

TYRE



SQUEALS

The Magazine of Yeovil Car Club



May 2026

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Bob Owen

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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Welcome to the May magazine,

Following on from our AGM on the 15th April, I'm pleased to inform the club that we have retained all our committee as before and the Directors remain the same, Stan Morris, Alan Miller and Mervyn Dawe.

Andersea Vintage and Classic Show, May 30th & 31st. This is the weekend after the Sherborne Country Fayre, this is a free show and as last year we are going to attend as a club. Last year was the second year they organised the show and this year I have been told will be bigger; this is a relatively new organisation so wouldn't it be nice to support them.

The exhibits they are attracting are, Classic Car, Tractor, Commercials, Motorbike, Military, Classic Caravan, Steam and Stationary Engines. The show runs from 10.00am to 5.00pm each day and as I mentioned before, it's over two days AND FREE ENTRY. The address for the show is; The Carnival Barn, Andersea, Westonzoyland, TA7 0LU. For those of you who may be interested in going, please ring me. I will get an application form to you and in order to save postage, I will hand the form back to one of the organisers I know. Those who attended last year as far as I'm aware thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Bennetts Water Gardens, Sunday June 7th 2026

Back by popular demand, so many people said they enjoyed their visit last year to Bennetts Water Gardens, but also said that it was a shame that the Lily's weren't fully out. I have been assured by the owners that the gardens will be in full bloom in June and that the sun will be shining. The cost of admission to the Water Gardens is via the club as we have had a discounted price plus a small admin cost for the club. The cost will be £13.50p per person, arriving at 10.00am and staying as long as you like. Please ring Merv or Liz Dawe as we need to know numbers.

Date for your Diary

Summer Tour Sunday 16th August, starting at Vantage Park Sparkford, travelling through some lovely Dorset countryside and finishing at Henstridge Airfield for a lovely two course Roast Lunch. More details in next month's magazine.

Until next month.

Merv Dawe

VICE CHAIRMAN'S NEWS

Hi All,

The YCC AGM was held on the 15th April 2026 at the Westland Entertainment Centre. Before the meeting began several awards were given. Bob Owen and Eric Howes became Life Members. Ann Morris, Brenda Gosney, Linda Dewar and Diane Howes were given Certificates of Service. We had a good turnout at the meeting and I would like to thank all those who attended.

It was good to see more support from club members and others at the April meet at Piper's. Let's hope that this event continues to grow in popularity as the Piper family put in a lot of their time and effort to accommodate us as club. Just as a little reminder, it is held on the first Saturday of each month come rain or shine.

Please contact me if you want to display your car at the Hardington Mandeville Street Fayre. See the advert on page 9 of this magazine.

Until the next time, stay safe.

Paul Vallis

CLUB INFORMATION

WEBSITE: www.yeovilcarclub.com

FACEBOOK: Yeovil Car Club

Committee Meetings are held every month at our Vantage Park Headquarters.

The deadline for items in Tyre Squeals is the 15th of the month. The views and opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of Yeovil Car Club Ltd.

Details for BACS payments:

Account: Yeovil Car Club Limited

Sort Code: 60 24 37

Account number: 70118809

YCC EVENTS 2026 (Note! The green shaded lines show the ones planned for this month).

