

Classic Chat

The monthly e-magazine of Amigos del Coches Clasicos

Merry Christmas



Editorial

Well, here we are at the year's end and what a year it has been for our club!

Thanks to our organisers we've had a packed year of well attended events; membership has grown month by month, the club has been in the press and on radio and then we finish off with a 'bang': a fantastic Christmas Lunch with the highest attendance ever recorded at any club event!

But we're not resting on our laurels! Oh no. We have lots of events lined up next year including a three day trip to Baza area, runs organised by new members and some old favourites too (runs, not organisers). Additionally, there are new ideas in the melting pot which will be added to the calendar during the year.

It doesn't stop there! Ray, our own 'techie whiz' is working on an improved website to include a Blog so there are lots of things to look forward to in 2016.

So, thank you all for your support – it's you, the members, who make the club what it is!

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QUICK QUIZ

Answers on page 11

1. At what speed would Father Christmas' sleigh need to travel in order to reach every house in the world on Christmas Eve?
2. When did the Queen deliver her first televised Christmas speech?
3. How many Christmas No.1s did the Beatles have?
4. How many Wise Men does the Bible state visited the baby Jesus?

Welcome to new members:

Trevor and Paula Doyle

We hope your membership will be a long and happy one.

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Q. What did the English teacher call Santa's helpers? A. Subordinate Clauses

Magazine editor Paul Gough. Last date for copy 12th of each month. 'Stop Press' date 13th of each month. Target issue date 14th/15th of each month.

LAST MONTHS 'GUESS THE CLUB MEMBER'

We have a new winner this month! Sue Fox correctly spotted that the nonchalant chap leaning against the Renault 4L is our own Joel Darget. Well done Sue!



Joel writes, "This car was granted to us by Renault in 1967. Back then the company sponsored a foundation (Renault Routes du Monde) which granted 10 cars every year to young students with an interesting travel project for the summer. Selection was first on file, and then by interview, all of this managed by the Club des Explorateurs Français (famous people like Paul Emile Victor or Haroun Tazieff you may have heard of). There was an average of 300 applications and only 6 or 7 team selected. Our project was a "Tour de la Méditerranée". The cars were officially given by the CEO of Renault at the Pub Renault on the Champs Elysées where the picture has been taken. In the end we made two half tours, because Israel and its arabic neighbours went at war in July (the 6 days war)".

TALES FROM THE MOTOR TRADE

By Paul Gough

On Saturday mornings I often found myself serving petrol on the forecourt. On one occasion, a lady drove up to one of the 'pumps in a nearly new Ford Cortina Mk1 and asked for the tank to be filled.

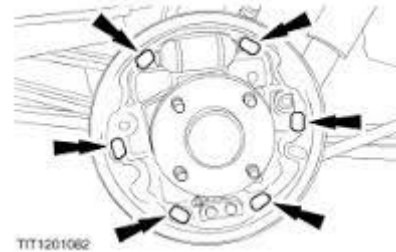
When the tank was duly filled I went around to the driver's side to collect the money. The lady wound down the window and said, pleasantly, "You know, I'm really disappointed with this car, it uses so much petrol, I always seem to be filling it up".

Looking into the car, I saw by-chance that the lady had hung her handbag on the choke control, which was pulled out a little way. This was tricky and tact was necessary (not always available to a 16 year old). "I'm sure an improvement could be gained by checking the choke is fully home", I said. "If you were to put your bag on the parcel shelf, it would be easier to check that it's all the way in".

"Oh, that's what it is then. "The knob was like that when I picked up the car from the salesman and it was a convenient place to 'pop' my bag".

TECH TIPS

With drum brakes, a squeak can sometimes be heard when applying the brakes. If the squeak is heard when the car is stationary and in time with pressing and releasing the brake pedal, the cause is simple and can easily be fixed.



The brake shoes rest against "pads" or abutment points on the back plate. If they are dry, then as the brake shoes move against them a squeak will be heard.

