



Fellowship eNewsletter September/October 2026

Fellowship Reflections

Let's have a Ball !

Ben Ball, that is.

We have news of a very special offer for Fellows wishing to attend the annual **Ben Ball**. See item below for more details - and get your party frocks out !

Your committee is already turning its attention to events for 2027 and you can find some information on the Fellowship's website, follow this [LINK](#)

If you have a suggestion for a visit or activity, don't hesitate to share it with us. Send your ideas with our Hon.Secretary, David Stevens - email him at:

davidbennettstevens@gmail.com

Having excited a bit of interest with last issue's photo of a VW Beetle motorcaravan, an oddity if ever there was one; my gaze was taken at yet another local car show, to what I've always thought of as a vision of elegance - Citroen SM Coupe. This Maserati-engined masterpiece was designed as a successor to the famous DS, but markets, economics and politics all made its appeal limited. So there's not many around, which made it pleasant to see this one.



Any pics of your own ? Send us a photo and description to brian@sprattyman.com
Brian Spratt, eNewsletter Editor

Upcoming Events

See below for news of future Fellowship events.

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

1st October [Visit to HMS Belfast](#), London

22nd October **Fellowship v Oil Industry Club Match – Effingham Golf Club**

19th November [Annual London Lunch](#), RAF Club London

15th December [Ben Ball](#), London Hilton, Park Lane

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

Tour of HMS Belfast

October 1st 2026

Our visit to HMS Belfast on the morning of Thursday 1st October is now Sold Out !

Fellows will be gathering at HMS Belfast's moorings close to Tower Bridge with refreshments on arrival, before being shown round on a two-hour tour by an expert team.

Lunch will be taken at a nearby restaurant.

We look forward to receiving the report of this novel Fellowship event, which has been organised by committee member David Lansdowne.



Golf Match

The Fellowship v Oil Industry Club

Effingham Golf Club

October 22nd

Our intrepid Golf Captain, Ray Sommerville, has used his relationship with the Oil Industry Golf Club to arrange a third golf day for our 2026 calendar.

Effingham Golf Club is a wonderful venue set in the Surrey countryside, and is in the Top 100 courses in England.

Having put his team together, we wait with anticipation for Ray's report of a golfing triumph ! See the next issue of the eNewsletter.



Annual London Lunch

November 19th @ 11:00 am - 3:30 pm

The wonderful RAF Club in Piccadilly is once again the venue for our London Lunch. We will mark the Fellowship's own 90th birthday in grand style!

Tickets have been going fast for this year's event and at the time of writing there are just 20 tickets left - book now to avoid disappointment!

Part of the attraction is undoubtedly the news that our guest of honour and principal speaker will be Lord Montagu of Beaulieu!

With his background with the Radio Times and now managing the historic Beaulieu estate and National Motor Museum we can look forward to yet another varied and interesting talk to complement our day.

All are welcome – Fellows, partners and guests – a great opportunity to introduce the Fellowship to others!

To see more information and make your booking, follow this [LINK](#)



Annual Ben Ball

December 15th @ London Hilton Hotel, Park Lane

Thanks to a very generous offer from Rachel Clift, CEO of Ben, we are able to offer 20 tickets to Fellowship members at a heavily discounted price.

This is in recognition of the Fellowship's support to Ben over many years and also what our membership has contributed to the Motor Industry.

