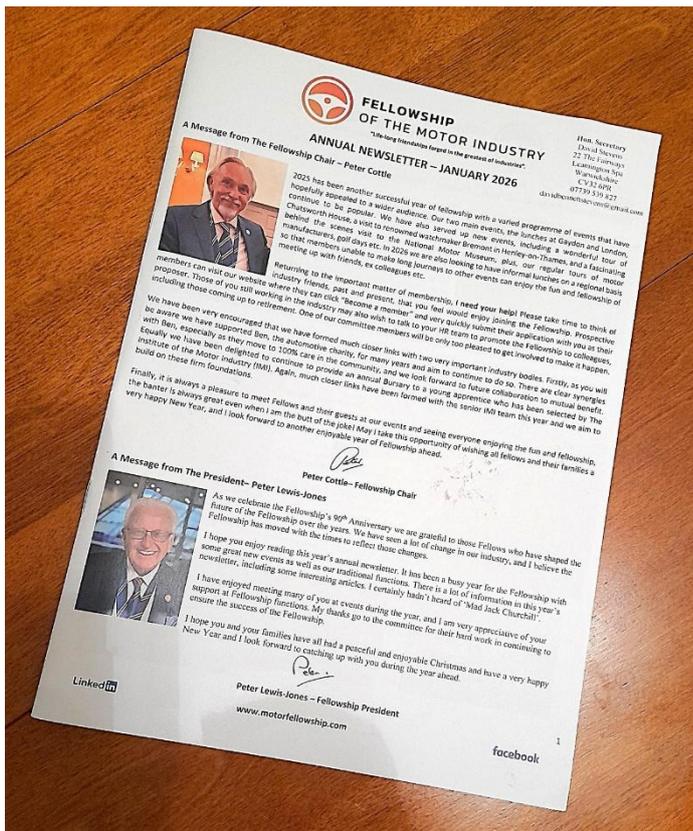




Fellowship Newsletter February 2026

Fellowship Reflections

A belated Happy New Year to all Fellows. Yes, we're a bit late with that but we had a pause after the Christmas holidays.



Hopefully, the pause gave you all the opportunity to read the Fellowship's Annual Newsletter. This hard-copy edition ran to 32 pages of Fellowship reviews, news and some very interesting articles. All compiled by our President, Peter Lewis-Jones and I, for one, found it a most engaging read, so 'Very Well Done, Peter !'

If you haven't received your copy of the newsletter, please let us know. Contact the Hon. Sec., David Stevens by email at: davidbennettstevens@gmail.com

ooOoo

One of the first events in the Fellowship's calendar is our return visit to **JLR Classic** in Coventry. The full details are below and on the website. As one of the members who joined the group visit last year, I would highly recommend taking advantage of this opportunity to visit this impressive facility which has quality oozing from every pore !

ooOoo

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/>

2026 - Dates for your Diary

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

4th March [Visit to JLR Classic Works](#) - Ryton, Coventry

19th March [Tour of Aston Martin Heritage Trust](#), Wallingford, Oxfordshire
(Sold Out !)

April 1st [Fellowship Lecture, AGM and Midland Lunch](#), British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

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 !

Visit to JLR Classic Works - Ryton, Coventry

Places are still available for our visit to the fabulous **JLR Classic** facilities in Coventry on March the 4th, 2026 @ 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm.

Organiser Peter Leake comments, "As the date gets closer for the next visit to JLR Classic, you have a unique opportunity to come and join a group of Fellows on the afternoon of Wednesday 4 March, and experience this event that was enjoyed by so many Fellows last year. JLR Classic is very much the 'Jewel in the Crown' of the heritage of the two great

brands of Jaguar and Land Rover, and on this visit you will have the chance to explore everything from their daily business of servicing and maintaining customers cars, to seeing recreation and continuation models being constructed in their first class workshops. Your visit begins with a buffet lunch before relaxing into the whole experience, which is one you are guaranteed to enjoy. If you would like to join us, please can I ask that you complete the form using this [LINK](#) as soon as you can, and we very much look forward to welcoming you on this quite amazing visit."

