



**VINTAGE BENTLEY**

• VISCERA ET GLORIA •

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# Queen Elizabeth II

*1926 – 2022*





# A hat-trick for the Vintage Bentley team on the Flying Scotsman

After a 3-year enforced absence, the 12th Flying Scotsman rally organised by HERO-ERA lived up to its reputation as one of the world's most challenging rallies for vintage cars. True to form, the weather in the region at springtime delivered everything from snow, hail, rain, sub-zero temperatures and brilliant sunshine over the 600-mile route, which started in Northumberland, crossed the border into Scotland via the Kielder Forest and continued via St Andrews, the Cairngorms, Aviemore, concluding at the end of day three at the world-famous Gleneagles Hotel.



William and Andy well and truly wrapped up



A snowy start...

Although the event attracts some of the finest vintage cars, driven by nearly 100 competitors from all over the world, this is no gentle run along country roads. The rally is not for the faint hearted; a typical day often starting with competitors jumping into snow covered cars (many of which have no hoods or heaters) and undertaking a range of competitive driving tests and regularity stages across some of the finest mountainous roads that the region has to offer.

The event is fiercely competitive, and a core of regular participants thoroughly prepare their cars to the highest level to be in with a chance of winning, whilst for many simply reaching the finish is testament to a crew's endurance and evidence of a well prepared car.

William has competed on the event many times and was

looking to add to his tally of two victories, particularly after his last participation resulted in a close 2nd place after being baulked by a non-competing vehicle on the last event. This year William teamed up with Andy Pullan, again to right that wrong, a navigator with superb credentials. Andy has been reading the maps competitively since the age of 14 and now at the grand old age of 26 was on the cusp of giving up his career in Civil Engineering and following his true passion, to work full time for the Flying Scotsman event organisers – HERO-ERA. In fact, he deferred the start of his new career with HERO-ERA so he could compete in the event. In practical terms this competitive participation in the Flying Scotsman was to be his last for some time as you can't work for the





A beautiful Scottish backdrop

organisers and compete on their events simultaneously, so with the clear objective of improving on his own 2nd place best finish from six previous participations, he was keen to leave this phase of his competitive career with a win.

For William, a Bentley SuperSports was the ideal car to compete with and with the consent of an enthusiastic new owner, a freshly rebuilt example was entered with a view to using the event as a road test before final handover to the client! There are not many freshly restored cars that would use an event this arduous as a final road-test, certainly not those whose origins are almost a century old, but a Vintage Bentley SuperSports is made with competitive use in mind and benefits from Vintage Bentley's vast experience in preparing successful cars for these types of events.

In isolation, the fact Vintage Bentley prepared the 1923 Bentley SuperSports which stormed into the lead from the start and led throughout the three-day event, appears to present a commanding performance for the Medcalf/Pullan duo, but that would simply not accurately reflect the true intensity of the competition.

At lunch time on day one, a mere 20 seconds covered the top 10 cars and literally the smallest mistakes would result in a crew dropping out of contention. The Bentley had the advantage of really good power and torque synonymous with the marque and on some of the more open tests such as the Crail airfield on day two, the SuperSports was in its element. That said, some of the smaller, younger vintage cars with equally high levels of preparation and the added benefit of new-fangled radial tyres, presented very stiff competition on the twisty stuff. The Vintage Bentley crew left nothing on the table in their efforts to preserve their lead, which led to a few anxious moments when the outer limits of the car were explored, especially with the knowledge the car had been sold and needed to be presented to its new owner on Wednesday morning after the rally, in the same fundamental condition it had left the works!

William Medcalf:

"Make no mistake, to finish this event is an achievement in its own right and any of the crew near the sharp end of the leader board were in with a chance of the win. I had the advantage of a superb navigator in Andy Pullan,



Powering On



Are you warm enough?

as well as a great car to drive, which just gets better the harder you drive it. I know the SuperSport's new owner appreciates the commitment we applied to giving the car a thorough shakedown! A great effort by the team at our works who prepared the car; I tried my best, but I couldn't break it!

Now Andy is retiring from the competitive side, I need to think of who I can crew with on future participations of this legendary event. At the awards ceremony I had a chat with an Australian youngster who nav'd for his Dad. At 14 years old he was the youngest competitor to have ever participated in this rally. Anyway, if he sticks at it and maintains his progress in competitive navigation, I have told him he has a navigator's seat in one of our Bentleys at a future event. It's great to see the next generation showing a passion for vintage cars and reassures us there will be enthusiastic custodians for all these fabulous old cars in years to come."

The victory in the 2022 Flying Scotsman rally means that William has now recorded a hat-trick of wins on the rally with three different navigators, and three different Bentley SuperSports, all having benefited from expert preparation by Vintage Bentley. As a company, Vintage Bentley had a good event with all five cars prepared by the concern finishing the rally, including the class win for Number 17, a Bentley SuperSports.

William Medcalf:

Our event cars are built to be driven HARD and we would hope that our successful participation in this highly respected event is testament to the fact that you can really use our cars in the spirit in which they were conceived. Apart from being great fun to drive, seeing the expression of drivers in a "modern" as you overtake with ease to maintain brisk progress....is a priceless experience every time! Finally, I would like to applaud the sporting nature of the new owner for allowing us to properly shake down his car on the event. We have done approximately 3,000 miles ensuring everything works as it should and when he flew into the UK from the States he came straight down to our works. He was keen to be presented with his car as it was, thoroughly caked in mud and road grime and drenched in champagne - clearly, he is a proper enthusiast and worthy new custodian of this great old vintage Bentley!



Nav'd to a T



**We have all experienced a distinct lack of international events since March 2020, and so despite being a scaled back version with a drop of regular exhibitors, it was great to spend a day in Paris at Retromobile with familiar faces and meeting new ones.**

If you are planning to attend the 47th edition of Retromobile next year or will be in the French capital in February do get in touch; we would love to see you there.



