



XKCC Newsletter



February 2023

New members since December 22

Mark Titman, Kent: Richard Shaw, Anglesey: Ken Ward, Essex: Steve Wilkinson, Hampshire, Marco Fapranzi, Italy: Javid Hamid, Herts: Mike Lodge, Staffs: Clive Harsey, Cheshire: John Clarke, Gtr Manchester: Martin Redgate Gtr Manchester:

AGM

The 2023 AGM will be held on **Wednesday February 8th** starting **promptly** at 8pm. Sign in will be available from about 7:50pm so please sign in early so we can start on time. There may be a delay in joining if you try and sign in after 8pm so not as to disrupt proceedings.

There will also be a post AGM social meeting starting shortly after the AGM has finished.

Club Merchandise

We will shortly be putting in our order for some more club embroidered merchandise. We need a few more orders for our supplier so get your orders in now ready for the summer. <https://www.xkcc.club/club-merchandise>

National Calendar

The club calendar is now up and running at <https://www.xkcc.club/nationalcalendar> Please check in regularly for events in your area or if you are visiting other regions. You will be made most welcome to join in.

Newsletters

This and previous Newsletters are available to review and download from our website. <https://www.xkcc.club/newsletter>

Region Reports

North West Region

The NW Christmas dinner was held on December 4th at the Kilton inn, Mere.



The January meeting was held on Sunday January 8th as the first Sunday was New Year's Day. Lower numbers than usual.



There are however more events planned for 2023. (Dates to be confirmed)

1. Private Visit to a Vietnam Huey Helicopter. <https://www.huey.co.uk/>
2. A talk on leather restoration by a Connolly Leather restoration expert. <https://www.leathercaredirect.com/>
3. Trip to Manchester Airport Runway Visitor Park. With optional tour of Concorde.
4. Donington Historic Festival Saturday 29 to Sunday 30 April 2023. <https://www.doningtonhistoric.com/>
5. Visit to Mathewsons Auction and tour of Yorkshire. <https://www.mathewsons.co.uk/bangers-and-cash/>

If you have not already registered your interest email Andrew at the address below. You can also ask to be added to the North West WhatsApp group.

North West: nwxkcc@gmail.com

Cornwall & Devon XK Group

In December the Cornwall and Devon region had their Christmas party at the Beacon Country house hotel in St Agnes Cornwall, the venue was exceptional, great food, friendly staff, and a great location. On the Saturday we attended the Tarquin Gin in Wadebridge for a tour and tasting, it was good fun and Donna, Julia and Edward all had a go on waxing their own Gin bottles. Drinks back at the hotel before the evening meal then secret Santa gifts in the lounge afterwards; it was an excellent weekend with friends.



On the 15th of January we attended breakfast meeting at Lifton Strawberry fields / farm shop, we discuss this year's events and this year's charity is with the Cornwall Air Ambulance.

We also discuss and now booked in to attend Simply Jaguar Day in Beaulieu on Sunday 25th of June arranged by David Hollander and with 10 cars / 19 people travelling from C & D to stay at the Best Western Chilworth Manor Hotel on the Saturday with David and other XKCC members.

Upcoming events

The Cornwall and Devon group meet generally every 3rd Sunday of the month in various locations, a brilliant opportunity for everyone to come along and join in, we are a friendly sociable bunch of friends and you will be made very welcome by all.

If you would like more information on what events we have planned please email June at xkcccornwalldevon@gmail.com or log in and go to the XKCC calendar for the latest updates

17th February 2023, Lunch venue TBC

19th March 2023, Mother's Day Lunch in Ottery St Mary near Exeter

23rd April 2023, National Drive it Day, from Jamaica Inn, Bolventor to Dingles fairground, Lewdown

18th to 21st May 2023, The XKCC North Devon Tour – fully booked.

