

Essex Thameside News



Nº 219, July 2025

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Chairman's message

Steve Rider

chairman@jecessexthameside.co.uk

Hello Essex Thameside Members,

We are now halfway through the year and the pace of things, like the current temperature, shows no sign of abating.

At the time of writing, members are preparing to attend the annual show at RHS Hyde Hall. Organised by our neighbours, the Jaguar Drivers Club Area 33, it is invariably well attended with our club supplying at least twenty of the three hundred plus cars normally in attendance.

The preceding weekends have seen club members attending the Hatfield Heath show and also the Sandringham Pageant of Motoring in Norfolk, details of which can be found later in this Newsletter.

Preparations are under way with our plans to support the Police Sports Club fun weekend at our Chelmsford base. Arranged for us to attend on Saturday 26th July, we will be supplying some games, including a coconut shy, to assist the Sports Club with their fundraising efforts. Similarly, we are hoping for a good turnout from members as it's an ideal opportunity to present our cars.

We are also finalising proposals for our trip to the

continent later in the autumn. Our Lester Magness has just returned from a fact finding trip to northern France and we shall be discussing plans for a tour centred on La Rochelle.

Closer to home, we will also be discussing with members a return visit to the Cotswolds. We recently undertook a tour of the northern part of the area, arranged by our Vaughn High, which without doubt proved to be one of our most successful trips ever. If you weren't fortunate enough to be part of that group you can get a taste of what you missed by reading part one of the report later in this Newsletter, prepared by our Neil Shanley.

As previously reported our membership numbers are continuing to increase and this month we are very pleased to welcome Derek Adams and Danny Howard to our ranks, owners respectively of splendid series 2 and series 3 XJ6s.

Tuesday 29th July is the date of our next club night in Chelmsford. We are planning to take advantage of the lighter nights and warm weather by having a barbecue in the club garden. It also provides us with the perfect opportunity to show off some of the cars we spend so much care and attention on. So, we hope you will get your pride and joy out of the garage and join us then.

Happy motoring,

Steve

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Events Diary

Club nights start at 7.00pm on the last Tuesday of every month (except Tuesday 23rd December 2025)

Shows, Events and Visits

6 th July	Classic Car Show at RHS Hyde Hall, CM9 5JQ [<i>Contact Lester</i>]
13 th July	Orsett Classic & Vintage Show, Orsett Showground RM16 3JU [<i>Contact Lester</i>]
22 nd July	Joint JEC Essex / RREC East Anglia midweek visit to Barnards Farm, Brentwood [<i>Contact Richard</i>]
26 th July	Display at Essex Police Sports & Social Family Weekend, Chelmsford CM2 6DT [<i>Contact Lester</i>]
2 nd August	Visit to Biggin Hill Spitfire Factory (<i>fully booked</i>) [<i>Contact Vaughn</i>]
13 th August	Visit to the Museum of the Past, Bentwaters [<i>Contact Ian</i>]
24 th August	Lavenham Classics, Suffolk CO10 9QT [<i>Contact Ian</i>]
7 th September	Classics at Glemham, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 0BT [<i>Contact Ian</i>]
14 th September	The Big Barleylands Classic Motor Show, Billericay CM11 2UD [<i>Contact Lester</i>]
6 th December	Annual Christmas Bash, at Pontlands Park Hotel [<i>Contact Neil</i>]

Others - for information only

6 th –7 th September	Beaulieu International Autojumble
12 th –14 th September	Goodwood Revival, West Sussex
14 th September	Maldon Classic Car Show, Promenade Park, Maldon CM9 5JG
8 th –10 th November	Lancaster Classic Motor Show at the NEC, Birmingham

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The Orsett Classic Car Show & Family Festival

Sunday 13th July 2025

Orsett Showground

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Power of the Past

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**LAVENHAM CLASSICS -LAVENHAM RECREATION GROUND, BRIDGE STREET ROAD, LAVENHAM
SUFFOLK, CO10 9SH, SUNDAY 24th AUGUST 2025, 11.00am-16.00 Hrs**



We last attended this event in 2024. There features some great car club displays with some good concessions in a very pretty village with nice pubs, hotels and restaurants all within easy reach of the showground. For more information, please take a look at www.lavenhamclassics.com

The event is organised on behalf of Lavenham Community Council, a registered charity, who will process your entry and manage payment, and issue tickets for the event. The organisers have appointed Eventbrite to co ordinate all activity. The fees are only £11.55 per car.

