



ESSEX THAMESIDE NEWS

N° 229, May 2026



Chairman's Message

Steve Rider
srider@live.co.uk

Hello Essex Thameside members,

Once again I must apologise for the small delay in issuing the club's May newsletter. Along with the majority of our committee and a substantial number of our membership we have just returned from our very successful spring Grand Tour of East Anglia.

I am sure that our regular scribe, Neil Shanley, will be putting pen to paper for you to digest the details in a future newsletter. But, in the interim, suffice to say we are indebted to Vaughn and Julie High for once again organising a brilliant tour. They are now under pressure to plan our next tour for Spring 2027.

The only downside from this year's event was an unfortunate accident suffered by our member Mandy Smedley whilst attending the Norwich ghost walk. We are greatly relieved to hear that she is now up and about again, and we look forward to seeing her and Russell at future events.

Earlier in April, several committee members attended the 83rd annual Goodwood Members Meeting. A detailed account will follow but, if you have never attended a Revival, Festival of Speed or Members Meeting at Goodwood, we would thoroughly recommend adding one to your bucket list. Frankly, they are not the cheapest of events to attend and, if you are looking to stay nearby over the respective weekends, accommodation is often expensive and

gets booked up very quickly. But the experience of visiting part of the Duke of Richmond's 12,000 acre estate is not one that is easily replicated elsewhere.

Closer to home, the advertised events the club is supporting are proving to be popular with members and the places we have reserved are rapidly filling up. So, if you are still considering attending an advertised event during the summer, I would suggest that you contact the relevant committee member and reserve your place now. The shows at Rickingham and Hatfield Heath, for example, are already fully booked, so Neil Shanley is now only accepting names for a reserve list in case one of those booked cannot attend.

We can also confirm that the club is definitely going ahead with its plans to hold a barbecue at our Chelmsford base on 6th June. Final details will be issued to members shortly but in brief the catering will once again be supplied by our regular supplier Andy Beck. We have enjoyed the food supplied by Andy's company several times in the past, and weather permitting we are looking forward to another splendid afternoon.

We are fortunate in that our club membership has been swelled a little over the past few weeks, so if you see a new face at one of our gatherings please don't hesitate to say hello. New members are always welcome and add to the existing diversity within the club.

Finally I wish you all safe and happy motoring.

Steve

Committee Members

	<p>Richard Gibby Treasurer, Editor & Webmaster rwgibby@gmail.com</p>		<p>Ian Croxson Secretary ian@thecroxsons.com</p>		<p>Lester Magness Vice Chairman and Social Secretary lestermagness1@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Beverly Warren Membership Secretary beverlyrwarren@gmail.com</p>		<p>Neil Shanley Committee member and Chief Correspondent neilshanley360@gmail.com</p>		<p>Vaughn High Committee Member vaughn.high@sky.com</p>

For Your 2026 Diary

Club Nights <i>(Tuesdays at 7.00pm, Essex Police Sports & Social Club, St Margarets Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DT)</i>					
26 May	30 June	28 July	25 August	29 September	27 October
24 November	22 December				

Shows, Events and Trips		<i>Contact:</i>
27 Apr – 1 May	Grand East Anglia Tour	Vaughn
Sun 10 May	Breakfast Meet with Porsche Club at Summerhills Garden Centre, CM11 2UJ	Ian
Sun 17 May	Rickingham Classic Car Show, IP22 1HD	Neil
Sat 6 June	Summer Barbecue at the Essex Police Sports & Social Club	[Steve]
Sun 28 June	Hatfield Heath Festival, Hatfield Heath CM22 7EB	Neil
Sun 12 July	Orsett Classic & Vintage Show, Orsett Showground, Rectory Road RM16 3JU	Lester
	[also: Coffee & Cars with the JEC, Bridge Classic Cars, Pettistree IP13 0HH]	[Vaughn]
Sat 25 July	Essex Police Family Day, Sports & Social Club, Chelmsford CM2 6DT	Steve
Sun 9 August	Cambridgeshire Signature & Performance Motor Show, Duxford CB22 4QR	Ian
Sun 16 August	Lodges Coaches Car Show & Autojumble, High Easter CM1 4QR	Lester
	[also: J.E.C. 'Simply Jaguar' at the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu]	[Ian]
Sun 30 August	Clacton Classic Car Show, Parish Fields, Little Clacton CO16 9ND	Ian
11–14 Sept	Isle of Wight trip	Vaughn
Sun 27 Sept	[Jaguars at Gaydon]	[Ian]
Sat 4 October	[Coffee & Cars with the JEC, at Brooklands Museum]	[Ian]
Date t.b.a.	Christmas Dinner Dance	Neil

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Richard Gibby	07866 268522	rwgibby@gmail.com
Steve Rider	07969 572010	s rider@live.co.uk
Vaughn High	07910 787411	vaughn.high@sky.com

Sunday 10th May: Breakfast Meet with Porsche Club GB at Summerhills Garden Centre



Our friends at Porsche Club Region 11 have invited us to another breakfast club meet at Summerhills Garden Centre on A127 on Sunday 10th May from 09.00- 11.00am.

establishment is home not just to plants and gardening tools but also to a fine butchers, an aquatic centre, conservatory and Jacuzzi suppliers, a pets corner and a restaurant. So, something for most people.

