



ELVA Newsletter July 2015 #2

Now here is a surprise; another ELVA Newsletter ... A little like London buses you see nothing for ages then suddenly several come along at once!

Reminder about Newsletter #1

The previous issue was quite rightly dedicated to the special New Jersey 60th Anniversary event which is approaching fast. There has been an immediate response to the special 60th memorabilia and there is one more even more unique item which will again hopefully receive your approval.

ELVA founder Frank Nichols is well known for his love of the flat cap, rarely seen without it, and we are going to produce a number of replica caps as a tribute to Frank, these discretely showing the ELVA logo with embroidery reading ...

"She Goes VRG (logo) NJ 1955 - 2015".

It would make a wonderful keep-sake photograph to show the ELVA cars grouped together at the Lightening circuit with all the owners wearing the special flat caps. A great way to show our appreciation and say "Thank You Frank". These caps will be offered by an ELVA owner who has had much experience in the quality clothing business so an image and further details will appear on the ELVA website soon. Once again there is to be a limited number and will be supplied to order in your size on request.

Powered by BMW

Journalist and expert scribe Mike Taylor has been hugely helpful in getting ELVA words and images to various magazine editors, on this occasion prompted by the ELVA 60th ANNIVERSARY events. We recently met up with Keith Marsden, plus ELVA owners Bruce Bartell (Mk.VIIS) and Michael Birch (GT160), both cars being BMW powered, together with Gareth Burnett and John Aston at the very impressive premises of Pace Products in Suffolk. It was also good to see once again expert modeller Tim Dyke who is producing a superb one-off 1/43rd scale model of GT160 #3 for Michael in its current highly competitive racing ready condition.

The story line is the important link between ELVA and BMW; and how it happened, with the finished article due to appear in the internationally circulated publication 'BMW CAR'. As a start a few weeks earlier Mike and I went to visit 91 year old Frank Webb to talk to him about his time in association with ELVA meaning the Rytune Engineering Company Ltd, and later the Nerus Engineering Company Ltd. Frank impressed us with his recall and an understated approach to his undoubted engineering talents which in later years extended to becoming a key figure at Cosworth.

Frank Webb related his early time spent at the Rother Iron Works located in the pretty and historically important port of Rye in the southeast corner of England, the company producing all sorts of metal castings and services. As times permits the full story will be told on the ELVA website.



L-R Bruce, Keith and Michael with the GT160 and Mike Taylor



The beautifully prepared Mk.VIIS and GT160; both BMW powered.

Not quite an antique but ELVA Courier stars in BBC TV Shows

A number of ELVA Couriers have appeared in films and on TV over the years but the latest Star is the pretty yellow Courier owned by Paul Braisford. The production company who source suitable vehicles approached me with a request for an ELVA which could possibly be featured and Paul and his Courier was an obvious choice. Happily Paul agreed and he has reported ...

"The Elva did go off to be filmed although they moved the filming from Sussex area to between Manchester and Nottingham on the 6/7/8th June, they then kept the car for another shoot on 6th July.

They are to show the car in the two 'Antiques Road Trip' programmes; one is the 'Celebrities Road Trip' and the other is the 'Dealers Road Trip' when antique experts tour an area finding and then auctioning the items hoping to make a profit for charity. I did ask how everything went and the two celebrity drivers thought that the Elva was fantastic and much better than the Morgan which was the other car on the transporter when they picked the Elva up."

The programmes will be aired in a few months so I will try and tweet details once dates are known ensuring that people in the UK can if they wish find a comfortable armchair, a glass of wine and enjoy! Don't drink the wine first or you may forget to set the TV to the correct channel!



An eye-catching car made to be a TV star !!

Early TROJAN-ELVA built Courier gets a Five Star restoration

It is always heartening when a rather sad example of an ELVA gets the a truly professional makeover and the chance to excel at what it was built for .. lucky Courier #1004 is the latest recipient of such treatment from John Sabourin who is located near Canterbury in Kent. I recently went to see John and colleague Guy Sheppard of 'Rawlson Racing' where I had the opportunity to see 1004 being beautifully restored with the intention of building the car into a potent racer.

Many tired parts have been faithfully reproduced and as a result John has various jigs/patterns (etc) and certainly much experience of making top quality items which he is happy to share with other owners if needed. Amongst many other fabulous race cars, John has previously prepared the 'works' McLaren M1B for Chris Goodwin; a race winning car and of course Chris is a top rated coachman being the test driver for McLaren Automotive.

Contact John via www.rawlson-racing.co.uk



Early Trojan built car #1004 looking superb

Dickon Siddall takes some excellent ELVA photos

Dickon kindly sent me some more images of ELVA cars that he has expertly photographed at various UK circuits, a few herewith. Always grateful for pictures showing the cars doing what they were made for ... out there racing! More please! Very many thanks to DSdigital.co.uk.

Shows Rod Begbie Mk.IV; Robi Bernberg Mk.VII; Bruce Bartell Mk.VIIS.



The University of Wales (Swansea) produces some styling renderings

There have been many rumours about the proposed new ELVA, and thus the relaunch of ELVA Cars as a low volume specialist vehicle manufacturer; an extremely exciting prospect which would, without doubt, attract much media attention.

This has now progressed way beyond a discussion and has moved very close to becoming a reality involving a very helpful and influential 'Steering Group'; the Automotive Design Department of the University of Wales in Swansea, and more recently a professional Automotive Design Studio. There has been even more work undertaken on the design of the chassis, suspension and power train, this already produced under the direction of a well known and highly respected road/race car engineer/designer which guarantees that the car has outstanding predictable handling and truly exhilarating performance.

Would love to tell you more but will need you to sign a NDA, however a small number of people will be offered the opportunity to become an owner of one of the first very special LE cars whilst being invited to closely follow the build of their car and possibly become part of the team developing a new era for ELVA Cars.

"ELVA She Goes ... AGAIN!!"

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