

# Essex Thameside News

Nº 193, May 2023



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## Chairman's message

Hello and welcome to this month's newsletter.

I am sure we are all looking forward to our King's Coronation, due to take place next weekend, on Saturday 6 May. It will be a great time to celebrate and I'm sure we will enjoy the bank holidays amid, I hope, some nice weather.

In April we had a splendid day at the Museum of Power. The sun shone for more or less the entire day, and the weather remained dry.

As usual this show didn't disappoint, with so many marques of cars, motorbikes and commercial vehicles. I actually drove into the event behind a steam road roller. Neil's article on this show is on page 8 of this newsletter.

During April we also had our 'Drive It Day' event which, I am very pleased to say, was attended by 26 cars. We met on the A12, junction 28, for a nice dry drive to Kersey Mill in Suffolk.

Unfortunately, we were not so lucky weather-wise with this event, as it didn't remain dry. In fact, it rained non-stop from about 10.30am until we departed the Mill to go for our lunch at around 3pm. The weather certainly gave our event shelter a good test and we were able to see how watertight it still was after several years' use.

I was relieved to see that, fortunately, it stood up extremely well to the heavy rain we had at one point;

now seven years old, it has lasted well. Again, you will be able to read an article on this event next month.

As usual with our club spirit, we made the best of the day, and club members enjoyed catching up and having a good chat. The meals we had at the Marlborough in Denham were very good, and it was a great choice of venue to eat.

We attended a Pirelli Tyre Event at the Jet Wheel Tyre Centre in South Benfleet. We were split into small groups and given talks by five people on the different aspects of tyres and how to fit them.

I had gone to this event thinking that an evening spent listening to discussions about tyres, tracking and other such issues wouldn't be very exciting but, in fact, I found the evening most interesting and informative. I was also pleased to come away with a goody bag and some most interesting facts.

The season is now well under way and we have various events due to take place in May, which you will see on our events page. I will email our membership with details of the events during the next week.

Our next club night is on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, as usual at Langdon Hills Golf Club. The kitchen will be open until 8pm and I look forward to seeing members there.

In the meantime, I'm sure that we will all enjoy the bank holiday this weekend and look forward to the coronation next Saturday. I wish Charles III a long and happy reign and would like to end this message by saying 'God Save The King'.

**Graham**

## Committee Members

	<b>Graham Cook</b> Chairman cook_gm@hotmail.co.uk		<b>Ian Croxson</b> Secretary and Membership secretary ian@thecroxsons.com		<b>Richard Gibby</b> Treasurer, Webmaster and Editor rwgibby@gmail.com
	<b>Lester Magness</b> Social secretary and Events coordinator lestermagness1@gmail.com		<b>Neil Shanley</b> Committee member and co-editor neilshanley@btinternet.com		<b>Steve Rider</b> Vice-Chairman srider@live.co.uk

## Shows and events in 2023

Club Nights are at 8pm on the first Tuesday of each month at Langdon Hills Country & Golf Club, RM14 3TY (**except** for September's meeting, which will be on Tuesday **12** September 2023).

### JEC Essex Thameside show attendances and events:

Sun 21 May	Car Show & Craft Fair at Rickinghall, Suffolk IP22 1HD
Sun 25 June	Little Waltham Pen Gardens & Classic Car Show, 138 The Street, Little Waltham, Chelmsford, CM3 3NY (with lunch at the White Hart, Little Waltham)
Sun 25 June	Simply Jaguar, National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, Hampshire, SO42 7ZN
Sun 2 July	Classic Car Show at RHS Hyde Hall, Rettendon—details t.b.a.
Sun 9 July	Orsett Classic & Vintage Show, Orsett Showground, Rectory Rd, Essex RM16 3JN
Sun 6 August	JEC Jaguars At Parham, Storrington, West Sussex RH20 4HR
Sun 13 August	Saffron Walden Motor Show, The Common, Saffron Walden, CB10 1JH
Sun 20 August	Classic Car Show, Stonham Barns, Pettaugh Rd, Stonham Aspal, Suffolk IP14 6AT
25–27 August	The Silverstone Classic, Towcester, Northamptonshire NN12 8TN
Mon 4–Thu 7 September	JEC Essex Thameside Whitby & N Yorks Tour with Scenic Car Tours
Sat 25 November	<i>Puttin' On The Ritz</i> Christmas Dinner Dance, Orwell Hotel, Hamilton Road, Felixstowe IP11 7DX, organised jointly with JEC Suffolk & Essex Borders

