



Issue No. 3/26

March 2026

COMING UP

Key:

- ⇒ Club event
- ◇ Club attendance as group at a motoring or other event
- Everything else of interest. These items are shown for information only.

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Future Events

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Finding her old car

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April

- ⇒ 16th Committee Meeting—Thames Head
- ⇒ 23rd St Georges Day Run—Ken Hinton 07976 798981
- ◇ 26th Drive it Day

May

- 2nd-4th Lechlade Vintage Rally & Country Show, Clanfield.
- 3rd St Roses School Stroud Wheel Nuts Classic Car Show
- 9th/10th Little Vintage Show, Cambridge

June

- 7th MG's in the Park (Cotswold Wildlife Park) MG cars only. Car & driver free, passengers at group admission rate.
- 6th/7th Nick Mason's open weekend incl gardens with some cars on display. Corsham SN130PX
www.middlewickhouseopengarden.com

Malcolm will be writing a report on Andrew Ives talk next month.

Allan & Abi's Run

The run started at the Gateway Café off the Spine Road South Cerney. We arrived at 10.00 and enjoyed a cup of coffee. The run participants soon filled up and we all chatted . The meal was booked for 1 pm and the run would take about 90 minutes, quite a bit longer than most previous runs. We left at 11.00 and set off, we soon found out we were following a lot of our last months run until we got to Brinkworth where we turned left at the pub and set off across very varied countryside. Luckily Allan & Abi had placed a couple of FCCC orange arrows showing us the correct direction. At about 12.30 we arrived at the pub “The Barge Inn” which is right by the “Kennet & Avon Canal” The pub was very nice with helpful staff and the meals were lovely



More pictures on Flickr

[Click Here](#)

From New Zealand to Orkney: Why we brought this classic car half way round the world



Cathleen Hourie has long coveted an Austin 3-Litre - a classic car that she was introduced to by her first boyfriend.

When she spotted a 1970 model for sale online last summer, she was disappointed to learn that it was part of a collection in New Zealand.

But distance was no barrier to seller Hans Compter, who travelled half way round the world to personally deliver the vehicle to Cathleen in Orkney.

The 86-year-old Dutchman had the car shipped to the Netherlands before making the epic journey to the Northern Isles with it on the back on his vintage Opel Blitz truck.



"The Austin was my first car," Cathleen told [BBC Radio Orkney](#).

"It was bought for me by my boyfriend at the time who had lost his licence, so I could drive him around.

"I got over the boyfriend but I never got over the car.

"I've been the death of three of them over the years and now I'm the kind of sad person who spends her spare time searching for 'Austin 3 litre for sale' on the internet."



The mulberry-coloured Austin which caught Cathleen's eye was part of a large collection Hans has assembled in the Bay of Islands in the north of New Zealand.

He describes himself as a "car idiot" who has spent a lifetime restoring classic cars.

When Cathleen inquired about the Austin on Hans' website PreWarCar, he got right back in touch.

"I thought it was too good to be true and it must be fake," Cathleen said.

"And then when I saw it was in New Zealand, I thought that was the end of it."
Hans splits his time between New Zealand and the Netherlands.

He sent the Austin by container to Rotterdam, and then spent some time fixing it up in his workshop before loading it on to his equally vintage 1970 Opel Blitz truck which has been converted into a car transporter.

"I had never been to the north of Scotland and I wanted to see it," said Hans.

"Once I got off the ferry in Newcastle I thought it was just a day's drive to the Orkney Islands but that was a big mistake."

In fact, it took two days for Hans to travel about 400 miles from Newcastle to the ferry port at Scrabster in the far north of Scotland which connects Orkney to the mainland.



Hans' journey was not plain sailing and almost came to an end in the infamously steep Berriedale Braes in Caithness.

With a queue of up to 20 vehicles backed up behind him, Hans pulled into what he thought was a lay-by to let traffic pass. He quickly realised it was a soft escape bed designed to catch vehicles whose brakes have failed on the descent.

The Opel Blitz was stuck fast in the deep gravel bed, almost up to its axles. Hans was there for an hour unsure he would ever get out.

"I want to thank the driver who saw me and came back to pull me out. I thought the Opel might have been damaged but she's fine."

Last Months Competition

Here are the answers to last months picture competition in the order that you view them.

Daimler Double 6. Triumph Dolomite Saloon 1939-1940. Standard Vanguard 1962.

Morris 6 1948-54. Rover 10 Coupe 1938. Standard Flying 10.

The winner, the only entrant was Nibor Relbma (new elusive member) who is looking forward to his drink from Steve Harding. Thanke Steve.



Solution to last months crossword

