



Fellowship Newsletter
December 2024

News and Events from your Fellowship

The Fellowship's committee working hard to build an exciting programme of events for 2025. A list of proposed events is featured in this issue of your newsletter. Some dates have still to be confirmed, but the line-up of activities clearly has something for everyone and includes opportunities for partners to accompany members.

Don't forget, if you have an idea for a Fellowship event or visit, share it with us. We're always looking for good ideas.

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Lots of 'newsy' items in this month's newsletter. We're always interested in your views and opinions on both the news and the Fellowship's activities. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

London lunch - important Birthday celebrated

Over 110 Fellows and their guests attended another "sell out" London lunch in the prestigious RAF Club on Piccadilly. It was our third time at the club but the first time it had enjoyed the much appreciated sponsorship of BMW Park Lane who offer signed up members worthwhile discounts on new BMWs and MINIs – see the item later in this newsletter or check our website for more details.

It was also different and very special in that not only was it the King's Birthday it was actually the 90th Birthday for our own "king" Tony Ball, former Chair and former President.

Careful management kept the arrangements secret from him and his entrance was then accompanied by a standing ovation and his son Michael Ball leading the singing of Happy Birthday.

Photo: Michael Ball and his Dad, Tony.



After an introductory welcome and comments from Chair Peter Cottle and Grace from Hon Sec David Stevens, an impeccably served and, as always, excellent meal was enjoyed in anticipation of our guest speaker, Michael van der Sande.

The proceedings closed with a cheque being presented to BEN's retiring CEO Zara Ross and new incumbent Rachel Clift.

After some closing comments those that still had the energy retired to top up and continue engaging in the Churchill Bar.

A fuller report is featured on the Fellowship's website, together with more photographs. Just follow this [LINK](#) .

Upcoming Events

See below for news of future Fellowship events.

Don't forget you can find events news and host of other information on the Fellowship's website at: <https://motorfellowship.com/>

Visit to Jaguar Land Rover Classic, Coventry – PROPOSAL

On behalf of the Fellowship, Peter Leake, former Chairman has approached Jaguar Land Rover Classic, based at Ryton in Coventry, with a view to having a tour of their superb facility.

To our great delight they expressed themselves very pleased indeed to host a visit to their workshop facilities <https://www.jaguarlandroverclassic.com/>

So, to that end, Peter is looking to see if there is an appetite within the membership for a tour in 2025, most probably in the month of March, and he is asking those interested in attending a visit to drop him a line at pleakey1@gmail.com , so he can gauge the level of interest.

Peter remarked, "I have attended a visit some years ago and it is a must-do for Fellows who are interested in in the heritage of these two great brands, and see how the legends are being cared for.



Fellowship's AGM and Midland Lunch April 16, 2025

Further details will appear at the end of 2024, but in the meantime a date for your diary – 16th April 2025.

We are delighted to announce that we will have Richard Charlesworth MVO as our guest speaker. Richard had a long career with Rolls Royce and Bentley and is a huge fan of all things automotive, and will amuse us with his anecdotes.

Tickets will be priced at £41. Bookings will commence via the Fellowship's website from 1st January 2025



Fellowship's Southwest and South Wales Lunch June 26, 2025

We are pleased to announce that we've booked the Walnut Tree Hotel in North Petherton, Somerset for the 2025 running of this long-standing lunch event.

The Walnut Tree is a lovingly restored 18th Century Coaching Inn, bursting with charm and character, situated between Taunton and Bridgwater. The chef and his staff always provide an excellent three-course lunch and, unsurprisingly, we take a little wine as well !

It's an informal affair, with a minimum of speeches, and more in terms of home-grown humour.

Bookings will commence via the Fellowship's website from 1st January 2025



2025 - Dates for your Diary

(click on the event (when highlighted), to visit the webpage)

March, date tba	<u>JLR Classic Works visit</u>	Ryton, Coventry
April 16th	Annual Lecture	} British Motor Museum, Gaydon
April 16th	Annual General Meeting	
April 16th	<u>Midlands Lunch</u>	
May, date tba	Chatsworth House & Gardens	Chatsworth
May, date tba	Fellowship Golf Day	Woking GC
May (or June), date tba	Visit to HMS Belfast	London
June, 26th	South-West & South Wales Lunch	North Petherton
July, date tba	Visit to Norton Motorcycles	Shirley, Solihull
July, date tba	Thames Valley Riverboat Trip	Maidenhead
August, date tba	Tony Jennings Classic Car Show	Town Thorns
August, date tba	Golf Match v MTGS	Beaconsfield
September 12,13 & 14th	Goodwood Revival "Meet&Greet"	Sussex

October, date tba Bicester Heritage Scramble Bicester

November, date tba London Lunch RAF Club, London

And more activities in preparation – news to follow - keep visiting the Fellowship website !

