



Colne Valley Classic and Vintage Club Newsletter

The CVCVC was formed in 1989 to encourage interest in Historic, Vintage, Classic Cars and Motorcycles



January 2022



April 2019 Cento Miglia, wet lunchtime break with Peter Twitchett's immaculate Riley RMF taking centre stage

In This Month's Newsletter

- Future Club Events
- Editor's Space Filler
- December Christmas Lunch at the Cricketers
- November Club Evening - Motoring Themed Quiz
- Guess the Car
- September Club Evening – Talk by Rosemary Smith with Michael Hipperson - part 3
- November Midweek Lunchtime Meeting at the Thatcher's Arms Mount Bures
- How's This for Initiative
- Members Letters
- Gordon's Goings On

Editor's Intro

I hope you and your families are keeping safe and well. Coronavirus seems to be playing peaks and troughs with our lives. For the second year Christmas gatherings could be in doubt. Hopefully families and friends will still be able to meet up, albeit with precautionary measures in place.

An absorbing range of articles this month, including the December Christmas Lunch Review, November Evening Meeting Motor Themed Quiz, arranged and compared by Bob and Janice Chaplin, a most enjoyable event hopefully to be repeated next year. Rosemary Smith's Evening Talk concludes this month covering the 1962 Le Mans race, Monte Carlo and Safari Rallies, plus the Renault Grand Prix Track Day. There is a unique Essex based 'Guess the Car' this month.

Several CVCVC members were recently subject to a fraudulent scam, I thought I was up to speed on internet scams, but this one nearly caught me out; details can be found in the Editor's Space Filler.

A reminder that it's time to renew your CVCVC 2022 Membership before 1st January. Renewal forms were enclosed with the December Newsletter, however, due to the Club's Bank reorganising their charity status accounts, they are not currently accepting on-line payments, members are asked for this year's subscriptions to be paid by cheque.

Stay Safe Chris Sharman

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

In line with the Government's lockdown requirements, the CVCVC has commence monthly Midweek Lunchtime meetings and Evening events. Members will be informed through the CVCVC Newsletters and Parish Notices if there are changes to the Government regulations.

Jan 19 Club Evening – Wednesday 8pm, Speaker - Stuart Black - The Dagenham Heritage Collection. Halstead Football Club CO9 1HR.

Jan 26 CVCVC Committee Meeting Wednesday 7.30pm. Halstead Football Club CO9 1HR.

Jan 27 Midweek Midday Meet Up – Lamarsh Lion, Lamarsh CO8 5EP.

Feb 16 Club Evening – Wednesday 8pm. Speaker - Peter de Rousset-Hall - Motorsport Photography part 3. Halstead Football Club CO9 1HR.

Feb 24 Midweek Midday Meet Up – Red Lion, Sturmer CB9 7ZH.

Feb CVCVC Winter Run Date & Details TBC.

Mar 16 Club Evening - Wednesday 8pm, Speaker - Richard Humphries - History of the English Silk Industry. Halstead Football Club CO9 1HR.

Club Information

The CVCVC is open to all enthusiasts with an interest in vintage and classic cars and motorcycles

The CVCVC Committee

Chairman	John Goodman
Deputy Chairman & Events Co-ordinator	Stuart Black
Treasurer	Chris Harman
Secretary	Geoff Broad
Membership Sec.	Roger Martin
Newsletter Editor	Chris Sharman
Parish Notices Editor	David Singer
Webmaster	Bob Chaplin
Club Safeguarding Officer	Julie Ingram

CVCVC Membership

Club Membership is open to enthusiasts with an interest in vintage and classic cars and motorbikes. Membership details can be obtained from Roger Martin

Website

The Club's website can be found here:

www.colnevalleycarclub.org.uk on it are pages of club and local classic car related events. There are links to other relevant sites and further information. Past copies of the Newsletter can also be found here.

The CVCVC and Electronic Media

eNewsletters

The majority of members now receive this newsletter, on a monthly basis, by email. If you receive the black and white copy by post and would like to receive the full colour edition by email, for home printing, then please contact Roger Martin.