Simply apply a smear of grease on each point before refitting the brake shoes and this will prevent the noise.

Trade trick. To save removing the shoes a smear of grease can be applied like this: get a small split pin, open it out and make a 45 degree bend on one end. Apply a small amount of grease to this end, gently prise the brake shoe away from the brake plate, against their retaining springs, and carefully apply the grease by placing the end of the split pin between the shoes and the back plate.

You can see where the abutment points are, with the brake shoes fitted, by looking at the outside of the back plate. Simple!

FACTS ABOUT OUR CLUB IN 2015

Did you know?

- Twelve new members joined.
- There were 26 scheduled events (including monthly meetings).
- The best attended event was this year's Christmas Lunch with 42 members and 17 classic cars.
- We had 6 press releases in four different publications and a mention on local radio.
- We had 10 articles printed in Almeria Living.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

As you will see from the Calendar of Events 2016, our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is to be held on Thursday 4th February. Of course, this is a really important meeting. The Committee urge everyone to attend as it provides the opportunity for members to have a say in how the club is run and influence plans for the future.

As is customary, the current committee stands for re-election after its period in office. Every paid up member is entitled to offer themselves for election, or re-election, to a committee position of their choosing.

A summary of all committee vacancies will be included in January's (2016) Classic Chat, together with notes on the process of election.

A formal notice and agenda for the AGM will be emailed out to members, by the President, in due course.

Meanwhile, if you would like to discuss, informally, joining the committee please contact David Fox (see page 2 for details).

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

Another packed meeting where Malcolm reminded members about arrangement for the Christmas Run and lunch on Saturday 12th December.

We also welcomed Trevor Doyle who came along to meet us and will be joining soon.

Thanks to Andy Graves and his thespian contacts, we also welcomed William White and Chrissie from the Indalo Players. The theatre company are looking for classic cars to feature in publicity for a forthcoming production. Various cars were discussed and it was decided that Chas and Judy's Vitesse would suit nicely for the hairdresser character (!) and Bill and Silvia's XK for 'an up and coming author'.

Photos shoots are to be arranged and we will have mention in programmes and a presence in the foyer to advertise our club. This is great as we can introduce ourselves to a different audience (excuse the pun).

Ray told us about a 'Blog' facility available via the website, which he is constructing at present. Yet another exciting development for our club as we move forward. Watch *Classic Chat* for more details!

This month's quiz, organised by Bill, was won by Sue Fox, Mike Birtwistle and John Cooper. Well done all.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2016

January:

Thursday 7th – Club Meeting, Hotel Overa

Sunday 17th – Monthly Run Out

WHAT CAR?

Last month's *What Car* is a VW Brasilia, which was designed and manufactured in Brazil between 1973 and 1982. The Brasilia was designed to replace the Beetle and although resembling a VW 412, the Brasilia used a floor pan of a Karmann Ghia with the well known 1600cc flat four air cooled engine.

The vehicle was available in 3 door, 5 door and van variants. Well done if you named it!



Photo from the past – Guess the Club Member



This month we have a lady member, looking like a film star, taken in 1975. Now, who on earth can it be?

First correct answer emailed in will earn the lucky winner one of our fabulous club prizes at January's meeting.

WHAT CAR?

This car was seen at a recent Spanish classic car concentration.

But what is it? Careful, look closely!

Answers in next month's Classic Chat.



Behind the badge (see page 6)

The DeSoto logo (a Chrysler brand) featured a stylized image of Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto who led the first European expedition deep into the territory of the modern-day United States (Florida, Georgia, and Alabama), and the first documented European to have crossed the Mississippi River. (wikipedia)

The A to Z of classics.....with a difference

D is for DeSoto

For those of us with a liking for Americana, a treat indeed: the 1961 DeSoto – last of the line!

DeSoto was founded by Walter Chrysler in 1928 to be a mid price competitor with Buick, Studebaker amongst others. Originally cheaper than other group products (inc Dodge and Plymouth) this was later reversed in the early thirties.