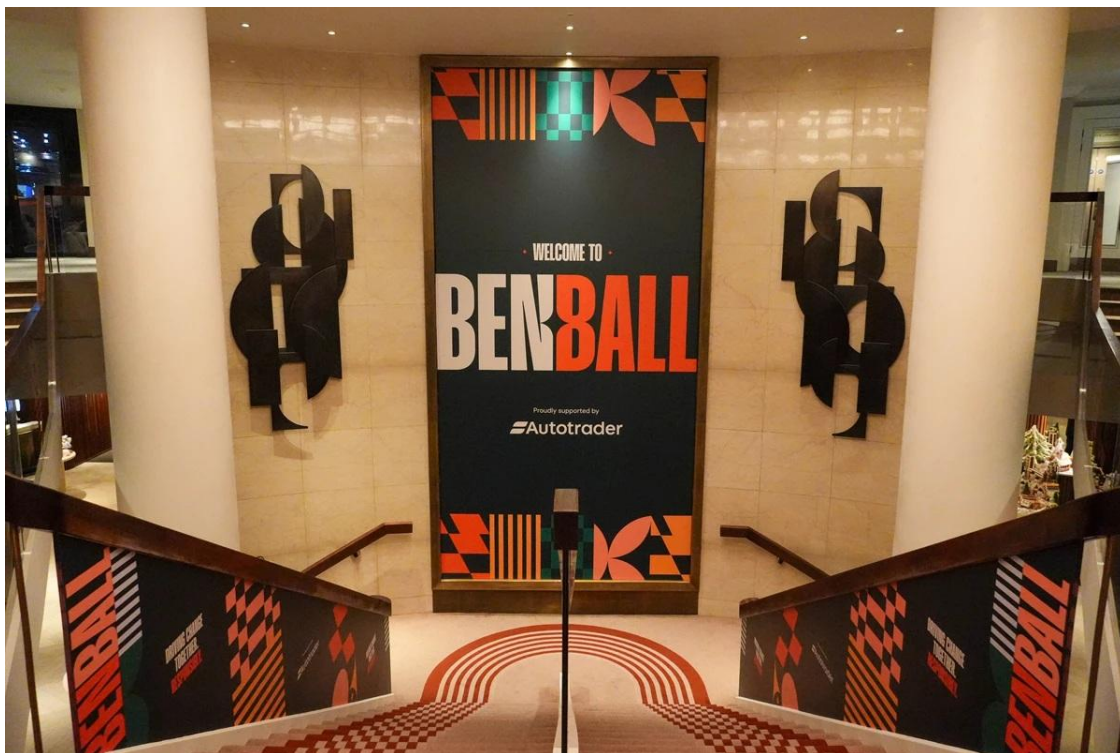
The Ben Ball has been a regular feature in the motor industry event calendar for many years and is a wonderful event to start the Christmas celebrations.

On Tuesday 15th December, over 600 people will gather at the iconic London Hilton on Park Lane for one of the most anticipated nights in the automotive industry calendar.

The Ben Ball 2026 promises to be an unforgettable experience that brings the automotive community together. The evening offers guests awe-inspiring entertainment, exquisite dining and dancing that carries on well into the night. Above all, it's an opportunity for Ben to show gratitude to the industry for its life-changing and life-saving support of automotive colleagues who are struggling or in crisis.

The special discounted ticket price for Fellows is £200. We have 20 tickets available on a first come first served basis. Tickets can only be purchased on the Fellowship's website. Once you have made a booking we will pass on your details to Ben so that in due course you can receive tickets and joining instructions.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets do not delay to avoid disappointment. Just follow this [LINK](#)



Out and About

News and Views from the Motor Industry

UK poised to water down 2030 EV sales targets

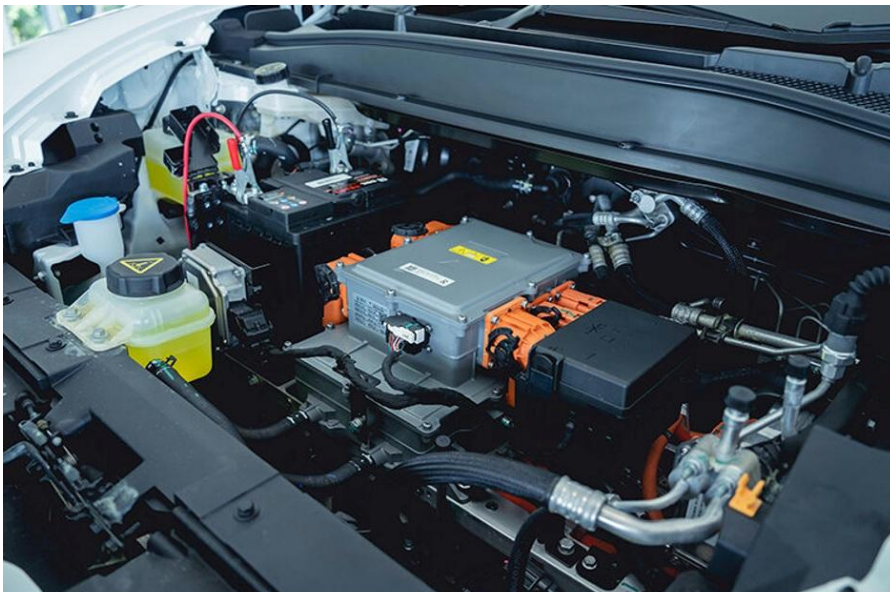
Andy Burnham's government is looking to relax some of Labour's net zero targets to help tackle the cost of living crisis.