Electronic mailings

Regular updates are sent out with reminders of lunch meetings and information on our evening speakers. Additionally, these include more details of forthcoming club events and activities. To receive these, please make sure Roger Martin has an up-to-date email address for you. Finally, please make sure that any spam filter is set to allow the email address.

Club Articles

The Newsletter always requires articles, so please forward details to the editor on your vehicle's motoring experiences, event reviews, or restoration and technical stories. New feature ideas are always welcomed.

February Newsletter

Would you please forward articles by email or post before Monday 11th January.

Chris Sharman,

DISCLAIMER

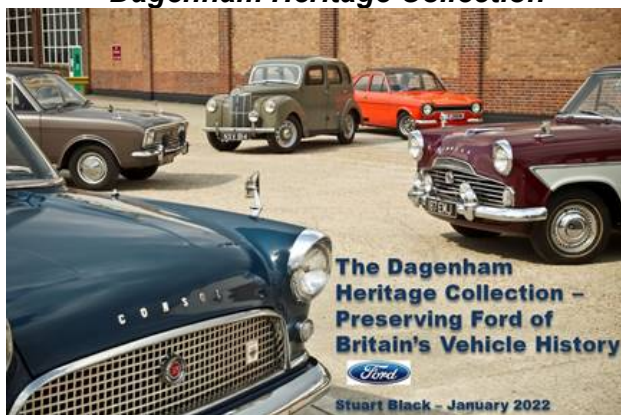
The views, opinions and any technical advice printed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Committee or Editor and should not be taken as such. The CVCVC accepts no responsibility for the results of following contributor's advice.

Future CVCVC Events

The Club have been successful in arranging speakers for our 2022 Club Nights from February through to May and there will be more to come later in the year.

The January slot is always a difficult one to fill after Christmas and unfortunately we have not been able to find a speaker who's available.

Club Evening, January 19th Dagenham Heritage Collection



Rather than just having a Noggin n'Natter on a winter's evening, Stuart Black has agreed to reprise his talk on the Ford Heritage Collection at Halstead FC on January 19th.

This was originally given in April 2017. There were members who were unable to fit into the cramped White Hart on the night and there may be new members who would wish to hear about Ford's history in the UK through the cars in their collection at Dagenham where Stuart works as a volunteer.

If you did make it back in 2017, please note that it's the same talk.

February 16th Club Evening Peter de Rousset-Hall Motorsport Photography part 3



Peter has been a guest speaker twice on our Club Evenings.

Both captivating evenings with amazing photos. Once again, Peter will show us some of the stunning photographs that he has taken of racing by different marques, classic and current, from this year's Goodwood Revival

Event. Peter is often invited to take photographs and does so from parts of the circuit few of us are allowed to enter.

Editor's Space Filler

CVCVC Members Scammed in Financial Fraud

On December 6th, I received an email, supposedly from one of our CVCVC members, who I know well. (I've omitted the person's name)

Good morning,

I hope this email finds you well, I need a quick favor from you.

I should have realised something was wrong – favor spelt the American way. Anyway, I replied and received this message –

Thanks for responding, I am sorry for bothering you with this mail. I need to get a GOOGLE PLAY GIFT CARDS for a friend of mine, she is down with cancer of the Liver and it's her birthday today. I promised to get it for her. but I can't do this now because my knees are giving me problems as well. I am going up and down one step at a time. This method is neither graceful! Or fast!, and I tried purchasing online but unfortunately no luck with that. Can you get it from any store around you? I'll pay back. Kindly let me know if you can handle this?

Await your soonest response,

Kind regards (name omitted)

Still believing this was genuine and wanting to help the club member, I went on the internet to see if I could purchase a GOOGLE PLAY GIFT CARD and email it to the unfortunate seriously ill friend on the member's behalf. However, with my limited computer knowledge, I couldn't see a way of obtaining and emailing a Google gift card over the net. I emailed the member and explained the difficulties. Shortly after my wife Brigitte informed me that I could buy a Google Card through Amazon and email on to the lady.

