

Classic Chat

The monthly e-magazine of Amigos del Coches Clasicos

A

is for Austin Atlantic



Happy Birthday, Classic Chat

Editorial

This month, **Classic Chat** celebrates its first birthday! Happy Birthday to us! The first edition began as emailed newsletter but over the months it has developed into an email magazine with features, competitions and of course information on our activities.

To begin our second year we have revised the layout slightly and start a new A to Z series of articles on classics, but with a difference, and without frontiers. We make a good start with the home grown Austin Atlantic, see page 4.

Over the next few months there will be more new articles and other 'stuff' (excuse the technical editorial term), which we hope you will enjoy, and of course many of the old favourites will remain.

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QUICK QUIZ

1. Who invented the Jubilee Clip?
2. Which England Test Match cricketer took the crease with a broken arm in plaster to save the match against the West Indies at Lords?
3. How many original members of the Travelling Wilburys can you name?
4. What does TVR stand for?

Answers on page 7

Parish Notice

Paul Gough's telephone number changed a while back and is 694429029. Can you check your records and mobiles, as some folks are phoning the old number to find Paul's not there.

Joke of the month

There was a little slug making his way home from a late night Disco. As he turns the corner there is a gang of snail bikers with their big crash helmets on. Yep they beat the hell out of him! After a few days in hospital the local Bobby Beagle asks if he recognized any of them, the slug replied "no, it all happened so fast!"

Thanks to Robbie and Cathy Hillier

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.

OUT AND ABOUT



Mr Logo's "T bird" was looking in good shape when spotted outside his shop near Albox. It's either had a paint job or a good "T cut".

A 1960 Thunderbird made nearly £120,000 at Bonham's earlier this year.

WANDERING AROUND THE WEB

classiccarsforsale.co.uk is worth a look. I found a very nice 1950 Alvis TA 14 for £7.5k and a low mileage '67 MG Magnette saloon for only £3400.

<http://weburbanist.com/2012/02/12/tired-out-spains-abandoned-sitges-terramar-racetrack/>
Have a look at this disused race track. Reminds me of Brooklands. Sent in by John Cooper.

LETTERS

Re: Wandering around the web (August 2015).

"Re Authi – I dropped into the Land Rover dealer at Burgos a couple of years ago, and seeing the MGBT on my trailer, the garage owner came out for a chat. It turns out his father established the business and had a BL dealership and he had a full collection of Authi cars including an immaculate MG 1300. Authi assembled body kits sent over from the UK to get around import restrictions, similar to Land Rover / Santana, Fiat / Seat, etc. I was told they built three Minis, 1100 and 1300 saloons badged as MG and the Victoria which was 1100 / 1300 based but with a body different to the UK spec.

"I have seen quite a few Authi at various shows, lots of MG 1100 / 1300 and the Victoria, which is quite pretty compared to the 1100 / 1300 version with some of the styling, probably Italian, reminding me of the Triumph Dolomite."

Andrew Pitts

TECH TIPS

The poor ol' radiator cap is often forgotten and sometimes considered just a simple part of the cooling system. But it's not that simple and does a lot of work.

If one of your engine cooling hoses seems 'squashed' or flattened, when the engine is cold, check the small centre valve on the underside of the radiator cap. This is the low pressure valve which allows air into the radiator as the water cools and contracts. It should be easily pulled down against its spring pressure with your finger and snap back. If all okay here, the hose in question is likely to be faulty and its structure breaking down.



Check the main rubber seal. It should be free from cracks and be flexible. The seal together with the main spring keeps the system pressurised. Any faults here and you will lose water and overheat.

Any doubts...fit new!



Photo from the past – guess the member



The picture's grainy, what a shame,
So help you'll need to guess his name,
In the photo' there's a van,
But what you need's an anagram.

PRUNED TO NEW RED

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

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

See cover picture.

The Austin Atlantic starts our look at classics, which are rare (not necessarily exclusive and expensive), unusual and unloved. We will look for our subjects from all continents, but start with an Austin, which tried to be one of the first 'world cars'

It was hoped this innovative car from Longbridge would sell well in the USA and earn valuable foreign currency and help pay off the national debt resulting from the WW2.

The concept was that of Leonard Lord (then Chairman of Austin) with detailed design by Dick Burzi. Mechanically based on the A70, the body was breathtaking for its time and had many innovative features, including hydraulically operated windows and hood, flashing indicators, fitted radio (some markets) and "jewelescent" paint. On saloons the centre section of the rear window could be wound down from the driver's seat.

Alas, the hoped for popularity in the US didn't materialise: it was perhaps underpowered for them and was in competition with the Jaguar XK120. The car did sell quite well in Europe and the colonies, however.

Perhaps for the US market it was simply not 'English' enough in looks. But what a fantastic car!

Specifications Austin Atlantic A90

Date when launched 1948 Discontinued in 1952

Total produced 7,981

Engine 2,660 cc 88 bhp at 4,000 rpm Max torque 140lbs/ft at 2,500 rpm

Length 14ft 9.1ins Width 5ft 10ins Height 5ft 1ins
Wheelbase 8ft 0ins Track front 4ft 5.5ins rear 4ft 7.5ins

Price ex Works
Convertible Sept 1948 £952 Radio £32

Hampshire fixed head Sept 1948 £597 sliding head Sept 1948 £607 Radio £32

Colours in 1948: Ensign Red with Beige upholstery and Red piping.

Mink Blue with Blue upholstery and Cream piping

Blue with Blue upholstery and Cream piping.

Cream with Scarlet upholstery and Cream piping.

Sea Foam Green with Maize upholstery and Green piping.