Entry forms

There is no need for Entry Forms – you can now register and pay via Eventbrite. It also means that there is no need for ticketing and passes. You can now use a ticket application on your mobile phone or print off at home to bring along on the day of the event. 2025 entry is by registration including payment via Eventbrite. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lavenham-classics-motor-show-2025-registration-1362687788859?aff=odtdtcreator>

If you would like to attend, please confirm your attendance and make the payment directly via the website and once arranged please advise Ian Croxson our club Secretary who will co-ordinate our club display area directly with organisers.

Ian's e mail is ian@thecroxsons.com or via Mobile Phone# 0747 7785005

Buy tickets online at www.classicsglemham.org.uk

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Insurance: think you've got it covered? Well, think again...

Following a rather wet but wonderful Scenic Car Tour trip along the very Wild Atlantic Way, all but one of our cars and passengers are now safely back on UK soil. However, this cannot be said for everyone in our group.

Two Porsches, an XK, an XJS, a Mercedes 500SL, an Austin Healey 3000, a Mazda MX5 and a Maserati 3000GT all returned safe and sound. But one Aston Martin was last seen languishing in Galway.

Unfortunately, one of our group was taken seriously ill on the second day. As it turned out, if you are having heart problems then Galway is a good place to have them. The ambulance arrived within 15 minutes of the emergency call and the patient was admitted with a plethora of tests carried out immediately. In the following four days a pacemaker was fitted, but unfortunately this was coupled with instructions not to drive for a further 5 days.

Options were investigated. After the initial shock, the wife (who was accompanied by some close friends on the trip) was looked after and taxied to and from the hotel to hospital, one reason being that she couldn't drive their 2024 V12 car. Not because she was unable, but because she had no real idea of how to blip the car open and access the boot, let alone get behind the wheel.

This led to a series of issues:

PROBLEM 1: how could she visit the hospital and subsequently get to where they were due to stay? **SOLUTION:** friends gave her lifts until free,

charity-funded accommodation was provided next to the hospital.

PROBLEM 2: What was to happen to the car while the patient was in hospital? **SOLUTION:** the hotel reception were given the car keys (dodgy?) and allowed the car to be left in their car park for a week.

PROBLEM 3: What would happen should the patient not be able to drive or should need to be repatriated via other means? **SOLUTION:** Medical Insurance would cover the personal repatriation.

But what about the car? **BIG PROBLEM 4:** The car had not broken down and therefore the "breakdown insurance" refused to cover its repatriation. Their medical insurance said it was not their problem - the small print said nothing about repatriation of cars. What about Aston Martin assistance? Yes they would repatriate the car, but only at a cost of £3,800! No thanks.

Have any of us thought about this situation? During the many (often) rainy drives around Ireland, Ian and I had time to ponder this scenario and talk to others.

SOLUTION: make sure before you leave on any trip that a companion you are travelling with is willing and able, in an emergency, to drive the car home. Let them have a practice beforehand and get them insured. This could save a lot of stress.

If anyone knows of an insurance policy that would cover this scenario, please tell me or the editor so that we can share it in the next magazine!

Liz Croxson

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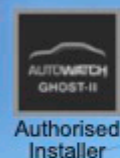
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Cotswolds Tour 16-20 May, 2025: Days 1 and 2

After Vaughn High's enthusiastic review of his and Julie's times in the Cotswolds, and listening to his proposed agenda for a members' group weekend there I, like many others at a wintery club night, were convinced to join the planned trip. As a result, on Friday 16th May, 17 cars and 33 members set off for the Cotswolds.

On our way to our Cheltenham hotel, stop-off venues were arranged, the first being The Farmers Dog public house near Witney and Burford. This secluded pub was heaving and even had attendants helping with car parking.

