

Paul Campbell

svw.safety.fast@gmail.com www.svwregister.co.uk



Welcome to the **SVW NEWSLETTER**



Writing this at the end of July, I have just returned from the much-enjoyed SVW event that took place in Yorkshire earlier this month. Anita Lachowicz and Mark Boldry were the organisers (Mark freely admits that most of it was down to Anita). Mark's father, Jim, proposed the event at last year's AGM, much to Mark's surprise! We were based at The Mercure Fairfield Manor Hotel near Skelton, just on the outskirts of York. This was a perfect base for the superb runs on the Wednesday and Thursday and some were able to take the bus from outside the hotel to explore the delights of York.

I had been looking forward to and equally dreading the drive north in my VA Tourer on my own, although mitigated by arranging to meet John and Gail Bannister for a stop-over at Huntingdon, which is about halfway for both of us. In the event, fate stepped in and my brake master cylinder developed a leak that I could not fix in time. I therefore joined Sharman and Jean Dutton on the train! I was lucky enough to get a ride in Ian and Liz Burton's VA Saloon 0251. I had previously enjoyed riding in this historic MG when in the ownership of Keith Bush on an MG tour of the WW1 battlefields in France (my VA Tourer suffered a head gasket failure in France, so it seems that VA0251 has become my regular backup vehicle!).



Peter van den Heuvel's VA Woodie at The Talbot



Peter Cook was our guest speaker

With 55 attendees in 18 period vehicles, it was a joy to meet up with friends old and new on the Tuesday afternoon. Thirteen of the cars were SVWs (8 VAs, 4 SAs and 1 WA), which were joined by an MG YA, Riley Continental, MG Magnette, Triumph Gloria and MGB GTV8.

On arrival we received our joining packs and had an enjoyable meal on Tuesday evening when we were able to pick up the new edition of The SVW Review and to hear from Anita and Mark what was planned for the next couple of days.



Not a waitress, but Gobby's partner Lorna getting the drinks in to Gobby's amazement!

We were up early next morning for the day's road run, which took us initially some 20 miles through pretty countryside to Newburgh Priory. Originally founded in 1145 as an Augustinian priory, it became a private residence in 1549 and has remained in the family ever since. We were divided into two groups for the guided tour, which in our case was conducted by Lady Wombwell herself. The property is partially in ruins, with Tudor parts still in need of considerable work; much of the Georgian additions have been nicely restored. There is a connection to Oliver Cromwell, whose body is reputed to be interred above a portico, although this is more of a legend as demands to prove it one way or other have always been refused. Mind you, Cromwell's head is elsewhere, having been on a pike for some thirty years and is interred at Sidney Sussex College Cambridge where he was a student. After refreshments in the Old Priory Kitchen Tearoom we headed off to Dunesforde Vineyard in the Vale of York, a distance of about 18 miles. Here we had lunch and an engaging talk about winemaking going back to Roman times. The drive back to the hotel on the planned route was another 38 miles, making 76 miles in total, although some took a shortcut back to the hotel to give plenty of time before the SVW Register AGM at 6pm. Ian Burton received special thanks for taking on the role of Advertising Manager for The SVW Review, in which role he secured more advertisers than we've had for many years, resulting in a much better financial position for our annual magazine this year and going forward under a new editor. Rijn van Baal made a strong pitch to hold the 2024 SVW Event in Holland, which was eagerly accepted.

After the gala dinner we had the traditional presentations. The prestigious Frances Adam Award went to Peter Ratcliffe and Alison Jackson. This reflected, not only Peter's undoubted contribution to the preservation of SVW cars over many years, but more recently in retirement the assistance they provide to owners faced with particular issues, often via our Facebook group. Alison is key to this as she is often the conduit to Peter, who prefers to steer clear of the IT side of things. The David Washbourne Award went to Keith Poole in South Africa for his excellent article in the 2023 edition of The SVW Review, as chosen by the editor, Malcolm Robertson. Peter Cook, MGCC Overseas Director, was our guest speaker. Peter had arrived for the event in his lovely MGB GTV8 to take part in the activities.



