



Fellowship Newsletter

November 2025

Fellowship Reflections

As we approach the end of the year, the Fellowship can review, with some satisfaction, the events organised since January. There have been some familiar favourites but also innovations, with some events outside our usual motor industry theme; witness visits to Chatsworth and Bremont Watches.

Of course, the 2025 programme isn't quite finished, with the upcoming London Lunch attracting, once again, a capacity audience.

However, our focus is most firmly on the coming year, so take a look at the 'upcoming events' section of this *eNewsletter* and, of course, keep visiting the Fellowship's website, where you can see the full details as well as book your places.

<https://motorfellowship.com>

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Fellowship Bursary

It was heartening to learn that the 2024 winner of the Fellowship's bursary, Aaron Linsey, had joined us as a full member, and not just because he reduces the average age of members dramatically !

The Fellowship uses any surpluses created by our activities to support industry causes and, for many years, the principal recipient was our industry charity 'Ben', and we still make an annual donation to them. In recent years, however, the Fellowship has funded a bursary to assist the

studies of an automotive apprentice. We are grateful for the help provided by the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) in identifying a worthy recipient of the Fellowship's bursary.

More about Aaron later in this *eNewsletter* (see *Peter Cottle's comments below*), but work has already started on identifying the recipient of the 2026 Fellowship bursary. This will be announced at the Annual Dinner of the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI), with whom the Fellowship works on this bursary project. That takes place on March 11 next year at the Intercontinental London Park Lane.

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Feedback

It was gratifying, following the call for readers' comments in the last *eNewsletter*, that some members took the time and trouble to make contact, with comments and suggestions for the *eNewsletter* and the Fellowship's activities. It is really valuable, and instructive, to receive such comments, but it makes us hungry for more ! So, come on, make this *eNewsletter* a two-way conversation !

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To ensure that you receive this *eNewsletter*, please add us to your safe senders list. That way, your newsletter will arrive in your main inbox.

Brian Spratt, eNewsletter Editor

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/>

2025 and 2026 - Dates for your Diary

(If an event is highlighted, it is confirmed and you can click on it to visit the webpage)

November 20th [London Lunch](#) RAF Club, London

2026

February/March - Dates TBA Visit to JLR Classic Works - Ryton, Coventry

19th March (TBC) **Tour of Aston Martin Heritage Trust**, Wallingford, Oxfordshire
Tickets go on sale 1st January at £20.

April 1st **Fellowship Lecture, AGM and Midland Lunch**, British Motor Museum,
Gaydon, Warwickshire
Tickets go on sale 1st January at £45, book early to avoid disappointment.

10th May **Prescott Speed Hill Climb**, Cheltenham

13th May **International Bomber Command Centre**, Lincoln
Tickets go on sale 1st January at £45

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

London Lunch November 20th 2025

~~Places going fast~~ - GONE !

The organiser of this popular annual event, Nigel Barfoot, has now advised that capacity has been reached.

Nigel is compiling a 'reserves' list for anyone hoping to take advantage of a late cancellation of a booking. if you'd like to be listed for any returns then please contact Nigel Barfoot on barfoot100@btinternet.com or **07801012201**

The London Lunch is held at the prestigious RAF Club scene of excellent get togethers in recent years.

For our speaker we promise a new experience as ex Olympian and new CEO of Ben, Rachel Clift has agreed to entertain us after, what has always been, an excellent lunch.

We are equally pleased to advise that there is just a modest increase to the cost of tickets at a competitive London price of £85.



What's been happening ? *Report from our most recent event*

Tour of Euro Car Parts, Tamworth

October 22nd

After some early confusion, (who knew LKQ Euro Car Parts has TWO massive warehouses on the Tamworth Business Park), a small but perfectly formed group met at T2 to first enjoy a lunch and then a tour of the 1,000,000 sq foot depot.



Wearing the “clown” toe protector shoes was a challenge – putting them on then feeling a little bit like a deep sea diver as we walked the massive facility split into two groups in the company of two amazingly knowledgeable and enthusiastic guides.

A very impressive business, a great education – especially for those of us with Parts backgrounds and again an opportunity to enjoy meeting and chatting with Fellows.



Our thanks to the LKQ Euro Parts team who made us most welcome, and provided us with a lovely lunch in their canteen. They were very informed and clearly proud of their impressive facility.