Champagne for the winners



# Generations Rally *March*

Having spent three days rallying in the No. 9 SuperSports on the Generations Rally, hosted by Rally the Globe, my wife Kate and I are simply in awe of the Bentley's performance.

This SuperSports is totally standard and original both technically and aesthetically. Still with her original white metal crankshaft and rods, I thought this event was a great opportunity to 'test' her after many years of quiet retirement. I had not fully appreciated Rally the Globe would route us over Wrynose Pass, Honister Pass, Kirkstone Pass and finally the toughest road in the UK, Hardknott Pass. Brutal very much describes the journey, however, we and the car loved every minute of it.

Being the rarest Bentley ever built, the '100MPH Green Label SuperSports' 80BHP, was a rocket in its day! Having rebuilt and developed many of the original 18 SuperSports to over 200BHP, it was a privilege to experience one again

in its purest original form in a challenging environment. To follow two other SuperSports (No. 4 and No. 17) across the Moors drenched in sunshine was special and reminded me why I fell in love with these SuperSports almost 20 years ago. Kate drove the route and I navigated only using the stars for guidance, which bore out in the results! We stopped to take in the breath-taking views which resulted in an incredibly refreshing event.

TR829 has a huge heart and never missed a beat and she is all the better for the run out. We have a huge admiration and respect for this motorcar and are sorry to see her leave our showroom...



SuperSports #9 driving like a dream



Cruising through countryside



Enjoying the ride



Mrs Medcalf takes the wheel





# Goodwood Members' Meeting *April*



Ready to lead the pack

Goodwood Members' Meeting always delivers a great meet for really enthusiastic Goodwood members. As a Governor of Goodwood, William was delighted to participate in the opening parade lap of the track amongst a number of like-minded lunatics.

By coincidence or encouragement, an array of significant vintage Bentley models presented themselves gracefully for members to enjoy between races.



The Governor's car park at Goodwood



DRIVING EXPERIENCES  
AT GOODWOOD



Sign up, then shop!..

## HERO-ERA's London to Lisbon Check Point *April*

We, and many of our clients, really enjoy competing on HERO-ERA events - the Flying Scotsman being a prime example of one of their well organised rallies. So, we were more than happy to host the London to Lisbon competitors on the way down to Portsmouth for a Time Control on day one of a ten day 3,500 km event. We had the 2022 Flying Scotsman winning SuperSports Bentley on display and crews were free to walk through the busy workshops. Though at such an early stage of the event, there was no requirement for "running repairs" for any of the competitors.

Anna welcomed the London to Lisbon crews to Vintage Bentley; "It's been brilliant, it was great to welcome everyone and for all to run with lovely weather for their first day of competition. It was really great to see everyone and show many of the crews around, particularly the workshop."

## Experiences Last Forever

This year we have accepted several invitations to enhance private client event experiences. It has been wonderful to witness the sheer enjoyment on guest faces when they first feel the thrill of these 100-year-old cars, especially when it is wet! If you know, you know.

If you are looking to deliver an event in the coming months, do get in touch to see how we can collaborate to provide an exhilarating experience for all involved.



Delivering unforgettable experiences





"I am very impressed. It's wonderful what you do here – a very British triumph". The Duke of Richmond and Gordon

## A visit from His Grace *April*

**A close neighbour, His Grace, The Duke of Richmond and Gordon also shares a personal link with vintage Bentleys as his grandfather was an apprentice at the original Bentley factory.**

As a big supporter of local businesses and with many of these cars now racing regularly at Goodwood events, His Grace came for a closer look at how these British icons are kept in top condition, ready to take on anything - on or off the road. Words by Jayson Fong.

# Salon Privé Concours De Vente *April*



A Chelsea pensioner getting comfortable



Second and sold...

**Although our main focus is usually on driving events, we were delighted to support the inaugural Salon Privé Concours De Vente at Royal Chelsea Hospital in April.**

Approximately 16,000 guests attended this event which doubtless will become a regular fixture in the capital.

We took two cars along, our SuperSports number 9 and the legendary Barnato Hassan single seater. Had it had been a driving event, the heavy London traffic would have presented no problems for the SuperSports, the monster of a single seater might have been a little more testing...

Both cars were well received and the Barnato Hassan came 2nd overall as voted for by all the entrants. The most unique element of this event was everything on the lawns was for sale – Concours De Vente.

This was the first event of its type, graced with helicopters, boats, art... anything; however, most importantly £120,000 was raised for the DEC Ukrainian Humanitarian Appeal.

A great success from the Bagley Boys and their team, we have the 2023 dates in our diary.

# It is hard letting go of something you love...

**Despite pulling on the heart strings, it is always a joy to find a new custodian for a Bentley.**

When the time comes to relinquish the wheel - obviously the best option is to pass it on to the next generation of your family and come along to one of our Next Generation track days to ease the transition.

If, however, that is not a practical option, the focused market these lovely pre-war cars inhabit mean securing a knowledgeable specialist to help find a new custodian is a sound option.

As the world's leading Vintage Bentley specialist, in addition to restoring and maintaining the cars, we have been entrusted with the sale and acquisition of many of the most significant Vintage Bentleys ever made.

### From a buyer's perspective

We have a reputation to uphold, and we present a compelling purchase option for a buyer. All cars we offer for sale are thoroughly assessed in our workshop prior to sale so we can present an accurate appraisal of a car's condition and of course, offer expert after sales support and tuition if desired.

### From a vendor's perspective

We have access to an unrivalled global network of Bentley enthusiasts, either looking to join the ownership fold or add to their collection, all of whom know the market for these cars is finite. We can assist in presenting and enhancing your car so that you yield the strongest financial return. We offer a range of sales options from outright purchase, sale or return and consignment. We also provide discreet off market options, should you wish, for your transaction to be undertaken outside the public eye. When you choose to sell your car, remind yourself - you have one chance to present it correctly.

