

Essex Thameside News

Nº 198, October 2023



Contents

2. Chairman's message
3. Shows and events in 2023
4. Change of Venue
6. Jag WAGS In North Yorkshire, 4th – 7th September
10. Answers to Last Month's Quiz
11. North Yorkshire Trip: A Second Perspective
12. Club BBQ – 24th September at Lester's
14. Behind the Wheel Quiz



Chairman's message

Steve Rider

s rider@live.co.uk

Since the last newsletter members have travelled north to Yorkshire for a four day tour of some of the best that Yorkshire had to offer. For those that were unable to join us please see the excellent write ups by our excellent scribes and photographers Neil Shanley and Liz Croxson.

Some of us then travelled south for the annual visit to Goodwood for the Revival. The brilliant weather of the first two days gave way to intermittent showers on the final day, but what the weather lacked the action on the track more than made up for. Dates for 2024 have already been released with the 6th to 8th September being the dates to remember. Correspondingly tickets for the Revival will be available at 0900 hrs on Saturday 28th October and savings can be made on your 2024 tickets by taking advantage of the early bird ticket window.

The club also held a very enjoyable end of season barbecue, for which we are very grateful to our host Lester Magness, and everyone that worked to arrange it. It was so successful in fact that we now plan to make the event a regular feature in our club calendar.

One of the last car events of the year that members will be attending is the London to Brighton Veteran car run on Sunday November 5th. Let's hope that the

weather is a little less inclement than last year.

Interest continues to grow in next years planned return to the Netherlands. Two more couples are now looking to join us complete with their Jaguars. If you are considering joining us and or would like additional information then please speak to a committee member at club night.

The most important news for the club is the relocation of our monthly meetings to a new venue in Chelmsford. We had been using the Langdon Hills Golf Club for the last thirteen years so it was with some trepidation that we left there for the last time this month.

Our new venue is the Essex Police Sports and Social Club, St. Margaret's Road, Springfield, Chelmsford, CM2 6DT, and additional information is contained on page four of this newsletter.

Our new home will provide us with a far greater range of options with barbecues, mini car shows and a whole host of other activities now being discussed and programmed for next year. We are now aiming to meet regularly on the last Tuesday of the month in future but for the next few months we are a little limited because of prior bookings at the club. But the full list of confirmed bookings will be detailed on our club website and future newsletters.

Our next club night, in our new home, will be on Tuesday 3rd October and I look forward to welcoming you then.

Steve

Committee Members

	Graham Cook Vice-Chairman cook_gm@hotmail.co.uk		Ian Croxson Secretary and Membership secretary ian@thecroxsons.com		Richard Gibby Treasurer, Webmaster and Editor rwgibby@gmail.com
	Lester Magness Social secretary and Events coordinator lestermagness1@gmail.com		Neil Shanley Committee member and co-editor neilshanley@btinternet.com		Beverly Warren Membership Secretary beverlyrwarren@gmail.com

Shows and events in 2023

Club Nights have changed, see separate announcement on page 4.

We will no longer use Langdon Hills Golf Club as our monthly meeting venue.

JEC Essex Thameside show attendances and events:

Sat 25 November *Puttin' On The Ritz* 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:

10-12 November Lancaster Classic Car Show, NEC, Birmingham B40 1NT

7 December Christmas buffet at Club Night

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Change of Venue

Most of you will know that we enjoyed our final Club Night at the Langdon Hills Golf Club on 12th September. This came as a result of the increase in fees to hire the first floor room to approximately triple the previous rate. This together with the golf club wishing to close early over the winter months made us come to the conclusion that they were not obtaining sufficient financial benefit from us being there.

We have for some time been reviewing alternative venues, but a last minute suggestion by Vaughn High seemed too good to miss. Being a retired plain clothes policeman, he is a member of the Essex Police Sports & Social Club and has kindly arranged with them for our Club to use their premises. Some members may remember our Summer BBQ held there in 2014. Due to other prior commitments, the club is not necessarily open on the first Tuesday of the month so please take note of the Club Night dates for the rest of this year:

Tuesday 3rd October, Thursday 9th November, Thursday 7th December. The dates for 2024 will be announced before the end of this year.

