

Essex Thameside News

Nº 202, February 2024



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Chairman's message

Steve Rider
 chairman@jecessexthameside.co.uk

Hello Essex Thameside members,

2024 has got off to a great start with a well attended first club night at our new home. The new location has given us the opportunity to arrange what is hopefully a more convenient start time with the doors opening at 7.00pm and a meeting start time of around 7.30pm. The bar should also now be open from 7.00pm with last orders around 9.00pm.

Correspondingly, I am pleased to announce some important changes to the committee. Lester Magness has kindly agreed to take on the post of Vice Chairman of the club. Apart from looking over my shoulder to keep me on the straight and narrow he will still be acting as our 'events and trips co-ordinator'.

Similarly I am pleased to welcome back Vaughn High to the committee. He is a real asset with his all round experience and especially his enthusiasm for getting our members and their prized Jaguars out and about and on show.

The first club meeting of the year saw us welcome representatives from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and two of their puppies in training. It was a good start to our programme of guest speakers and members present showed their appreciation by making a generous donation to the Guide Dogs funds. More details of the talk can be found later in this newsletter.

We are arranging for a representative from Southend's Vulcan Restoration Trust to join us one club night, and hopefully follow up with a site visit to Southend Airport to see their aircraft XL426 at first

hand. Some members previously travelled over to Gaydon to get up close and personal with Vulcan XM655 and a number of our Wags had photos taken with their fingers on the nuclear bomb release button fitted in the cockpit. But for those that didn't, these aircraft represent a fascinating insight into a period of our not too distant past. If you are unfamiliar with these impressive aircraft please follow this link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsWI1k4IBD4>

We are also arranging a visit from Tom Lenthall who runs a modern and classic Jaguar servicing, tuning and restoration workshop over in Berkshire. His team have worked on at least five of our cars, and we have been fortunate to have seen him race at different locations including Le Mans. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rw-653mm-h8>

Our first visit of the season was to Fairmont Sports & Classics in Hutton and nearly 30 members enjoyed a guided tour of their facility and their hospitality. Kindly arranged by our Ian Croxson, further details of the visit will be included in this newsletter.

I am genuinely excited by the number of potential trips, visits and events we are currently able to advertise this year courtesy of contacts in other clubs, and the efforts of your committee members. Consequently for further information on some of these please see our Dates for Your Diary details before the Events page later in this newsletter.

Our club nights are now settling in to a regular pattern of the third Tuesday of each month, but please check our website or your newsletters to make sure. All are welcome to join us for a very sociable evening with friends and fellow enthusiasts.

Finally, a brief reminder to all our members that your annual membership subscription, which remains at £15, will become due for renewal at the end of this month and you should receive a communication from our Membership Secretary, Beverly Warren, within the next few weeks

Steve

Committee Members

	<p>Richard Gibby Treasurer, Webmaster and Editor rwgibby@icloud.com</p>		<p>Ian Croxson Secretary ian@thecroxsons.com</p>		<p>Lester Magness Vice Chairman and Social Secretary lestermagness1@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Beverly Warren Membership Secretary membership@jecessexthameside.co.uk</p>		<p>Neil Shanley Committee member and Co-editor neilshanley@btinternet.com</p>		<p>Vaughn High Committee Member vaughn.high@sky.com</p>

Six Months of Dates for your Diary

February 25th. We have a Sunday Lunch Booked at the Six Bells Boreham for up to 30 people, 3 courses with a choice of 4 starters and 9 mains with Sunday Roasts and Vegetarian option for £27.95 per head, (menu to follow). Members have previously enjoyed some good food and convivial company there. For further details generally and to book, please contact Lester Magness at lestermagness1@gmail.com

March 2nd will see some club members taking a trip over to the British Motor Museum in support of the Jaguar Breakfast Club. They hold regular monthly meetings in the Museum car park as well as other one off events around the country. It's a free to attend event and doesn't need to be booked in advance, but access to the museum will cost extra. Catering facilities there are currently being extended so, at present, the only facilities guaranteed to be available are within the museum. Tickets for the museum can be purchased in advance on line, see the link below.

<https://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk/book-now>

Please note that a museum 'day ticket' giving access to the museum and the Jaguar Centre can be converted to provide annual admission to both at no extra cost. We have the option of having a number of spaces reserved for us to park together as well space for our shelter. Therefore anyone interested in attending or wanting further information please contact Steve Rider at srider@live.co.uk.

