

# OWEN MOTORING CLUB

## CLASSIC VEHICLE GROUP

FOR ALL CLASSIC VEHICLE ENTHUSIASTS

[WWW.OWENMOTORINGCLUB.CO.UK](http://WWW.OWENMOTORINGCLUB.CO.UK)

*Polish it THEN use it !!*



(February 2021 - Issue No. 74)

Welcome to February's edition and I wish I had some good news for you, but I start with more sad disappointing news. The annual Canwell Show, which we were due to display at, has been cancelled again due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This excellent local show was due to take place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August but now it will be 2022 before we will there again.

A slight glimmer is that the Middleton Hall monthly classic car gathering could start up again once the restrictions allow, in the meantime they are asking you to spare 10 mins to complete their on-line visitor survey to help them plan for the future. The survey can be found at [Visitor Consultation 2021 Survey \(surveymonkey.co.uk\)](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk)

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The British Mini Club have also cancelled their flagship event at Bingley Hall due to COVID-19. Mini Fair 2021 was due to take place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March but sadly this has now been put back to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

No news has yet been published about British Mini Day which is due to take place at Himley Hall on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May. If it does go ahead, fingers crossed, then this will be the 28<sup>th</sup> British Mini Day held at Himley.



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The 'Classic Car Scramble' at the former RAF Bicester airfield is due to go ahead on 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> April. Brooklands have also announced their 2021 calendar which includes a new event paying tribute to Sir Stirling Moss, a long-standing supporter of the museum, which will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> September. Other notable events here are Italian Car Day on 18<sup>th</sup> July, Summer Classic Gathering on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, American Day on 5<sup>th</sup> September and Mini Day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Full details of these shows and others can be found at [www.brooklandsmuseum.com](http://www.brooklandsmuseum.com)

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You may have read elsewhere the important changes that were introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 that affect the ability of vehicles registered in the historic tax class to display the old style pre-1973 black and silver number plates.

Following the change in definition of a historic vehicle for vehicle tax exemption purposes in 2015, an issue was identified in the regulatory requirements for the valid display of a black and silver number plate. This resulted in an unintended consequence where any vehicle over 40 years old and registered in the historic tax class would be permitted to display an old style black and silver number plate. This was despite the law previously requiring all vehicles first registered after 1st January 1973 to only display the yellow and white number plates with black characters. The change seeks to prevent any vehicle constructed after 1st January 1980 from the ability to display the black and silver number plate despite being recorded in the DVLA's historic tax class.

Basically, vehicles with a construction date prior to 1st January 1980 will continue to be able to legally display black and silver number plates to avoid any undue costs of replacement. Also, from 1st January 2021 it will no longer be permissible to fix a new number plate displaying a Euro symbol. Number plates already fixed to vehicles are unaffected. There will also be a new British Standard for number plates produced from 1st September 2021 which will mean all current style number plates that are first fixed to a vehicle from that date must meet the technical requirements contained in that standard.

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Thank you to new member Roger Ferneyhough (Triumph Vitesse owner) for pointing out the new rule changes regarding the use of LED bulbs in halogen lens units and any such conversion carried out should now automatically fail an MOT.

The relevant paragraph from the MOT manual quotes *'Existing halogen headlamp units should not be converted to be used with high intensity discharge (HID) or light emitting diode (LED) bulbs. If such a conversion has been done, you must fail the headlamp.'*

Obviously, most of our classic cars are MOT except but this rule still applies because your vehicle must be considered as roadworthy and effectively means it can pass an MOT. Professionally designed complete LED headlamp units would not fall foul of this new regulation. LEDs are still acceptable in all other positions such as side, brake, number plate, indicator, reversing and dashboard lights.



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Following the appeal in last month's newsletter on behalf of the Aldridge Transport Museum (AMRTM) in Shenstone Drive Martin Fisher has asked me to pass on his appreciative thanks for the suggestions received concerning a suitable venue where people could try their hand at driving their buses. Martin will be meeting with our friend Howard Cottrell, from Shenstone & District CC, at Curborough Sprint Course when restrictions allow to discuss this topic.

Also Owen MC member Chris Hetherington who runs CRH Training Ltd, providing specialist HGV driving courses, has also offered to supply a rigid and an articulated truck to add to the driving experience which is incredibly good of him. So, if this event does come to fruition in the near future it has the makings of a great event for us and AMRTM. In the meantime, if anybody has any other suggestions then please reply to me and I will again gladly pass them on.



Organisers are still planning for our 'Tony Matthews Classic Tour' to go ahead on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (providing COVID-19 rules allow) and you might have heard that HRCR Tour Series secretary Kevin Hogan has stepped down and Gethin and Eirian Vaughan Lewis have taken over. I have now included them in my monthly newsletter posting list and wish them every success. Other news is Ken Davies, who was a long-time supporter of the Scenic Tour Series through his company KGD Developments, sadly passed away at the end of October 2020. HRCR are pleased to announce that they have secured 'Hagerty' as a supporter of the HRCR Scenic Tours series for the future.

As you can see a modified OMC tour plate incorporating the 'Hagerty' logo has been designed and a full announcement will be published in the next edition of their Old Stager Magazine.