### For information—other non-JEC shows and events:

Sun 21 May	Battlesbridge Spring Autojumble, Maltings Road, Battlesbridge, Essex SS11 7RE
20–21 May	Annual Transport Extravaganza & Steam Gala, East Anglian Railway Museum, Station Rd, Wakes Colne, Colchester, Essex, CO6 2DS
Sat 27 May	Little Totham Classic Vehicle Show, Little Common, The Street, Little Totham CM9 8LB
Sun 11 June	Bromley Pageant of Motoring, Norman Park, Bromley, Kent BR2 9EF
Sat 5 August	Toot Hill Country Show, Church Road, Stanford Rivers, Essex CM5 9PW
10–12 November	Lancaster Classic Car Show, NEC, Birmingham B40 1NT

Battlesbridge Classic Vehicle Breakfast Club on Sundays 16 Apr, 28 May, 25 Jun, 16 Jul, 20 Aug and 17 Sep



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## A Restoration Recce

After the Lancaster Classic Motor Show every November marking the end of the season, the Practical Classics Classic Car & Restoration Show, also held at the NEC in Birmingham, makes a welcome start to the next season, taking place towards the end of March each year. The sun was shining and the daffodils were out as I walked past the lake to enter Hall number 3.

While of course there are similarities, I always find the Resto show a little more accessible and interesting than the larger show in November. The Resto show is slightly smaller, being limited to just the three biggest halls where the November show

occupies five halls, and is also less crowded, making it much easier to talk to people on the stands. The focus is also different, with one of the three halls being devoted to tools, parts, auto-jumble and memorabilia, and several workshop demonstrations on, for instance, use of an English Wheel to shape sheet metal and create curved wings or mudguards and suchlike.



I also find the cars on show in the other two halls generally a little more interesting. This is partly because they contain some oddities such as this speedster created from a Ford Model A with its chassis lengthened to accommodate a second (Model A) engine behind the first. It is also because,

unlike the November show, many of the cars on show are 'everyday' classics of the sort that you, I, or our parents would actually have driven, instead of the predominance of Aston Martins, Bentleys, Rolls Royces or – dare I say it – E-type Jaguars. I find it both refreshing and a more engaging trip down memory lane to see the everyday Ford Anglia, Hillman Hunter, Austin Maxi, or Morris Oxford that I remember from my childhood. None more so than this beautifully restored, green Ford Anglia 100E estate (Escort) which greeted me at the entrance.



Of course, there were also several Jaguars in the show ranging from the sublime to (at least in my eyes) ridiculous. The Practical Classics stand was showing a beautiful Series 1 E-type convertible, in blue with light grey interior, that had recently undergone a full restoration – highly desirable.



This contrasted with a heavily 'blinged-up', scarlet XK8 on a different stand, which had been lowered, fitted with wider wheels and arches, an enormous rear wing, 'go faster' decals on the bonnet and wings, plus other mods. Each to their own, I suppose, but I'm afraid I thought it looked tacky and spoiled an otherwise classy car – definitely not to my taste.



Of course, in line with its theme, the show also included several cars in the various stages of restoration, from 'barn finds' and rusty shells, through bare metal bodies ready for paint and several engines, to the finished, newly-restored cars in concourse condition.



Some TV restorers and other celebrities were also there including Ant Anstead and Fuzz Townsend. I stood next to Mike Brewer as he did a closing piece to camera and then listened to some of his Q&A. His favourite of all the cars he has ever owned? A 1964 Mini Cooper S.



An enjoyable show – and useful, as I was able to purchase a few raffle prizes for our club night the following month! I shall be going again next year...

**Richard Gibby**



## ESSEX THAMESIDE

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Whitby is a traditional English seaside town boasting both a working harbour and the haunting ruins of its famous abbey which looms over both the town and the North Sea. The town has changed little in a century and here you can enjoy sandy beaches, rock pools and its blend of traditional fisherman's cottages and elegant Georgian townhouses.

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## A Day at the Museum

...the Museum of Power near Maldon, to be more specific. Formerly known as the Langford Pumping Station, it was conceived by the Southend Water Works Company and completed in 1927, followed by its official opening in 1929. The station was originally designed to provide a daily supply of seven million gallons of drinking water which, along with other existing wells, were expected to meet the anticipated demand for many years.

The landmark hexagonal chimney, demolished in the 1960s, enabled two steam-driven, vertical, triple-expansion rotative engines to pump between 4.0 and 4.4 million gallons of water per day. The engine house was built large enough to house a third engine which was eventually installed in 1931. This latter engine is the sole survivor of the three and is the key central feature of the museum. The pumping station became electrically powered in 1963 and its capacity increased to 12 million gallons per day. Whilst the plant is now in the hands of the Essex Water Company, with further expansion having taken place, the original station has not fallen into decay and in 1996 became the museum on whose grounds we were meeting today, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2023, to enjoy the Museum of Power Transport Festival.



