### Birkenshaw. The Ridge, Little Baddow. Essex CM3 4SA 01245 226337 laurence@birkenshaw.org



Dear SP Owner,

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024

# The November Newsletter

For those that do read my Newsletters I didn't write up an October edition, my apologises.

Now then to this month's ramblings of a confirmed petrol head.

We will be at the NEC Classic Car Show this forthcoming weekend  $8^{th} - 10^{th}$ . We are in **Hall 2 stand 760** what is most important is the discount code <u>CCCNOV323</u> which I think expires tomorrow evening. Do stop by and say hello, we will have on sale the 2025 SP250 calendars or if you are unable to attend then email Alan Mason <u>soaring.ace@btinternet.com</u> to buy one or two one for delivery by post.

We are planning our annual trip out to the Spa Classic next year over the weekend of the  $23^{rd} - 25^{th}$  May where we will have, hopefully, our usual stand on the infield at Eau Rouge. This is an iconic circuit set in the Ardennes Forest <u>https://www.spa-francorchamps.be/en/</u> this is the area that witnessed the famous Battle of the Bulge, (museums of interest nearby) If you care to join us please contact Alan Mason for further details. It is possible currently with or without your car as we have a couple of spare seats at present. If I recall there were about 28 on the trip this year. Alan has already booked out the entire hotel and is sounding out other nearby available accommodation. What is most impressive is cost of the weekend tickets at 35 euros for the three day event, excellent value when compared with other classic car events closer to home. Whether you make it a five day wonder of an extended trip it that is your choice.

There seems a most bizarre atmosphere hanging over the *Jaguar* name, are we witnessing the demise of this iconic name? I pose this question as currently the premium money chases the SUV market and the Jaguar 4x4 cannot compete with its own in-house siblings in the Land Rover stable, such as Range-Rover, Discovery and Defender whilst the more mundane Jaguar saloons are so lacklustre and nowhere in the mind set of younger drivers who verged towards the German luxury brand names.

Perhaps Jaguar should take a leaf from this RM Sotherby's marketing clip:- <u>https://rmsothebys.com/all-stories-videos/some-rules-were-made-to-be-</u>

broken/?&utm\_source=rmsothebys.com&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=CORP24&utm\_term=CORP24\_W\_eekly\_Oct19&\_cldee=Iqi6HpGJj9bFtJXfGxd1j5mIFzQjRyjUUnq49hE0tweW55Y9RB0KyIDWRHV0gRMX&rec ipientid=contact-1bb1e1934ddbea118250000c2971a03a-9d9f4921e20347aab8f8a5793e19c24c&esid=b99a4d22-888d-ef11-82ba-000c2971a03a

Now that is how you sell a Jaguar, and he didn't get a 'ticket', truly, amazing, full 'marques' to the Advertising agency for this one

.... and continuing with the Jaguar theme <u>https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=B8LUOJx9pEA#bottom-sheet</u> all down to a careless driver looking at their mobile phone – result a very expensive rebuild, luckily no one was hurt!

Mind you the German EV car industry in particular is in great turmoil, with sales grinding to a halt, given that any damage caused to an EV needs the vehicle repairer to give an undertaking that the batteries are/were unaffected in the collision.

No sensible company with a sane mind will give such an undertaking, which has resulted in the knock-on effect that EV sales have fallen off the cliff - so to say. Mind you Net Zero is a just a target and if you miss the bulls-eye no big deal, it is just a target nothing else!

It seems sense is at last coming back into the market as we have seen a number of buyers seeking out SPs with purchases in quick order.

## For Sale & Wanted

Fancy a fuel injection engine in your SP, John Giddings in Wales has a complete engine and set-up for sale.

Christian Demler is active in making parts, such as a complete the handbrake assembly plus other parts including the dials and a speedometer in KPH. Christian's details are in pasSPort.

We are **urgently seeking a rear bumper** to help with the restoration of the last Met Police car to see active service. I do believe it was this car that 'pulled up' a certain horse mad young lady in her Scimitar GTE on the M4 as she headed out to her Gloucestershire estate.

Anyone one with an automatic SP contemplating selling?

For sale out on Rhode Island (USA) we have a set of seats and a soft top frame - contact me for details

#### And finally .....

Stealing the advertising slogan from Ronseal ".. it does what it says on the tin!" there are no words of introduction. It's after-all a tarmac eating hemi-headed monster. Truly a masterpiece in automotive art.



Over Aus \$200,000 has been showered of this late 1961 'B' spec. surely just the job to pop down to the Pub on a Sunday and currently on offer in Australia at Aus\$160,000. If you fancy it ask Brooksy in NSW he has the contact.

Yours sincerely

## Laurence & Ann

**Thought for the day:** It's not the employer that pays the wages – he only handles the money, it's the product that's pays the wages