We deliver the goods and offer a transparent sales process, ensuring we present the best sales options for you to consider.

Earlier this year, we were pleased to announce that three months from receiving the



Barnato Hassan ready for her next adventure

sales mandate, we found a new owner for the Barnato Hassan Bentley, one of the most iconic racing cars made.

Built for the Ex-Chairman of Bentley Motors, Woolf Barnato, by the legendary brilliant Bentley Engineer Wally Hassan, this racer's sole purpose was to take the fastest outer circuit lap record at Brooklands. Developed and raced from 1934 till 1938, the Barnato Hassan Bentley competed in 25 races and broke the circuit record several times, ultimately with an unofficial lap of 143.11 mph in September 1938 before moving into storage for the War.

We look forward to assisting the new custodian in looking after this fabulous old warrior!

This is just one of many special Bentleys we have successfully found new homes for in and outside the public domain and we still get a buzz when entrusted with finding the right person for the right car.

For friendly, knowledgeable and accurate advice on the Vintage Bentley market and to find out about the options we offer for buying or selling – please do talk to us!



# VINTAGE BENTLEY ADVENTURES

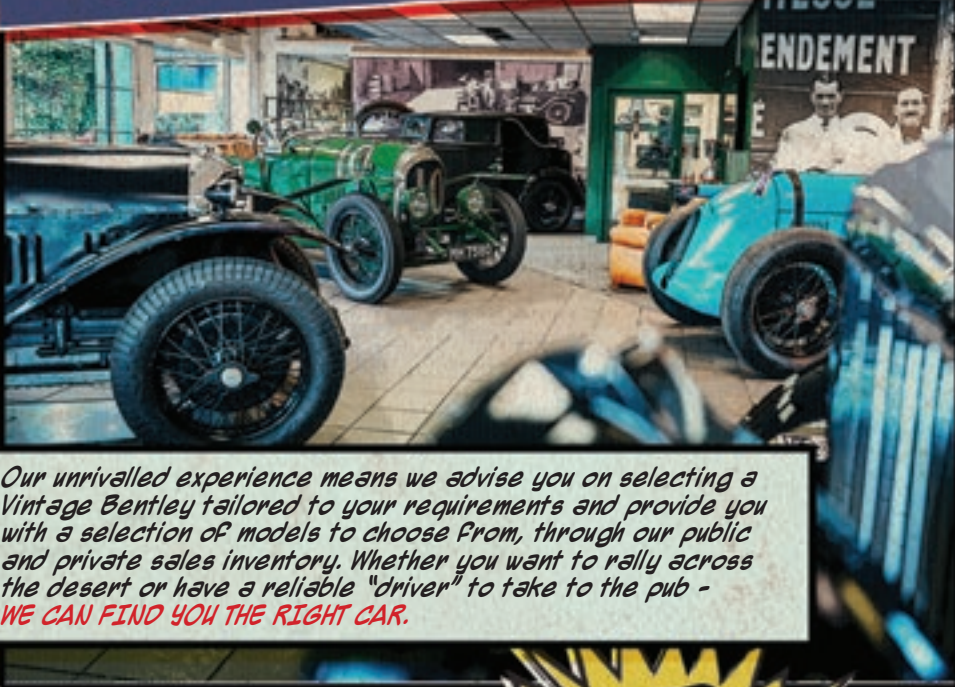


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HOW TO ENJOY THE  
VINTAGE BENTLEY ADVENTURES

## SALES & SERVICE



Our unrivalled experience means we advise you on selecting a Vintage Bentley tailored to your requirements and provide you with a selection of models to choose from, through our public and private sales inventory. Whether you want to rally across the desert or have a reliable "driver" to take to the pub - **WE CAN FIND YOU THE RIGHT CAR.**

## WORKSHOP



We have assembled a dedicated team of over 30 people, including mechanics and engineers with a combined Bentley experience of over 100 years, to provide a range of services from full restoration and preservation, to routine servicing on all Vintage Bentley models.

## PARTS

OVER  
50,000  
PARTS



We hold the largest inventory of Vintage Bentley parts in the world and typically hold over 50,000 parts in stock at any time. This means that in practical terms, we can supply all parts for any Vintage Bentley from stock.

## LIFESTYLE & EVENTS



We can appraise you of events all over the world where we can rally prepare your Bentley, train you and your co-driver to be ready for the challenges ahead and ultimately provide on event support to enable you to maximise the enjoyment from your next Vintage Bentley adventure.

## SHARING WITH THE NEXT GENERATION



BRING YOUR  
W.O TO OUR NEXT  
GENERATION  
TRACKDAY

Now you are a Fully Fledged Bentley boy or girl, you will know that sharing your Vintage Bentley experiences with others is a major benefit of ownership. Bring your car along to our Next Generation Trackdays and share the Vintage Bentley love with close friends and family - one of whom may be shaping as the next custodian... **ALTERNATIVELY SELL US YOUR VINTAGE BENTLEY** - we have plenty of good homes looking to embark on new Vintage Bentley adventures!

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# Benjafield's Makes Monaco *May*

**The Benjafield trip to Monaco for the biennial Monaco Historique event probably accurately embodies the Bentley Boys approach to motoring and messing about with Bentleys - albeit a century later!**

Brisk motoring on the way down and an enthusiastic approach to ensuring that hospitality opportunities were explored to the max, provided all the ingredients for a proper motoring event. This year we prepared over half a dozen Bentleys, including the 'Blower' for Martin, which we were pleased to report ran faultlessly throughout the trip.

After spending quality time with his children, William took to the skies to join the big kids in Monaco and study the lie of the land.



