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Spring has come early in at least some parts of the UK. After a mild winter, spring flowers are already in abundance as I write this at the end of February. The classic car year has already started and lots of events are pencilled in.

I have had my new leaf springs for the VA for some time and have now turned my mind to new bushes, shackle pins and slotted nuts, all of which I have received quickly from SVW Ltd. This is an unexpected turn of events as the former SVW Spares lost their way and were no longer contactable. However, through Morgan Wallace (who is also on our Facebook group) I have been told that the move from Hull to Worcester and all its related issues was completed and new staff hired. Although they are now a more general restoration company, they still have a stock of SVW parts and have re-established links with suppliers. They are even planning to advertise in the 2022 edition of The SVW Review, which does show a certain commitment. You can catch up with posts on this subject on the Facebook group.

The SVW event in Lincolnshire has reached capacity to the extent that overflow hotels are being used. This will be a big gathering of SVW cars and owners and I very much look forward to it.

Peter van den Heuvel sent me this photo which he spotted in his copy of Aeroplane magazine. It was taken in Malta in 1943. We knew of this VA Tourer and have published pictures of it in the past (you can see one or two by searching for 'Keith Park Malta 1943'). However, the image sent by Peter is a view I have not seen before, taken from the rear of the VA Tourer, also showing a smart spare wheel cover and 'pork pie' lamps, which were an alternative to D lamps. Air Vice Marshal Sir Keith Park was responsible for the defence of Malta in WW2 and, despite the best efforts of the Germans, it was never occupied. The occasion was a visit by Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery, shown on the right, with Park in the middle and his driver to the left. Monty was given the option of riding in the VA or the Humber staff car. No doubt whilst admiring the fine lines of the VA, but taking account of its stand-out red bodywork and lack of protection.... he chose the camouflaged Humber!