The site is a particularly good venue with space for meetings, ample car parking, bar, outside seating and BBQ area for the summer months. Should you require food, this would not be available, however, there are some fine restaurants nearby with parking facilities – see below:

Harvester, 305 Springfield Road (10 minutes' walk from the Club)

Oddfellow Arms, Springfield Road (5 minutes' walk from the Club)

Two Brewers, 80 Springfield Road (7 minutes' walk from the Club)

Toby Carvery, Dukes Lane, CM2 6AD (16 minutes' walk from the Club)

Many thanks to Vaughn.



J.E.C. Essex Thameside region

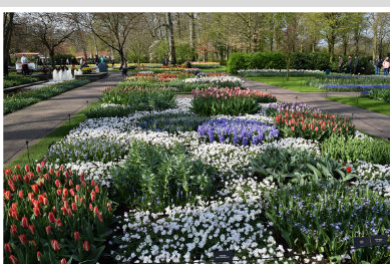
Spring in the Netherlands

6 days, 5 nights – Monday 15th to Saturday 20th April 2024
from approximately £495 per person
 (based upon 2 persons per car and sharing a twin/double room)



Spring is by far the best time to visit the Netherlands, when the tulips and other bulbs are in full bloom. At 79 acres, Keukenhof is one of the world's largest gardens with over 7 million bulbs, open for just two months each year. Also visit the Louwman Museum in The Hague, an amazing collection of over 200 unique cars including 'Genevieve' from the 1953 film, and the first ever petrol/electric hybrid dating from 1917. Other visits can include Kinderdijk, a UNESCO world heritage site with 19 large windmills, the Zaanse Schans living museum, the Beemster Polder, Amsterdam, Delft and other cities, plus a special scenic driving tour following the old rivers and canals of Holland.

We shall be taking the Harwich–Hook of Holland ferry and staying at the Van der Valk Hotel in Breukelen near Utrecht. For further details, please contact Steve Rider (srider@live.co.uk) or Neil Shanley (neilshanley@btinternet.com)



Jag WAGS In North Yorkshire, 4th – 7th Sep

Remember JAG WAGS derive our name from the footballers' "Wives and Girlfriends – known as WAGS". We are strong women. An altogether more sophisticated bunch of wives and girlfriends without the massive lips and sunglasses. Many of us share a passion for cars but also many other interests.

DAY 1 – WAGS IN WHITBY

Coffee and cake were available on arrival at the Forest & Vale Hotel in Pickering as the men and the WAGS gathered in North Yorkshire for what promised to be an exciting few days.

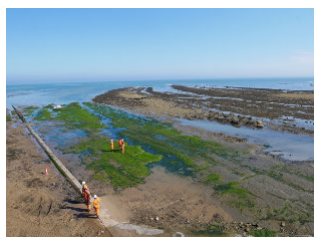


Pickering is well placed for access to The Moors, Whitby and Scarborough. By splitting into smaller groups most of us visited the same places but not necessarily in the same order.



A scenic drive through **Dalby Forest** on the Southern slopes of the North Yorkshire Moors National Park was well worth the £10 entrance fee. Not only beautiful scenery but pretty stunning toilet facilities too.

Robin Hood Bay:



After a quick consultation with the map and it was off to Robin Hood Bay. **WAG WARNING** – it is a very, very steep incline – not advised for anyone with anything artificial below the waist!! The bay has far-reaching views, slightly spoilt by the luminous orange men carrying out essential construction work to shore-up the coast line.

The Council care a lot about Robin Hood Bay so much so that they even match the bins to the walls!



WHITBY– JAMES COOK AND FREELOVE

James Cook was born in Marton in Middlesbrough and in his 20s settled with a Quaker ship owning family who lived in Whitby. The house he lodged in is open to visitors.

As this article is from a WAG'S point of view we will focus on his wife - **THE GREATEST WAG OF ALL** – ELIZABETH COOK (nee Batts). Born in Wapping but soon to become a true Essex girl. She was 21 when she married James Cook in Barking, Essex.

Cook first started swanning round the world on a ship called Freelove – sounds like an interesting cruise to me. Forget about him for a moment and concentrate on the portrait of his wife. This painting came to life in front of our eyes as an early example of a brilliant, strong-willed WAG.