This visit builds on the fantastic reaction to JLR Classic visits in the spring of 2025, where we had a waiting list of Fellows seeking places on the tours. To see what's on offer follow this [LINK](#).

Photo (below): Amongst the fabulous vehicles we saw at JLR Classic was this Jaguar C-type 'continuation'.



Tour of Aston Martin Heritage Trust March 19th 2026

March 19, 2026 @ 10:30 am - 2:00 pm **(Sold Out !)**

A fortunate group of Fellowship members have been lucky enough to secure a place on our tour of the Aston Martin Heritage Trust at Wallingford near Oxford, organised with help from our member Steve Waddingham.

This is a really wonderful museum where visitors can savour this iconic British marque. We will be taken around the various exhibitions by an expert team, including the largest collection of Aston Martin archives in the world. Some really fantastic vehicles on are display, along with memorabilia, and documents going back over 110 years of Aston Martin history.

Committee member Ray Sommerville is currently looking at various venues for a post tour lunch, details will be added asap.



Midland Lunch Inc. Annual Lecture and Annual General Meeting April 1st 2026

Midland Lunch April 1, 2026 @ 10:30 am - 3:30 pm

The ever-popular Midland Lunch held at the British Motor Museum, Gaydon, will take place on April 1st 2026.

Prior to lunch we will have Steve Young's informative annual lecture, which will be followed by the Fellowship's AGM.

We are delighted that Steve Waddingham, Historian at Aston Martin, will be our guest speaker for the lunch. Steve has worked at AML since 1990 in a range of management positions. He is renowned for his many years of hosting factory tours and is a true classic car enthusiast with a real passion for preserving automotive and transport history. We look forward to hearing his anecdotes of his own journey in our industry.

As usual we will be supporting our industry charity, Ben, by way of a 'Heads and Tails' competition, so do bring along a crisp £20 note to enter the competition, or whatever you feel comfortable with, to have a chance of winning a magnum of champagne.

Timings:

10.00am onwards – please collect your name badge from our reception desk.

10.30 am Steve Young Lecture (ground floor – signage will be on display)

11.30am The Fellowship of the Motor Industry AGM (same room as Lecture)

11.45 onwards Drinks in the Bar next to the Sky Suite

12.30 Call to Lunch in the Sky Suite

12.45 Lunch

15.00 Formal proceedings conclude but drinks available in the Bar.

Dress Code – Business attire, Fellowship ties for men, and wear your Fellowship badge if possible. (Ties and magnetic Badges will be on sale to members prior to Lunch at our reception desk.)



Tickets are on sale at £45, purchase by following this [LINK](#) to our website – but do book early to avoid disappointment.

We look forward to welcoming you to another enjoyable event where fun and fellowship is guaranteed.