DeSoto had mixed fortunes after the war in a very competitive market place, but sold fairly well until the late fifties when sales started to decline.

By 1960 the writing was on the wall and DeSoto as a brand disappeared in 1961. It certainly was of striking appearance with a great dash!



Specification

Engine: V8. 5913 cc

G/box: three speed manual or auto

Brakes: drum front and rear

Length: 17ft 10ins

Width: 6ft 7 ins

Height: 4ft 6 ins

Produced: 1960 – 1961, 3034 units

Top speed 110mph

0 to 60mph: 8.5 secs

Available as saloon and coupe.



VISIT TO SRS VEHICLE SERVICES

On 5th December we were welcomed to SRS Vehicle Services, by owners Barry and Lianne. The company operates from modern premises near Los Carasoles and offers a full range of services to motorists.

The company recognises and shares our interest in classic cars and is keen to offer a range of services particularly suited to the classic car movement.



By 11.00am all 15 classics had assembled and parked amongst the olive trees adjacent to SRS's premises. Word had got out as it wasn't long before members of the public also turned up to look at our cars.



Members enjoyed the chance to catch up with each other and many were clearly seen looking at the classic Standard 8 and Victor FB currently offered for sale.

We were soon invited to look around the workshop facilities, during which Barry talked about the services his company offers. These included wheel balancing (using special 'clip on' weights for alloy wheels), computerised wheel alignment, alloy wheel refurbishment, powder coating, professional welding plus the usual full range of workshop services, not forgetting body repair and paint spraying. Barry can also transport your car from and to the UK, including a 'covered' service.

A steam cleaning service and a 'one stop shop' for historic plate matriculation was mentioned, but plans for the former seem to have 'stalled'. Barry went on to describe his plans to offer 'a ramp for rent' where owners can hire a bay with a ramp and work on their cars. Help will be available at extra cost.

After a barrage of questions we left Barry and Lianne to lock up and headed off the Restaurant Kalevala for refreshment and discussions about our visit.

Continued,

There is special rate for club members bringing their classics along for work. The normal rate (35 euros/hr) is reduced to 25 euros for the first hour and a 'pro-rata' cost for each 15 minute period thereafter.

So, what did we think? One member said it was a shame we weren't introduced to the head mechanic. Also, some were surprised that the two classic cars were not clearly priced. Although many members do their own maintenance, it could be that SRS can be of use in the future in, one way or another.

Barry and Lianne's telephone number is 950 449 095 and their website is: www.srsvehicleservices.com

Also, check out their facebook page for photos of the morning.

NB. Amigos del Coches Clasicos has no links, formal or otherwise with SRS and no recommendation is made or implied.

Q. Why is The Great British Bake-Off like the nativity? A. Because the Star is in the Yeast.

OUT AND ABOUT

On 6th December the Herald made an appearance at the 11th concentration of AVCT at Totana. I would say about 120 classic assembled in the main square and I was impressed by the paint work on many restored cars.



Jags, Rollers and Mustangs joined Seats, Citroens and Mercs for a really mixed assembly.



Q. What is the best Christmas present ever? A. A broken drum set - you can't beat it!

AND, WE END THE YEAR ON A HIGH!

The Christmas Run and Lunch on 12th December

(Photos: Dickie Bird)

What a fantastic turnout for our annual Christmas Lunch this year, with no less than 42 Amigos enjoying the day together!

Our clan assembled at the Hotel Overa for coffee and then set off together for a run to Villaricos, via Huerca Overa, Pulpi and San Juan de los Terreros.

The run took us through varying countryside, with mountains on each side and concluded (for some, anyway) with a section of the ever popular coast road between San Juan and Villaricos.



Seventeen classic cars of all types assemble at Los Conteros restaurant.



Welcomes and chatter abound as members gather for a complimentary club drink!



With an efficient seating plan in place, all get comfortable for an excellent meal,



Complete with crackers and novelty hats.