Nigel Barfoot

For a selection of photographs from this visit, just click on this [LINK](#)



Photo: Aaron Linsey

Aaron Linsey – The Fellowship’s Bursary Winner

I was really delighted when the winner of the 2024 Fellowship IMI Bursary, Aaron Linsey, spoke to me and said that, if appropriate, could he please join the Fellowship. Aaron is by some margin our youngest member! He was our guest at the 2024 London Lunch, and I was very impressed by how he interacted with other attendees and seemed quite at home among shall I say, “more seasoned members”!

Since then, Aaron has attended our behind-the-scenes tour of the National Motor Museum along with his father, and more recently made the long trip from Essex to join the tour of LKQ Euro Car Parts in Tamworth. He clearly enjoyed the day and chatted away over lunch telling us all about his role at MK Sportscars, based in Braintree.

They provide kit cars for self-build or build customer cars at the factory. (During college Aaron built one of their cars over a two-year period.) Aaron has been very involved with their Cup 200 race cars, at Brands Hatch and more recently at

Donnington – where he and the team had to fit a new engine and gearbox between races!



Photo: MK Sport Durapower

His next Fellowship outing is to attend the 2025 London Lunch coming up on the 20th November where he will have the chance to meet up with several members who he has got to know over the last 12 months.

Aaron has made full use of the Bursary to further his career and when attending a training course funded by the Bursary, he was told about an opportunity which would steer his career into a different part of the automotive industry. Because of this, he is now studying Motorsport Engineering part time (online) with the National Motorsport Academy.

Aaron commented, "I know that if I hadn't won the Bursary I would most certainly not be where I am today, and that makes me forever grateful for the opportunities given to by the Fellowship. Being a member of the FMI has been very enjoyable and informative. It's been great to meet so many people from different sectors of the automotive industry, and I cannot wait to meet more."

Having met and got to know Aaron over recent months it has made me very aware that the Fellowship can also benefit younger automotive people and not just the more experienced. We will continue to watch Aaron's progress in this wonderful industry, and I suspect we will hear more about this very likeable young man in the future.

Peter Cottle

Chair – Fellowship of the Motor Industry

Celebrating 70-year bond between Aston Martin and Newport Pagnell

A unique gathering of more than 100 classic Aston Martin and Lagonda models provided the centrepiece for 70th anniversary celebrations at Aston Martin Works in Newport Pagnell recently.

The heritage home of the British marque and the place where many of its most famous models of the 20th Century were manufactured is this year marking another exceptional milestone: the 70th anniversary of the brand's presence at its site in Buckinghamshire and on Saturday (11 October) owners of cars manufactured during the 50-plus years that Newport Pagnell housed the Aston Martin factory, as well as what was then known as its Service Division, were invited to the site to mark the occasion.



The former global headquarters of Aston Martin Lagonda, a modest mock Tudor building on Tickford Street known affectionately as ‘Sunnyside’ was the focal point for many, with an exceptional selection of DB6s gathered together there.

Meanwhile DB4 and DB5 owners were asked to position their cars in front of the Aston Martin Works showroom opposite Sunnyside with V12 Vanquish, V8 and Lagonda drivers forming their own equally impressive displays around the rest of the Works site.

Add a smattering of DB 2/4 and DB Mk III’s, the odd V550 and V600, and you have every major model built on the site represented.

The Aston Martin Owners Club were present in force, of course, and kindly operated a ‘relaxed concours’ competition on the day, involving a team of scrutineers led by AMOC Chief Judge Michael Reed. Prize-giving at the conclusion of the day’s events saw a number of owners leave with trophies. Meanwhile all those present received a commemorative pin badge, and specially designed poster print, as mementoes of their day.

