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On August 19th we managed to gather together four VAs at The Capel Classic Car Show in Surrey – VA Tourer (2563) owned by Rebecca and Clare Freeman, VA Tickford (1752) of Andrew Sewell, VA Saloon (0251) of Ian Burton and my own VA Tourer (1737). We covered all three VA models, plus 1737 and 2563 were both first registered to East Sussex Constabulary. Ian's 0251 is of course a famous car in its own right. Rebecca (pictured with her partner Luke) and Clare inherited 2563 from their father Peter, who sadly died last year and I think this was Clare's second drive, which was lovely to see and it's great that the younger generation love their VA and all the memories it holds.

A reminder to save the dates April 24 – 26 next year for the annual SVW Event, this time in Holland as published in last month's Safety Fast!

Geoffrey Wilson (21st May 1924 – 21st August 2023)

Geoffrey joined the RAF Volunteer Regiment aged 16 which is where he fell in love with MG VA (408) AHS 87. Its owner became a friend and later a Spitfire pilot and was killed early on in the war. Aged 17, Geoffrey joined Bomber Command and was shot in the arms and leg while navigating a Lancaster Bomber, targeting the bridges over the Rhine in Dusseldorf. The injuries put him out of the War.

Geoffrey married in 1951 and bought the VA from his friend's widow. It had been chocked up in a wooden garage for the previous 10 years or so. He drove it home on the same tank of petrol! Following the war he became a woodwork and metalwork teacher, but also taught car mechanics. As a couple, they enjoyed camping and caravanning in Scotland. In 1952 he fitted a homemade tow bar to the VA and it was used as a family car until 1965. It was refurbished in 1992 by Peter Ratcliffe.

Geoff enjoyed going to rallies and events, particularly the annual SVW gatherings. Ownership of the VA passed to his son Nigel in 2006 and they both continued to attend these events for many of the following years. Our sincere condolences were sent to Nigel and Valerie and the extended family.



Geoffrey Wilson on his 90th birthday



Four VAs at The Capel Classic Car Show in August