



Party TIMES



August, September & October 2021

Issue Highlights

From the Editor	1
Prince Phillip	2-6
NEMGTR Events	7-8
UK Ales	9
Classifieds	10-12



I don't know about all of you, but I'm still wearing a mask at indoor venues!

Famous Racing Quotes:

“You can tell that you’re in trouble when you feel the air on the back of your neck instead of in your face.”

Buddy Baker

From the Editor

Rain, rain, go away! Just when we can get out and drive again, we get a bucketful of rain, sometimes you just can't win. I hope you all have been able to dodge the raindrops and put a mile or two on your MGs. While all the talk is of “normal” returning, there is still uncertainty out there, the initial vaccination surge has slowed to a trickle and more cases and deaths are starting to increase, mostly among the un-vaccinated. I admit, watching the numbers, I am flummoxed...we have it in our hands to stop this scourge, yet still folks hesitate.

Along these lines, we need to resolve our Holiday Party plans. We are looking for a consensus among the Members whether they feel comfortable having our normal indoor gathering and dinner at the Princeton. Andrew Bass usually starts working with the Princeton Inn around this time frame and he would like to hear from the Members their thoughts before he commits the Club to reserving the room. Please take the time to email or call Andrew with your comments and concerns.

Andrew Bass: 978-314-1225 abas1111@yahoo.com

Cars fit for a Prince

By Gary Axon

Following the sad passing of His Royal Highness Prince Philip last April, the many thousands of gracious and compassionate obituaries spoken and written about the Duke of Edinburgh's long and fulfilled life have rightly highlighted his many admirable qualities, achievements and personal passions over his 99 years.



Inevitably, his insatiable zest for life, plus his sense of duty to Her Majesty the Queen, plus the Nation and Commonwealth, as her devoted husband and consort, along with his great sporting interests and pursuits, have attracted the bulk of the media's coverage and column inches, including his great love of sailing, polo, carriage driving and cricket. What hasn't really garnered much mention so far in the copious press coverage written, though, is the Duke of Edinburgh's great love of cars and motoring in general, with a real passion for speed as a self-declared 'petrol head'. As a keen car enthusiast and a patron of engineering, the Prince acted as an ambassador and champion for the British automotive industry post-war, promoting the UK's motoring prowess and products to a receptive global export audience.

During the 1950s the Prince was photographed behind the wheel of a rare *Jaguar XKSS* and drove a classic Aston Martin race car on the celebrated Motor Circuit at Goodwood in 1953. Some years later, period images also show him chatting and joking with 1976 Formula 1 British World Champion *James Hunt* at the height of his competition career.

In late 1955, during a visit to Britain's then dominant car producer, BMC (Austin Morris) and its Longbridge design office studio as part of an official Factory tour, the Duke was shown a few top-secret sketches and clays of some planned future models. In his renowned forthright manner, Prince Philip commented to Austin boss Leonard Lord that he might want to get an expert outside design consultant to help out as the proposed new BMC models already looked dated and "not quite up to European competition" in his opinion, prompted by the futuristic Citroën DS that had just recently been launched. The Prince gave Lord a suggestion about who he should get as a consultant – Battista Farina at Pininfarina. Lord promptly acted on his recommendation, appointing Pininfarina to style the formal 'Farina' Austin A55 Cambridge/Morris Oxford family saloons, quickly followed by the influential two-box Austin A40 with its truncated tail (now the standard profile of all modern hatches, but revolutionary in 1959), plus BMC's popular ADO16 1100-1300 range (the UK's best-selling cars for many years), capable 1800 'Landcrab' and MGB.



Prince Philip also drove a huge variety of cars during various official factory visits, ranging from a tiny 1950s *Fiat 500* and Innocenti IM3 1100 in Italy, through to a sporting Vauxhall VX4/90 FD and iconic Jaguar E-type and XJ-S. He flew up to Linwood, just outside Glasgow, in 1963 to officially open the Rootes Group's (later Chrysler's) brand-new Scottish production facility where the all-new Mini-rivalling Hillman Imp was being built. At the conclusion of the Linwood opening ceremony and Factory tour, the Duke took the driving seat of a Hillman Imp (registration 7425 VC) for his return trip to Renfrew airport, with Lord Rootes and Mr. Geoffrey Rootes as his passengers, driving the untested small rear-engined at speeds in excess of 80mph!

For his own personal transport, immediately post-war the Duke owned a classic MG TC sports car which played a huge role in his courtship of the future Queen, with Princess Elizabeth (as she was at the time) commenting: "He has his own tiny MG which he is very proud of. He has taken me about in it, once up to London, which was great fun, only it was like sitting on the road, and the wheels are almost as high as one's head."



