer to the best from Munich or Tokyo than anything we've been used to from Coventry."

At less than £36,000 it's awesome value, too. The directors of BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Audi and Lexus must be beating the walls in frustration.



Jaguar X308 production figures are as follows:

Model Production[3]

XJ8 3.2 20,235 (including Executive and SE)

XJ8 3.2 (LWB) 771

XJ8 3.2 Sovereign 2,095

XJ8 3.2 Sovereign (LWB) 385

Sport 1,108

XJ8 3.2 Executive

XJ8 3.2 SE

XJ8 4.0 8,369

XJ8 4.0 (LWB) 148

XJ8 4.0 Sovereign 36,635 (including SE)

XJ8 4.0 Sovereign (LWB) 11,566

XJ8 4.0 SE

XJR 15,203

XJR 100 500

4.0 Vanden Plas (SWB) 1

4.0 Vanden Plas (LWB) 21,080

4.0 Vanden Plas Supercharged 788

Daimler Eight (SWB) 164

Daimler Eight (LWB) 2,119

Daimler Super V8 (SWB) 76

Daimler Super V8 (LWB) 2,387

Total 126,260

Therefore, there are plenty out there to choose from, including a nice blue example from our own Chairman, Graham Cook. Contact Graham at cook_gm@hotmail.co.uk for more details.

Doug Warren

Send us your 'Funny Captions' for the below photo. The member with the caption judged to be the funniest

will receive one of our own designed 'JEC Essex Thameside' Caps.



Here are the answers to our July's quizzes

How well did you do ?

Before they were famous :


1. Danny DeVito, 2. Kate Beckinsale, 3. Steve McQueen, 4. Steve Jobs (Apple Inc.), 5. Alan Rickman, 6. Tom Cruise, 7. Jim Morrison (The Doors), 8. Billy Joel, 9. Jodie Foster, 10. Farrah Fawcett, 11. John Lennon, 12. Daniel Craig


Car Quiz

1. Jaguar 420G, 2. Ferrari 400, 3. Fiat 131 Super Mirafiore (Fiat 131 is acceptable), 4. Ford Cortina Estate Mk 11, 5. Austin A90 Six Westminster, 6. Jaguar C Type replica, 7. Vauxhall Wyvern, 8. Austin Ruby, 9. Jowett Javelin 10. Edsel Pacer (Ford Edsel Pacer would also have been accepted), 11. Railton 10 HP Drop Head Coupe (the radiator and the badge outline are the clues, but, yes, it was a hard one), 12. Ford Consul Classic 315 , 13. Austin 1300 GT, 14. Austin Allegro Vanden Plas (Vanden Plas Allegro is acceptable), 15. Panther DeVille, 16. Triumph Mayflower

Engineering Quiz





1. Hedy Lamarr, 2. Cadillac, 3. 1881 (Gustave Trouve), 4. USS Enterprise, 5. Citroen 12 (in 1934 commonly called the Traction Avant), 6. Nikola Tesla , 7. Gustave Eiffel designed both, 8. Lucky Goldstar, 9. 1889. 10. Orville and Wilbur Wright, 11. Tim Berners-Lee, 12. One light year, 13. Central Processing Unit, 14. Evening Star, 1960 (If you said Tornado in 2008 then that would be acceptable also)





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August Movie Car Quiz

Name the film that the car appeared in, the make and model and a lead actor/actress. Three points for each picture. If it appeared in more than one film, then all films must be named together with the lead actor/actress in each film to obtain the point. Maximum points – 30

1



2



(the airborne car, not the beetle)

3



4



5



6



August Movie Car Quiz cont'd

Name the film that the car appeared in, the make and model and a lead actor/actress. Three points for each picture. If it appeared in more than one film, then all films must be named together with the lead actor/actress in each film to obtain the point. Maximum points – 30

7



8



9



10



Good Luck; answers in next month's Newsletter.

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THE ART OF PERFORMANCE

Exclusions apply.