AUGUST 22ND – CLASSIC CAR CONCENTRATION AT VELEZ BLANCO



Organised by David and Sue Fox, we met at Velez Rubio and drove on to Velez Blanco to park in the square with various other vehicles. We out numbered Spanish classic cars, although there were many tractors on show.



The cars created lots of interest and many club brochures were handed out to potential members.



After a while, many cars completed a run through the town with a police escort. A relaxing evening spent chatting and enjoying the atmosphere in the street. Hopefully, a regular event in our calendar.

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

Another good turn out for the meeting on **3rd September** with over 23 members and three guests, who plan to join us shortly.

Forthcoming events were discussed (see Dates for your Diary) and options for a Christmas Lunch outlined.

Members shared their views in discussion and by 'shows of hands'. On balance the traditional style Christmas Lunch at Los Conteros, Villaricos, seemed the favoured option and so the restaurant has been booked for Saturday 12th December 2015. More details will be made available nearer the time.

Joel Darget provided a great picture quiz, which resulted in high scores all round. Indeed, the excitement of the occasion resulted in not only the winners but also second and third teams having a rummage in the 'lucky dip' bag. Almost half the meeting, it seemed! Thanks for the quiz, Joel!

Austerity returns next time!

We start a fresh round of quizzes next time with the help of Barry Dennis.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This month's run is on the Wednesday 23rd September. We meet at Hotel Ballabona for a move off at 10.30am. See *!Event Newsflashes!* for more details.

Our premier static show gets closer: Saturday 24th October at La Alfoquia. We will be sending out detailed information in separate *!Event Newsflash!* emails, and this will be a great day out for all the family.

Everyone is invited to enter competitions in Community Fair for crafts of all kinds, home made and garden produce. etc. Specific information about this, including application forms were emailed out on 4th September. Why not join the three members already planning their entries?

A restaurant has been reserved for members to enjoy a menu del dia. The restaurant is only 5 mins walk away. Lunch is at 1.00pm and the cost is 10 euros per head. The menu and a request for choices will be emailed out nearer the date.

We hope to have 20 cars on display this year and this is where you come in. Please let me know a.s.a.p if you can show your car(s). We need to know the number of vehicles to ensure sufficient space. Click the 'Reply' button now! We already have 10 cars committed – how great is that?



WHAT CAR?

So, what do you know about this unusual 'looker'?

All will be revealed next month.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015

DATE	DAY	EVENT	ORGANISED BY	TEL No	COMMENTS	MORE INFO
8 th January	Thursday	Christmas Lunch, and a run out	Chas and Bill	684215018	More info w/c 15.12.14	Completed
21 st January	Wednesday	Social Lunch – El Castillo, La Cinta	Paul G	652297157	Includes 'Mini Run'	Completed
5 th February	Thursday	AGM and Club meeting	David F	663738498	Venue is Hotel Overa. Junction 547, E15	Completed
15 th February	Sunday	Monthly run out	Harry	629529656	Start El Perejil nr Cuevas de Almanzora	Completed
12 th March	Thursday	Club meeting	David	663738498	Hotel Overa	Completed
18 th March	Wednesday	Monthly run out	Ray	646691813	Albox to Olula del Rio	Completed
2 nd April	Thursday	Club meeting	David F	663738498	Hotel Overa	Completed
17 th April	Friday	Monthly run out	David F	663738498	Velez Rubio to Orce	Completed
29 th April	Wednesday	Social Lunch and mini run	Paul G	694429029	Hotel Ballabona to Villericos	Completed
7 th May	Thursday	Club meeting	David F	663738498	Hotel Overa	Completed
20 th May	Wednesday	Monthly run out	Chas	684215018	Sorbas to Tabernas	Completed
4 th June	Thursday	Club meeting	David F	663738498	Hotel Overa	Completed
24 th June	Wednesday	Monthly run out	Malcolm	607719691	Los Gallardos to Turre	Completed
2 nd July	Thursday	Club meeting	David F	663738498	Hotel Overa	Completed
11 th July	Saturday	'At Home' with Malcolm and Jean	Malcolm	607719691	Mojacar	Completed
6 th August	Thursday	Club meeting	David F	663738498	Hotel Overa	Completed
22 nd August	Saturday	Spanish event at Velez Rubio	David F	663738498	Evening concentration	Completed
3 rd September	Thursday	Club meeting	David F	663738498	Hotel Overa	Completed
23 rd September	Wednesday	Monthly run out	Duncan & John	610018818	Start at Hotel Ballabona	See email 11.09.15
1 st October	Thursday	Club meeting	David F	663738498	Hotel Overa	
24 th October	Saturday	La Alfoquia Community Fair & Show	Paul G	694429029	Static show including lunch	See email 04.09.15
5 th November	Thursday	Club meeting	David F	663738498	Hotel Overa	
12 th November	Thursday	Saliente Monastery Run	Paul G	694429029	Lunch at the monastery	More details soon
3 rd December	Thursday	Club meeting	David F	663738498	Hotel Overa	
12 th December	Saturday	Monthly run out & Christmas Lunch	Malcolm & Paul G	607719691 694429029	Lunch at Los Conteros	More details soon

NOTES

Advance dates for your diary 2016:

14th May Wacky Races, Villaricos. Static show at the event for member's cars.

Quick quiz answers. 1. Commander Lumley Robinson (RN), patented in 1921. 2. Colin Cowdray 1963. 3. Bob Dylan, George Harrison, Jeff Lynne, Roy Orbison, Tom Petty. 4. TreVoR: First name of Trevor Wilkinson, company founder.