With this information, rather than send another email, asking for the friend's details. I phoned the club member, who surprised me by saying this was a Scam by someone (possibly from Canada), who had obtained several club members addresses and if I had successfully purchased the Gift Card this would have gone to the fraudsters email address and bank account!. It seems several people had been approached this way! Checking the original email, I realise now that the incoming email address wasn't the member's one on my register.

So, lesson, hopefully learnt, always check incoming email addresses for authenticity.

Chris Sharman

CVCVC Christmas Lunch at the Cricketers Fordham Heath

Good attendance at 36 and all seemed happy with food and service. Given Covid Omicron, probably the most remarkable thing was that nigh-on everyone who had booked to attend actually turned up on the day, which was great for both organiser Stuart Black and the Cricketers Pub.



36 Diners, can you recognise yourselves and other diners?

3

Most diners came in their everyday cars, although there were a few classics Keith Dunn's Gilbern Invader Estate and Rob Davie's Morris 1000. There were also some modern classics; Roger Martin's MGF, Graham O'Connor's Fiat Coupe, Chris Watson's Bentley and John Goodman's modern MG TF. John and Geraldine even braved the weather to drive to the Cricketers with the hood down!



Report and photos supplied by Roger Martin

CVCVC November Club Evening Motoring Themed Quiz

This really was a brilliant evening, Quiz Masters Bob and Janice Chaplin produced a series of questions based on motoring, but with a twist, alternative knowledge was required!

Twenty-two members turn up at the Halstead Football Club Room, lower than expected, but understandable since Coronavirus still lingers on.

There were four teams – Magnetic Majors, Old Codgers, P6 and Reverse Gear. With five rounds, each with ten questions.

To give an idea of the questions, I have selected a question from each round –

Round 1 – Designers – Who designed the original early sixties Ford Classic Capri?

Round 2 – Roads – Who met their end on State Highway 154?

Round 3 – Music – “Jessica” is a track by the Allman Brothers Band; what is it famous for?

Round 4 – Films – In Pretty Woman, what car can't Richard Gere drive because it has a stick shift, but Julia Robert can?

Round 5 – General Knowledge – In Churchill Manitoba, what is it illegal to do with your parked vehicle?

Answers to the above questions on page 7

The Magnetic Majors were the winners by a few points, with the team taking home a bottle of wine each, with the Old Codgers taking home the wooden spoons.

A great evening, perhaps the CVCVC Quiz Night should become an annual event!

Reviewed by Chris Sharman

Guess the Car



Two photos for this month's Guess the Car feature. A specialist sports car from the 1960s currently having serious maintenance.

I'm probably giving too much information when I point out the backward sloping rear window, mimics the Ford Anglia.

Contact the Editor with your answer. (note the new email)

September Club Evening Talk by Rosemary Smith Hosted by Michael Hipperson Part 3



Continuing Rosemary's Talk -

Le Mans 24 Hour Race

Rosemary mentioned while driving for Rootes in the early sixties, the Competition Manager Norman Garrad entered her name (R Smith), for the 1962 Le Mans Race. Since women were not allowed to race at this circuit, he knew the entry would be cancelled when the drivers arrived to register at the circuit. Rosemary's Le Mans rejection made headline news in several papers, providing Rootes with considerable publicity, especially since the Sunbeam Alpine of Peter Harper/Peter Proctor only finished 15th and the Paddy Hopkirk / Peter Jopp Alpine failed to finish the race.

Monte Carlo Rally



Rosemary competed for six years in the Monte Carlo, with mixed results. The 1966 Rally was remembered for the Mini Coopers finishing 1st, 2nd & 3rd, but were later disqualified along with seven other cars for allegedly having non-standard headlight bulbs. Promoting the Citroen DS21 driving by Tolonen Pauli to win the Rally.

This disqualification also included Rosemary's Hillman Imp, where she had initially gained a Coupe des Dames.

