

Classic Chat

The monthly e-magazine of Amigos del Coches Clasicos

E is for Elva Courier



This month's 'A to Z of classics with a difference', features the Elva Courier. Above is an interesting period photo of the Courier Fastback See page 6 for the feature.

Editorial

Yesterday, good news was received regarding one of number, Cathy Hillier, who is very poorly in hospital. In case you didn't receive Robbie's email, I have re produced it on page 7. Encouraging news, indeed!

We start the year on a positive note in other ways also, with David and Sue's run on Sunday and a new initiative for 2016. Curious? See page 8 for more details.

And there's more to come...but you will have to wait until next month!

Meanwhile, enjoy the magazine; there should be something for everyone.

Paul

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QUICK QUIZ

Answers on page 8

1. What item is missing on all of the Queen's Rolls Royce and Bentleys?
2. How many cars (as a percentage), produced by Rolls Royce, are still on the road?
3. As a percentage, how much time in a cars life is spent parked?
4. What was unusual about the inventor of cruise control used in cars?

Welcome to new members:

Peter and Georgia Hubble
Peter Burton

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

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LAST MONTHS 'GUESS THE CLUB MEMBER'

Bill does it again! No sooner than 'Classic Chat' hits the ether, an email whizzes in from Bill Geldeard, who correctly identifies the mystery member as our very own Secretary, Sue Fox. Well done, Bill



I'm not sure where the photograph was taken, but the only difference I can see between 'then' and 'now' is the MG had a colour change!

TALES FROM THE MOTOR TRADE

By Paul Gough

For many years, after leaving school, I worked in a number of Ford Main Dealers and became familiar with typical faults and eccentricities of the marque.

Not all jobs coming into the workshop were easy to fix, but this one was! A new Ford Anglia 105E was booked in with the complaint that a buzzing noise could be faintly heard when the engine was running.

With the car in the workshop, the buzzing noise was plain enough and was linked to the speed of the engine. The car had no radio fitted, but it sounded just like interference from the ignition. Looking around for inspiration, the glove box was opened to reveal a small transistor radio, switched on and the aerial pushed home. This was the source of the troublesome noise.

The repair was given a 'non-scheduled' time of 10 minutes, so not much bonus there then!

I can even remember the make of the radio: a Benkson.

TECH TIPS

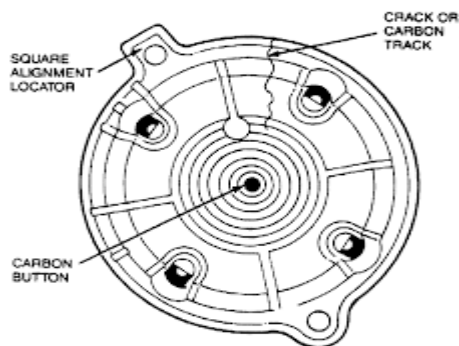
Distributors (1)

The distributor plays an important role in the health and reliability of our engines. Although all mechanical (unless fitted with electronic ignition) the distributor is quite a complex bit of kit and needs careful and routine maintenance if it is to perform properly.

Let's start at the top with the cap. Thoroughly check for signs of cracks and 'tracking' which can cause misfire. Check inside and outside. Make sure it is thoroughly clean.



The carbon bush, or button, inside contacts the rotor arm. Many are spring loaded; check that the bush doesn't 'wobble' in the cap and it is free to move on its spring. Some bushes are of a fixed type in the cap (the rotor arm will have a spring loaded blade to make the contact). Check the bush is secure and not loose. They have been known to fall out when the cap is removed.



Check the terminals for erosion and 'gauging' also carbon build up. Excessive gap / resistance between rotor arm and terminal will reduce the power of the spark when it arrives at the plug gap. The golden rule is 'if in doubt, renew the cap'.

Next time: rotor arms and distributor shafts.

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

Not a chair to be had at this month's meeting, in fact full to bursting. Great!

We were pleased to welcome Ian Jones to our meeting and also Peter Burton and Peter and Georgie Hubble, who joined on the day. A flying visit was also made by a couple, who I hope we will see again.

Although Bill Geldeard couldn't make it, he was given his prize earlier for 'guessing the member'. The prize this time was in fact worth having, as it was a jar of Sue Fox's excellent marmalade. Any more jars provided for club prizes will be welcome, although they may not find their way to the meeting!

John Cooper provided us with an interesting quiz, which, among other things gave the opportunity for members to tease 'yours truly' about his much loved Lada! Their names 'vent on zer list'. It was Paul and Wendy's time to choose, in awe, from the fabulous prizes on offer, as winners of the quiz. Well done both.