She gave birth to 6 children in the space of 13 years. (Cook obviously popped back regularly). The first child was born in 1763 and lived for 30 years. He was her longest surviving child – all the other 5 were born and died, at various ages, between 1764 and 1793. If this wasn't enough for the young Elizabeth, and in the middle of caring for the children still alive, her husband then got himself murdered in 1779, while discovering America.

Imagine at the age of 37 having lost 6 children plus the added shame that your husband was stabbed in Hawaii instead of Essex.



Hats off to this amazing WAG who went on to live until she was 93. Go girl!!!

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF WHITBY



yard. Spot the floating head.

Not a "pheasant" sight



Once down again there was time for a quick argument in the aptly named yard.

Whitby is not only famous for its fish and chips but also its whaling history. This is immortalised on the West Cliff where Captain Cook overlooks two giant whale bones which make an archway framing the town's cottages, streets and 199 steps leading to the medieval Abbey.

Whitby's sculpture trail – dotted around Whitby there are 9 wired sculptures to discover. You will notice that 4 out of the 9 are women or early day "wired" WAGS.

The Gansey Knitter - basically WAGS who knitted jumpers. Essential work. Each community had its own pattern so that if a fisherman was lost at sea, his gansey would help identify him if a body was recovered.

The Herring WAGS working in teams of 3. They followed the shoals of herrings along the coast ready to gut and pack the fish once caught.

Fish Wag – they worked as hard as their husbands, PLUS family duties. They would bait and sell the catch to the public. (sell the fish not the husband)

Dora Walker – overcame ill health to become the only woman skipper to hold her licence in the North Sea - guiding boats through the minefields during WWII

Photo showing Jag WAGS with Dora Walker

After this Wagathon of a day by 8 pm Whitby treated us to a glorious sunset.



DAY 2 – ARE THE WAGS GOING TO SCARBOROUGH FAIR – YOU BET WE ARE.



The Scarborough Fair Museum is NOT in Scarborough. It is South of Scarborough in a place called Filey. What a Wag-tastic museum. A private collection of Wurlitzers, cars, memorabilia, full-sized and working fairground attractions.





The museum had on display early examples of WAG equipment compared to early examples of men's equipment

The WAGS were in their element. Remember those wobbly mirrors that made everyone look funny shapes? Unfortunately, they didn't have the one that made us look younger, taller and thinner.



A volunteer then asked if we'd like to go on a ride. Silly question – YES. Of course, we chose the Ghost Train. £1 donated and we were off – screaming all the way round – childhood memories rekindled until we burst through the doors the other end.

We all know the song by Simon and Garfunkel – this was not written by them it is an old cantel. The origins of the fair date back to medieval Scarborough and is based on the lowly herring. People came from far and wide to gather these little fish and this was named "Scarborough Fair". The annual bonanza was equivalent to an oil boom and continued for hundreds of years. Fish were used as currency. Trading with a person from the Low Countries was referred to as an "Easterling" which was eventually shortened to "sterling" as we know our currency today.



In amongst the usual seaside attractions **Scarborough** sea front is a mix of old and new.

The South Bay has some amazing modern 2 storey beach huts.



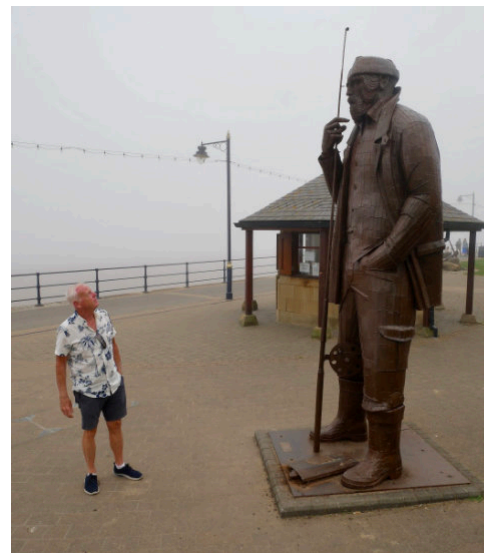
Walk a little further and you will see the magnificent Victorian Grand Hotel overlooking the bay. Next to the hotel is the preserved and fully functional funicular railway dating back to 1881. Run by the Central Tramway Company it was built to save people having to walk up and down the steep steps.

The RNLI visitors centre is also worth a look.