August Car Quiz – Name the Make and Model

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



August Car Quiz cont'd – Name the Make and Model

9



10



11



12



13



14



15



16



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BEFORE THEY WERE FAMOUS

Who did these youngsters grow up to be?

1



2



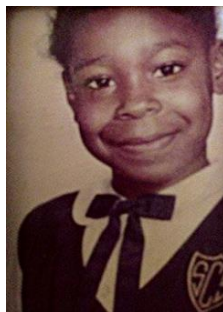
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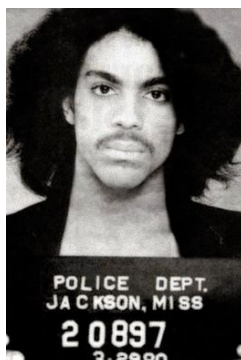
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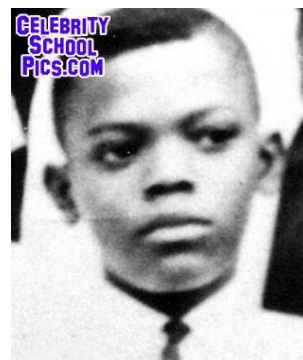
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11



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This Is Your Page

We need your input. Please help keep the Newsletter a continuing asset to the Club by contributing an article.

In these times of restricted movement and enforced time at home, why not give yourself a little project and write an article.

It does not need to be long, or indeed about cars, any subject that would be of interest to our members.

If you would prefer to send a draft or an outline, then please do so and we will edit it into an article for inclusion. When sending an article please any photos separately, as this assists us with the publishing.

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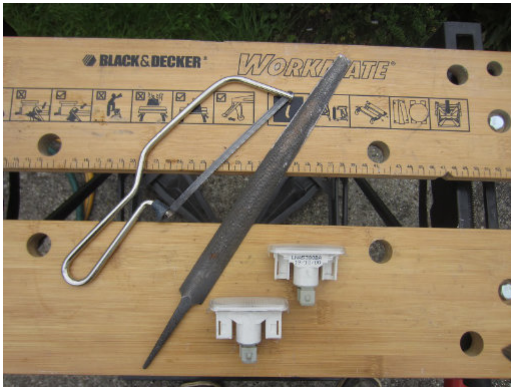
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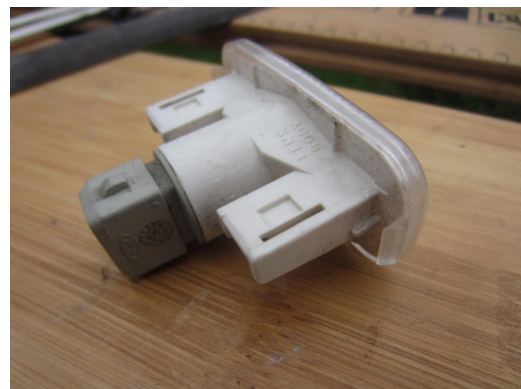
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How to change the Orange Front Side Markers to White Side Markers on a Jaguar XJ8 - X300/308

I usually like to keep my cars factory specification, or at least to a spec that was available from the factory. One exception I have made is on my XJ8 (X308) 4.0 litre Sovereign. On this model the side marker lights were always orange from the factory. I have converted my side markers to white lights, with chrome bulbs WY5W 12v 5w (available for under £7 a pair). As we know Jaguar have used various parts on different models. In this case the two XJ8 interior boot lights which are of course white, can be altered to become side white light markers. These can be purchased from Ebay for a reasonable price.



You will need to remove the two metals retaining clips from the orange side markers. These come off easy enough with gentle persuasion with a small screwdriver. Just push the clips onto your new white side marker. Swap the orange bulb to the amber ones. Fit the white markers in the wings, and as they say on Wheeler Dealers, 'Job done'.



It is a personal preference which colour side markers you think suits best, but I reckon the white ones, suit the car and make it look more modern.

To make the boot light fit you need to remove part of the plastic. The clips either end of the light can be cut off with a junior hacksaw and the plastic edge smoothed with a file.

This conversation is the same for the X300 and X308 XJ models.



Graham Cook