Safari Rally 1974

This was the second African Safari Rally that Rosemary had competed in, held in April, covering over 4,000 miles in five days. Her co-driver was Pauline Gullick. The car used was a Datsun 1800SSS saloon, strengthened to tackle the toughest rally in the world.



The roads were poor with endless obstacles, wild animals, broken down lorries and buses, plus torrential rain turning the

roads into muddy rivers. One stage calculated at 82 minutes took over 13 hours, delaying all competitors.

Stranded cars were bumped out of the way. Rosemary with a marker pen would draw a swastika on the side of the Datsun after every car moved out of the way. The Datsun had been provided with a platform over the rear bumper for co-driver Pauline to stand on for extra traction in muddy conditions.

Rosemary said there were worrying moments with the local Masia tribesmen, who sometimes threatened them, she would rev the engine to boiling point, open the bonnet, remove the radiator cap and the scalding water and steam would scare away the tribesmen with Rosemary's witchcraft!

On one night stage, Pauline admitted to being lost, they had no idea where they had driven and which direction they were heading for, but somehow they arrived at the stage control. Although in the pre-rally reconnaissance they hadn't been within 100 miles of this area.

With the following night stage, the road led to a river with a broken bridge. Pauline checked the depth of the river with a stick, hoping there was no crocodiles. They chanced driving through the water after ensuring the windows were fully closed!

Rosemary mentioned that after driving for days without regular sleep, she started to see pink elephants and would immediately stop the Datsun. Pauline confirmed there was no elephant, this happened a couple of times. Once again Rosemary saw an elephant and thinking she was hallucinating, carried on driving, only to be told by Pauline to emergency stop. That time it was real, an elephant covered in pink mud!

The Rally finished in Nairobi, with 16 crews competing the course, they came home in 16th place to collect the Ladies Prize.

Not knowing the Irish National Anthem, the rally organisers played "It's a Long Way to Tipperary"!

Formula 1 Grand Prix Drive

Rosemary's last tale of the evening involved driving a Formula 1 Renault Grand Prix Car, at the incredible age of 79.

A chance meeting with Renault Marketing Director James Boyer in 2017, sowed the seeds for arranging a future drive in one of Renault's Grand Prix cars. The event was to be filmed as part of Renault's celebrations to mark forty years of Formula 1 turbo engine cars.

Shortly after, preparations were in hand for the drive to take place at the Paul Ricard circuit near Marseille. Rosemary had a purpose made Renault logoed racing suit made. She flew out to the Hotel Castellet, which became her base. The following morning at the circuit she met Alain Prost and a swam of Renault team mechanics and film crew. Following a tour of the circuit, numerous form filling and fitting for a six-point harness, the day was over. The next day preparations commenced with a drive around the circuit with her instructor Tom Crooke, in a Renault Clio RS. The next stage was to drive a Formula Renault single seater for six laps under strict observation. Rosemary admitted she was nervous, but fortunately she was considered capable by the Renault and track officials for driving the Formula 1 car. A lovely surprise was the arrival of her former rallying co-driver Pauline Gullick.



On the actual drive-day, Rosemary mentioned being tall, made sliding into the Grand Prix Renault cockpit difficult with very little arm and leg room. One of the mechanics pointed out the red button to be activated in case of fire, releasing fire retardant foam! In addition, there were safety cars, doctors and an ambulance in case of an emergency! The helmet had built in headphones and her instructor Tom Crooke was able to offer advice on moving off, changing gear and when to accelerate and brake. Rosemary knew many celebrities including Jeremy Clarkson, who had stalled their Grand Prix cars and she was determined to succeed.



Rosemary drove fifteen fast laps around Paul Ricard, she had to concentrate driving the single seater while listening to the helpful instructions from her earphones. Arriving back at the pits, the Renault Sports Team and film crew gave Rosemary an amazing applause for the honour of becoming the eldest person ever to drive a Formula 1 car on a racetrack. The remaining day was spent celebrating the event, interviews and further filming, a day to remember.