*The chairman of the RAC club (right) brought up the subject of increasing membership fees over drinks at the Fairmont in Monte Carlo. A fellow member took direct and decisive action to dampen out the idea...*

## Petersfield Lions Tour and Tea *June*

**We were delighted to be able to support the local Petersfield Lions Club, the local branch of a worldwide charity which supports humanitarian causes.**

For fundraising purposes, we hosted a full tour of the works; welcoming an enthusiastic 50 visitors to witness our dedicated team of skilled craftsman delivering a full range of services in our workshop including preservation, restoration, and event preparation. This was followed by afternoon tea in our showroom, many of whom had often driven past the works and were



*Lion leaders at the works*

intrigued by what went on behind our doors, sitting amongst some of the finest W.O Bentleys currently on the market.

All the guests had a great time and the guided factory tour raised over £1,000 for Ukraine humanitarian needs. It was great to see local members of the community - including William's Mum - (Gill) who has recently moved to the area.

"Just wanted to thank you for allowing us behind the scenes access to your incredible showroom and workshops in conjunction with the Petersfield Lions Club...I'm still buzzing with the memories and keep looking at the photos I took" - Petersfield Lions Member

"It was very special...the opportunity to look around the wonderful facility and the wonderful cars therein"- Petersfield Lions Member



*Supporting Ukraine from West Sussex*

## Concours on Savile Row *June*

**An innovative event, pairing some of the best cars in the world with the world's best tailors.**

Savile Row threw open their doors and allowed access all areas for owners and guests as their cars basked in the sunshine on a red carpet the length and breadth of the street. A great concept well delivered, and supported by Vintage Bentley with the Barnato Hassan on display. We plan to be back with another Bentley next year.



*Suited and booted at Savile Row*

## Best of British

**Royal Britannia to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at Goodwood**

The June edition of the Goodwood Breakfast Club coincided with the Platinum Jubilee weekend where the theme was Rule Britannia. Obviously, the Best of British was much in evidence, and it was therefore fitting that we were asked to bring along four Vintage Bentleys which, much like our late Queen, share longevity, duty and great performance as core values...!



*Proud to be British*

Image: Daniel Cowdrey

Image: Matt Howell



# Welcome to our new clients!

Since our last issue we are pleased to welcome many new clients, for whom this will be the first Vintage Bentley News delivered for your perusal. For those who are new to the news, we tend to create two issues a year, providing an insight in what we and our clients have been up to enjoying Vintage Bentleys.

In addition to our traditional restoration and event preparation activities in the workshop, up to date agreed value insurance and the importance of annual inspections have come to the fore recently....

## Accurate Agreed Value Insurance Valuations

An activity we are frequently involved in is providing accurate valuations on Vintage Bentleys for insurance purposes. This is not because the majority of owners prioritise the monetary over the emotional value of their cars, it's simply that in the event of an accident, you might rue the day you did not organise a recently agreed value for your car.

Although it's heartening and we actively encourage our clients to use their cars, accidents happen! We have witnessed a handful so far this year with accident repair work occupying workshop bays. Agreed values enable work to start in a timely fashion, thereby avoiding any delays.

With our knowledge of the cars, access to our vast individual model archives and important information on transactions which take place outside the public domain, we are well placed to provide accurate and credible valuations on any Vintage Bentley. Talk to us to discuss how we can provide this service for you and safeguard the value of your treasured Bentley.

## The Importance of Annual Inspections

For those of you who are very familiar with the workings of your Bentley and undertake the maintenance of your car on a regular basis, you can skip this bit! If, however, you rely on others to look after your VB - we cannot stress the importance of performing annual inspections. Here in the UK, the exemption of Vintage Bentleys from the obligation to undertake an annual MOT test to drive on public roads is a mixed blessing.

On the one hand, the current test process is clearly not geared towards determining the roadworthiness of a 90-100-year-old car, but on the other hand, even if you are not using your car very much - having an expert eye checking over your car and having an annual record proving the activity took place is good idea. Not only is the preventative maintenance approach a sound plan on very old cars, but if you do have an incident with another car, evidence that a thorough safety inspection has been undertaken recently certainly supports any claims as to the roadworthiness of your car.

We frequently combine annual inspections with valuation activity and can collect your car from anywhere in the world.

## What are you up to in your Vintage Bentley?

There is normally plenty of media coverage associated with our clients participating in the high-profile endurance rallies, historic race meetings and concours events, but we also really want to see and share with other readers how you are using your Bentley in less competitive environments, whether it is driving to your local pub, getting a pint of milk from your corner shop, or even dropping the kids off; send us a picture of what you have been up to in your Bentley to be included in the next issue.



Father and Daughter Time on the HERO-ERA Sahara Challenge





# VINTAGE BENTLEY

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This is  
the *future*



*Thank you for looking after us all today. You thought of every detail and how impressive it was to have demystified these vintage cars to a new generation. What a joy today was. We are all glowing here, I hope you are too – Nick Sleep*

*We really enjoyed the event. The relaxed atmosphere is very special & the participants fell under the spell. – Dave Butler*

*What a day. Thanks again for your help in all areas. I can imagine what a wonderful range of pictures must be coming – Leon Lazarus*

*Thank you so much for the 'me' moment! You and the team have built a fantastic event of what you have built at Bentley – William*





having me yesterday - it was utterly wonderful! A real 'pinch  
the team are truly something special and should be very proud  
Vintage Bentley. Please do pass my on my biggest thanks to  
Kate and the volunteers. – **Georgia Peck**

The track day this year was a great  
success – **Andy Buchan**

It was the best day  
ever – **Anna-Louise  
Felstead**

Thanks for the hospitality and it was  
good to see so many enthusiastic  
newcomers – **Bill Cleyndert**



# Vintage Bentley Generations Track Day *May*



Powering through the corners

The primary objective of this event is well known these days, namely getting the next generation, as well as other close family and friends, to experience driving your vintage Bentley in a safe, controlled, and friendly environment. We're always looking to provide a hands-on demonstration that, whilst these cars may be fabulous to look at, they are even more rewarding to drive.