Date		Event	Contact
January	1	New Year Meet at Pipers, 10am-2pm	Jeremy Veale
February	7	Car Meet at Pipers, 9am-12pm	Merv Dawe
	14	Valentine's Breakfast Meet	Merv & Liz Dawe
	18	Evening talk at P&R Hurt	Chris & Joan Jones
March	7	Car Meet at Pipers, 9am-12pm	Merv Dawe
	8	Club Lunch	Chris & Joan Jones
	18	Film Night at P&R Hurt	Chris & Joan Jones
April	4	Car Meet at Pipers, 9am-12pm	Merv Dawe
	15	AGM at Westlands Centre, 7.30pm	Merv Dawe, Ian Wernham
	26	Drive It Day	Merv Dawe
May	2-3	Abbey Hill Steam Rally	Alan & Sharon Miller
	2	Car Meet at Pipers, 9am-12pm	Merv Dawe
	16	Breakfast Meet	Jeremy Veale
	25	Sherborne Country Fayre	Graham Dewar
	30-31	Andersea Classic & Vintage Show	Merv & Liz Dawe
June	6	Car Meet at Pipers, 9am-12pm	Merv Dawe
	7	Bennetts Water Gardens	Merv & Liz Dawe
	21	Salisbury Motor Show	Jeremy Veale
July	4	Car Meet at Pipers, 9am-12pm	Merv Dawe
	4	Hardington Street Fayre	Paul Vallis
	11-12	Powderham Castle Crash Box Classic	Chris & Joan Jones
August	1	Car Meet at Pipers, 9am-12pm	Merv Dawe
	9	Picnic at Gary Wragg's	Merv Dawe
	16	Summer Run	Nigel Edwards, Liz Dawe
	30-31	Honiton Hill Rally	Merv & Liz Dawe
	31	West Coker Fete	Diane Howes
September	5	Car Meet at Pipers, 9am-12pm	Merv Dawe
	6	Haynes Car Show	Merv & Liz Dawe
	12	Breakfast Meet	Merv Dawe
	18	Fish & Chip or Pie Night	Paul & Carol Vallis
October	3	Car Meet at Pipers, 9am-12pm	Merv Dawe
	18 or 25	Autumn Colours Run	Rod & Evelyn Coleman
November	5	Car Meet at Pipers, 9am-12pm	Merv Dawe
	TBC	Mid-Week Lunch	Chris & Joan Jones
December	5	Car Meet at Pipers, 9am-12pm	Merv Dawe
	TBC	Christmas Meal	Chris & Joan Jones

You will notice there is no West Somerset Steam Rally this year, we have been told they are having a fallow year for 2026. Contact numbers for the above can be found in the front of the magazine.

EDITORS NOTES

Hi Everyone,

Hopefully by now, those members who have had their cars in hibernation over the winter months have woken them up and got them running nicely, ready for the club events that have been organised for you. I look forward to seeing you at some of them in the coming months.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the film night at Paul Hurt's in March which also included a presentation from Mason Turner, a local lad who is seriously good at karting & is competing very successfully at a national level, so I was delighted to meet Mason & his family at the April breakfast meet.

There's no doubting Mason's on track ability – the mountain of trophies he had with him prove that & I look forward to following his progress during this & the coming seasons. Somerset has a great pedigree of top racing drivers - Jenson Button, Lando Norris & Colin White to name a few & on current form we could be adding Mason Turner to that list in the coming years! We are really pleased that he & his parents have become club members & wish Mason every success for the future.

If you are interested in following Mason on social media, his details are shown below.



That's it for this month, as always thanks to all contributors & advertisers for their valued support.

Take care

Rog



Mason Turner with his parents Stuart & Kelly pictured at the April breakfast meet.



A selection of the very impressive haul of trophies Mason has picked up so far on his motorsport journey. Keep up the good work!

NOTES ON UPCOMING EVENTS

Breakfast Meet

Date: Saturday May 16th

Time: 9.00am until 11.00am.

Location: Hamish's Farm Shop,
637 Prowles Cross,
Yeovil,
BA22 9RF.

Please note - Numbers are limited to 40.

Please contact Jeremy Veale to book your space.

Email reliefdriver@aol.com

Home 01935 824767 or Mobile 07881 808913

West Coker Village Fete, Monday 31st August 2026 11am - 4pm

Once again I have been asked to organise a display of classic and vintage cars at the above.

This is always a good day with the usual burgers, cream teas and bar, together with stalls and entertainment.

If you would like to join Yeovil Car Club stand, please let me know.

Diane Howes

howesdiane@yahoo.co.uk

07811820524

Haynes Classic Car Show, September 6th

You will have course seen the email regarding this show, we have now got the 20 car spaces we booked full, but, if you haven't booked with us to put your car on our pitch, please contact Merv Dawe and we will endeavour to book additional space.

Llanerchindda Farm

We are visiting Wales in September for a four day trip, arriving on Monday 21st and departing on Thursday 24th. On the Tuesday and Wednesday they are organising scenic tours of the area. We have 11 rooms booked, 22 people and we have been advised that they have one double room and one single available if anyone is interested.

The cost is £375 per person, which includes bed, breakfast, 3 course evening meal, route maps and rally plate.