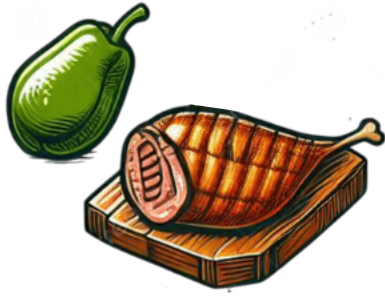
This was a very enjoyable get-together in January, so let's do our best as to show off a wonderful portfolio of JEC Essex Thameside members' cars again.

The aim is to arrive at 09.00hrs and park up in the car park admire some of the beautiful cars on show and then sit down for a mouth-watering brekkie in the restaurant for 10.00am.

There will be a detailer turning up prior to the breakfast and doing a demo on a member's car, which should make it even more interesting. 🤩

In order that we can give an idea of numbers to the Garden Centre please let Ian Croxson know how many of you will be able to attend.

The address is: Summerhill Garden Centre, Arterial Road Essex, Pipp's Hill Road North, Billericay CM11 2UJ.
Telephone 01268 280699 <https://www.summerhillgardencentre.co.uk/concessions/loliveta-restaurant/>



SUMMER BARBECUE

3.00pm, Saturday 6th June

Essex Police Sports & Social Club
St Margarets Road, Chelmsford

Members' price:

£15 p.p.



with invitations to our
neighbouring Porsche and
Jaguar clubs



Two Shows this Spring and Early Summer

There are so many shows and events in this region that choosing which ones to officially attend is a difficult task; the Committee has highlighted those chosen on page 3 of the Newsletter. The list is a live document since some members may wish to attend something not listed and new shows may appear during the year.

Looking at the early part of the season, we have April outings to the Transport Fest at The Museum of Power, Langford (5th April) and Drive It Day with the Rotary Club (19th April) which have been extensively covered in previous newsletters and on the group WhatsApp. Please contact Lester Magness and Ian Croxson respectively for information about these shows. Looking beyond April, we have....

Rickinghall Classic Car Show

On Sunday 17th May, we will be joining our neighbouring region, Essex & Suffolk Borders, for their annual show in the attractive village of Rickinghall. Please contact either Ian Croxson or Neil Shanley to book your place. To quote Essex & Suffolk Borders flyer: "Set against the backdrop of the village hall and green, this is a show that is as much about atmosphere as it is about cars. Expect a varied and interesting mix of vehicles, plenty of time to chat with fellow enthusiasts and an enjoyable day.

Both shows are now **FULLY BOOKED**, but there is a reserve list in case of need; please call Neil Shanley (07973 874022).



Hatfield Heath Festival and Show

Held on Sunday 28th June on the extensive green in Hatfield Heath, this free-to-enter show has something for everyone, including craft stalls, food outlets, fairground attractions, nearby pubs and much more. The event attracts a large and varied contingent of classic vehicles and car clubs and is very popular with our members. If you have never attended, it is well worth a visit. We have booked 16 places but it may be possible to take a couple more. Please contact Neil Shanley via the group WhatsApp or by Email on neilshanley360@gmail.com.





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Museum of Power, 5th April 2026



This is the show that usually kicks off our classic car season. It is free to enter and is well attended by our club, other clubs and individuals and attracts many visitors who come not just to see the cars on display but also the fascinating contents of the museum. About the museum, it is in a former pumping station built between 1924 and 1929 to provide treated water, pumped to the surrounding regions via steam-powered pumps until October 1963 when electric pumps were installed. The pump house buildings and one of the three steam pumps remain and were declared scheduled monuments in 1986.

The surviving engine is in working order and is operated by the museum about six days annually. There are other attractions on the site including: a miniature railway offering rides round the museum grounds, a miniature model village (the only one in Essex), a working overhead machine shop, hobby stalls, a diverse collection of engineering artefacts from the '20's to the 60's, a café and gift shop. All worth a visit if you don't just want to see cars.