Thinking of joining the Cornwall & Devon Modern XK group please get in touch for more information, my email address is cornwalldevonxkcc@gmail.com

Sad Tale

Norm Norton, formally of the Cornwall and Devon region and wife Mandy recently emigrated to the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus (TRNC). We intended to export our beautiful gold XK8 (x100). We believed, as she would be over 25 years old this year, there would be no import duty. Alas, this is not the case. They apply about 50% of the original cost of the car when new! (Fine if it was an old 60s Anglia, or a 70s Escort.) OUCH.

So it is with great sadness we are putting her up for sale. If anyone knows someone who is interested, please give them our details. See below for more details.

We are back in UK for the first two weeks of February, and in Cornwall for the second week.

The car is located in Gunnislake, Cornwall.

South East

December saw the SE enjoying their Christmas Lunch in the cellar room at the Red Lion in Betchworth where thirty folk enjoyed their hospitality and great home cooking. Dress code a Christmas jumper or something bright and for not only coming correctly attired complete with Father Christmas hat, but also the furthest travelled, Chris Barras was chosen to receive the December Tea Pot Trophy award. Photos below-





January 1st saw a number of us just celebrate the New Year with a visit to Brooklands for their annual Classic Car show where some 2000 cars park all around the museum grounds. This was followed by an enjoyable late lunch at the nearby Silvermere Golf Club. On the 21st January some thirty-four of us enjoyed the first Breakfast/Lunch meet of the year, this time lunch at the Middle House Hotel in Mayfield. With cold and frosty mornings at this time of year a lunch meet is preferred. This sixteenth century coaching inn provides a wonderful setting on the South Downs and the exceptional lunch served by such a competent team made for just the best start to our 2023 activity programme. Here, too, a few of the members chose to extend their stay overnight as a reward for their near two-hundred-mile round trip to attend and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who do regularly make these long drives just to join us at our regional gatherings and events. Their continued support is greatly appreciated.



Finally just a reminder our first breakfast meet will be on the 18th February at Ye Olde Six Bells in Horley where we do hope to see some of the three new members that have joined us recently.



Plans are well underway for 2023 and a programme of events throughout the year has been sent out to everyone. This highlights some forty-four events that are currently available and whilst as individually no-one can be expected to attend all we are assisting small groups to meet and attend where possible with pre booking dedicated car parking or assisting meet and convoy arrangements where appropriate. There will continue to be a minimum of one breakfast or lunch meet throughout the year and whilst we have found a very good central location in Horley that caters well for our breakfast needs, we will continue to rotate these a little around the south east both to level up the driving times to these gatherings but also to give members an opportunity to perhaps explore areas of the south east that they might not be so well acquainted with. If I am to single out one event, we will be making a particular effort to support it will be Simply Jaguar at Beaulieu on 25th June where together we hope to put on an impressive display hosting some of our visiting members from the Cornwall & Devon region. That said more than a few of us will again be at Hever Castle, Castle Coombe and out and about throughout the summer and planning is already underway for our return trip to Llanerchindda Farm in April 2024.

Contact David to be added to his mailing and What'sApp lists.

David Hollander: xkccse@gmail.com

Midlands

This lovely lot had a good breakfast and a long chat at our January meeting. Thanks for your support. Sorry to those who had slipped away before picture was taken.



Contact Bob to be added to his mailing list. Bob Owens: midlandsxkcc@gmail.com

North Wales

A good turn out to our annual start of the year gathering with an abundance of Hawaiian shirts and garlands on show. Quite a few XK's in attendance but some daily drivers to for those in hibernation. We even managed some sunshine...

Imelda won the best Hawaiian outfit prize as judged by the Restaurant Manager, not a fix I promise.



Was brilliant to have Maria and Ken Sessford back with us once again, they have been greatly missed.

Hope all had an enjoyable lunch as we prepare for the 2023 calendar of events.

Many thanks for your support, looking forward to the rest of the year...



I have put together a draft itinerary for activities in 2023. A few of the bookings are still provisional but I have some reserve locations to slot in if necessary.

As usual most events will start with breakfast in Llanfairfechan at the Beach Pavilion Cafe at 10.30am.