Tour of the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu

April 9th 2026

April 9, 2026 @ 11:00 am - 3:00 pm - £20.00

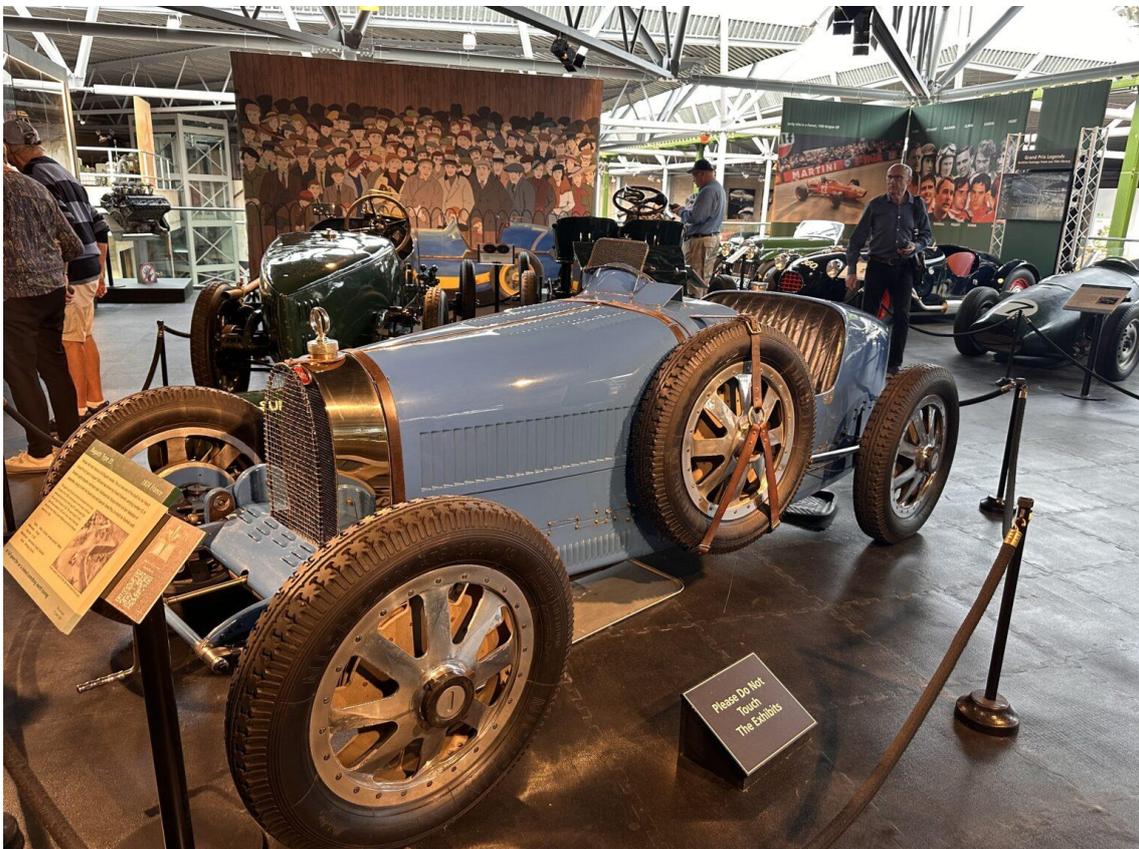
We had a most interesting and enjoyable tour of the Museum in May 2025, thanks to Fellow, Guy Loveridge, who is their Heritage Consultant. The tour included a behind the scenes visit to the Archives, which holds a multitude of publications and other items dating right back to the nineteenth century, really fascinating.

Guy has very kindly agreed to host another tour in 2026, and I would strongly recommend you find the time for the visit – you will not be disappointed.

Capacity is 40 visitors, so do book early once tickets go on sale on 1st January 2026. The cost will be £20 per person, and we will be making a donation to the National Motor Museum Trust. Just click on this [LINK](#) to make your booking.

Lunch will be in the cafeteria, where Fellows and guests can choose from the menu and pay individually.

Arrival time is 11am for teas/coffees and a welcome address. Full joining instructions will be sent out prior to the event.



Again I hope that you can join us. *Peter Cottle*

Prescott Hill Climb 'Classics at Prescott' May 10th 2026

May 10, 2026 @ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

A number of members enjoyed a super day at Prescott Hill Climb last year and we intend to repeat in 2026. It's a day watching a host of wonderful classic cars driving up the hill, in marvellous Cotswold surroundings.

The event is organised by Winchcombe Rotary Club, and entry is £20 per car payable at the gate.

If you are considering attending, can you please indicate your interest by emailing Peter Cottle at cottlepeter@yahoo.co.uk.



Annual Golf Day May 12th 2026

Woking Golf Club

May 12, 2026

Captain Ray Sommerville is again organising our annual Golf Day, which is incorporated within an MTGS event at the splendid Woking Golf Club on the 12th May 2026 – a real treat if you have not played there before.

If you are interested in playing please email Ray at ray.sommerville@btinternet.com. Cost including an excellent post golf lunch is £190.

Ray will provide more detail to those interested.



International Bomber Command Centre May 13th 2026

International Bomber Command Centre

May 13, 2026 @ 10:30 am - £45.00

We are delighted to announce that we have secured a tour of this wonderful world class facility which serves as a fitting tribute of Bomber Command during WW11 on the 13th May 2026

We will have a group guide to take us around the facilities and then have lunch in a private room. In the afternoon fellows and their guests can then visit the separate Exhibition at their leisure.

Arrival time will be 10.30, and we appreciate that some of you will be travelling some distance. The lovely city of Lincoln is very close by and you may choose to add a visit to

your itinerary or indeed visit other airforce related locations – eg The Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage at East Kirkby about an hour away.