A nice setting at The Talbot with VA0251 in the foreground

Thursday turned out to be the better day for weather and after breakfast we all gathered in the carpark for the presentation of The Ratcliffe Cup. Our packs contained voting slips that had been handed in the previous evening or during breakfast. The winning car was the lovely SA Saloon (1038) owned by Rijn and Mieke van Baal from Holland. I remember this car when owned by Mike Skipper when it had a supercharger, since removed. We then embarked on the planned drive that would take us about forty miles to Eden Camp, passing through pretty villages such as Sheriff Hutton, Bulmer, Terrington, Hovingham (with its ford) and Slingsby, also passing the impressive Castle Howard.

Eden Camp was something of a revelation; built on the site of a WW2 prisoner of war camp, the huts now house reconstructions of the reality of day-to-day life on the home front, front line and as a prisoner of war. A short drive from Eden Camp took us to The Talbot, situated in the market town of Malton with extensive views of the surrounding countryside. Here we had a very enjoyable buffet lunch. We said farewell to those who were heading home, although most of us returned to the hotel for another night.



Jim and Sue Boldry taking it easy in SA0656 at Eden Camp



SVW line-up at Dunesforde Vineyard



VA0251 crossing the ford at Hovingham

This was a great event held in a beautiful region of the UK and our thanks go to Anita and Mark for organising it so well.

Sadly, on July 27th we heard that Keith Poole had died on May 31st. He never knew that he had received The David Washbourne Award. His widow, Marilyn, said “He would have been so delighted”. We sent our sincere condolences to Marilyn and all the family. Our retiring editor, Malcolm Robertson, provided the following citation: “Keith has only recently sold the SA Tickford (SA0507) that he had owned for fifty years and willingly took on the correspondent’s role despite serious health issues and the looming realization that it was time to sell his car. Without his help in coordinating reports from the small band of SVW owners in South Africa, the Review would have been the poorer. Similarly, despite these issues, he has undertaken a comprehensive rebuild of the Jackall system on his car, photographed each step along the way and prepared a wonderful article for

current and future reference. Keith is a fine representative of the spirit of our world-wide interest in SVW MGs and it has been a privilege as editor to work with him over the past five years and to publish his article in the 2023 Review”.



Jim Andrews and Peter Cook present The Frances Adam Award to Peter Ratcliffe and Alison Jackson



Top table at the gala dinner with Anita and Mark on the far side

REGISTER CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS

At the start of the summer what a busy period we experienced with our SVWs in the UK; firstly there was MG & Triumph 100 at Silverstone and then our SVW Register event based near York. The MG & Triumph 100 event at Silverstone was an outstanding success enjoyed by all attendees. We had 5 SVWs parked together in the 100 MG cars timeline, illustrating the history of MG car production - a very impressive sight.

The Register Annual General Meeting was held during our Yorkshire event and the existing committee were all re-elected with two exceptions - Charlie Plain-Jones stood down from the committee after many years' service - thankyou Charlie for all your contributions. Malcolm Robertson stood down from being the editor of the SVW Review after five years' exceptional work. I am pleased to report that Stuart Cleaver has now volunteered to take on the editorial duties and will be pleased to receive articles for next year's edition of the SVW Review, especially those of a technical nature.

I know Paul has included details of the awards that were announced in Yorkshire – congratulations to all recipients.

At the AGM I sadly had to report the death of Alan Dakayne who was a founding member (member no. 6) of the Register and had owned VA Tourer 2356 since the 1960s. Very sadly we have recently heard that Keith Poole has died, our condolences to the family and I'm sure Paul will say more about this.

Those of you at the York event would be aware of the absence of my VA Tickford BMW 770, this was due to a braking problem (a severe pull to the right) that occurred the day before the event making it unsafe to drive. I have since identified a worn front hub requiring replacement. The instructions in the VA manual are very simplistic, so I will be contributing a detailed procedure on replacing the front hubs in an article, hopefully for inclusion in next year's SVW Review.

Enjoy your SVW Motoring
Jim

SVW EVENT 2024

The event will take place in Holland earlier in 2024 than is usual – April 24, 25 and 26. This is to take advantage of the amazing tulip fields at that time of year. It will be based near Alkmaar, north of Amsterdam. Further details will appear on our website and our other SVW forums in due course.

Event email address:

svwevent2024@outlook.com



Jim Andrews presents The Ratcliffe Cup to Rijn and Mieke van Baal



Rijn and Mieke with SA1038, winners of The Ratcliffe Cup



SVW Line-up at Newburgh Priory

And finally.....



Tuesday evening dinner – members received their copies of the eagerly-awaited SVW Review and couldn't wait to get stuck in!