David informed the meeting that Cathy Hillier was very poorly in hospital. We all hope that Cathy feels better soon and send our best wishes to Robbie.

****STOP PRESS SEE PAGE 7****

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2016

January:

Sunday 17th – Monthly Run Out

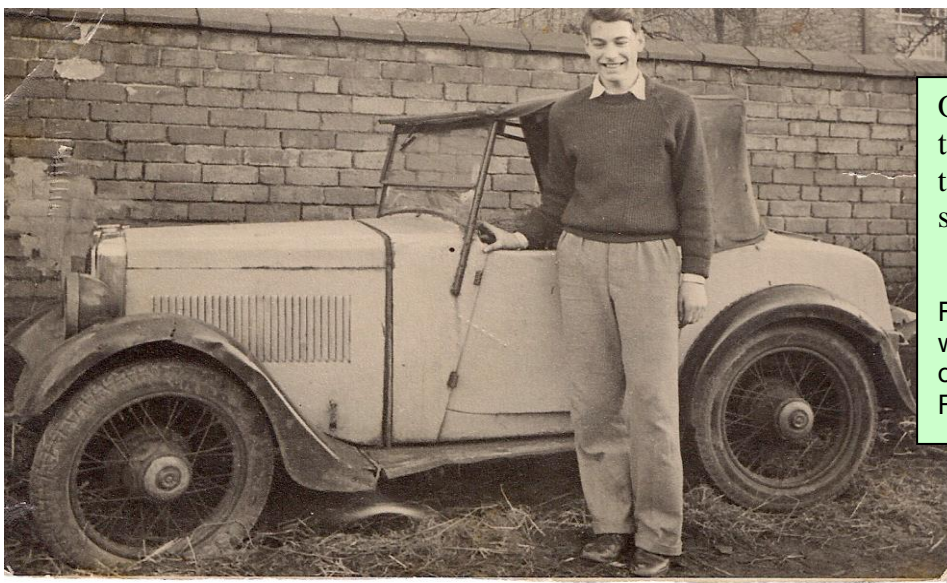
WHAT CAR?

Last month's *What Car* is a Renault 3, produced between 1961 and 1962. Effectively, it was a 'low rent' version of the Renault 4 launched at the same time, and was fitted with a smaller 603cc engine. Economies included painted bumpers and grille, no door cards or windscreen washer, amongst others. Note the absence of the window in the rear quarter.

Well done if you named it!



Photo from the past – Guess the Club Member



Ok, so far guessing who is in the 'frame' has been easy. Not this month. Even Bill will struggle!

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

The club's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is to be held on Thursday 4th February 2016. A formal notice will be emailed to all members, by the President, two weeks prior to the meeting.

As is customary, the present Committee stands down after its period in office, enabling every paid up cub member to stand for election, or re-election, for any committee post.

A full list of committee positions are shown below, together with a summary of the role. All the roles shown are currently delivered by the existing committee.

Any member wishing to stand for election should contact the Secretary, Sue Fox, without delay.

Any member wishing to raise issues for debate, including items which may impact existing club rules, should contact the Secretary, Sue Fox, without delay and before the Agenda is emailed out. Each item for discussion must have a proposer and seconder.

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.

COMMITTEE POSITIONS

President: To ensure the club complies with appropriate regulations and to oversee the delivery of club activities and policies.

Vice President: To act on behalf of the President in times of absence or when requested.

Secretary: To ensure that proper minutes of all meetings are taken and records maintained.

Treasurer: To ensure that club financial matters are maintained in transparent and proper manner and that financial records, reports and accounts are available for inspection.

Membership Secretary: To maintain records of new and current paid up members and ensure that membership renewal requests are emailed annually.

Webmaster: To develop and maintain the club's internet presence.

Regalia Controller: To ensure adequate stocks of regalia, in line with club policy, and maintain records of purchases and sales.

Event Co-ordinator: To encourage and support the creation of events, shows and other activities, in which members may participate. To facilitate the communication of event details to members.

Magazine Editor: To prepare, publish and issue 'Classic Chat' on a monthly basis.

Press Officer: To promote the club through press releases, articles in the press and advertisements.

Club Printer: To develop and print club Membership Packs, badges and other printed material. To arrange out-sourcing of printed matter when directed by the committee.

Systems Controller: To monitor and update club information systems used by the committee.

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

E is for Elva Courier

Based on 'club' racing and sports cars produced by the Elva company, the Elva Courier was a road going sports car introduced in 1958.

In 1962 Trojan acquired rights to the Elva Courier and moved production to its Croydon works. The inherited Courier design was developed and the range expanded to include, not only a roadster, but a convertible, a coupe, with a reverse slope window and a fastback (see cover picture).