There is a Premier Inn literally across the road from the Bomber Command Centre.

More information is on the Fellowship's website and tickets can be booked, at £45 per person, can be purchased by following this [LINK](#).



Out and About

News and Views from the Motor Industry

Are road markings disappearing?

Research by the RAC has found a fifth of drivers (21%) claim most road markings in their local areas have faded away, while a further 71% state some have.

When asked whether they believe faded road markings are a recent problem, nearly three-quarters of those questioned (72%) said the issue has become worse in the last five years. Concerningly, 92% believe it's made driving more dangerous.

The most frequently cited markings which have disappeared are arguably some of the most important of all – the lines at the centre of carriageways, separating lanes of traffic, including

solid single, double and broken white lines. Half (50%) of drivers stated these were the most commonly faded.

Almost half of drivers (48%) say arrows on roundabouts or junctions have faded to grey while 44% reported 'give way' markings have vanished. Similar proportions claim the paint on yellow box markings (43%), stop lines at junctions (41%) and speed limit signs painted on the road (36%) have gone.



Other markings drivers say have worn away to the detriment of road safety, include areas of hatching (29%) (diagonal white lines separating lanes or protecting turning zones); bus or cycle lane markings (22%); zebra crossing stripes (24%); and cycle boxes/advanced stop lines at traffic lights (17%).

The consequences of the widespread disappearance of road markings range from drivers having to guess where lanes are (63%) to ending up in the wrong lane (38%). Almost a fifth (19%) say they've had a confrontation or been beeped by another road user as a result, while the same proportion (19%) have accidentally had to cut across lanes at short notice.

Meanwhile 16% have had a near-miss and 13% have overshot a junction because they couldn't see solid stop lines or 'give way' markings on the road.

An overwhelming 84% of drivers believe that road safety in their areas would be improved if road markings were repainted, while 91% wish their local authority did a better job ensuring painted road markings are clearly visible.

Separate research carried out for the latest RAC Report on Motoring identified faded road markings and poor drainage as the joint second biggest safety dangers (38%) with roads themselves, second only to potholes (80%).

Fade to grey: Which road markings are disappearing?

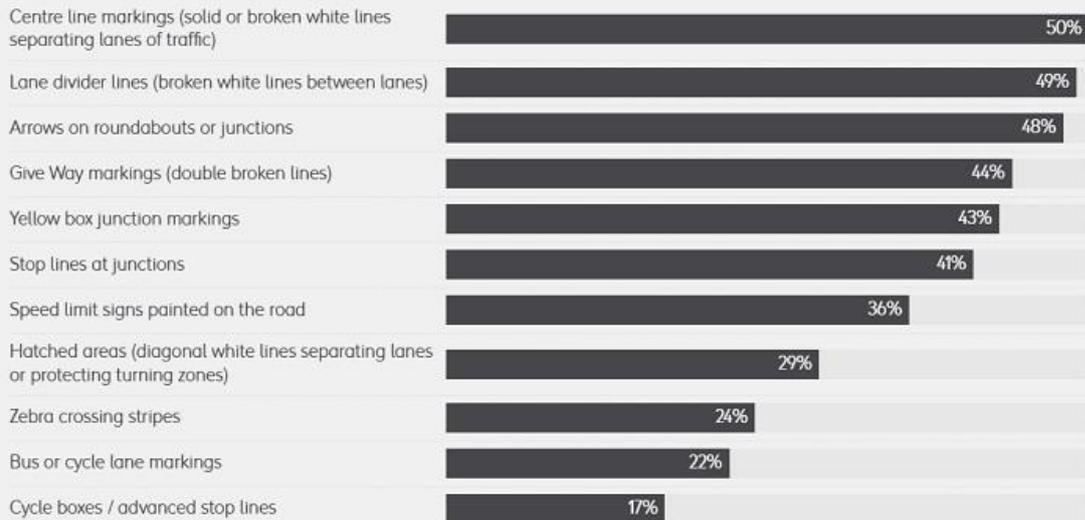


Chart: RAC press & policy team • Source: Representative sample of 1,580 UK drivers • [Embed this graphic](#)

RAC

RAC head of policy, Simon Williams, said: "Drivers are widely reporting that road markings have been left to fade into obscurity, making roads less safe as a result. The problem appears to have got progressively worse as a majority of drivers say the visibility of markings has deteriorated in the last five years. And, while all painted lines are important to ensure drivers do the right thing, the fact some, such as those dividing lanes and even stop lines are disappearing, is troubling.