If



you are visiting this area I'll give you the WAGS-up on a few amazing sculptures by Ray Lonsdale

North Bay Scarborough – called Freddie Gilroy and the Belsen Stragglers - depicting a former soldier who participated in the liberation of survivors of the WW2 Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, sitting on a bench in his old age

South Bay Scarborough – Tunny (tuna) fish sculpture commemorating big game tunny fishing history.

Filey – “High Tide and Short Wellies”. The statue is a 12ft *fisherman* representing the declining *fishing* industry and is suitably situated as Filey is a *fishing* town.

PICKERING



Pickering has a lot to offer with the North Yorkshire Moors Railway running steam and diesel trains from Pickering to Whitby. There is a castle as well as St Peter and St Paul's church with medieval paintings dating back to 1470.



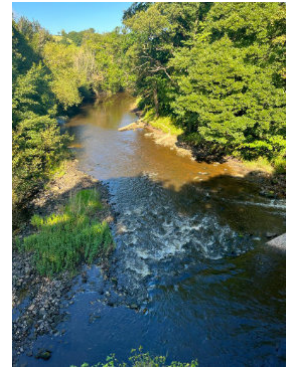
Bangers and Cash– some of you will be familiar with this popular TV series filmed locally in Thornton-le-Dale. Basically, a shouty man finds a dilapidated “banger” and does it up for more “cash” than he bought it for. This may be inspiration for club members wanting to raise cash..... refer to photo taken in Pickering Best Western car park

Another successful WAG tour completed and thanks need to go to Graham (our ex-chairman) and also the Committee members for organising such a fine club getaway.

The location was spot on. North Yorkshire has much to offer and our group of Jag Enthusiasts were not disappointed. The weather was the icing melting on our cake.

A lot of time and effort goes on behind the scenes to co-ordinate group activities. If any club members have constructive comments about how to improve these little jaunts, then please do not hesitate to let a committee member know and please take part in as many activities as you can.

Liz Croxson





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Answers to Last Month's Quiz

- 1) Citroen DS
- 2) MG RV8
- 3) Morris Minor Traveller
- 4) Chevrolet Bel Air
- 5) Morris Commercial J Type Van
- 6) Standard Vanguard Phase 1
- 7) Vauxhall Victor
- 8) Volvo P1800ES Sportwagon
- 9) Fiat 131 Supermirafiore
- 10) Fiat 500 Topolino
- 11) Triumph GT6
- 12) Cadillac Eldorado
- 13) Chevrolet 3100 Pick Up Truck
- 14) Vauxhall Cavalier
- 15) Gilburn Invader
- 16) Ford Model T



North Yorkshire Trip: A Second Perspective

Following Liz's splendid account of her adventures in "God's County", I thought it would be an opportune time to visit some of the other places that we visited on our all too brief sojourn into the sun kissed (yes really!) North Yorkshire Moors.

Since Sue could not make it, I drove up with my old friend, Brian who lives in West Yorkshire. Starting from Scholes, near Bradford, we took the scenic route to Pickering with



the roof down all the way, which was a bonus since the aircon managed at best only luke warm air (the one thing I didn't check before embarking.) Our first stop was for lunch at the Arnage Restaurant in The Motorist, not far from Sherburn in Elmet. Often seen in Classic car magazines and on TV in "Bangers and Cash", it is the venue for Breakfast Meets, has a car restoration workshop and a good restaurant supplied with local produce. Visit the Shop and you will find not only the odd classic car on the floor, but also on top of the shopping aisles – now that's different.

Walking round Pickering – which doesn't take too long – you cannot help but notice the Castle. This 13th century tourist attraction has, in its time, been a royal hunting lodge, a holiday home, and a stud farm for many Kings



including Henry II and Edward II. It is now in the hands of English Heritage. Closer to the hotel is the Church of St Peter and St Paul which dates back to around 1140 and was

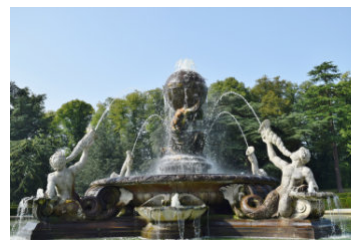
gradually enlarged over the following centuries. It is rightly famous for its wall paintings commissioned in 1450 and are still clear today. Although receiving a face lift in the 1880's, they are one of the most complete set of such paintings of which only five sets survive in the country and depict family friendly scenes such as: the Martyrdom of St Edmond, the beheading of St John the Baptist and the Descent into Hell all livened up by St George slaying the Dragon and St Catherine who probably also suffered terribly and made many sacrifices. If all this works up an appetite, then look no further than the White Swan which has a good restaurant serving excellent English cuisine. If you are after something continental, Figaro's which serves up a great

Calzone amongst other Italian delights makes an attractive alternative. The other two eateries we spotted were sadly closed.