Apart from a brief shower, the day was sunny which helped with the attendance from the public. Lester Magness was our organiser for the event for which we fielded twelve cars from our club and recruited a new member – who owned an XJS. Another new member, Andy Franklin, came in his XJ6. James Tetheron – not a member (yet) brought along his immaculate XJS 4.0 litre convertible with only 22K miles which he bought from classic car auctions during Covid. It came from the Hull Collection which JLR bought in its entirety some years earlier and were then selling off some of the cars. It was one of the final XJS's built and since he bought it James has restored the underside to as new condition and fully detailed the engine compartment. Since then, it has won or been highly commended in multiple concourse events.



Not far away stood a 1956 Chevrolet 210 Handyman Wagon, a car that I had not seen before. "Only" 22,038 were built compared to the 150,000 for the top spec Bel Airs. In total around 1.5 million Chevrolets – 150's, 210's and Bel Airs - were made that year, so not exactly rare then.



A vintage style Bentley caught my eye, but it wasn't from the 30's but from 1949 – a Mk VI chassis number 499. With body work by Gurney Nutting,



5,208 left the factory but by 2010 this car had seen better days and was beyond feasible repair. Since then the car has undergone a nut and bolt restoration with a new body in the style of those from the 30's. Hand-formed aluminium panels over an Ash frame formed the open body, the engine and gearbox were moved back in the chassis by 350 mm, a solid mahogany dash board was made with the existing dials refurbished, an external handbrake was added and to fish it off, a klaxon horn was procured. The owner told me that the 4.25 litre straight six engine, helped by the now lighter weight body, made the car very responsive.



Possibly the oldest car to attend was a Crossley from 1927 with a 2,400cc engine producing 14 HP. Sadly, I did not meet the owner, but a brief history of the marque states that the company was based in Manchester, produced about 19,000 cars from 1904 to 1938, 2,100 goods and military vehicles from 1914 to 1945 and ended with bus production from 1926 to 1958 with around 5,500 manufactured. A quick look through Google images shows many photographs of this very car.

You may have guessed by now that there was a large proportion of “oldies” at the show and despite their eroding value, all looked pristine. A walk round revealed a Riley Adelphi, a six-light 5 seater with pre-select gears. To quote, “it has a true inter-axle seating and on air-liner-braced box-section frame enabling those high average speeds, of which Riley cars are capable”. Ahh, those were the days! Honourable mention goes to the Austin Sherborne another six-light saloon – yours for £178 when new and the cream over blue Wolsely14/56 previously used in film and TV productions and was bought by its present owner from a film company. Let’s leave the old classics with this BSA 10 HP car which has been in the same family from new except for a brief period from 1959 when it was sold then repurchase in 1962 in a poor state of repair. Eventually, the car was put into storage until 1997 when restoration work was started a task that took 28 years, but the result looked worth the wait. Interestingly, it too had a pre-select gearbox.

There were simply far too many vehicles to describe here and it was good to see some relatively new Jaguars including an XK8, F-Type and XJR. Rolls Royce, Vauxhalls, Lancias, Fords and others made up the rest of the field – a good show to start the season.

Neil Shanley



STOP. TURN RIGHT. TURN LEFT LOOK DOWN AND READ THIS ARTICLE

On Sunday, 19th April 12 JEC Essex Thameside members attended the Drive-it day run by the Rotary Club. This is a yearly event which involves about 150 cars following a rural route around the beautiful Essex countryside. Money was raised this year for Parkinson's UK and the Motor Neurone Disease Charity. Here is a resume of how the day unfolded:

Arrival: The parking assistants are getting younger and younger.



(Does this remind you of anyone???)



Cars assemble, dogs are welcome, bacon butties need to be consumed.



A short inspiring speech was made by a MND sufferer explaining about the cruelty of this and Parkinsons disease. Around 166,000 people are diagnosed each year, in the UK alone.



A few late comers arrive

Suitably fed and watered we were called to our cars



Each participant is given a detailed list of directions to follow. Some choose to do their own thing.....



The route took us through 50 miles of mainly rural roads, passing quaint villages that we had never heard of. It is easy to forget how beautiful Essex is. Sunshine, laughter and a few navigational disagreements later the final result was “most” cars ended by parking in a field at the back of the Museum of Power.

Picnics are then eaten, cars viewed, prizes were given for the best cars from the different eras



Pepper took shelter from the sunshine and a good day was had by one and all.



If you are ever in doubt as to whether to join in this event then put your fears aside. Just do it. Come rain or shine it is a marvellous day out and raises enormous funds for whichever charity the Rotary Club chose.



A massive thank you goes to the Rotary Club who organise this Drive-it day. They are hoping to have 300 cars next year by starting them at two different locations. A BIG thank you must also go to Ian Croxson who organised our club’s participation at this event.

Liz Croxson

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