Reviewed by Chris Sharman

25th November Midweek Lunchtime Meet Up at the Thatcher's Arms Mount Bures

Twenty-five diners arrived at the Thatcher's Arms for lunch plus James Portway calling in for a drink. Roger Martin, attending the lunch, mentioned that he heard no complaints, indeed quite the opposite, and personally found the food good and the service prompt. Anita, the manageress, was also very positive about the experience when he spoke to her afterwards.

There was a very good turnout of CVCVC classics, the weather was cold but sunny prompting harder types such as Graham & Ann O'Connor's and Brian Gibson & Sandy to arrive with car hoods down.



Brian Gibson's MG TF

How's this for Initiative – Bicycle Powered Petrol Pump



Foster Jones's Humber 14/40 and Kevin Milner's MG YA



James Portway's Jaguar E-Type 2+2



From L-R, Martin Brown's Morgan Roadster, Si Holder's Austin A30 & Graham O'Connor's Mini Scamp



Roger Martin's MGF & Mike Wikins's Lancia Fulvia



Tony Seabrook's Morris Minor

Report and photos from Roger Martin

December 1970: Due to the electricians strike, the petrol pumps at White's Service Station, Ongar were out of action until the innovation of the converted bicycle for manual pumping. The garage offered quadruple stamps for anyone wishing to pedal themselves.

Green Shield Stamps, now that's a name from the past.

Feature supplied by Roger Martin

Members Letters

Hello Chris

I was intrigued by the attached article which appeared in "Classic Car Weekly" a few weeks ago regarding George 'Chips' Allen who lived and worked in Halstead for his entire life and who died at the age of 94. Interestingly, and somewhat amusingly, this august publication seems to believe that Halstead is a village but perhaps we should forgive that misconception as the newspaper is based in Peterborough! –

Model T Hoard Raises £52,000 for Charities

The family of the late classic car collector raised £52,000 for Cancer Research, the British Heart Foundation, Essex and Herts Air Ambulance, the RSPCA and the Danaher Animal Home.



Avid car enthusiast, George who died aged 94, lived and worked in the Essex village of Halstead. Having worked for his family's scrap metal business, he became a well-known figure in the local historic vehicle community, acquiring a fondness for Ford Model Ts and displaying them at nearby shows. George willed his entire cache of cars, including four Model Ts, to museums after his death. Unfortunately, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, no venue could take them on, instead his family decided to sell the cars at auction and donate

the proceeds to the good causes that George supported. Before commission, Colchester based sale room Reesman Dansie,

which also handed the sale of Princess Diana's Ford Escort Ghia MkIII (CCW, 16 June), sold George's collection for £57,900; £52,000, which will go to his chosen charities.

Reesman Dansle spokesman, Lewis Rabett said, "these cars represented a lifetime's collection and were very close to his heart. George had owned some of these cars for more than 20 years and it was nice to pass them on to another generation of car enthusiasts"

With acknowledgement to Classic Car Weekly

The article states that George's family had a scrap metal business and that he became "a well-known figure in the local historic vehicle community" but, to my knowledge, he was never a member of CVCVC and, similarly, I do not recall ever meeting him or, indeed, his collection of Model T Fords. Of course, our former Secretary, Fred Walder, owns, or owned, a Model T Ford, but I wonder as to whether any of our other members knew George Allen.

**Kind regards
John Goodman**

Hello, again, Chris

As you may have read or heard, the former club racing driver turned motoring journalist, Tony Dron, died a few weeks ago.

A number of our members are probably unaware that Tony Dron gave a talk to CVCVC some years ago although, equally, those who are more long-standing members may recall that the Garden Room at *The White Hart* was literally full to bursting at the seams with members lined against the walls, sitting on the floor or, if you were extremely lucky, sitting on your partner's lap!!

The talk had been arranged by the former joint newsletter editors, Sally Langley and Nick White, although I have no idea as to how Sally had managed to contact this illustrious speaker except that, at the time, I believe she was involved with the racing side of the Alfa Romeo Club.

