



## WESTCOUNTRY CLASSIC VEHICLE CLUB (WCVV)

[www.westcountryclassicvehicleclub.uk](http://www.westcountryclassicvehicleclub.uk)

Newsletter

November 2017

### Editorial:

**What ho dear friends.** So we have reached the end of the show season, now we are into autumn and winter beckons. Time once again to put your car into hibernation or, for me, to take it out regularly throughout the off season to give it a little exercise to keep things in motion and the battery topped up. The MINI will go to Torquay for its annual MOT and thorough service, and there is the small matter of rust to be attended to. There is nothing wrong with it that money cannot put right.

**We ended our show season** with the gathering in Newton Abbott town centre with a big turnout of about 50 cars; the weather was not too unkind. The Mid Devon Advertiser did a good spread in the edition for Friday October 6<sup>th</sup>, commenting on the 'hoards' of people who viewed the cars at 'The Classic Vehicle Motor Show'. Newton Abbot Town Development Manager Sally Henley (right) was quoted as saying that "it was lovely to work in partnership with the Mid-Devon Advertiser and the Westcountry Classic Vehicle Club once again for our September Classic Motor Vehicle Show with owners showing up first thing in the morning, looking forward to a day spent chatting about their pride and joys, with shoppers and fellow enthusiasts".



Sally and John

**Roger Stringer.** It is with great regret that we report the death of our Club President Roger Stringer on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Roger had been the Club President ever since the formation of the WCVV. Although Roger had been in ill health for some considerable time he attended club events and evenings whenever he could, always giving us the benefits of his experience. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

### Chairman's Chat:

Hi everyone,

So, another car event season is over, perhaps not the best of summers for car shows due to the occasional poor weather. We committed ourselves to several other shows during the summer and had a good turn out. However it would be nice to have a richer turnout of club members for all events.

The club organised 2 extra shows this year bringing our show commitment to 6 and I like to believe achieved with some success, and I would like to give great thanks to the team running all the shows. I hope that when we have our open forum on fish and chip night, that's Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November, we can have members opinions as feedback on the past year and suggest ideas for future social and car event activities.

The Skittles Night was a great success, but this time we were the losers. It was nice to see Jim and Fran Cowdery out for the evening. He has had a difficult health period recently but we hope the coming year sees things looking up for him. See you back at the club, Jim.

Its time for those who store their cars for the winter to remove batteries, check anti freeze and tyre pressures; if your car is being covered leave windows cracked open a bit to allow for air circulation.

Next outing for the club will be "Carols down the line" Wednesday 6 December 2017. Those coming will gather at Paignton station, (Kingswear to Dartmouth steam railway platform) for the 6.30pm departure. The event is in aid of Rowcroft Hospice. A couple of tickets are still available at £10, so please contact me on 01803392154 to book a ticket. It should be a very enjoyable evening.

I am arranging a club evening meal at 7pm on Friday 12 January 2018, at The Toby Restaurant, Penn Inn, Newton Abbot. The meal includes 3 courses (with carvery as the main meal) at £12 per person. All those interested - please contact me asap on 01803 392154 to book places.

The AGM. Will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018.  
Chairman

*John Bartholomew,*

### Feature:

**Electric cars: the future of motoring?**

**If you listen** to the latest governmental edicts that insist we are going electric on all new cars by 2040, electric it is. Its all rather “brexit”; a jolly idea but put forward without any attention to detail or logistics. Electric cars are not new. Some of the earliest cars were electric and a man called Parker built the first in London in 1884. German Karl Benz was next in 1885 with his Benz patent Motorwagen. What knocked the early electrics off the scene were complications with vast and heavy lead/acid batteries, limited range and speed. At least they were quiet and emitted nothing noxious. They didn’t frighten the horses which in themselves were as unpleasant in their emissions as diesel and petrol cars are today. But when the motor car arrived, the horse as a form of transport disappeared almost overnight.

**At the moment** hybrid cars are becoming more common where a small petrol engine generates electricity for battery storage that drive electric motors in the transmission. All car manufacturers are developing electric systems; the most notable company being **Tesla** in the USA. Their system is not a converted conventional car but for a completely new concept from the ground up. The general appearance of the **Tesla S, Series 3** (right) is conventional, it is recognisable, it has wheels and doors. There is a steering wheel; it has a dashboard and pedals



There are similarities for everything else is brand new. The key part is the battery, looking rather like a huge rectangular bar of white chocolate that is bolted to the underside of the car and is a major part of the structure, a sort of battery container cum chassis that weighs 580 kg. The rest of the car is 98% aluminium plus carbon fibre; the only bit that is steel is the dashboard that houses all the fiddly bits and the steering column. The electric motor has just one moving part, the rotor, connected directly to the rear wheels. That’s just about it. Stick your foot to the accelerator and the car will go from zero to 100 kph in three (3!) seconds. Imagine the implications of backing out of your garage and you select forward instead of reverse.

**You’ll still** have to put the thing through the MOT and the technology of the electric bits and pieces may be beyond the scope of home mechanics where sticking your spanner into somewhere you shouldn’t might result in



a shocking experience. If and when electric cars have the same economies as petrol and recharging points are common, then I can see their attraction. But don’t hold your breath. And you will need a driveway at home to park the thing; leaving it on the roadside with an electric cable over the pavement into your house will be severely frowned upon.