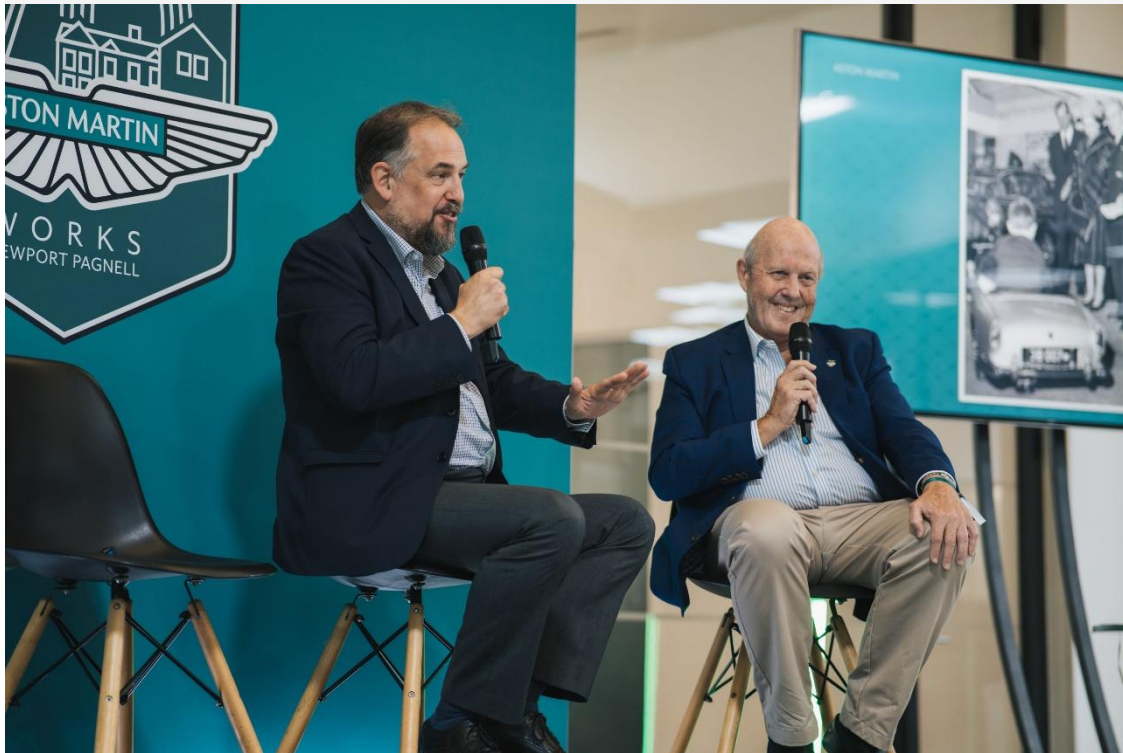


Photo: Aston Martin Historian Steve Waddingham chats with Iain Heggie at the Aston Martin Works 70th anniversary event. Steve is a member of the Fellowship of the Motor Industry.

The Works team ensured every area of the business was open throughout, with visitors able to peek ‘behind the scenes’ in the Modern and Heritage Workshops, Panel, Trim and Paint Shops, witness ongoing restorations and even purchase parts, accessories and souvenirs from a specially-created stand adjacent to the on-site Parts department.

Those with an eye for detail will have seen body bucks and an English Wheel or two as well: all referencing the traditional techniques and artisan expertise that have been handed down at Newport Pagnell for generations.

Reflecting on the success of the day Aston Martin Works President, Paul Spires, said: “We wanted the 70th anniversary event to be a memorable occasion for all concerned, but I don’t think any of us envisaged it being quite such a special affair!

“The chats with our superb guest speakers, the enthusiasm and dedication of the Works staff, and the exceptional commitment of our guests, some of whom who had travelled hundreds of miles to be with us on Saturday, really does speak volumes about the affection for Newport Pagnell as a key part of the Aston Martin Lagonda story.”

The Fellowship is organising a visit to the Aston Martin Heritage Trust on 19th March next year, (see 'Events' panel above). **NB.** The Trust is situated in Wallingford, Oxfordshire, and is **NOT** the site described in this news item.

Ferrari looks forward, and back !

Maranello lifts the hood on EV tech in maiden electric car

Ferrari has unveiled the technology which will power its hotly-anticipated first electric car, the Elettrica, as the 78-year-old luxury Italian sportscar maker looks to add battery power to its hybrid and petrol-engine models.

In a closely-guarded event at its Maranello headquarters, a Ferrari-red cover was pulled back on a stage to reveal the Elettrica's production-ready chassis: a car base, with battery pack and electric motor, though with no wheels or outer shell.

The completed car, which Ferrari is expected to present next year at a global premiere, will have a top speed of 310 kilometres per hour (193 miles) - slightly slower than most of its engined models and a range of at least 530 km.

The four-door, four-plus seat car will have a specially-designed sound system to amplify actual vibrations from its powertrain to create a distinctly electric Ferrari sound, rather than just faking engine noise.