Organised by Lester Magness, our club displayed an impressive twelve cars out of about 150 to 200 vehicles present. This was our second trip of the year, following our visit to the Vulcan Bomber in March, and Lester even managed to organise the sun for the day. If old cars do not float your boat, there were other attractions to keep you occupied. Stalls selling a variety of goods, food and drink stands, a miniature steam train, the museum café and, of course, the Museum itself with its steam pump accompanied by many related displays, augmented by associated machinery and models from enthusiasts clubs and individuals, all on hand to keep you informed and entertained.

The vehicles on show were, for many, a trip down memory lane, with examples of long-extinct marques basking in the sunshine. Remember Wolseley, Riley, Sunbeam, Humber, Triumph, Austin, Morris, Jensen and Van den Plas? Survivors included: Minis, Fords, MG, Rolls Royce, Alfa Romeo, Bentley, BMW, and (for now) Jaguars. A smattering of US cars made welcome appearances, amongst them being three Chevrolet Bel Airs, a Ford Ranchero and, on our stand, a '64 Mustang. Having been bought by Chris and Marise, the Mustang was complete with a Jaguar sticker on the windscreen.

If militaria is your bag, then Willys and Ford WW2 Jeeps were showing alongside an army Bedford



truck, a Scout Car and an American Army Diamond T Wrecker truck from around 1942. A few displays of guns helped the war theme.

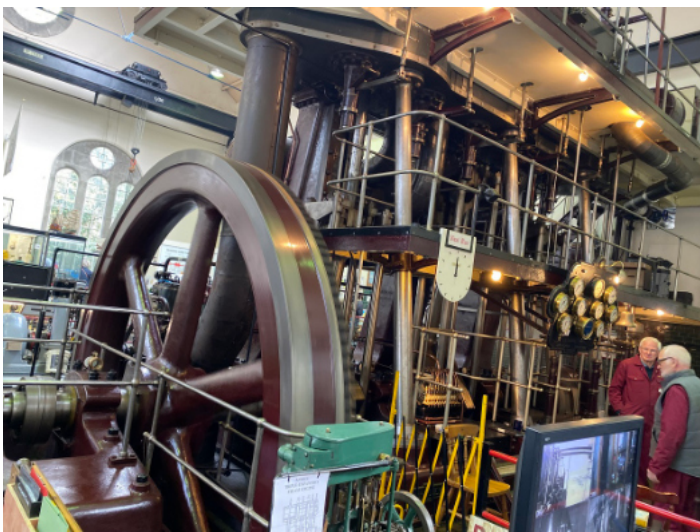
Buses, classic lorries and a half scale Traction Engine sat more peacefully alongside, for those who like commercial vehicles. A smaller such vehicle brought along was an immaculate 1958 Austin FX3 Taxi, complete with luggage. Well worth a mention, this rare car looked as if it had just come from a British, black and white '50s B movie.

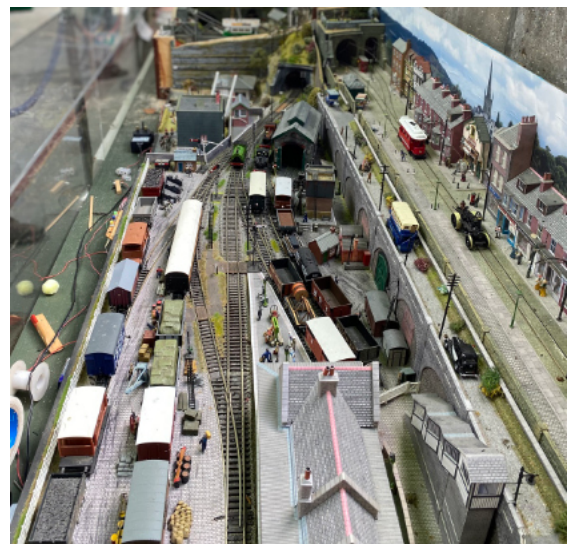
I will let the photos tell the rest of the story...