Once married and settled down, Prince Philip had a Tickford-bodied Lagonda 3.0-litre built to his personal special order, including an in-car telephone (on which he reportedly used to make prank calls to the young Prince Charles and Princess Anne when away from home), plus a special vanity mirror for HRH to adjust her hat, this car winning Aston Martin Lagonda with its first (of many) Royal Warrant in 1954. The Duke personally drove this Lagonda for many years, using it to tour The Commonwealth in 1956-57 and open the M1 motorway in 1959, for example.

The Prince replaced his beloved Lagonda in 1961 with an elegant five-speed Alvis TD21 drophead coupe. London coachbuilder Park Ward built this Alvis to Prince Philip's personal specification, specially fitted tall with a taller windscreen and an electric folding hood three inches higher than standard to allow the Prince more head-room. This unique Alvis appeared on the Cartier Lawn at the 2016 Goodwood Festival of Speed presented by Mastercard as part of a special Royal Cars Cartier 'Style et Luxe' celebratory Concours display. This car is still in the Royal Collection and is based at Sandringham.



This enchanting Alvis was followed by a very special and intriguing Reliant Scimitar, the prototype Ogle Triplex GTS (Glazing Test Special) of 1965, a pioneering sporting shooting brake with a vast rear glazed area, anticipating Reliant's later influential *Scimitar* GTE production model, the favored car of Princess Anne, who has owned no less than nine examples, with one still

in her possession today. The Duke drove the Ogle GTS for more than two years.

Prince Philip's relationship with the small Letchworth-based industrial design specialist's Ogle continued into the mid-1970s with him using the one-off monobox Lucas Taxi electric prototype for a while as his car to get around London. He went on to 'borrow' an electric Bedford CF van-based taxi prototype for some time too.

Time spent driving these zero-emission Ogle Lucas and Bedford taxi prototypes proved the advantages and delights of using a taxi cab to the Prince, and he subsequently drove an Austin FX4 black cab-based FL2 Hirecar around the Capital for fun for some time, to-



tally incognito. In addition to the Prince, the Austin FL2 and FX4 taxi also found favor with a number of other celebrities, owners ranging from Sir Laurence Olivier, Sid James and Stephen Fry, all keen on the vehicle's ability to negotiate London streets without attracting a second glance, this being a great part of the appeal to such high-profile drivers.



Touchingly, within a couple of hours of the sad announcement of his passing on Friday 9th April 2021, dozens of London black cab drivers made their way to The Mall, the cabbies assembling in two columns along the thoroughfare which links Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace, slowly conveying past the Palace to pay their respects.



After his fleet of taxis, Prince Philip settled into driving various Land Rover SUVs as his regular wheels, sadly culminating in his high-profile road traffic accident in January 2019. The Land Rover Discovery the Prince was driving at the time was on the Sandringham estate in Norfolk was hit by another vehicle (a Kia) when he pulled

out of a driveway onto a busy main road, after being dazzled by the low sun. The Duke's Discovery flipped over, trapping him inside the car, and he had to be rescued through the sunroof by a passing motorist. He was miraculously unscathed, but three weeks later he ended his long driving career when he finally surrendered his driving license, aged 97.



It is therefore fitting that the last vehicle the Duke traveled in within the grounds of Windsor Castle to St. George's Chapel on Saturday 17th for his funeral was a Land Rover, a special adaption commissioned in 2015 and believed to be based around a Defender 130 gun carrier, painted in a traditional deep bronze green coachwork, and designed and approved personally by the Duke. Rest In Peace Prince Philip.

Rest In Peace Prince Philip.



30th Anniversary British Invasion

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GOF Mk 107 Riverhead, NY

October 13 - 17, 2021



For the first time the New England MG T Register will be holding a GOF on eastern Long Island and visiting the north and south forks of the area. The event will be based in Riverhead where the two forks split to form Peconic Bay. As part of the event we will be visiting the wine country of the north fork, once one of the potato growing capitals of the US, now home to over 40 working wineries and vineyards.

We will also visit Greenport and Sag Harbor, once the whaling capitals of the world and now two picturesque seaside villages with interesting shops and restaurants. We will cross from the north to the south fork via Shelter Island, a lovely island reachable only by ferries on the north and south ends.

We will then drive through the area known far and wide as The Hamptons, and during this part have the opportunity to drive the original street race course in Bridgehampton where MG T's acquitted themselves quite proudly as well as visit what remains of the once world famous Bridgehampton Road Racing Course and pass by the remains of Henry Austin Clark's Long Island Auto Museum.