The unveiling of the inner workings of Ferrari's maiden electric car marks a milestone for the auto industry that is grappling more widely with a shift from the internal combustion engine to the electric battery.

"Today... is an historic day for us. We all have goosebumps," said CEO Benedetto Vigna, who said the electric car would complement, not replace, the company's existing models. "The EV is an addition, not a transition."

Like other high-performance brands, Ferrari has been cautious about electrification. Reuters reported in June that it had delayed a second EV model until 2028 because of a lack of demand. Rival Lamborghini, part of Volkswagen, has delayed its first EV until 2029, saying the market is not ready.

The Ferrari Elettrica, expected to cost at least 500,000 euros (£434,000); Ferrari began selling hybrid models in 2019.

Source: Giulio Piovaccari, Reuters



Photo: A view of an electric vehicle (EV) powertrain system

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Meanwhile, the Italian supercar maker illustrated its continuing love affair with conventionally engined cars, unveiling the SC40, a 'clear homage' to Ferrari's defining '80s supercar, the F4 F40.



Photo: Ferrari SC40

However, there's a limit to how close the tribute act can get to the deliberately raw, steel-tubed original, not least because it must make do with the cutting-edge underpinnings of the 296 GTB. That means no twin-turbocharged V8 either, but rather the electrically assisted V6 with its eight-speed F1 DCT and 830hp output, and with it the technical requirements for cooling and safety parameters. The F40, to quote Gordon Murray, felt like a 'big go-kart with a plastic body on it'. Safe to assume the SC40 doesn't.

The key to this homage is at the front, where Ferrari has worked hard to emulate the F40's distinctive headlight placement. It's a shame the SC40 doesn't get pop-up headlamps, though the decision to integrate them into a black housing that spans the entire front bumper certainly gives the car a distinctive look.

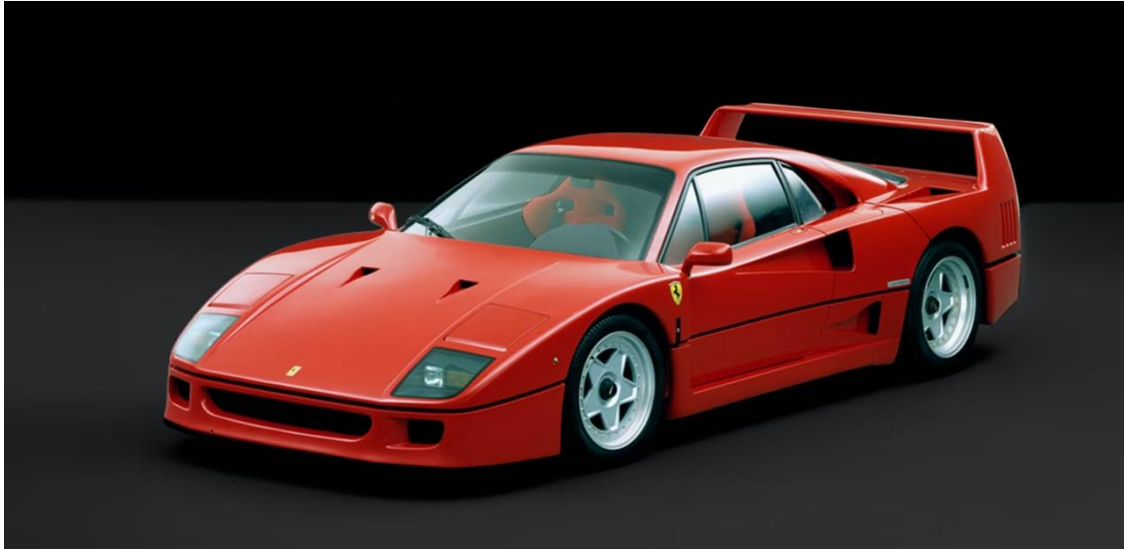


Photo: Ferrari F40

If you're eager to get a sense of what the SC40 is like in the flesh, the car's styling buck went on display at the Ferrari Museum in Maranello earlier this month. Another good excuse for a visit, if you need one...

Source: [*Piston Heads*](#)

Your views matter - We would love to hear what you think of this newsletter. You can email your feedback [**HERE**](#)



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OF THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

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