



*Dear SP Owner,*

**The next meeting is 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

It was 60 years ago to the day that Harold Hastings writing in *The Motor* broke the news that The Daimler V-8 Dart would be officially showcased at International Automobile Exhibition in New York. There was a detailed analytical and photographic study of the SP. Hastings wrote of the 2 ½ litre engine's advanced design, which provided the 140 bhp sports car with its body of reinforced polyester (weighing a mere 18cwt). It was Edward Turner himself who had alluded to a new range of 2 ½ litre high performance cars in November 1958. We now know all too well that John Box, one of the test drivers, had been evaluating a new Daimler sports car in the Welsh Countryside back in 1958. See below for more details of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary rally.

At the recent NEC Restoration show, the SP250 Owners' Club, spearheaded by Alan Mason, was awarded the Charity Trophy for their outstanding contribution made to St Francis Hospice. Alan thanked those who helped, especially the Ford Motor Company and the Essex SP section who spent the day marshalling at the Dunton Circuit. The last Classic Car Event raised the magnificent sum of £24,000. What an achievement, what an award. This year's event takes place on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September**. <https://www.sfh.org.uk/frankies-classic-car-fest>

We had an excellent stand at the NEC Restoration show, topped off by the award, where we had two SPs, both in grey, one a running restoration owned by Andrew Shepherd and the other a mint example by Jim Davies. In between the two cars, JDHT had brought along a V8250 engine that had been sectioned many years ago by the Daimler apprentices. All three exhibits caused much discussion with many imploring Andrew to leave his 'oily rag' as it is. If all the forms we handed out are returned, we might have seven new finds – here's hoping!

*Classic Car Weekly* is doing an SP250 write up this Wednesday - so find yourself a copy. I am also aware *The Telegraph* intends to celebrate the SP's 60<sup>th</sup> with an article and no doubt other magazines also. The best to date has been the New Zealand **March/April** edition of *Classic Driver* which showcases on the cover a 'flight of Darts' and eleven pages internally devoted to the SP, its owners, and the NZ SP Club. An excellent article, no doubt helped by the doyen of New Zealand SPs Keith Humphries. Keith has not only encyclopaedic knowledge of SPs but also a library to match, into which are a number of artefacts/memorabilia that were once the property of the late Jack Wilks, affectionately known as *The Pencil* (Edward Turner's right hand man). If you have a relative/friend in NZ try and get a copy – it won't be bettered. Keith and his wife Di, armed with a cine camera, did an extensive tour of this country back in the late 1980s/early 1990s interviewing, recording and gathering as much information as possible on the SP and those behind its story.

The constantly updated website <https://daimlersp250dartownersclub.com/> by Stewart Amos is helping by finding unknown knowns. This together with the Facebook site run by Dallas Stoodley helps bring the global SP network into your drawing room.

The famous Duncan Black SP, owned by John Abel and raced by Murray Shepherd, has been out testing on the Goodwood circuit ahead of the Members' Meeting this coming weekend **6/7<sup>th</sup> April**; if going down, pop over to show your support and see John, Murray and the SP.

The DLOC Norfolk rally takes place on **14<sup>th</sup> April** at Brisley Hall, NR20 5AA from 11.30am or motor over from the Wyevale Garden Centre, Bressingham IP22 2AB from 10am details from Rodney Knight [rodneynight1940@gmail.com](mailto:rodneynight1940@gmail.com) tel: 01638 711 274 or mob: 07421 762 174

We have been invited by the Jaguar Drivers' Club to join them and visit the Jaguar Land Rover Heritage collection (the ex-James Hall collection) on the **1<sup>st</sup> June** at Ryton-on-Dunsmore CV8 3LF. I understand this is free. If it's your wish to go along I will put you in touch.

**The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rally:** there are a few spaces left at the dinner **14<sup>th</sup> June** at the time of writing. There is an allocation for 280 and thus far 230 have booked. Usual rules apply – once full etc., no standing in the aisles! The rally itself is being held at Ragley Hall the following day, **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June**. It's hoped more than 300 SPs will take part and make this the largest gathering ever. If you have mislaid your booking form, then please contact Glyn [glynoverly@talktalk.net](mailto:glynoverly@talktalk.net) and he will send details to you.

What's in a name? £200,000 plus above the guide price if your name was Brough :- <https://online.handh.co.uk/m/lot-details/index/catalog/111/lot/43736/?url> £450,000! for a dismantled motorcycle.

Much has been written on the advantages of the headlong rush for the Electric Vehicle. However, little has been written on the many billions of pounds spent on the diesel engine. At present the limit for diesel engines is 168mg/km of NOx and in 2020 that limit will reduce to 120mg/km. both figures are for RDE (real driving emissions) testing. New technology has produced emissions of just 13mg/km of NOx in mixed driving conditions. However, even in urban driving conditions the NOx emissions tend to be higher due to engine temperatures at 26mg/km - but this is still about one fifth of permitted levels by the forthcoming 2020 limits. The components and rare earth minerals needed to produce EV battery technology will have a far more negative impact on the environment than the internal combustion engine. I note with great interest that our local train service, Greater Anglia, will convert 100 of their trains to hydrogen fuel-cell power from 2022. It's cheaper and more cost effective than using electric!

I continue to stress that you should MOT your SP; it's a great way to have another pair of eyes look over the car. The benefits are of immense value: the Police will see that you have tested the car; insurance companies likewise; and if travelling in Continental Europe you will the certificate (as well as a 'green card' and an international driving licence).

The extended Morgan family have taken the decision to sell up their stake in the family business, thus many will no doubt lament the sale of the historic Morgan Car Company to the Italians. I suppose the writing was on the wall when Charles Morgan, the grandson of the founder, was ousted in a boardroom scuffle a number of years back. Take a last look inside the factory [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDCu\\_ScK2\\_g&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDCu_ScK2_g&feature=youtu.be)

By now you should have received the latest copy of pasSPort if not, please contact Glyn Overy.

*And finally.....*

A major identity crisis!



Much cheaper than an original grille! And it saves countless silly questions

*Yours sincerely,*

*Laurence and Ann*

Thought for the day: God cannot alter the past but historians can.