I have been reliably informed that this is a well planned and enjoyable event from others who have gone in the past, in fact they are mentioned in a lot of well known motoring press.

You do not need to take a classic vehicle or a car you are not to sure of, your every day car is perfectly acceptable.

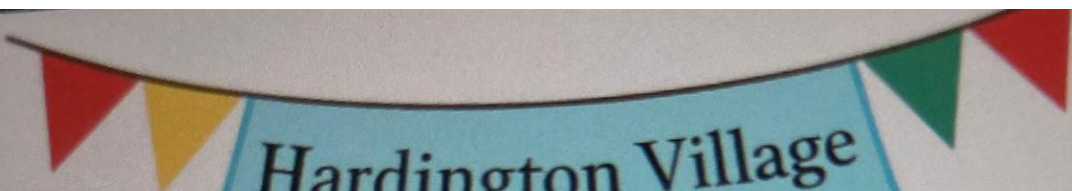
For further details, please do not hesitate to contact me - Merv Dawe 07860 262631.

CLUB WEBSITE



As you will be aware, the club has recently launched its new website & it would be great if members could write a short testimonial with regard to aspects they enjoy about it. These would then be uploaded so that anyone viewing the site would be able to read them – a simple & effective way of promoting Yeovil Car Club.

Please send your thoughts to Jeremy Veale our website & Facebook officer who's contact details are inside the front cover of this magazine – many thanks!



Hardington Village Street Fayre



Calling All Stallholders!



Saturday 4th July 2026, 12-4pm

We're looking for enthusiastic stallholders to join our vibrant community event, celebrating its 16th Year !

We are over 50% full but are looking for artisans selling adult and or children's clothing, sweet treats, dog toys/treats pet accessories , or local produce, we'd love to have you be part of the fun.

Come and showcase your products, meet the community, and enjoy a lively afternoon filled with entertainment, food, and family activities.



To book a stall or find out more:
Contact Kate at hardingtonvsf@gmail.com

Let's make this year's Hardington Street Fayre the best one yet!



HARDINGTONVSF



HARDINGTON VILLAGE STREET FAYRE

If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Paul Vallis.

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* Saturdays 8.00am – 1.00pm

*(PLEASE NOTE: Subject to events we attend, calling before a visit on Saturdays is advisable)



I had to sell the sports car - as Club Secretary, I needed more room for the compliance stuff!

AWARD PRESENTATION AT THE AGM ON APRIL 15TH



The club presented plaques to its two new Honorary Members, Bill Owen & Eric Howes



The club also presented certificates to Di Howes, Brenda Gosney, Linda Dewar & Ann Morris in recognition of the work & service they have provided over many years.

Congratulations & well done to you all!

FEEDBACK FROM THE AGM

During the club AGM held on 15th April, a member raised some concerns regarding the publication & accuracy of the 2025 financial statement.

Unfortunately these were not able to be addressed in detail on the night as for personal reasons, the Treasurer was unable to attend that meeting.

Since then, the Treasurer has contacted the Accountants who produced the statement and having gone through them again, it is very clear that they made numerous errors during its creation.

These have now been corrected, rechecked and the statement reissued by them. It is noted that the figures originally supplied to the Accountants by the club were in fact 100% correct.

It is very dissappointing that having used a professional company to carry out this work such mistakes were made. Going forward, quotes for future statements will be obtained from other suitable companies before a decision on selection is made.

The club feels that this matter is now closed, however, any member(s) who may still have concerns about this subject are welcome to contact Read & Co. Martock to examine the accounts at their own expense.

On a separate note, any member who wishes to attend a committee meeting to see how the club is run, understand the topics discussed or raise an issue is welcome to. Committee meetings are held monthly at our HQ at Pipers in Sparkford & provisional dates for the remainder of the year are shown below.

If you do intend to come along, please could you let the Secretary know in advance so that any points you wish to raise can be included on the agenda & the date confirmed. Due to time constraints, speaking would be limited to around 3 minutes so that the rest of the meeting does not overrun excessivley.