BMW Group Park Lane & Fellowship of the Motor Industry Partnership

For some years Fellowship Members have been able to enjoy corporate terms on the purchase of BMW and MINI products through the brand's flagship retailer in the UK – BMW MINI Park Lane, and have enjoyed an exceptional level of service.

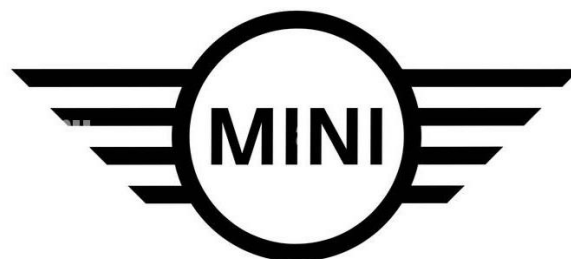
BMW is one of the World's leaders in the premium sector. This is driven by a clear commitment to quality and exceptional products. The brand's portfolio continues to expand and is regularly updated to include the latest technology. No matter which model there is always a clear focus on performance and luxury.

Their electric range, both fully electric and plug-in hybrid are industry leading. With a product in almost every segment, they are well positioned to meet all requirements.

For more information on the BMW-MINI Fellowship Partnership programme please contact the BMW team who will be delighted to assist you.

Email: partner@bmwpartnershipprogramme.co.uk – Tel.: 0370 700 5200

Or visit the Fellowship's website, just follow this [LINK](#)



DVLA faces criticism for poor service to classic car owners

A recent review of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has revealed that classic car owners have been facing difficulties with the agency's services.

Reported in the Daily Mail, the review, commissioned by the Department for Transport, found that the DVLA's outdated systems and processes have led to a less than satisfactory experience for classic car enthusiasts.

The Historic and Classic Vehicles Alliance (HCVA) has long campaigned for improvements to the classic car registration process. They argue that the current system, which hasn't been updated since the 1980s, is outdated and ill-suited to modern classic car restoration and modification practices.

One of the main issues highlighted in the review is the difficulty of registering historic vehicles that have undergone restoration or modification. The current system often forces owners to register these vehicles with a 'Q-plate', which can negatively impact their value and insurance.

In response to the review, the DVLA has committed to engaging with stakeholders and considering potential changes to the registration process. However, the HCVA believes that significant reform is needed to address the long-standing issues faced by classic car owners.

If you are a classic owner, have you experienced problems with the DVLA ? Let us know.



Just some of the vehicles displayed at the Fellowship's annual Classic Car Show.

Steve Young's Weekly Blog

Steve Young, Managing Director of ICDP, publishes a weekly blog with all sorts of topical news of what is happening in the motor industry. If anyone would like to receive it, could you please supply your name and email address to David Stevens, Secretary of the Fellowship of the Motor Industry? His email address is davidbennettstevens@gmail.com.

Steve (*below*) has delivered the inaugural Fellowship Annual Lecture preceeding the 2023 Fellowship AGM and the Midlands Lunch, and followed it up at the 2024 event. We're pleased to learn that he has agreed to join us once more for 2025.



Ecclestone's Racers for sale

Tom Hartley Jnr Ltd, one of the world's most exclusive high-end dealers in classic and historic sports cars and racing cars, has been selected by Bernie Ecclestone to handle the sale of his extraordinary collection of historic Grand Prix and Formula 1 cars.

Ecclestone, 94, was for decades the commercial rights holder of Formula 1, and was therefore the man who made it the global sporting powerhouse that it is today. It is fair to say that his collection of 69 historic Grand Prix and Formula 1 cars is one of the finest ever to have been assembled.

Each and every one of Ecclestone's 69 cars is unique, having been stored away from the public gaze, in some cases for more than half a century. Many of the cars have never been seen since Ecclestone purchased them.



Highlights are Ferraris raced in Formula 1 Grands Prix by legendary World Champions such as Mike Hawthorn, Niki Lauda, and Michael Schumacher, and Brabhams raced in Formula 1 Grands Prix by aces such as Nelson Piquet, Carlos Pace, and, again, Niki Lauda, among them the one-off Brabham-Alfa Romeo BT46B ‘fan car’, which raced only once, victoriously, to win the Swedish Grand Prix at Anderstorp in 1978 by more than half a minute.

Bernie Ecclestone commented, “I have been collecting these cars for more than 50 years, and I have only ever bought the best of any example. Whilst many other collectors over the years have opted for sports cars, my passion has always been for Grand Prix and Formula 1 cars.

“I love all of my cars but the time has come for me to start thinking about what will happen to them should I no longer be here, and that is why I have decided to sell them. After collecting and owning them for so long, I would like to know where they have gone and not leave them for my wife to deal with should I not be around. So I have now decided to move them on to new homes that will treat them as I have and look after them as precious works of art.”

Precious works of art, eh ? It seems a pity that some of the cars haven't seen the light of day for fifty years. Ed.

What do readers think?