Slightly more recent and not too far from Pickering is Caste Howard which we visited on Day 2. Situated near York, it was built by Sir John Vanbrugh over 300 years ago and is still the home of the Howards. This little pile is seriously impressive and not

unfamiliar if you've seen TV's "Brideshead Revisited" and films ranging from Stanley Kubrick's "Barry Lyndon" to "Garfield: A Tail Of Two Kittens". The interior is just as magnificent as the exterior, despite a serious fire in 1940 which destroyed a significant part of both. Thankfully now restored to its former self with just a couple of rooms are left to remind us of the inferno that once took place within its walls. Take a walk round the gardens – all 1000 acres of them – and marvel at the vast lake, woodlands, temples and statues, particularly that of Atlas as he holds the world



aloft in The Atlas Fountain which dominates the ornamental garden to the rear of the Castle. Take a view from the Temple of the Four Winds before you go, giving a 360 degree view of the surrounding landscape.



Amongst many tourist attractions in nearby York, there is a formidable railway museum but Pickering too has its own steam feature – The North Yorkshire Moors Railway – and it is a working

"museum". It runs both steam and diesel engines hauling carriages all the way to Whitby taking in; Levisham, Newton Dale Halt, Goathland and Grosmont stations. Having visited Whitby earlier, we alighted at Goathland a small village made famous as the setting for "Heartbeat", a 1960's set police TV series. The weather was hot and we were thirsty so where better to find a drink than in The Goathland Hotel, that is until you read their sign board which stated "Welcome to the Goathland Hotel – CLOSED", so that was that. Ice creams were bought in the "garage" opposite!





We did visit another famous attraction just 1.5 miles from Pickering – the Bangers & Cash HQ. Well, it's now more of a souvenir shop interspersed with a couple of old cars and some memorabilia.

The museum was still undergoing refurbishment and despite calling more than once, we could not gain entry to see some of the Matthewsons' car collection. At least some of our members managed it when they "bumped" into Derek Matthewson who was to take the Rolls Royce Owners Club around and kindly invited them to come along also. What luck! Geoff Monk has kindly provided



some of the photographs he took whilst there.

There are many places to visit in North Yorkshire and we had barely the time to scratch the surface in four days, but it was a good taster maybe for a return visit someday.

Neil Shanley




Club BBQ – 24th September at Lester's




The Barbeque held on the evening of Sunday 24th September proved to be a great success with many members, old and new together with some not seen for a while, joining in on the festivities. It was held in the grounds

of Lester Magness's cottage within a marquee and brought in caterers. The food was excellent and never ran out – "doggie bags" were available. The portable loo block was a dream including the piped music! It was good to see several members arriving in their Jags. Could not find out who's the light blue Mark II belonged to though. A BIG THANKYOU GOES TO Lester for the provision of his facilities and to new Chairman Steve Rider for seeing it through together with Bev and the rest of the Committee. If you didn't make it do come to the next one which may be at our new venue. See you there.








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Behind the Wheel Quiz

Name the film or TV series that the still is from and one actor/actress in the shot.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

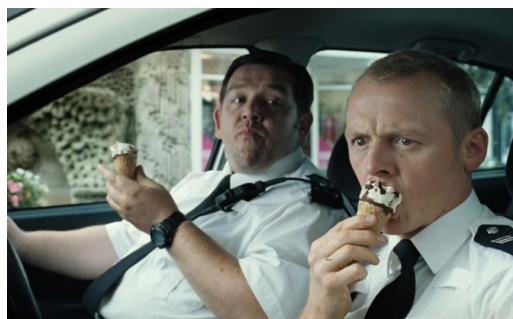


Figure 6



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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