Upon entering, you are greeted by a tractor hanging from the ceiling in a very spacious but full pub. However, the outside area was big enough to land a small plane, so plenty of unoccupied benches were available there.

Why was a rural pub so busy? Well, had I been watching the latest series of Jeremy Clarkson's Farm on Amazon Prime, I would have known!

It was then an easy trip onwards to Clarkson's Diddy Squat Farm Shop near Chipping Norton. And yes, it is just like on the "telly", with plenty of locally-sourced food and drink. Sadly, I was too full to partake in one of his "home-grown" beef burgers.





The sun was still lighting the sky as we made the final part of the drive to our hotel for a four-night stay in the Premier Inn, Tewkesbury Road, near Cheltenham. It was within easy reach of local facilities and, just as importantly, had a large car park. The staff were few but helpful and friendly. With regard to the rest of the hotel, let's just say that Lenny Henry couldn't have stayed in it, but probably Basil Fawlty did! This glitch was soon forgotten because our evening meal was booked at 'The House in the Tree' restaurant/pub, just a short Uber ride away. The service and locally-sourced food there was excellent.



Day two was as well planned as the first, with a "Road for Today" driving route visiting sites of interest along the way. There was too much to include in just one day's driving but, like us, many members chose their preferred stopping zones on the way round. Cleeve Hill gave an excellent viewpoint over the Severn Vale, with the Black Mountains and Malvern Hills in the background.





Moving on through Winchcombe, we stopped at Sudeley Castle – home of Henry VIII's surviving wife, Katherine Parr. After Henry was dead and buried, Vaughn tells us she later married Sir Thomas Seymour, Lord High Admiral and brother of Henry's third wife – Jane Seymour. (I think I saw her in "Live and Let Die"?!). We didn't do the castle but took tea in the shop.



Driving on, other places of interest included Snowhill Manor, home of Charles Wade, Broadway Tower – an 18th-century folly which, by chance, was flown over by a Spitfire whilst we were there, and then Chipping Campden. This was a charming 14th to 17th-century village boasting some very impressive properties. Walking along the High Street was to travel several



centuries back in time. In its centre was the Market Hall, built in 1627 to enable the women of the town to sell their home-grown grocery produce in a sheltered environment.





We parked behind and broadly parallel to the High Street and were intrigued to see through a set of high metal gates a collection of cars. The owner had seen us parking the two Jags and invited us in to have a look. In the spacious front garden and garages you could find a race-prepared Datsun 240Z, an early VW Beetle, an Aston Martin, a Lotus, a McLaren and a very rare 1960's Lancia Appia Coupe with Pininfarina bodywork. It was formerly owned by the Lancia Club Chairman.



A fascinating day's drive made even better with dinner at The Old Spot, yet another local gem unearthed by Vaughn and Julie's clearly extensive research.

Next month; the Classic Motor Hub, Warwick Steam Railway and the Morgan Factory Tour.

Neil Shanley



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Christmas 2025 at Pontlands Park Hotel

Those who attended our 2024 Christmas Dinner and Disco at Pontlands Park all requested a repeat in 2025. So, you will be pleased to hear we are doing exactly that.

The venue has offered us places at 2024 prices and so the Club has pre-booked four tables of ten place settings each. Here are the details:

DATE: Saturday 6th December

VENUE: Pontlands Park Hotel, West Hanningfield Road, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 8HR

TEL: 01245 476444

TIME: 19.00 hrs (TBC)

COST: £69.50 per person

Dress: Smart to Party (Black Tie can be worn)

Menu: TBC

Should you wish to stay the night, the hotel has 35 rooms with prices ranging from £171 to £243 per room per night.

Already, we have over 30 members and their partners who have expressed their interest so, if you would like to be added to the list, please email neilshanley@btinternet.com with your name and how many places you require. The Club has reserved 40 places, so please pay your deposit to the Club at your earliest convenience to guarantee your place(s). The monies can be paid direct to the Club via bank transfer (details below), or at club night by cash or cheque payable to Jaguar Enthusiasts Club Essex Thameside.