As caretakers, it is our responsibility to ensure future custodians of your car learn the vagaries of crash gearboxes and the rewards of mastering other idiosyncrasies of

driving a vintage Bentley! The thrill we and so many of you get, when you see the smile associated with that first crisp cog swap from a new Vintage Bentley driver is priceless!

This year some owners travelled from Canada, Switzerland and South Africa just to get quality tuition. We took 17 drivers, many of whom had never driven a Bentley before, and by lunch time we had them all lapping the track at Goodwood. The sun shone and Spitfires flew overhead. A majestic day.

Don't take our word for it - if you have not come along to one of these events with your family or friends before - make a date for 2023. Your Bentley needs you!



ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE DRIVING  
A CARBON NEUTRAL EVENT





Scan to access  
event details

## JOIN THE ADVENTURE



### TRANS AMERICA 2023 - 20 August to 9 September

Houston to San Francisco, on a route that will take us on roads less travelled and whilst to see America is to cruise the freeways and highways, the roads that beckon those who choose to take on this trip will be an altogether less straight forward affair, we will get the pleasure of seeing an America that many eyes never get to see. As Kerouac himself said, “There is nowhere to go, but everywhere.”



Photo: Will Broadhead

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# First two Bentleys across the finish line at Le Mans Classic *July*

Le Mans Classic is a biennial event, created in 2002 by Peter Auto and Richard Mille in association with Automobile Club de l'Ouest, as a retrospective of the legendary Le Mans 24 Hours 1923-1979 period. The event now attracts almost 200,000 spectators with over 700 cars racing the unique 24 Hours circuit.

With a lap distance of 13.6KM, it makes this circuit one of the longest in the world. It is also not a permanent circuit, with areas of the circuit consisting of public roads. The result of this means competitors only have their official practice sessions to familiarise themselves with the circuit.

This year, 12 Vintage Bentleys competed in the race which was held in three one-hour slots during the day and night and saw the first two Bentleys over the line as GP8242 and XV3207, with the 'Blower' coming in 6th overall for Plateaux One. Great achievement for the team and of course their drivers.

We took two of our apprentices, Nick and James, with us this year. An incredible experience for the pair who claim it was "the best part of the job!", even though they had very little sleep, once they returned to the works and

were fully rejuvenated. You can read more about their experience further down.

Next year will be the centenary of the Le Mans 24 Hour and due to the pandemic, the Le Mans Classic will run again so we have some great plans in the making. Details of which will be released in due course; we can assure you; you will not want to miss out.

If you are competing in any upcoming events or rallies and would like to explore our on event technical support - do give us a call as we may well be there.



Smiles for the second Bentley across the finish line

## Prepare. Race. Repeat.

Two of our apprentices went over to Le Mans this year and for both it was their maiden visit - we asked them what it was like to experience their first encounter with this legendary event...

**Age, where are you from and what do you do at VB?**

James: 19, Chichester, 1st Year Apprentice

Nick: 22, Bracklesham, 3rd Year Apprentice

**What do you drive - if you drive!?**

James: MX5 / Van Driver

Nick: 2021 Husqvarna Svart Pilen 401

**Dream Vintage Bentley model?**

James: SuperSports

Nick: Pacey Hassan, it's a Batmobile

**What were your responsibilities at the meeting?**

James: Mechanic, fixer, everything... water boy

Nick: Mechanic... James suggests Nick was the Team Carrier!

**What picture would you use post on social media to sum up the event for you?**

James: One of Nick asleep! The two of us in front of Katarina's car, although we do look absolutely knackered.

Nick: There are many options...

**What was most important lesson you learnt from some of the more experienced race crew from the event?**

James: Expect the unexpected - it was also noticeable the newer cars had a lot more support, for example they had a whole team looking after a car. We had two looking after all cars!

Nick: General organisation and communication was key, for example the movement of pit boards.

**Most challenging part of your job at the event?**

James: Finding stuff!

Nick: To think on your feet, it was an enjoyable challenge.

**Best bit about the event for you?**

James: Watching the cars finish... although getting a hug from Martin was up there!



Cheers Lads

Nick: Same for me, watching the cars come across the line and reflecting on our efforts was rewarding. Still waiting for my hug...

**How long did you sleep for when you got back?**

James: All of Tuesday, a good 15 hours although feel I gave myself jet lag because of it.

Nick: Pretty standard actually, back up at 5am.

**Manage a few beers after the race?**

James: Yes, before our bedtime was encouraged - we were reminded it was 5 hours before we had to jump in the van home.

Nick: A couple, although I became chief wine taster when sat next to a patron of the Benjafields Racing Club who seemed like their wine connoisseur! Probably a good thing we were ushered to bed whilst the pots and pans were coming out in the form of 'car noises'...

**Do you want to go back again?**

James: Yes, definitely

Nick: 100%, best part of the job!

## An Introduction...

We are excited to introduce Julian, our Operations Manager, who we welcomed to the works in July.



Ready Set Go...

**Three words to describe your first week.**

'ooooh....' Intriguing. Eye-opening. And AMAZING.

**Tell us about your recent background?**

I have come from LEVC and Polestar - electric vehicles in West London. My background has been built around 25 years of mainly the retail side of the industry, predominantly as Dealer Principal within the premium luxury motor vehicle sector such as Lexus, JLR and Aston Martin. I am now learning about all the mucky bits!

**What do you enjoy outside of work?**

I have recently taken up road cycling again after a 'decade break' due to injury. Having previously cycled London to Paris on a converted Mountain Bike I am enjoying being back on the saddle again. Otherwise, I am looking after the little ones... whilst also cheering on Spurs!

**Let us into a secret...**

My dream restoration is a Peugeot 504 convertible... I love them, my favourite car!

**What are you most excited to get stuck into?**

Working with historic vehicles - I am especially excited about the special projects we are currently working on. I am also really looking forward to meeting more of our clients having already heard so many interesting stories in my first few weeks.