February	19th	Brewery and Cider Tour Wrexham
March	19th	Real Car Company and Betws y Coed
April	15th	Bodnant Gardens - Visit and Tour
May	16th	Pant Du Vineyard - Caernarfon
June	18th	Regional BBQ
July	16th	Unity Car Event Mona Showground (Provisional)
August	20th	Club Picnic and Mystery Drive
September	17th	British Iron Work Centre- Oswestry
October	15th	Moelfre RNLI and Copper Kingdom
November	19th	Distillery Visit and lunch - Llandudno

David Gosling: North Wales: nwalesxkcc@gmail.com

East Region

For further details email: xkceast@gmail.com

Regions Page: <https://www.xkcc.club/national>

The Jag Doctor

Jamie Harris, aka [The Jag Doctor](http://jagdoctor.co.uk/) (<http://jagdoctor.co.uk/>) has joined the club Forum and is providing advice to your questions. If you have not already joined the Forum go to <https://www.thexkcc.club/> and register.

California member Dennis Purpura has sent in some pictures from his 2022 travels





Notes from the Netherlands

Dear all,

Our club chairman wondered how my XK-year was. My year was a little chaotic, but good. We moved house in the spring and up to November, between cleaning, painting and furnishing, I enjoyed the sun and swimming pool.

My conclusion: life's good.

Being one of these owners who talks to her cars, I asked Rupert, my '97 XK8 coupe. A very different story:



'Yes, we moved house: three times within a year. Meaning, you used me up to 3 times to literally stuff me full boxes and bags. No problem though. I enjoyed the look on your face as my luggage and seating space were astonishing larger than expected.



Still in wintertime we moved to live at the office space. Finally a roof over my head. I love our workshop. All my Jaguar brothers and sister are there. Under floor heating and a regular polish and shine. I never wanted to leave this car heaven. Life's good, I thought...You never told me this was temporary.

As spring arrived you took my out numerous times. Again full of bags, boxes and the dogs (DOGS!). I should have known things were about to change. We drove many miles through the country side, up till the Belgian border. I even spotted some Belgian XK's. Months later, summer passed, I realized this was our new home. No roof over my head and why are my siblings still at home? I could REALLY use a polish and shine by now. Yes, you two promised me a large garage, my siblings beside me and under floor heating. But now its winter and I feel dirty and cold!



O, then that day arrived you permitted Ronald to take me to the airport. You never, ever let him drive one of your cars. For a reason, you always tell me. The obvious happened: he bumped into the car in front of him. My pretty face all scratched.'



Poor old Rupert... He's right though. We need to build a garage to store all cars at home. The house came with a large plot and swimming pool, but no garage. Yet. Meanwhile we have planning permission and are waiting for quotations. If our resources allows, a new car heaven for 6 cars arises, in 2023. Our home for many, many years to come.

Before you pity for Rupert, I need to tell you this. He took revenge. Big time. In December his ECU broke down. Almost in front of our car specialist. Secondly both door transponders failed. So, I guess he was fed up, being used as moving van, but not angry. Considering the many miles we drove between our office and new home he could have let me down in the middle of nowhere.

His ECU is replaced, he got all new tires and he is scheduled for some body work, including preventative work on wheel arches and sills. I am still searching for new transponders. If anyone has a tip, please let me know.

Rupert will be fine and better than ever. We had a good chat. Ronald and I had a good chat too...

We wish you all a great, New Year in good health. For your car(s) the same. We hope we can travel to you later this year. We will see each other at the online AGM.

Best and warm wishes,

Marisca and Ronald Urbanus.

Wrong car, right trousers for member Jerry Blackett

When Jerry Blackett bought his 2007 XK 4.2 he didn't like the paintwork or its styling until a pair of trousers and Grantley Design influenced him to make some changes

JERRY BLACKETT admits he's not a diehard Jaguar fanatic and has more admiration for a beautiful design than a brand, so it's perhaps fortunate that he now owns the 2007 XK 4.2 (known internally as the X150) seen here that has been extensively modified in its appearance. It could have all ended up completely differently had he not had to replace a Mercedes SLK that was deemed too uneconomical to repair back in 2011.

