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MVE

MILFORD VINTAGE ENGINEERING LTD

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Welcome to the final newsletter of 2011. We are busier than ever here in the workshop with bookings going well into next year. You can keep up-to-date on our blog (<http://vintage-engineering.blogspot.com>).

MOTs

Following on from our last newsletter, the MOT question for older vehicles is hotting up. The Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs has a double page spread in the December issue of its newsletter about the possibility of exempting certain groups of cars from the requirement to have an annual MOT. It is quite a detailed article about the consultation which the Department of Transport has launched as part of its 'Reducing Regulation agenda and the desire to remove unnecessary burdens'. Under an EU directive the government would be able to exempt pre-1960 manufactured vehicles from statutory MOT test.

Please read the FBHVC article in full at www.fbhvc.co.uk by clicking on the newsletter archive in their Information section, then click on December 2011 Newsletter. If you do not have a computer but would like a copy of the article, please let Sarah know and she can photocopy it. (FBHVC are happy for articles to be reproduced providing they are mentioned as the source).

There are a number of points raised for consideration which include the

fact pre-1960 vehicles are largely well maintained by their owners and the initial MOT failure rate in 2009 was less than 10% compared with an initial test failure rate for post-1960 vehicles of over 30%; and that approximately two thirds of the pre-1960 manufactured vehicles are driven less than 500 miles a year.

The EU directive allows member States to exclude vehicles which are never, or hardly every, used on public highways including vehicles of historic interest which were manufactured before 1 January 1960.

The current proposals for consultation are summarised as follows:

Option 0—Make no change

Option 1—Exempt all pre-1960 manufactured vehicle from the MOT test

Option 2—Exempt all pre-1945 vehicles from the MOT test

Option 3—Exempt all pre-1920 manufactured vehicles

We cannot cover the whole article or consultation here, but would urge you to read about it at FBHVC and complete their survey—they help us

all to uphold the freedom to use old vehicles on the road. The full DfT consultation can be found at www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2011-27

We would also ask you to consider various points other than just how nice it is not to think about MOTs

1. When anyone brings their car to us for MOT preparation, we carry out a number of checks and any required work which means we hardly ever have any cars fail an MOT test (is this why the statistics show fewer MOT failures for historic vehicles?)
2. The use of wording such as 'never or hardly ever used on public highways' could be alarming. With most vehicles apparently covering fewer than 500 miles per year, could this see restrictions creep in to limit the use of our cars?
3. How many people currently use the MOT as a prompt to get small jobs done before they become too serious? If things are not picked up and more accidents start occurring will it be the thin end of the wedge?

Happy reading....



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Seasons Greetings



DVLA

2011 saw a new vehicle insurance law come into effect meaning that all vehicles must be kept insured unless they are the subject of a Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN). If your car is uninsured and you haven't declared it SORN you could face a penalty, or at worst have the car destroyed! There are some exceptions including cars that have been kept off the road since before SORN started on 31/01/1998 so if your car has been in boxes for the last 13 years or so, you're probably fine. If you only use and insure your car for the summer months, you should inform DVLA straight away when it is taken off the road and the insurance lapses. This can be done via the website at www.direct.gov.uk/taxdisc, selecting the 'Declare SORN' button.



You can also check the status of your vehicle on the same site using the 'Vehicle Enquiry' button



CAR OF THE MOMENT

Austin 7

With the Baby Austin's 90th birthday coming up in 2012 Ian is hoping to get his own Special, Daisy, back up and running. His earlier restoration was carried out in time for the 1992 JOGGLE and the car saw some changes in body shape to accommodate our numerous children. Now that they are more likely to drive their own cars, we are intending to put on a two-seater sports body and Ian hopes to get back to more events and hill climbs.



OPENING HOURS

We are open

Monday to Friday

from 8.00am to

4.30pm

Other hours by arrangement

YOUNG APPRENTICE

We are keen to encourage youngsters in our field and this summer were joined by 11 year old Iain who is mad about all things mechanical. While with us he completed the overhaul of our own Bullnose's carburettor. We also take a pupil from Websters at muir each year for a week's work experience.



Kirrie-

CURRENT PROJECTS

We have another Austin 7 in the workshop undergoing work on the suspension, back axle and brakes.

The Alvis Speed 20SB is having repairs to the ash frame.

A 3 1/2L Derby Bentley is having its springs reset so that it sits properly as well as a few other jobs to bring it up to standard.

The recommissioning of the 20/25 is well underway with the rewire almost complete before refitting the gearbox after a clutch overhaul.

The blue E-type Jaguar we were working on last year is back to have a higher ratio diff fitted and a triple carburettor SU conversion carried out.

A Rolls-Royce Silver Dawn is having a replacement wing following the discovery of a poor previous repair and we are about to rebuild the SS100 engine following repairs to a cracked block and machining work.

The New Year sees an R-type Bentley for gearbox and suspension work, as well as an MGB for an engine upgrade, work on a Morgan and various pre-season services.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Finally, we will be closed for two weeks from 23rd December 2011 to 9th January 2012. Thank you for your custom over the last year and please be in touch if we can help in 2012 but remember we tend to get booked up fairly early so the more notice you give the better we are able to fit in with your plans.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Sarah, Ian, Raymond, Graeme, Roy and Alan