"While the Government has just published the country's first road safety strategy in more than a decade, this is one key area that shouldn't be forgotten. We urge them to work with councils to rectify this situation, as markings are painted onto the road for good reason: to keep drivers and other road users safe by clearly informing them of what they should and shouldn't be doing.

"It's frightening to think almost one-in-five of drivers have had a near-miss as a result of faded road markings and more than one-in-10 have overshot a junction. Leaving these most vital markings to just wear away makes no sense whatsoever. While there's clearly a cost to maintaining them, the cost of letting them disappear doesn't bear thinking about."

European Car of the Year 2026 announced at Brussels Motor Show

These days the Brussels Motor Show is an important automotive event, attracting model debuts and the European Car of the Year award, The doors having closed on the Geneva International Motor Show, automotive brands have latched onto the Belgian event.

As the first automotive event of 2026, the Brussels Motor Show also provides a look at potential market trends. News of fresh partnerships, the entry of new brands, and the

continuing confusion about ICE models' longer-term future spotlights Europe's changing automotive market.

The Brussels Motor Show is also the new home of the European Car of the Year awards. A shortlist of seven new models was judged by automotive journalists from across Europe, with points awarded to each.

This year, the Citroen e-C5 Aircross, Dacia Bigster, Fiat Grande Panda, Kia EV4, Mercedes-Benz CLA, Renault 4 and Skoda Elroq made the shortlist. Of these, judges awarded the **Mercedes-Benz CLA** the most points, giving it the 2026 title. This being the first time the German carmaker has won European Car of the Year since 1974, knocking Renault off the perch they've occupied for the past two years.



Photo: Mercedes-Benz CLA - European Car of the Year

New 50p coin celebrates 100th anniversary of the British Grand Prix

The Royal Mint has released five new commemorative coins to honour milestone anniversaries in 2026, including a new £5 coin to mark 100 years since the birth of Queen Elizabeth II and two new 50p coins to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the British Grand Prix and 50 years of the King's Trust.



The 7th of August 2026 is the 100th anniversary the first British Grand Prix, known officially as the Grand Prix of the Royal Automobile Club, which was held at Brooklands, Surrey, on 7th August 1926 and was won by Robert Sénéchal and Louis Wagner driving a Delage 15 S8. The prize money was £1,000 to the winner, £300 for finishing second and £200 for finishing third.

Photo (below): The Delage of Sénéchal and Wagner could not be caught



A fascinating account of this race written by Damien Smith was featured in the August 3rd, 2021 issue of Motor Sport magazine, which you can read by following this [LINK](#)

On a personal note, on holiday in Suffolk in 2025, it was pleasing to see a line-up of Delages outside Framlingham Castle. This photograph (*below*) shows one of the glorious vehicles on display. Unfortunately, the owners were nowhere to be seen, so I was unable to find out more about this vehicle and its companions. Anybody care to identify it for me? *Ed.*



Nigel Mansell launches rare auction of personal memorabilia

Nigel Mansell is auctioning off more than 200 items of memorabilia from his private collection in association with BUDDS.

The 1992 Formula 1 world champion is putting an incredible selection of items up for auction, ranging from signed helmets, to race suits, steering wheels, clothing and even photographs and artwork from his career that he has owned for decades.

This auction is incredibly rare, because every item is being sold without reserve, giving every F1 fan the opportunity to own something from Mansell's personal collection at a range of affordable prices.

The auction will take place live on February 10 2026, but you can already place bids.

Every item comes with a certificate of authenticity signed by Nigel Mansell.

Part of the proceeds from the auction will go towards UK Youth, the charity of which Nigel Mansell has been president for more than a quarter of a century.

Follow this [LINK](#) for more details.



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



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<http://www.motorfellowship.com>

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