President, David Fox thanks organisers Malcolm and Jean Smallwood for a superb event.

Without out doubt a highlight of the year and a fitting way to bring 2015 to a close. Well done to Malcolm and Jean for putting so much effort into a really enjoyable and fun time!

Q. Why is Boxing Day so called?

A. its origins go back to Victorian times when tradesmen would receive a 'Christmas Box' from their wealthy customers to thank them for their service during the year.

ONWARD, INTO 2016!

Well, with such a great year almost behind us, we can't sit back on our lorals.

Not many clubs of our size will have such a full calendar before the New Year even starts, with meetings and events every month.

This is wholly due to members stepping forward (without arm twisting I add) to volunteer and organise events. A special thank you goes to those new members who are having a go for the first time!

Next year we have tried to spread events throughout the week to include weekdays and weekends, so members don't feel excluded due to work commitments.

Next year, there are events planned with overnights. These take a great deal of organising and so a special thanks to those involved.

But it doesn't stop there. We hope to add extra events and 'stuff' throughout the year, as the opportunity arises. So keep watching the Calendar of Events in *Classic Chat*.

DRIVING IN SPAIN

A really interesting and useful site is n332.es

This site is provided by the Guardia Civil and is in English. It provides all sorts of information and is worth a look. You can also register to receive updates.

For example, I didn't know that if you tow a trailer you are required to have a fire extinguisher in the car

Did you know that you must carry a spare wheel or other method to ensure the mobility of the vehicle in the event of a flat?

Did you know that it isn't forbidden to drive in flip flops or high heels, but in the event of an accident it would be considered as driving recklessly.

Thanks to David Fox for the 'heads-up'.



Well, I bet we are all missing this eh?

Have a great Christmas and a Healthy New Year

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016

DATE	DAY	EVENT	ORGANISED BY	TEL No	COMMENTS	MORE INFO	
7 th January	Thursday	Club meeting	David Fox	663738498			
17 th January	Sunday	Monthly run out	David & Sue Fox	663738498			
4 th February	Thursday	Club meeting	David Fox	663738498			
21 st February	Sunday	Monthly run out	Ray & Sybil Perkins	646691813			
3 rd March	Thursday	Club meeting	David Fox	663738498			
9 th March	Wednesday	Monthly run out	Peter & Karen Underdown	950167156	See the almond blossom! Sierra Las Estancias		
7 th April	Thursday	Club meeting	David Fox	663738498			
10 th April	Sunday	Monthly run out	Joel & Florence Darget	661825274	Circular tour from Los Gallardos		
5 th May	Thursday	Club meeting	David Fox	663738498			
tba May		Monthly run out	John & Debbie Valentine		Galera way	Dates to be confirmed	
2 nd June	Thursday	Club meeting	David Fox	663738498			
June	Tuesday and Wednesday	Monthly run out	Malcolm & Jean Smallwood	607719691	2 day midweek event. Baza Lakes area	Dates to be confirmed	
7 th July	Thursday	Club meeting	David Fox	663738498			
July		Event to be organised nearer the time depending on weather conditions					
4 th August	Thursday	Club meeting	David Fox	663738498	No run in August		
1 st September	Thursday	Club meeting	David Fox	663738498			
25 th September	Sunday	Saliente Run	Paul & Mel Gough	694429029	Lunch at monastery		
6 th October	Thursday	Club meeting	David Fox	663738498			
22 nd October	Saturday	La Alfoquia Community Fair & Show	Paul & Mel Gough	694429029	Static show at Fair		
3 rd November	Thursday	Club meeting	David Fox	663738498			
20 th November	Sunday	Monthly run out	Chas & Judy Longhurst	684215018			
December		Xmas Lunch / Club meeting / run out					

NOTES

Quick quiz answers. 1. 2,340,000 mph 2. 1957. 3. Three: 1963, 1965, 1967. 4. None. Matthew's Gospel simply refers to "wise men".