**What is the diary looking like for the next 12 months?**

Work wise?! ... Amongst the general servicing, we currently have four major projects on the go which will take us through to the end of 2023. These really are incredible projects and I am very much looking forward to seeing them come to fruition alongside various event preparation, particularly the Le Mans Special next year where we will prep 50 vintage Bentleys prior to heading over to France.

If you are visiting the works in the coming weeks Julian looks forward to meeting you soon. For those further afield, please feel free to call or email Julian who is very much looking forward to getting to know you and your Bentley.



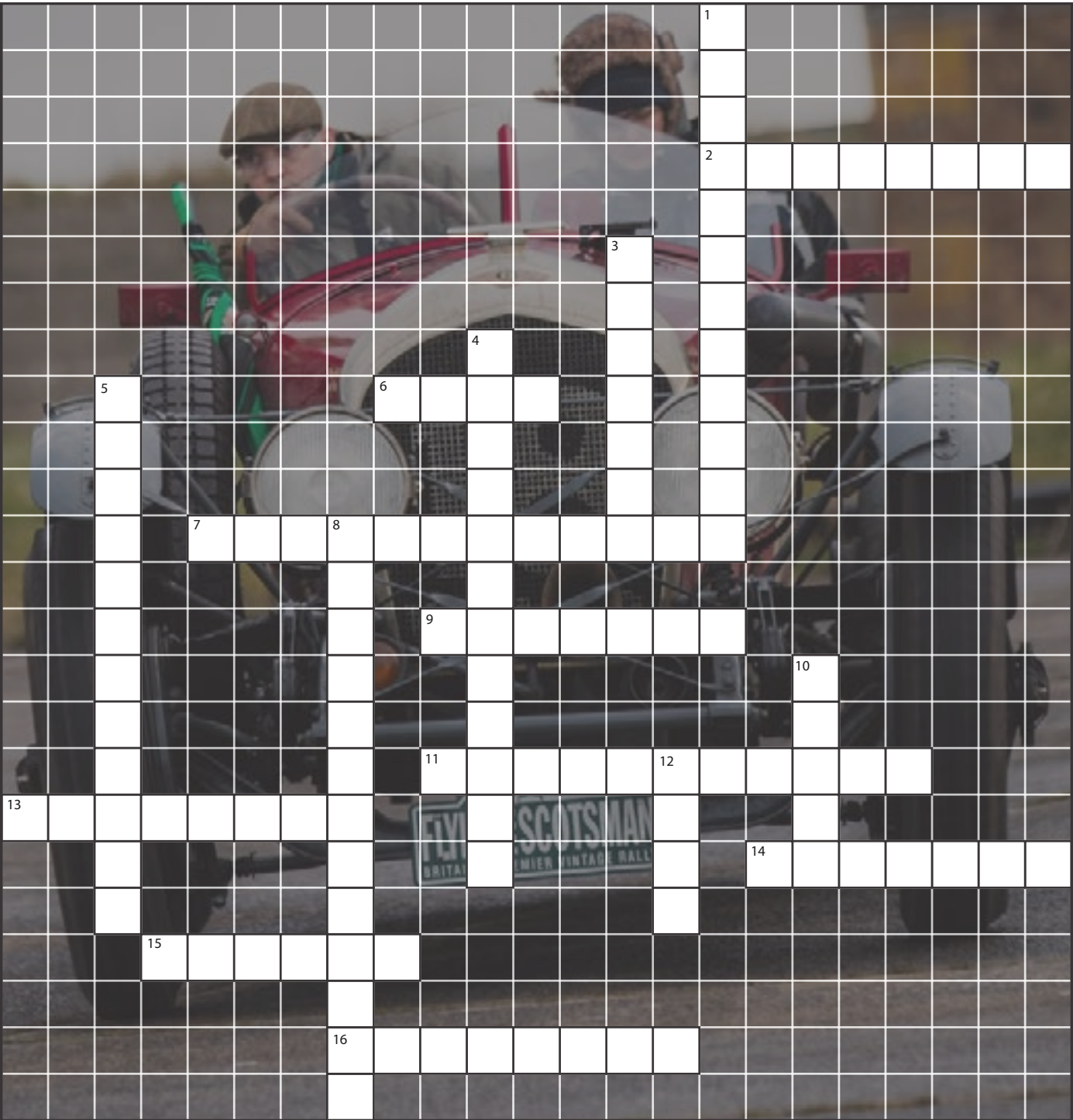
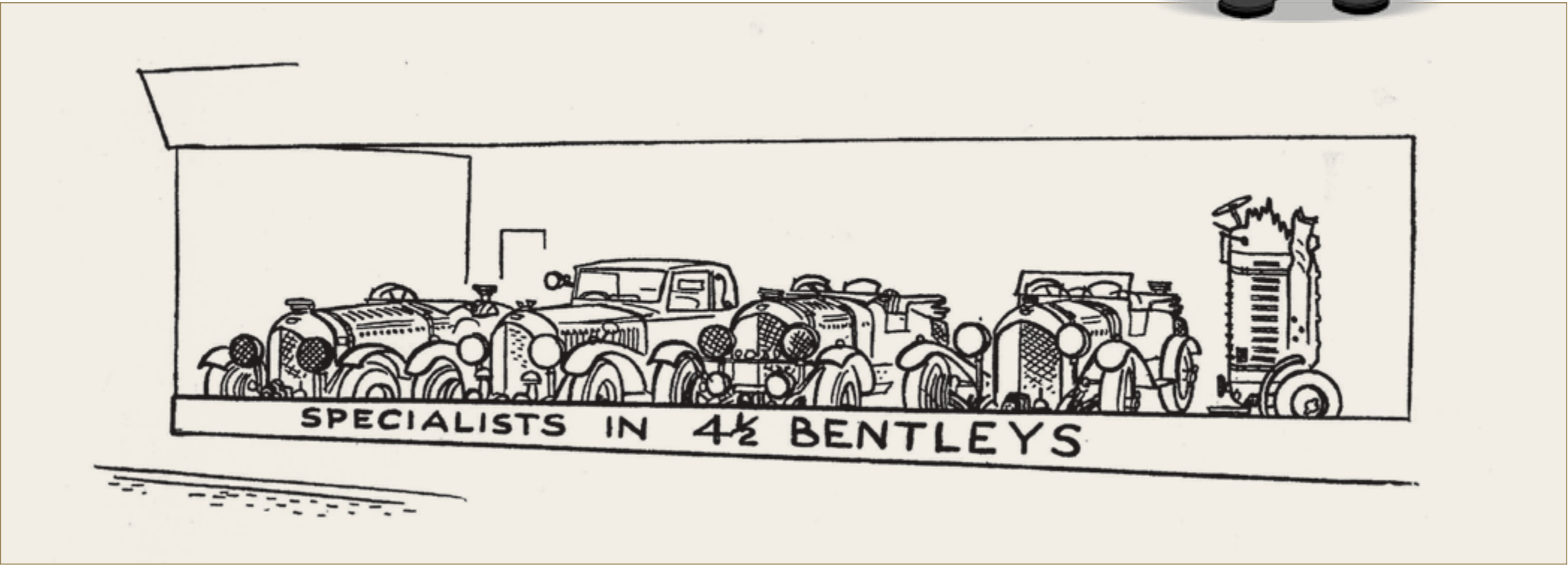
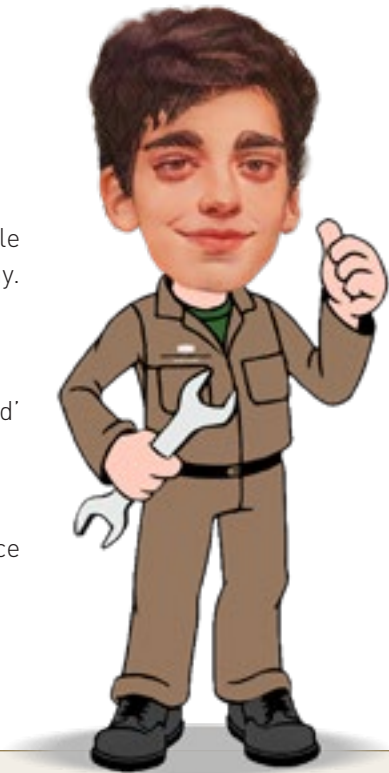
# Tech Tips