CLUB BANK DETAILS;

NAME: Jaguar Enthusiasts Club, Essex Thameside

SORT CODE: 60-11-15

ACCOUNT: 54186439

Please specify Xmas Bash 2025

We hope to see you there!

Neil Shanley



A Day at Sandringham

Less than a week after our Cotswolds trip, many who took part were on the road again to the Sandringham Pageant of Motoring in Norfolk. The trip was fully booked and again Vaughn and Julie High can take credit for a well-organised outing.

Most members made the journey on the Saturday staying the night at the nearby Premier Inn which was very good, especially if you booked a Premier Plus room, which for some reason I did.

Whilst at the hotel, Vaughn ably assisted by other members went under the bonnet of Geoff's Mark II again, this time to repair a leaky brake reservoir. Geoff had to drive all the way to the hotel on the gears with little braking assistance. However, with suitable tools and spares, our intrepid members fixed it. Memo to Geoff – "Do some servicing!"

Sunday, Show Day, started with mixed weather, but soon brightened to become a glorious day. The show was large with cars of all ages and value on display, dealers, resto companies, food, craft stalls and much more.



It is a well-advertised event held in the extensive grounds of the Royal Family's Norfolk retreat. Around 14 members' cars took part and a special mention to Chris and Marise for bringing their Mark I and to Richard for his Daimler Conquest Drophead.



Other car clubs were represented with the Bristol Owners Club behind us and Cambridge Area of the JDC who were displaying generally newish cars not far away. Mini and Land Rover clubs were also present. Dealers were also on hand to sell you a classic. Kim Cairns, local to the area had a varied display of wares – all in top condition. Their black rubber-bumper 1980 MGB with 64K on the odometer, full history, overdrive and one of the last of the line was tempting, even at £14,995. Certainly a little more affordable than the '78 Sable over Sand XJC 4.2 coupe from the same dealer. With 67,000 miles this big cat came with only four previous owners and had been fully recommissioned with original handbook, book pack, service record and lots of receipts and invoices – yours for an optimistic £39,995. Anglian Car Auctions showed some equally smart buys, their 50's Zephyr Zodiac was a rare treat.

In the mixed parking a white Bentley Mk VI caught my eye. Repatriated from California, it had a straight six 4.5 litre motor and a top speed of 105 mph. These models together with their Rolls equivalents were the first to be made with factory bodies. Previously specialist coach builders supplied the body of choice to the purchaser. A beauty with snow white leather. In contrast, the rather less stately Oldsmobile Rocket 88, a 60's Cadillac and other US machines were examples of what was on sale around the same time

across the pond. Other stand-outs included a Facel Vega HK500, an Armstrong Siddeley with a "sit up" Sphinx mascot, an Alfa Romeo Montreal and a very nice Vauxhall Viva Deluxe.



It was not all about cars, however, since Sue and I booked a tour round Sandringham House – and what a fascinating "family home" it is. It is passed down from monarch to monarch. Currently it is one of King Charles III's residencies – his Great Grandfather, George V and Grandfather George VI both died there. Don't spend too much time there, Charles! The site has been occupied since Elizabethan times with a Georgian Mansion (what else?) built there in the 1770's. It was bought by the then Prince of Wales, later Edward VII as a home for him and his future wife, Princess Alexandra of Denmark. He had it almost totally rebuilt completing in 1900 and has served as a private royal residence ever since. It has therefore played a prominent role in Royal Life. Elizabeth II made her first televised Christmas message from here and the family gather here for Christmas and morning church. She opened part of it to the public in 1977 to mark her Silver Jubilee. Unlike other Crown properties, say Buckingham Palace, Sandringham is personally owned by the Monarch. It was worth the money to tour the parts open to view and to listen to the knowledgeable Tour Guides. Sadly, no photography was allowed, but we were able to photograph some of the exterior elements, including some of the Royal Cars. I would recommend a visit next time you are near.

Why not come to our next show or trip? We would love to see you.

Neil Shanley



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