In 1965 rights to the Elva Courier were passed to Ken Sheppard Customised Sports Cars, but production ended in 1968.

Although a low volume mass produced vehicle, it was very popular, especially in the USA and the sports was a very attractive little car.



Specification

Engine: various, inc MG, Riley, Ford

G/box: four speed manual

Length: 12.8ft

Width: 5ft

Produced: 1958 - 1968, 500 units approx



found in www.automobile-catalog.com

Behind the badge

'Elva' is derived from the French "elle va" meaning 'she goes'.

The company was founded in 1955 by Frank G Nichols and initially was based in Bexhill, England. A keen motor sport driver, Nichols' company produced a number of successful sports and racing cars, including single seater Formula Junior 100 and 200 cars.

After financial problems in 1961, a new company was formed to continue racing car production. In the late '60s Nichols sold his interest in Elva and returned to other business interests. The Elva name faded away in 1969 not to be seen again.

**THE BEST WITH ZEST + PRICE WHICH IS NICE
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Telephone - Hastings 51371

www.oldelvacars.co.uk



OUT AND ABOUT

David and Sue Fox sent in some photos from a classic car meeting in Velez Rubio on 13th December, last year.



A nice little Aronde with an unusual paint scheme. It's yours for 6000 euros on Mil Anuncios.

(Photos: David and Sue Fox)

Sunday 3rd January saw Steve and Amanda Holgate, with Mel and me tagging along, at a classic car meeting in Torrevieja. Steve found out about it, although we couldn't find any adverts or promotions.

Anyway, it was worth going as there were many cars well turned out and a good representation of vehicles from across the Atlantic.



This 1957 Chevy Bel Aire was immaculate and had a great dashboard.

A couple of XJS Jaguars, which were for sale, caught our attention, but after a good 'tyre kicking', we walked away. One was poorly turned out and the other had 160,000 miles under its belt and no service history....risky!!

Email received from Robbie and Alex about Cathy Hillier

“Hello all,
Firstly, we apologise for not being able to write sooner. We have had no internet or phone line for the past 3 days. Typical timing, eh?

Cathy has made slow progress and is now responding to treatment. She has been taken off the ventilator and is now breathing by herself with an oxygen mask. They have reduced the sedation to bring her round. Cathy remains in Intensive Care and is therefore still critical.

We are delighted with this news as this is such a positive step. Will keep you posted.

Love

Robbie and Alex”

NEW FOR 2016 (1)

One of the best traditions in our club is the way individuals offer help and advice to fellow members. When things go wrong with our cars it can be a daunting prospect to face alone. But you're never alone in **our** club!

So, this month we launch a new initiative: THE SHARE BOARD. Do you have, for example, a special tool, a piece of equipment or an instruction book, which you would be prepared to loan to a fellow member?

Yes? Okay, great. Just email me (Paul - acquirepg@aol.com) or chat with me at a meeting and I will include your offer on THE SHARE BOARD, which will be included in every Classic Chat. Thanks in advance – it will be really neat to build up a good 'tool store' between us.

The loan arrangements must be agreed between members concerned, one stipulation is that it must be returned in the same condition as when loaned out. (*Amigos del Coches Clasicos* is not liable for any loss, damage or failure to return).

THE SHARE BOARD



Sturdy, universal engine stand. Fully mobile.
Dismantles for ease of transport.
Borrower collects.

Paul Gough. acquirepg@aol.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016

DATE	DAY	EVENT	ORGANISED BY	TEL No	COMMENTS	MORE INFO	
7 th January	Thursday	Club meeting	David Fox	663738498		Completed	
17th January	Sunday	Monthly run out	David & Sue Fox	663738498		See email 11.1.16	
4 th February	Thursday	Club meeting	David Fox	663738498			
21st February	Sunday	Monthly run out	Ray & Sybil Perkins	646691813			
3 rd March	Thursday	Club meeting	David Fox	663738498			
9th 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			
10th 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			
4th and 5th June	Saturday and Sunday	Monthly run out	Malcolm & Jean Smallwood	607719691	2 night away 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			
25th September	Sunday	Saliente Run	Paul & Mel Gough	694429029	Lunch at monastery		
6 th October	Thursday	Club meeting	David Fox	663738498			
22nd October	Saturday	La Alfoquia Community Fair & Show	Paul & Mel Gough	694429029	Static show at Fair		
3 rd November	Thursday	Club meeting	David Fox	663738498			
20th November	Sunday	Monthly run out	Chas & Judy Longhurst	684215018			
December		Xmas Lunch / Club meeting / run out					

NOTES Items in **bold** are changes from last month

Quick quiz answers. 1. Registration plates 2. 75%. 3. 95%. 4. He was blind (Ralph Teetor 1890 -1982)