As CEO of the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce at the time, it gave him the opportunity to buy a Midlands-based brand. The four-year-old XK, painted in factory Midnight Black, caught his eye and was seemingly a step up in sports car terms from the Merc.

"Immediately, I realised what a full-fat sports car was like," he remarks. "My SLK, with a 2.3-litre supercharged engine, felt enough at the time. I'd enjoyed the design of the folding tin roof but felt the design of the car fell short of being beautiful. The XK with its more powerful engine, much tighter steering and great-looking lines was a revelation. Wow! I loved it."

Ten years into owning the XK, Jerry was ready for a change of car, but it was during the Covid-19 pandemic and one of the lockdowns, so his choice was restricted. “I came close to trading the car in for a £46,000 red convertible XK Dynamic-R,” he recalls, “until my wife, who manages the books, enquired just what it was I had in mind for paying the bills! Further denting the business case, a friend who is an instructor with the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) had also pointed out with icy confidence that I’d kill myself with 550bhp to control.”



With plans to replace the 2007 XK being put on hold, Jerry surfed the internet for some inspiration and came across Grantley Design, who make and fit a selection of body kit and styling options for both the X100- and X150-generation of XK models. In some cases, this helps an X150XK for instance, to resemble a later F-Type, but it also creates a more personal approach to styling and customising. Jerry was warned by a friend of his to not ruin the originality of his XK, but surely this is one of the positive aspects of Jaguar that have existed for several decades whereby independent designers have used these cars as the basis of their own projects. After all, few people find a Broadspeed XJC or a Coombs Mk 2 an eyesore.

The man behind Grantley Design is Dave Kennedy (his middle name is Grantley). Based in Wetherby, North Yorkshire, Dave operates from a workshop where he 3-D scans a vehicle, then produces a body kit to suit using computer-aided design (CAD) software, before creating a prototype from model board using a CNC machine. The prototype panels are then fitted onto a vehicle and modified to suit before moulds are taken and the real panels are created from glass-fibre or injection moulded polyurethane.

On the X150 XK, the new panels include front and rear bumpers, front wings, side skirts and a bonnet, mainly constructed from glass-fibre, but as Dave explains, “The bottom 130mm of the front bumper is made from polyurethane - a very tough polyurethane that can withstand bumps and scrapes. This is injected into the mould once the glass-fibre bit is made to fuse the two materials together.”



Those front-end modifications in particular make a noticeable difference to the appearance of the X150 XK, shortening its length by 45mm. Plus, the larger honeycomb grille with more prominent shark gill-style vents to each side produce a more defined look. Dave explains that due to the different angle of the front bumper, “My bumper slopes back towards the bottom as the original splitter is level with the top front, so an original front bumper would hit a kerb 145mm before mine would hit it. But overall, you have an extra 45mm if you were trying to squeeze the car into a garage.”

The new front bumper is complemented by Dave’s own design of LED headlights which in this case, incorporate Hella HID projector units. The headlight casings are manufactured from injection moulded polyurethane and the lenses are made from vacuum-formed polycarbonate.



The bonnet is even more complicated than the front bumper. The original aluminium bonnet is replaced with a glass-fibre item that’s a little larger, because it extends into the front wings, so the standard aluminium front wings are altered. Dave wanted to reflect the design of the E-type’s bonnet, although he probably realised it was impossible to create a full flip-fronted front end, so settled for the subtle but sophisticated changes he has made.



“The old front wings are removed completely,” he explains. “A new lower section of wing is fitted and the top is now part of the bonnet. The wings and side skirts now flair out like the rear of the car, giving it a sexy-looking waist.”

The new side skirts are constructed from glass-fibre and incorporate a black-coloured narrow running board or lip. It’s a subtle alteration, but sufficient to make a difference. Dave has his reasons for why he wanted to alter the appearance of the XK, especially at the front. “What I didn’t like about the whole standard front end was that it was Ford Mondeo-like with its sharp pointy headlights, flat bonnet and straight side skirts to the front,” he says. “It was missing the muscular raised wing tops of the previous Jaguar designs.”

