









We're Bringing ELVA Home.



Please cut along dotted line and return with your donation

BEXHILL MUSEUM IS BRINGING AN ELVA HOME.

The Museum has bought a 1958 ELVA Mk. III Sports Racing Car which is complete but in need of restoration; please help us to restore this important example of 'Bexhill's Racing Car' by making a donation.

*() I would like the Society of Bexhill Museums Ltd. to treat my donation to the ELVA Project as a Gift Aid Donation. *() I would also like to become a member of the Society and include £10 (single) or £15 (family) with my donation.

Title Forename(s)	Surname	Donation	£
Address	Membership	£	
Pertondo		TOTAL	£

I enclose my cheque for £, payable to: <u>The Society of Bexhill Museums Ltd.</u>

*() Please tick as appropriate and see reverse side for details.

Signature

We're bringing ELVA home

Bexhill Museum is embarking on a new and exciting era; work is soon to start on a major programme to build an extension to the Egerton Road site. The new building, financed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Society of Bexhill Museums and a substantial Rother District Council grant, will house the existing museum, the re-located Costume Museum and a new Motor Racing/Technology Gallery.

Motor Racing and other 'new-fangled' engineering projects played an important part in the development of the 'New Bexhill' in the early years of the twentieth century. The World Record breaking Serpollet steam car was here in 1902, pioneering and promoting motor racing in this country. At about that time Gustavus Green was building engines, in Bexhill, for marine use and to be used in flying machines, a fledgling industry that has grown enormously in the last one hundred years.

In the early post WWII years, many ex Army and RAF personnel around the country dedicated themselves to making sports cars for racing and for sale. Perhaps the most well-known was Colin Chapman and his Lotus Cars but, not far behind, was a Bexhill man, Frank Nichols, who designed and produced the Elva vehicles in the town. The attractive small cars, both sports racing and the Courier two seater road-going versions, were built in several garages and small workshops in Bexhill from 1955. Within a year the order book was full and a substantial number of cars were being exported to the USA.

In their hey-day, Elva racing cars were driven by many successful and well known drivers including Archie Scott Brown, Bobby Rahal, Chris Meek and Tony Lanfranchi. Bexhill 'works' driver Robbie Mackenzie-Low gained many awards, and podium finishes for Elva drivers continue to be gained in vintage/historic events around the world.

The directors of the Museum have been hoping, for a number of years, to 'Bring an Elva Home' and are delighted to announce that they have done precisely that. A 1958 Elva Mk. III was found in Hull and has been brought back to the town of its birth. The car is basically sound and substantially complete but will need to be stripped down and carefully rebuilt.

Our car is 'ripe for renovation' and has not been in use since 1971. It will need a great deal of work but is, generally, in quite reasonable condition. Several components will need to be found and, no doubt, some may need to be specially made. The 'correct' type of engine is not currently fitted but one did come with the car. The car is short of its dashboard and instruments, seats and interior trim and has a strange 'paint-job'. When the restoration is finished, the car should be as it was about fifty years ago.

As word of the project has spread, offers of help have been received; several men who worked for Elva half a century ago have come forward, wanting to be involved in the rebuilding of this important car.

The Society is looking for Community involvement in this exciting project and is inviting local young people to work with the experienced engineers. Bexhill's schools have an enviable record of being involved in 'car-building' projects; including work on the steam powered Serpollet and the World Record Breaking battery-powered *Volta*.

The Museum needs money to undertake the restoration work and has launched this appeal. Several generous donations have already been received but more money is urgently needed; your generosity will be greatly appreciated

The Society of Bexhill Museums is indebted to Roger Dunbar of ELVA Racing Components, Worthing, (www.elva.com) who has been extremely supportive; he located 'our' Mk.III, negotiated with the owner, arranged the collection of the car, and continues to be actively involved.

Please complete the form overleaf, cut along the dotted line and send it to the Museum with your cheque.

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GIFT AID DONATIONS:

- You must be paying an amount of Income Tax/Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the amount of tax the Charity reclaims on your donation in the tax year.
- If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid Tax Relief you may obtain leaflet IR65 from your local Tax Office.