Date	Location	Start Time
8th June 2026	Piper Trimmers, Vantage Park, Sparkford	7pm
6th July 2026	Piper Trimmers, Vantage Park, Sparkford	7pm
3rd August 2026	Piper Trimmers, Vantage Park, Sparkford	7pm
7th September 2026	Piper Trimmers, Vantage Park, Sparkford	7pm
5th October 2026	Piper Trimmers, Vantage Park, Sparkford	7pm
2nd November 2026	Piper Trimmers, Vantage Park, Sparkford	7pm
7th December 2026	Piper Trimmers, Vantage Park, Sparkford	7pm

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30th AUGUST 2026

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Entries for cars and motorcycles are now open!

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Another date for your diary if you are interested in attending.

COVER PICTURE CAR – MERCEDES BENZ 190E (W201)

The 1974 oil crisis struck at a time when Mercedes were making medium and large saloons, and some luxury roadsters, plus commercial vehicles. BMW had successfully developed their Neue Klasse (New Class) of small saloons, (1602, then 2002, and in 1975, the famous 3 series).

New US laws which meant every car manufacturer had to reduce the fuel consumption across their whole range.

Thus, in 1976 Mercedes began the development of a new range of compact saloons, code-named W201. The brief specified there should be no compromises on traditional Mercedes values: build quality, safety, modern technology, long distance comfort, durability, ease of repair and maintenance, improved fuel efficiency

The design team rejected the hatchback shape being popularised by VW's Golf (seen as too down market for Mercedes!), and their main target market was the under 30s, who might be considering the BMW (then only available as a two door) or trading up from a Golf.

Front wheel drive was considered, but proposed component sharing with the next generation of medium Mercedes saloons meant that rear wheel drive was the best option.

The design team was led by Bruno Sacco, an Italian automotive engineer who had moved to Mercedes in 1958, had taken over as head of styling.

Innovations included:

- front suspension with separately mounted springs and gas dampers
- a new five link rear suspension system, lighter and more compliant; this was later adopted on all Mercedes models
- retaining the recirculating-ball type steering, this being easily collapsible and thus safer if a collision occurred
- disc brakes and anti-roll bars all round

It is often claimed that this was when the engineers, not the accountants, played the major role at Mercedes. Certainly, the estimated development costs of £600 million would support this view!

The eight-year development programme, from 1974 to 1982, was a serious commitment, and one that had to succeed if Mercedes were to make the transition from a manufacturer of relatively small numbers of niche models, to a worldwide, volume supplier of modern, more fuel-efficient cars suitable for a different range of customers.

Around 1.87 million 190Es were produced worldwide between 1982 and 1993; of these, 1.25 million were petrol engine, and 630,000 diesel.

Most of the petrol models (nearly 700,000) were 2 litres, with 1.8 and 2.3 versions also available.

The Mercedes 190E 2.6

Announced in 1985, the 2.6 version may have been a reaction to BMW's unveiling of their six cylinder BMW 325 in July 1985. Interestingly, whilst the BMW was clearly a sports saloon, Mercedes didn't highlight any sporting pretensions of its 190E 2.6. There were virtually no bodywork changes to the regular versions, and only the discreet 2.6 badge on the bootlid.

Priced at just £60 less than the larger 260E saloon, it was very much a top-of-the-range small luxury model.

In total, only 105,000 190Es had the 2.6, 6-cylinder petrol engine fitted to our car. There were facelifts in 1985 and 1989, the latter meaning that our car comes with colour-matched lower flank panels (known as Sacco panels), and more rear leg-room

There are currently about 1400 190Es on UK roads, so a handful will be 2.6 versions

Our 1989 Mercedes 190E 2.6

Jon and Sally purchased G902UAL in October 2022 from Mark Taylor Specialist Vehicles (MTSV), based in Keighley, Yorkshire. Mark is an MB Club member and in the Club directory of recommended suppliers.

The car was built at the Bremen factory in October 1989 and registered in the UK on 16th January 1990. It was supplied by International Cars of Chesterfield, and remained in the ownership of the same family until August 2021.

Standard equipment; ABS, power steering, central locking, anti-slip differential, headlamp wash/wipe, outside temperature gauge, heated door mirrors (but Mercedes only fitted an electric one to the passenger door!).