## A little helpful checklist for you and your Bentley:

- 1. Oil Pressure – If your oil pressure drops unexpectedly, the common cause is dirt under the oil pressure relief valve ball. A simple fix is to remove the two screws, lift out the assembly and spring. Start the engine momentarily and oil will flush any dirt away. Reassemble and you should be back on the road.
- 2. Water Level – 3 inches from the top is best (A perfectionist would use deionised water)
- 3. Brake Pedal – Jack under the front axle and adjust the main brake adjuster with the front wheels on full lock. Adjust so they ‘bind’ on lock then you are good to go. Remember to tighten the lock nut on the main brake adjuster.
- 4. Clutch Free Play – Make sure you have one inch of free travel at the top of the pedal
- 5. Mag Test – Every time you drive your Bentley, test your magnetos by running on each mag for a few miles. You should hardly notice a difference.

Top Tip: Use Rainex, they are British cars after all!

And don’t forget your Vintage Bentley Tool Bag and a bottle of wine for emergencies!



# Crossword

- Down:**
- 1. Adopted home of the Bentley Boys in 1921
  - 3. Pulses in your ignition
  - 4. His nickname was “The Bald Chemist”
  - 5. Feeling when you master the crash box in your Vintage Bentley
  - 8. On the back of William’s business card
  - 10. In which you will see a masterpiece housed in the Louvre or the best vintage engines made in West Sussex
  - 12. Surname of one of the drivers to claim Bentley’s first win at Le Mans
- Across:**
- 2. Number of SuperSports originally built
  - 6. Solid **and best** way to drive your Bentley
  - 7. Often where Bentley drivers end up fully clothed after a serious race in a Bentley
  - 9. Liked it so much - he bought the company
  - 11. Keep your cheeks warm in winter
  - 13. Driving a Vintage Bentley akin to flying a
  - 14. Name of cocktail invented by the Bentley Boys - referenced in 1930 Savoy Cocktail Book
  - 15. Nickname of actor starring as Tim Birkin in “Full Throttle”
  - 16. Crankcase material used on 8 litre



# INTRODUCING THE VINTAGE BENTLEY LEATHER TOOL BAG



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# Profile



Inspiring fellow females into engineering

**Name:** Dongni

**Role at Vintage Bentley:** Design and Development Engineer

**Dream Vintage Bentley configuration?**  
Gosh! A single seater like the Pacey.

**What's your dream car - apart from a Vintage Bentley?**  
Lamborghini Countach

**Do you work on any cars of your own?**  
No project car, however, I do repair my own car.

**Best things about work?**  
Great team of people around.

**Worst things about work?**  
No A/C in the Great British heatwaves!

**Favourite pastime outside work?**  
Rock Climbing.

**What is something your colleagues are unlikely to know about you?**  
My childhood dream was, in fact, to become a writer due to my love for reading.

# Past vs Present

Our busy workshop, which sells 16,000 hours a year, is a perfect place to educate young craftsmen and women in traditional engineering skills. With William having spent a large part of his childhood in the back of the family's vintage Bentley, his early link to the marque has resulted in his lifelong commitment to share the magic of the 1920's Bentley Boys era with a new generation.

As surreal as it may sound, our team use traditional hand operated machines right next to the latest in CAD and CNC machining. Our inhouse inspection with our own CMM gives us quality control at the highest level.