There are several late-model updates that help to alter the look of this XK, such as the later door mirrors with their LED indicators and also the later LED rear lights.



With this XK being naturally aspirated, some supercharger (XKR) features have been incorporated, including bonnet vents and quad tailpipes. Those tailpipes should be a pair of singles, but Dave cut them off and welded twin pipes in their place to re-create the XKR image. There’s also a new bumper at the back with cut outs for the quad tailpipes, which borrows some of its lines from an original bumper, especially the black underbelly and its ledge.

“Taking the ledge that originally wrapped around the tailgate bottom, I lowered and stretched it to the extreme edges of the rear bumper,” says Dave. “This gives the illusion of the car being wider and lower. When viewed from the side, you’ll see the arches wrap around the wheels, adding to the exoticness of the styling.”

Jerry’s XK retains a standard set of 20in 10-spoke alloy wheels, but they sit on 20mm spacers between them and the wheel hubs to help increase the track. Such an increase in width hasn’t resulted in the tyres fouling the wheel arches.



The choice of exterior colour for Jerry’s XK was perhaps one of the biggest challenges. He began by asking whether Dave could respray his car in a colour to match his corduroy trousers. This was during the first meeting to discuss the modifications, so Dave photographed Jerry’s legs (with his trousers on of course) as a reference point. Jerry also went away and researched some paint colours and discovered that House of Kolor’s Kandy Apple Red (all spelt with a K instead of a C) was a popular choice. This is a pearlescent flip colour, so it changes under sunlight or bright artificial light, and always produces a deep red effect. It has long been popular within the custom car scene, but requires all the panels to be painted at the same time to avoid inconsistencies.



The respray involved applying two coats of sealer, followed by three coats of House of Kolor Silver, then four coats of Kandy Apple Red and finally three coats of lacquer. And it was later finished off with a ceramic coat that negates the need to polish and wax the bodywork and protects it for a guaranteed five years from oxidation and fading. It’s the equivalent of a long-lasting polish, but costs around £500 or more to be applied. It still means the bodywork needs to be washed to keep it clean, but the protective layer is similar to having an additional clear coat.

“There was a lot of prep work,” warns Dave concerning the respray. “Parts that would usually be painted off the car, had to be loosely mounted to the car. The biggest problem is that it’s impossible to retouch any parts as adding extra translucent red creates a darker red. The red needs the silver underneath, so the whole panel needs to be repainted if there are any defects.”

The final bill for all of the work completed on Jerry's XK came to £14,000, which as he admits, is more than his car is worth, but from another point of view, a lot cheaper than the XK Dynamic-R he nearly bought. Dave points out that the cost was high due to the paint that was more expensive, plus additional parts including the LED rear lights, the modified exhaust tailpipes, the HID conversion for the front headlights, the ceramic protection for the paintwork and the later door mirrors with their LED indicators. A bodykit conversion on an X150XK starts at £9,995, which includes the full bodykit fitted, an active rear spoiler that's not fitted to Jerry's XK and a full respray, although the price can be reduced by a further £200 if that respray is in the car's original colour because the insides of the doors and boot wouldn't need painting along with the front suspension turrets.

To anyone who has extensively customised or modified a vehicle, £14,000 is quite a reasonable sum of money and can easily be soaked up with an engine build. The resulting Jaguar is undoubtedly different from a standard XK, but isn't too radical to be mistaken for a standard production sports car. Only the Jaguar badges give the game away, but from various angles, there are hints of Marcos, Aston Martin and Maserati. Of course, the bottom line is whether Jerry likes it.



“Maybe it was lockdown, but I'd become tired of a black car,” he says. “I wasn't excited anymore by all the lines of the XK, but still loved its performance. Now, I smile every time I look at the Grantley interpretation. The front in particular is so much more purposeful. It is also the paint that makes this car so special. In certain lights, it's akin to a glass of fine red wine - the perfect pick-me-up as we emerge from the pandemic.”