**Neil Shanley**











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# May Car Quiz - Name The Make And Model



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15



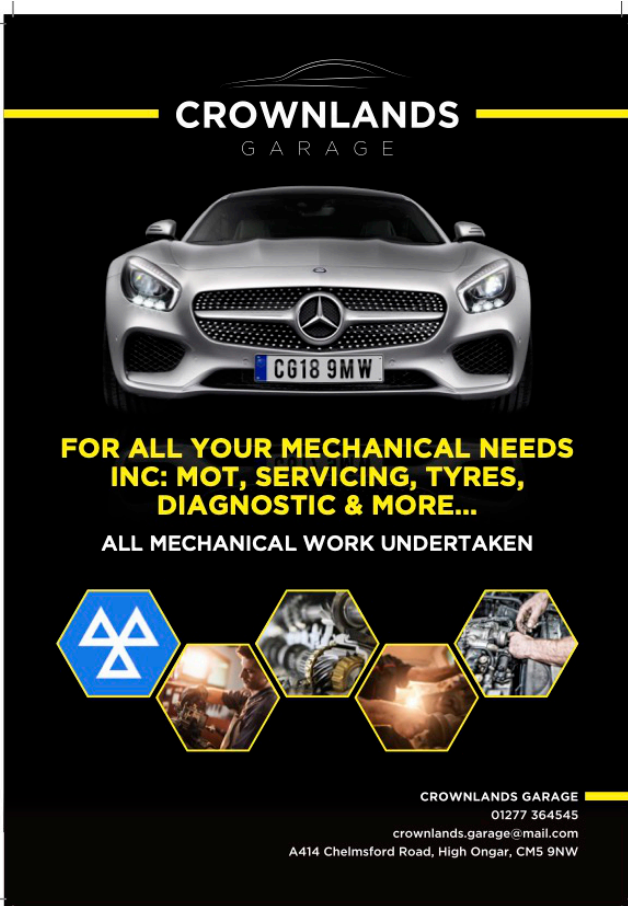
Figure 16

Good Luck. Answers in next month's Newsletter.



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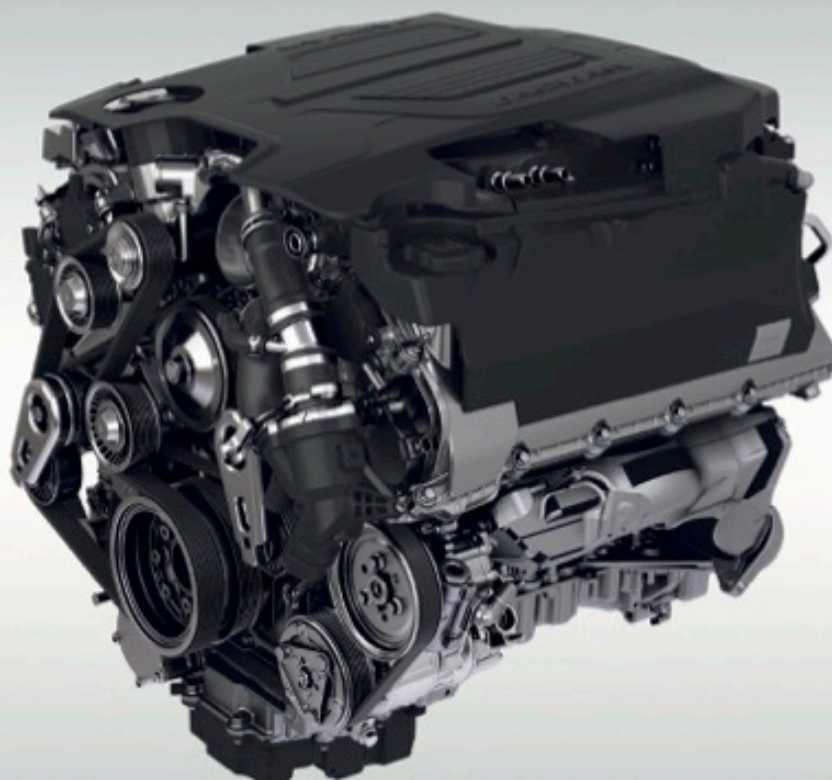
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## Answers to last month's quiz

- 1) Datsun 240Z
- 2) Frisky Sport (or Coupé)
- 3) Vauxhall Cresta E
- 4) GAZ M20 Probeda
- 5) Jensen FF
- 6) Ford Consul 375 Mk II
- 7) Renault 4
- 8) MGC
- 9) Morgan Aero 8
- 10) Porsche 911 (996 series)
- 11) Alvis TD21
- 12) BMW 3.0 litre CSL E9
- 13) Gordon-Keeble GK1
- 14) Bond Bug
- 15) Ford Escort Mk 1 RS2000
- 16) Swallow Doretti

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