Many of the parts we require no longer exist, therefore, we manufacture our own using the original but now validated technical drawings. We combine traditional engineering skills and processes with the latest technology to constantly develop and improve. Being able to create our own quality control in house with the latest coordinate measuring machines has allowed us to ensure accuracy in every part that we produce and fit. We learn about weaknesses mostly from competition and feed that valuable knowledge back around the engineering loop.

Not only are the cars being preserved, but the skills required to do so. Although new technology is playing a role for us, high quality craftsmanship is at the core of all our work.

Earlier this year we also celebrated International Woman in Engineering Day. We asked Dongni what advice she would give to inspire any young female considering

joining the world of engineering?

"Don't let the common perception of 'social norms' confine you. It is hard work but totally worth it."

Combining the craftsmanship of the past with the accuracy of new technology, W.O's masterpieces will continue to explore the world. And at the forefront of ensuring the legacy of these iconic machines can continue to be seen, heard and experienced, we are committed as a business, with support from our clients, to make sure solid foundations are being set for future generations.



Precision in every detail

A vintage Bentley car, likely a 1920s model, is shown in a dark setting. The car is dark green with a racing number 12 on the side and a Union Jack flag. The license plate reads VM 6475. The car is a two-seater with a convertible top.

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# Next Adventure, Retirement.



No more days off!

**Antony was one of the first employees to join our team when we first relocated to Hill Brow 11 years ago. Alas, he has decided it is time to put his tools down and feet up.**

Antony has played an instrumental part in our engineering side of the business and as one of our longest standing team players (when his feet are not hurting) we thought we would take this opportunity to reflect on some of Antony's memories with us...

**What do you remember about your first week at Vintage Bentley?**

Everything being different! However, there was a friendly atmosphere.

**Give an indication of your typical work output for VB?**

Wow. The overhaul and repair of key mechanical parts which includes coachworks. A jack of all trades really, when you turn your hand to everything you must gain full scope. However, there are a few different disciplines putting it all together.

**What is William like to work for? - this bit won't be edited ;)**

He is certainly driven! I have no complaints; you do as your asked and you don't have a problem!

William is innovative, therefore, thinking outside the box and being adaptable to get into the groove is a skill worth having. There is often compromise of time scales and deadlines, but that is how it works; full steam ahead!

**In your opinion, what is the most valuable toolmaker skill to be passed onto the next generation?**

To be creative with your thoughts, do not stick to 'standard'. If you can use all the experience others have around you and come up with a solution, you'll be on the right track! Just say YES to try everything and get an insight whilst learning the discipline.

**What has been your proudest moment at VB?**

In 2015 we all contributed to a 24-hour event in Portugal which was pretty special.

**Favourite Vintage Bentley?**

What can I say ... UP! (Which translates to a 1928 4.5 litre). This was an interesting project which we collected from Kew in quite a state.

However, where my attention really lies is how engineering and design is evolving. Where the history of these cars can be interesting, I find myself a little sceptical on occasion; I am much more an engineer rather a connoisseur of cars.

**What does a toolmaker drive then?**

That's too personal! A run-around...

**What are you going to be spending your time doing when you no longer need to clock on at the workshop?**

I'll be coming back I expect, must be the worst year to retire in!

We will be spending quality time on the southern toe of Italy in the coming month which we are very much looking forward to.

We have warned Antony the trouble with retirement is he will never get a day off, nevertheless, we wish him all the best and thank him for all he has contributed to the works over the years. We are hopeful he will swing by from time to time!



Mischief Maker

## A note from William

Being fully immersed into events this year has been truly brilliant. Time spent in good company and, in 100-year-old cars makes me feel incredibly lucky.

With unrest present in Eastern Europe this year, we have been proud to support various causes on and off event and appreciate even more the opportunities that come before us. Meanwhile, whilst we await the announcement of our 56th prime minister, we power on.

This year we have experienced our highest levels of parts sales to date, exceeding our pre lock down levels. Our revised website and parts catalogue helping in all areas. Vehicle sales have surpassed £15 million with the introduction of many vintage Bentleys to their new custodians and in turn starting the Bentley way of life. Our showroom continues to present a stock worth £10 million available for sale and whilst reflecting on auction sales of late, the demand for these historic cars is strong.

However, we are more than just a showroom. Our workshop which sells 16,000 hours a year has welcomed high levels of servicing and event preparation whilst also completing several projects, including a full restoration of the Bentley Speed Six Close Couple Coupe to her original 1930 factory finished specification. We have three major projects scheduled for delivery early 2023 which the team are working diligently on and are taking workshop bookings for 2024.

Reliability is key. We want to build and prepare rugged cars that are capable of the world. The majority of Vintage Bentleys spend their time in Europe and the Americas, however, these cars have been all over the world. With our team having a combined experience of events in over 17 countries across the globe, we are also preparing to support four cars on the Peking to Paris next year as well as a major race which will set new records.

With a full calendar of events continuing this year and rolling into 2023, we are very much looking forward to the upcoming months.

This summer Kate and I have spent quality time together with our four children on a tour of the US and Canada in places we love before heading down to Pebble Beach.

We are really pleased to welcome so many new owners to share in our world and hope they enjoy the adventures as much as we do. Thank you all for your support.

If you are passing through West Sussex, we'd love to see you for a coffee at the works – do give us a call.

Power to your elbow.

*William*

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1925  
3 LITRE

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1927  
6 1/2 LITRE

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1929  
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BLOWER



1928  
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# FOLLOW THE JOURNEY

**London to Brighton**  
Veteran Car Run  
November 6th 2022

**Rétromobile**  
Paris, France  
February 1st - 5th 2023

**ICE St Mortitz**  
Switzerland  
February 25th 2023

**Generations Rally**  
UK & Scottish Borders  
March 24th - 26th 2023

**Goodwood Members' Meeting**  
Goodwood, West Sussex  
April 15th - 16th 2023

**Salon Privé London**  
Chelsea, London  
April 20th - 22nd 2023

Do let us know if you are also attending these events,  
we look forward to seeing you there.



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