March 31st. Langford (Maldon) and the Museum of Power Transport Fest. We are booked into the Museum of Power, Langford for the Annual Transport Fest. Admission is free although we do normally have a collection from the cars attending of usually £5.00 per car towards the Museum. There are displays of modern and classic cars, trade stands, food vendors and music. as an exhibitor you also get free access to the Museum. Please remember it is Easter Sunday so, before you book your space, just check that you won't have the mother-in-law coming for Sunday lunch and preventing you from attending. Contact Lester: lestermagness1@gmail.com

April 21st. Drive it Day Sunday takes place again this year organised by the Rotary Mayflower Group. Starting in Stow Maries at the only surviving Royal Flying Corps Airfield and, after a drive of around 45 miles, finishing at a mid-Essex Georgian House near Chelmsford. National Drive It Day was first created

by the British Historic Vehicle Clubs in 2005 . It continues to support the NSPCC Childline and this years entry fee is £20. Further information, your on-line entry form, and how to purchase a rally plaque, are all at ClassicCarRotaryMayflower@gmail.com or, in case of need, contact Ian Croxson at ian@thecroxsons.com

April 28th. De Havilland Aircraft Museum, Salisbury Hall, Shenley, London Colney. We have a visit to the De Havilland Aircraft Museum booked for between 10-20 people (if more than 20 people, they will split us into two groups). It's £20.00 per head, including a 2-hour guided tour of the museum, a photo shoot with the cars in front of a De Havilland Mosquito, and tea/ coffee on arrival. The Museum is located approximately one mile from J22 on the M25. It has been open since 1959 and exhibits many planes including the iconic Mosquito and Comet. To obtain further information and perhaps reserve a place please contact Lester Magness at lestermagness1@gmail.com

July 14th. Orsett Classic & Vintage Show, Orsett showground, Rectory Road, Orsett, RM16 3JN. Now in its 12th year. Includes live music, autojumble, monster truck ride and vintage Market etc. All in support of Haven Hospices. For further information and to reserve a place please contact Lester Magness at lestermagness1@gmail.com

July 28th. JEC 40th anniversary. The JEC's 40th anniversary celebrations are due to take place during the weekend of the 26th to 28th July. However, due to the cost and nature of the activities advertised, our region is only proposing to attend and support the event on Sunday 28th. More details will be published as and when they become available.

August 10th Essex Thameside's 35th anniversary. We are planning a club event and barbecue at our Chelmsford club house. Based on the lines of a traditional English fete we are planning to take advantage of the enclosed garden area and have a large number of stalls and attractions planned. We have already booked Beck and Call Catering services to provide the barbecue, as they did such a splendid job of feeding us at last summer's barbecue kindly hosted by Lester Magness. Further details and a full list of stands and activities will be made available in due course.

Steve Rider

Forthcoming Events

Monthly club nights:

Club night meetings usually start at 7pm on the third Tuesday of the month and take place at the Essex Police Sports & Social Club, 50 St Margarets Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DA.

.27 February; 26 March (AGM); 23 April; 21 May; 25 June; 23 July; 27 August; 17 September; 22 October; 19 November; 17 December.

Shows, events and trips:

25 February	Sunday lunch at the Six Bells, Boreham CM3 3JE [contact Lester to book]
2 March	Jaguar Breakfast Club at British Motor Museum, Gaydon
22-24 March	Practical Classics Restoration Show, NEC Birmingham
31 March	Transport Fest at the Museum of Power [contact Lester to book]
13-14 April	Goodwood Road Racing Club - 81 st Members Meeting
15-20 April	Netherlands Tour [fully booked]
21 April	Drive-It Day with the Billericay Mayflower Rotary Club. 45-mile drive, starting from Stow Maries airfield. £20 per car. Email ClassicCarRotaryMayflower@gmail.com to book
28 April	Visit to De Havilland Aircraft Museum, London Colney [contact Lester to book]
18-19 May	Beaulieu Spring Autojumble
19 May	Rickingham Classic Car Show with JEC Essex & Suffolk Borders [contact Neil for details]
2 June	St Osyths Classic Car day with Essex & Suffolk Borders region
15-16 June	Fathers Day Motorfest, Kings Farm, Writtle
23 June	Hatfield Heath Classic Car Festival [contact Neil for details]
23 June	Simply Jaguar, National Motor Museum, Beaulieu
23 June	Little Waltham Open Gardens & Classic Car Show
11-14 July	Goodwood Road Racing Club - Festival of Speed
14 July	Orsett Classic & Vintage Show [contact Lester to book]
28 July	JEC 40th Anniversary Summer Festival, British Motor Museum, Gaydon
10 August	Essex Thameside region 35th Anniversary Barbecue, Essex Police Sports & Social Club
23-25 August	Silverstone Festival
6-8 September	Goodwood Road Racing Club - Revival meeting
14-15 September	Beaulieu International Autojumble
8-10 November	Lancaster Classic Motor Show at NEC Birmingham



for the time and Fairmont currently have more recent classics in the showroom, since they sell better during the winter whilst the older models do better in the summer months.