To that end, the government has recently opened a review on the ZEV mandate. The consultation will conclude on the 23rd October with potential new legislation on the cards.

It is possible that ministers are planning to water down rules on electric car sales, which could mean that half the new cars sold at the end of the decade will still have petrol engines. Under current laws, by 2030 only 20 per cent can use fossil fuel.

Hybrid vehicles could be allowed to make up a far bigger proportion of the UK's car sales in the medium term by softening the mandate for pure electric cars from 80% of all sales by 2030 to 50%.

Under the ZEV mandate carmakers are credited for electric car sales but face fines if they do not reach the annually growing proportion of EVs compared with petrol and diesel sales. According to the [Unite](#) union, which has campaigned to review the targets, the mandate could cost up to £11,000 in fines per vehicle and threaten jobs in the sector in the UK.



Don't forget the other half of the Mini story

Committee member and proud Austin Ex-Apprentice member, Nigel Barfoot felt that last month's reference to the Morris Mini-Minor in the Duckhams Oil story, failed to remind us that Longbridge ADO16 design actually appeared in both Morris and Austin 7 guises.

The man at the helm of the launch of the Mini was another Austin ex-Apprentice and a former Fellowship president and chairman, Tony Ball MBE.



The photo (*above*) shows Tony at a recreation of the Mini launch in 1959 displaying the baggage which the new car could ostensibly carry. Anybody care to put a date on the photo ?

For those interested in the Mini's history, we can recommend **'Wizardry On Wheels - The BMC Mini Minor Story'** on the YouTube Classic Vehicle Channel.

This is a fascinating documentary following the design, development and launch of the 'new' BMC Mini Minor. Follow Alec Issigonis and his design team as they developed, what would become Britain's favourite car, the Mini. This is the full documentary remastered in HD. Follow this [LINK](#)

Three of Clarkson's most famous 'Grand Tour' cars for sale

Jeremy Clarkson is putting three memorable cars from *The Grand Tour* series up for auction, including the Lancia Montecarlo Spider he drove in his final episode.

The former *Top Gear* and *The Grand Tour* host will sell the cars through Iconic Auctioneers as part of The Iconic Sale at the NEC Classic Motor Show in

Birmingham, England, on November 14 and 15. All three are being offered without a reserve, meaning they'll go to the highest bidder.

Clarkson says he rarely gets the chance to drive or enjoy the cars anymore, which is probably true. However, the auction house says the real reason behind the sale will become clear during the upcoming season of Clarkson's Farm.

The most significant car of the bunch probably the 1982 Lancia Montecarlo Spider which Jeremy drove in the episode *The Grand Tour Presents: One for the Road*, the Zimbabwe and Botswana special that served as the series' final adventure. It was also the last car he ever drove on *The Grand Tour*, which gives it a pretty special place in the show's history.

Unsurprisingly, the Lancia wasn't completely standard for its trip through Africa. It received Ferrari 308 rear lights, four exhaust outlets, Lancia Delta Integrale wheels, and a modified grille and headlight setup. The original leather seats were swapped for cloth ones and fitted a simple Alcantara-covered steering wheel without buttons, all in an effort to avoid potential problems with the Lancia's aging electronics in the extreme heat.

Unlike a lot of cars used for television, Clarkson didn't simply hand this one back after filming wrapped. He bought it and added it to his personal collection. Iconic Auctioneers says the Lancia has since been refurbished and is now in running condition.

The second car for sale is a 1983 Alfa Romeo GTV6 that appeared in the *Grand Tour* episode "Well Aged Scotch", and the third car is Clarkson's enormous 1978 Lincoln Continental Mark V, which appeared in "*Lochdown*." That's the *Grand Tour* special where Clarkson, Hammond, and May travel around Scotland in a trio of gigantic American cars.

Photo by: Iconic Auctioneers



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



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