Extra equipment; electric sunroof, dealer-fitted alarm, 70-litre fuel tank

Mileage and service history

Our car has averaged less than 3,300 miles per year, with a total of just under 105,000 miles on the clock when purchased in 2022. The mileage is currently just over 108,000.

The previous owners kept extensive records, including their own handwritten notebook of every part replaced, and details of every oil change (including how much oil was drained!).

There is an annotated Haynes Owners Manual, a copy of every MoT certificate (it has never failed an MoT)

All the original keys and fobs are present; the original first aid kit and tool roll are in the boot; and the original Blaupunkt Windsor radio/cassette is fitted and working!

Interesting fact

Mercedes 190E 2.3-16 developed with Cosworth-modified 16v engine to compete in German Touring Car Championship (DTM)

Promotional Race of Champions held at Nurburgring in May 1984, everyone driving identical Cosworth Mercedes

Invited drivers included Niki Lauda, Stirling Moss, Alain Prost, John Surtees and James Hunt

The winner, though, was a young, relatively unknown Brazilian – Ayrton Senna. His car is now on display at the Mercedes Museum in Stuttgart, but was brought to Brooklands in 2024 for the 40th anniversary event, organised by the Mercedes Benz Club.

Our car was present, parked just a few yards from the lovely Senna machine.

One of the best moments was driving around the circuit with about thirty other W201s.

Our car regularly appears at shows and events (Sherborne, Beaulieu) and in 2025 we won the Sponsor's 1st Choice Award at the Sherborne Classic and Supercar Show.

The car is often shown at Haynes Motor Museum, taking part in the Running Vehicle Displays that we hold in the summer months.

It really is a lovely car to drive; it has the ride comfort of the larger Mercedes saloons, and whilst definitely not sporty, has plenty of power to keep up with modern traffic, and confidence-inspiring handling and brakes!

I will be at a number of YCC events again this year – please come and have a chat!

Jon Baggott

CLUB MERCHANDISE

Don't forget the club has a good range of shirts, polo shirts, fleeces, sweatshirts and hats plus many other items in club colours & with the club logo, all at reasonable prices.

Please contact Sharon & Alan Miller for further information & to place an order. Their contact details are shown inside the front cover of this issue.



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BREAKFAST MEET AT VANTAGE PARK



Below are a few photos of vehicles taken at the April Breakfast meet.



MEMBERS CAR FOR SALE

1965 Singer Gazelle 1600cc



This car was purchased by the current owner on May 27th 2017.

Shortly afterwards in August the car won "best unrestored or original condition car " in the Purbeck Rally.

Interior.

Since purchasing the car the owner has had the drivers seat repaired, all carpets replaced, a new roof lining (by Pipers) and new furlflex round all the doors.

Exterior.

Bare metal body restoration, new windscreen, bespoke stainless steel exhaust, re manufactured external sun visor which has been sprayed red along with the roof, full set of whitewall tyres and electronic ignition fitted.

This car is well known within the club, has had only 4 previous owners, has never been stored off road and has a complete history file.

Price guide - offers in excess of £7000

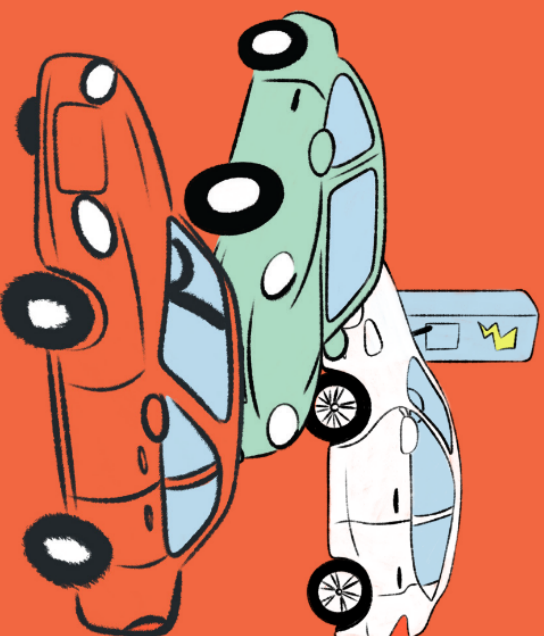
If interested please contact Gary Doodney on 01935 814779 for more information or to arrange a viewing.



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