Words & photography Rob Hawkins

THANKS TO Grantley Design (07711 143156 www.grantleydesign.com)

A promotional banner for two Jaguar magazines. On the left, 'CLASSIC JAGUAR' is advertised with '3 ISSUES FOR £9'. On the right, 'JAGUAR WORLD' is advertised with '6 ISSUES FOR £18'. A green diagonal bar separates the two offers. Small images of the magazine covers are shown on either side of the text.

Article reprinted with thanks to Jaguar World magazine. Click the banner for subscription offers.

****More members' articles are required for the newsletter. Send in some words and pictures of what you have been doing to your cars or where you have been.****

Other Jaguar meetings.

Jaguar Breakfast Club

Regular, very well attended meetings on the first Saturday of the month at the British Motor Museum, Gaydon, CV35 0BJ. The meeting is free to display but you will need a ticket, valid for 12 months, to enter the museum. Well worth a visit.
<https://www.jaguarbreakfastclub.org.uk/>

Links

<https://www.slashgear.com/1099507/why-jaguar-couldnt-sell-its-f1-inspired-supercar/>

10 Fastest Jaguars. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LaojpWQa0Z0>

XK8 Model Changes 1996-2006 <https://youtu.be/I0blRCUWBmg>

Club Forum

We now have 252 members registered. More and more information of planned events, and gossip, is going onto the Forum so sign up and keep up with all the latest information. If you haven't registered yet go to **FORUM**. <https://www.thexkcc.club/>

For Sale



For Sale £480

One set of XK8/XKR wheels, MY1996 – 2005, 18" Flute alloy design, refurbished. Complete with Dunlop Winter Sport Tyres, part worn but all road legal.

Good clean condition. Buyer collects from Gtr Manchester/Cheshire area or delivery at cost arranged.

Contact Richard 0161 449 9696 or 07733 222128.

Jaguar XK8 (X100) Coupe. 1998 Gold. R 582 AKR



Original Nikasil engine still fitted and working superbly.

MOT 3rd May 2022 @ 129,494 miles. Next due 3rd May 2023

Last MOT Front tyres replaced, CAT Converter replaced, Front upper suspension arm bushes replaced. Only a couple of thousand miles added since. (Wales trip)

Partial respray and bodywork repairs carried out first half of 2021. Tin rot removed from rear wheel arches.

April 2022: Radiator top hose replaced after old one burst. Aircon condenser replaced and system regassed and tested. Fully cleaned and under sealed. Kenwood DAB radio fitted.

May 2022: Gearbox seal and gearbox fluid replaced.

A9 XKS registration held on retention with beautifully made gel plates. I'm happy to let them go with the car.

Storm force outdoor cover included.

I'm asking £5,500.

Contact Norm on: normynorton@gmail.com

Club email addresses

The club has moved to new email addresses. Hopefully this will reduce the number of non deliveries due to spam and bulk email settings. Please mark the relevant new address as a safe sender on your system.

The new addresses to use are:

Chairman, Ron Wood: info@xkcc.club

Secretary, Peter Hodson: secretaryxkcc@gmail.com

Treasurer, Grantham Fidler: treasurerxkcc@gmail.com

Website / Forum Manager, Peter Braybrooke: xkccweb@gmail.com

Regional Organisers

Region 1: North West, Andrew Spark: nwestxkcc@gmail.com

Region 2: South East, David Hollander: xkccse@gmail.com

Region 3: Cornwall / Devon, June Maunder: cornwalldevonxkcc@gmail.com

Region 4: Midlands, Bob Owens: midlandsxkcc@gmail.com

Region 5: North Wales, David Gosling: nwalesxkcc@gmail.com

Region 6: East, Luigi Muscella: eastxkcc@gmail.com

Please contact the relevant regional organiser direct if you wish to be added to their regional email address list. Various regional organisers also have local What's App groups. Email them also if you wish to be added to their group.

Picture of the Month



Editor: Ron Wood (Club Chairman)

Email: info@xkcc.club