100 years on: Last Rolls Royce Silver Ghost sold

The association of Rolls Royce with the best cars in the world began with the Silver Ghost model. Charles Rolls and Henry Royce built thirty seven of its predecessor, the 30 hp models, the first Rolls-Royce car ever produced. They ran well enough, but were far from the luxury, comfort rides the men had conceived.

Their second attempt, the Silver Ghost, so named for the almost supernatural quietness of its motor, was remarkably better. Care and quality were put into every aspect of the motor, reflecting in unprecedented reliability – a Silver Ghost ran 15,000 straight miles without needing repairs – but it also reflected a hefty price tag.

On December 19, in 1924, after close to two decades of production, the last Rolls Royce Silver Ghost was sold.

Unsurprisingly, and considering the amount of engineering put into them, the Silver Ghosts were priced accordingly. At £985, about ten times the yearly salary of an average professional, this was truly a car for the upper classes. A few of the Silver Ghosts survive, meticulously preserved, to this age – still the most expensive cars around, their insured value is around £30 million.



The Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost name refers both to a car model and one specific car from that series.

Originally named the "[40/50 h.p.](#)" the [chassis](#) was first made in 1907 at Royce's [Manchester](#) works, with production moving to [Derby](#) 1908. Chassis no. 60551, registered AX 201, was the car that was originally given the name "Silver Ghost". (*pictured above*)

Other 40/50 hp cars were also given names, but the Silver Ghost title was taken up by the press, and soon all 40/50s were called by the name, a fact not officially recognised by Rolls-Royce until 1925, when the Phantom range was launched.

The Silver Ghost was the origin of Rolls-Royce's claim of making the "best car in the world" – a phrase coined not by themselves, but by the prestigious publication '[Autocar](#)' in 1907.

It's very pink !

With the hoo-hah over the new Jaguar logo finally subsiding, their new electric concept car, the Type 00, which was unveiled in Miami last night, created a fresh storm of comments from critics and supporters of the new look.

“Plenty of critics have already laid into the new design,” said Andrew English in *The Daily Telegraph*, “but I love it. Jaguar needed something striking to justify its wholesale shift to £100,000-plus EVs, and the result is “simply breathtaking” – like something Cruella de Vil would drive in a remake of 101 Dalmatians.”



Andrew English also described many of the features as ‘mad’. “The dashboard display screens can fold away in “digital detox” mode – but it’s all part of the fun. Don’t be surprised if the final car, set for release in 2026, proves more popular than the critics think.”

The new branding had what can only be described as mixed reviews. The unveiling came complete with a car advert with no cars in it, a fresh logo peppered with random upper-and lower-case letters and marketing-babble slogans.

Calling it a ‘complete reset’, design chief Gerry McGovern told journalists at the launch that his team had ‘not been sniffing the white stuff – this is real’.

‘Real’ is a concept car that comes complete with a lunch-box style ‘prism’ that contains ‘totems’ –chocolate bar-sized pieces of precious metal – that owners can place inside their new cars to change its mood and colours.

As baffling as that sounds, once they’re finished with these ‘ingots’, owners will be able to store the ‘prism’ behind a motorised slot in the side of the car.

Former Fellowship chairman and current director of the Jaguar Enthusiasts Club, Peter Leake, commented, “I think it fair to say that when Jaguar showed the new brand teaser to the world two weeks ago, it shocked just about everyone ! Everything from disbelief to horror had the whole of social media in a frenzy, which was exactly what it was designed to do. That keen interest was maintained for the whole period up to the reveal of the new concept car, Type 00, at Miami on 3rd December. After so long of nothing from Jaguar, they came back with a bang and got the world's attention. When the car was revealed, the response towards the Company changed, with people now really starting to take the 'reimagined' Jaguar brand seriously again. The acid test, of course, will be how successful it will be in terms of sales when it is launched in 2026, but against this renewed and fervent interest in Jaguar, one must wish them all success for the future.”

Reporting on the UK press launch, James Baggott of *Car Dealer Magazine* said, “As we edged forwards to get a closer look, I heard one hack quietly mumble: ‘Did Rolls Royce not like that design for the Spectre, then?’ I could see his point – it does look a bit similar (copy nothing ?). Personally, I got more Hyundai Veloster and Chrysler Crossfire love child from it, with a hint of Thunderbirds FAB1. That last bit might have been the colour, but there are definitely some similarities. One car dealer who’s seen the pictures dubbed it the ‘Pink Panther’ – I suppose at least there’s a cat element to that one.”

Jaguar says the new brand will keep just 15% of its previous customer base and it will instead be targeting affluent, young car buyers, the sort of which had never bought a Jaguar before.

Jaguar also says the Type 00 is the ‘physical manifestation’ of its new ‘creative philosophy – exuberant modernism’. And is at pains to point out it will have a range of 478 miles.

(‘Er indoors, looked at the photo and exclaimed, “Lady Penelope lives !” Ed.)

So, what do readers think ? Let us know.



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<http://www.motorfellowship.com>

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