There was a comprehensive selection of such cars to view in the two-storey showroom, with more parked in the warehouse opposite. One of the vehicles in the latter was a yellow Jensen Interceptor restored and sold by club member Martin Seward – small world! David told us that he has taken deposits from two separate buyers but they have not turned up to collect, so it is still on sale. Yours for £42,995.

A Morning at Fairmont

As members will know, Ian Croxson had arranged a breakfast meeting at Fairmont Sports and Classics, based in Hutton, Brentwood. The winter weather performed well and was bright, dry and a little chilly, so excellent conditions for a morning's gathering. Other members must have felt the same, for it was a well-attended event with several of our lady members also enjoying the morning.

Owned by David Scarborough, Fairmont Sports and Classics was opened just around lockdown in 2020 with twelve staff, but officially shut down only a week later. However, they were still able to trade via the internet behind closed doors. In fact, Covid provided a boost to the classic car market with people having cash on hand but nowhere to go and spend it. David informed us that fast Fords particularly benefitted with many younger people buying, unseen, cars that had once adorned their bedroom walls on posters when they were younger. Having sold over 70 vehicles during this time, only one buyer returned his purchase. This was a Chevrolet Corvette, the only fault being that it was too small for the large purchaser to fit in it.

The classic car business has recently been hit by the rise in interest rates but, as people have adapted to these new rates, sales have started to recover as prices for many cars have reduced, particularly at the high end. Interestingly, he tells us that the increase in use of automatics and the onset of electric vehicles has increased demand for manual cars.

Selling successfully is all about having the right stock

He does buy what he likes, as well as what makes other enthusiasts happy, which is why the first floor has a few Subarus for sale including a rare S201 Impreza which, apart from being the ugliest (David's description) car for sale, is one of the most expensive. He admits to Mustangs, E-Types and Lexus as being some of his favourites. Most of the stock is within the £20K-£60K price range with Jaguar F-Types, Mustangs, Aston Martins and BMWs mixing with older cars like the Alfa Romeo GTV6 2.5, the GTV Coupe, Daimler SP250, Datsun 240Z, Fiat 124 Spider and many more.

In the showroom entrance next to possibly the oldest car present – a Morris 8 2.0 Special – sat a beautifully restored 1959 Ford Consul 375 Deluxe in Kenilworth Blue. Probably the best example around today and one which has received the most hits on the website. That kind of restoration would cost many thousands, but it could be yours for £34.5k.

I can't sign off without mentioning another showroom standout – a classic 60s/70s jukebox. But this was one with a difference for, instead of playing the old vinyl singles, it had CDs in the rack. As David explained, he has a large collection of CDs and this was the ideal location for them to be seen and heard – the music is piped around the building. The jukebox was not as old as it appeared, though; in fact it was new and had been built to order. They cost around £5,000 if you are interested.

After a great morning, it was time to go, but I'll leave you with a few photos taken during our visit.

Neil Shanley





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Jag WAGS and Tail Wags

Remember that we 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 we also have many other interests.

Not only were the tongues wagging on Tuesday's Jag Club night in January, but so were the tails.



All tails and tongues were in full wag on Tuesday as our club was treated to a wonderful talk on the good work carried out by the volunteers for Guide Dogs.

We were entertained by Sara and 9-month-old Dylan, her labrador, and also Rick with Valiant, another 9-month-old black labrador.

Sara told us all about the wonderful work the guide dog volunteers do to train the dogs to become fully fledged guide dogs. She also explained the wider picture of what happens when a dog doesn't quite make the grade of "guide dog" but is still highly trained. It could be that they don't like leading in harness. They can then become a "buddy dog" to a child. More information can be gained by looking on the website at www.guidedogs.org.uk/getting-support/help-for-children-and-families/buddy-dogs-for-children/



WAG tips for training your own 'buddy' at home

The WAGS were impressed with the training tips they could pick up from these volunteers. For example, the dogs are trained to go to the toilet in a designated area with a one-word command. Many WAGS were taking notes to perfect this training at home – and not necessarily involving animals.



Other useful training tips on “obedience” and “getting the dog to listen and carry out instructions” were noted by the WAGS. However, this was thought to be a more advanced level which might be difficult to enforce. Whether a harness could be applied was debatable, but WAGS are encouraged to report back with any new techniques they may discover.

Liz Croxson




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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

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