And for the golfers among you we will drive through Shinnecock Hills Gold Club and past The National Golf Links, two of the highest rated and most famous golf courses in the world.

Long Island is also one of the cradles of aviation. Charles Lindberg began his historic flight across the Atlantic Ocean from here and the Apollo Lunar Landing Module was built here. One of the nation's oldest lighthouses sits at Montauk Point and was commissioned by George Washington. Teddy Roosevelt's home, Sagamore Hill, in Oyster Bay is also a must see for history buffs when visiting.

Hotel and registration information at:

<https://www.nemgtr.org/gof-mk-107/gof-mk-107-schedule.html>



British Motorcars of New England
presents

BRITISH MOTORCARS IN BRISTOL

Independence Park & Colt State Park in Bristol, RI

Friday & Saturday August 20th & 21st, 2021

Schedule of Events:

FRIDAY

8:15AM-2:00PM British Motorcars Road Tour
(for registered motorcars)

5:45PM Parade of cars through downtown Bristol

6:00PM Street Party on Thames Street at
Independence Park featuring:

Live Music • Beer Tent • Food Trucks
& Classic British Motorcars!

SATURDAY

10:00AM-5:00PM Events in Colt State Park:

Classic British Motorcar Show & Car Corral
British Marketplace
Food & Beverage Concessions

2:00PM Awards Presentation & Drive by

Over 40 classes & competitions!
Come and support your favorites.

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for just **\$25** until August 6th



<https://www.britsinbristol.com/bmb-registration>

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“Give my people plenty of beer, good beer & cheap beer, and you will have no revolution among them”.
Queen Victoria



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MASTER BREW

Shepherd Neame is Britain's oldest brewer – and while 1698 is the Brewery's official founding date, there is clear evidence that its heritage pre-dates even this period. The discovery in 1970 of the Graveney boat, an Anglo-Saxon boat built circa 900AD, revealed the earliest evidence of hops in the UK. However, Faversham's first known link with brewing follows the founding of the town's abbey in 1147 by King Stephen. Within the site was a brewhouse, which produced ale for the monks.

The abbey was approximately one-third of a mile north of Shepherd Neame's present site with the brewhouse close to the north-east end of Abbey Street above a well, containing natural, chalk-filtered water.

Using natural ingredients, such as mineral water from the town's aquifer and local Kent hops, our brewers produce Kentish ales bursting with character and renowned international lagers. Our brewer's blend art and science to produce award winning beer we want you to enjoy time and time again.

Master Brew is brewed using only the finest Kentish barley and hops and is Shepherd Neame's flagship beer in the brewery's Kentish heartland. The “local hero” is a distinctive, mid-brown bitter ale, with all the hoppy aroma you would expect of a beer brewed in the heart of hop country. Hand-crafted by the Faversham brewery's talented team of experienced brewers, it is a well-balanced traditional ale.

Source: <https://www.shepherdneame.co.uk/>

T Party Regalia

There are jackets, shirts, car badges, cloth pins and now pens available for purchase. That MG fan in the family might just fancy something from our collection.

Jackets.....	\$35.00
Add a name to the Jacket.....	\$5.00
Shirts with pockets.....	\$28.35
Shirts w/o pockets.....	\$27.50
Car Badges.....	\$30.00
Hats, Navy bill w/teal upper, MG T-Party (lettering in white).....	\$9.50
Pins.....	\$2.50
Cloth Patches.....	\$1.50
License Plate Frames.....	\$1.00
Pens.....	\$.50

Add **\$5.00** per jacket/shirt for shipping & handling. Other items will be billed actual postage.

Contact Betty Butler to purchase Regalia.
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Aero Cycle Cars of England Aero Merlin Morgan three wheeler replica. Built by Steve Neal in 2014 with a Moto-Guzzi 1947cc engine with 3500 miles. Two seats side by side with disk brakes all around. Square steel tubing frame, yellow fiberglass sides with aluminum bonnet and stainless steel fenders. \$18,000 OBO. Steve Neal SKYHOOK114@comcast.net



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Supplemental Regalia available from KP Creative Stitches

KP Creative stitches is a home based embroidery studio that has digitized the T-Party logo so it can be put on items that are not currently stocked by the T-Party Regalia. Currently we can offer the logo on denim shirts (\$35) & sweatshirts (\$40). kathy@kpcreativestitches.com Special orders accepted
Kathy Ahrendt 603-426-8568 or Priscilla Guenther 828-728-4927

Brighter Days are surely ahead in 2021

Stay Safe

Wear a mask

Socially Distance

“There’ll be bluebirds over the white cliffs of Dover
tomorrow, just you wait and see”



And if you haven't yet...PLEASE get vaccinated!