For my part, I certainly remember Tony Dron as being extremely tall (well over 6ft and matching David Singer!) and giving us a most entertaining and amusing insight into his career in club racing.

Therefore, I attach hereto a copy of Tony Dron's obituary written by the inimitable Marcus Pye in a recent issue of "Autosport". *Obituary To be published in next month's Newsletter Ed.*

I remember Tony Dron initially from his articles in the 1960's car tuning magazine, Car and Cars Conversions. A great motoring period, enabling mundane saloon cars to have improved performance and handling. Ed

Hi Chris

I had to transport a Christmas tree for Ann immediately after the CVCVC Xmas lunch and, given it was probably too tall for my 4WD and my MGF was already warmed up from the Cricketers lunch, I simply dropped the hood and stood the tree on the passenger seat.



I did get a few double-takes from pedestrians as I drove to her house!

**Kind regards
Roger Martin**

November Club Evening Quiz Answers

Round 1 – Designers – Who designed the original early sixties Ford Classic Capri? **Colin Neale.**

Round 2 – Roads – Who met their end on State Highway 154? **Bonnie & Clyde.**

Round 3 – Music – "Jessica" is a track by the Allman Brothers Band; what is it famous for? **Top Gear Theme.**

Round 4 – Films – In *Pretty Woman*, what car can't Richard Gere drive because it has a stick shift, but Julia Robert can? **Lotus Esprit.**

Round 5 – General Knowledge – In Churchill Manitoba, what is it illegal to do with your parked vehicle? **Lock your car in case someone is chased by a Polar Bear!**

Gordon's Goings On, January 2022

Strange to be thinking about next year, but I'm sure we all be pleased to see the back of 2021.

It's ironic, that the travel industry is whingeing about the restrictions, when it's clear that they and the airlines in particular, are responsible for spreading a deadly disease around the world in record time.

Keeping the old car and bikes tucked up and the batteries topped up is about it for the moment. I am finding my old K100 difficult to manage, so I am, very reluctantly looking for a good home for it.

It's encouraging to see that speakers are being booked for next year and that our committee are looking to the future. Let's hope we can enjoy all the events. We owe the committee a thank you for keeping things going, as I know from helping with the bike clubs, it's a thankless task, made much more difficult by the restrictions.

We managed a couple of rides in November, and the club nights have been well attended, so the enthusiasm for biking is alive and well. It just takes a bit longer to get all the gear on this time of the year!

I see Marshalls are selling up their car business to one of these online dealers. I have fond memories of all the hours I spent with Peter Baldwin, with my Mini on their rolling road in the centre of Cambridge.

As I write, Lewis has done an excellent job in getting on terms with Max Verstappen for the World Championship in the last couple of races, with the last race now being the decider. Max has shown a ruthless and in my opinion, a dangerous approach, to go for his first world championship. Let's hope he doesn't adopt the Ayrton Senna tactic applied to Prost in their last encounter, and that no one gets hurt.

The Moto Gp champion is 22 years old Fabio Quartararo and he had a good run, but next year he might find Marquez back on form.

World Super Bike has been my viewing of choice this year and although Toprak won the championship, Johnathan Rea gave him a run for his money finishing just 13 points behind and the racing between them has been spectacular. Scott Redding managed third place, so two Brits doing very well.

I would love to get to Le Mans again and if any of you are thinking of going, then I can recommend Lycian Events, run by a couple of Porsche Club members and Motor Racing International. Both been doing it for years and nice people.

Finally, we have had to be cautious for this last year which is why I only turned up at a couple of events, but hopefully next year will be different and we will get to see you all.

Gordon Levett

Wanted – CVCVC Newsletter Editor

After nine years as Editor. I intend to stand down from this position after the New Year. I will still be a committee member and this will ensure a smooth handover of the Newsletter to a new Editor. I'm sure there is an excellent Editor, just waiting in the wings. Please contact me or the Committee to discuss the pending vacancy. Chris Sharman