**The cheapest** electric vehicle available at the moment is the **Renault Twizy** (left); I’ve seen a live one cantering about in Paignton. It’s a sort of cross between a mobility scooter, a Smart car, a go-cart, a ride on lawn mower, a tandem bicycle

and a beach buggy. The design seems to come from the drawing board of someone who’d had a very bad day. I will say that its performance was quite impressive. It has a range of about 50 miles on one charge and a part re-charge will take about an hour. It seats two, one person sitting behind the driver. It costs, new, about £7,000 or so. The S type Tesla will cost about £50,000 and the makers are saying that battery range for this will soon improve to about 300 miles on one charge; top speed being about 200 kph. Should you buy an electric car? Well the old adage about never being the first to buy something new applies here. Anyway, the nearest most of us will get to driving an electric vehicle is when we need a mobility scooter.

**(photo right)** Seen at the WVCV final gathering of the year at Newton Abbot on Friday October 6<sup>th</sup> is an early contender showing us the way for a future category for classic electric drive mobility scooters.



**WCVC Clothing with logo:** Cap £10.50; T Shirt £10.50; Polo Shirt £15.00; Pilot Shirt £16.50 and Fleece £20.50, please contact Margaret Malin on 01803 315231.

**For Sale:** 1953 Ford Prefect 53,000 miles from new. Purchased new from Reeds in Torquay, 3 local owners, first class condition £5000 o.n.o. Contact Mike 07814222101

### Events and Happenings report:

**Since August** we have had a number of WCVC car events, the first being at Torre Abbey, Torquay on Sunday 10 September. The weather threatened a bit but gradually relented and there was a good turnout. Stalwart enthusiast Mike took best vehicle with his Chevrolet and Barbara was runner-up with her Rover 100. Trophies were presented by Torquay Mayor Gordon Oliver.

**This was followed** by World of Country Life, Sandy Bay, Exmouth on Sunday 17 September. Always a good event and this was done in fine weather with a very large turnout of vehicles and interesting machinery. The tombola raised an excellent £58 towards our Childrens Hospice S.W. charity. Winner of best car was Norman Sandford with his Jaguar Mk II, runner up was David Cooke with his E type Jaguar. Best motor cycle was Ron Baker with his BSA. Best Junior Exhibit was Matthew Collings with his Matchbox toy display.



**The last show** of the season was at Newton Abbot Town Centre, Saturday 30 September with a good attendance even if the weather was seasonal. Overall and worthy winner was Ronald Maier, a visitor from Germany, with his classic pre-war supercharged MG PB.

**WCVC** had a stand at the August gathering of the Torbay Steam Fair; unfortunately day 1 was cancelled after torrential rain turned everything into a quagmire, but day 2 and 3 went ahead without problem. Always a fine event, the steam gathering is often at the mercy of the weather Gods who do their best to foul things up.

### WCVC Club Nights:

**Our Club Nights** are located at Old Forde Hall Social Club, Brunel Road, Newton Abbot TQ12 4AG. WCVC club nights take place on the third Friday of every month at 7.30pm. Dates for your 2017 diary are:

**Friday 17 November** – Social evening and fish/chip night will include an open forum where we can have members opinions as feedback on the past year and suggest ideas for future social and car event activities.

**Friday 15 December** – Social evening; Xmas evening, visit by Santa; gifts for the kids, mince pies for mum and dad.

**January. 19<sup>th</sup> 2018, A.G.M.** Once again, we would like to remind members that it is necessary, when voting, to have renewed their membership A Membership form is included with this newsletter.

### Ho! Ho! Ho! department.

**CHRISTMAS IS COMING;** by the time you receive this it will be just weeks away. We take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the festive season and may your Christmas stocking contain all that you hope for. We trust that 2018 treats you and yours well and we look forward to the coming car rally season.



**WESTCOUNTRY CLASSIC VEHICLE CLUB  
(WCVC) 2018**



**Membership/Renewal Form 2018**

**FULL NAME:** .....

**ADDRESS:** .....

.....

**POSTCODE:** ..... **TELE NO:**.....**EMAIL:**.....

Would you like to receive your newsletter by email **YES/NO?**  
Your details will not be shared with any other organisation

**Spouse/Partner/Children up to the age of 16 years**

**Names:**.....

**VEHICLE DETAILS:**

**MAKE:** ..... **MODEL CC:** .....

**YEAR:**..... **REG NO:** .....

**ADDITIONAL VEHICLE DETAILS:**

**ANY OTHER RELEVANT INTERESTS:**

Cheques made payable to:  
**WESTCOUNTRY CLASSIC VEHICLE CLUB**

**PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM AND PAYMENT WITH A S.A.E. TO:**  
Mr K Malin  
Membership Secretary, 28 First Avenue, Daison, Torquay TQ1 4JB

<b>Memberships:</b>	<b>£6.00</b>	<b>Single</b>
	<b>£10.00</b>	<b>Family with Junior (up to the age of 16 years old)</b>
	<b>£3.00</b>	<b>Social Members Single</b>
	<b>£5.00</b>	<b>Social Members Family</b>