

# **NEWSLETTER**

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Colin Bugler, Wintney House London Road, Hartley Wintney Hants, RG27 8RN Tel 01252 845451

email: admin@lagondaclub.com

Written By: Walter Thomson

No 447

August 2017

**August** 

5<sup>th</sup> Bentley Drivers Club Race Day Silverstone, Northants (no pre-war Lagonda Race)

5/6<sup>th</sup> VSCC Prescott Hill Climb, Gotherington, Gloucs

12<sup>th</sup> AMOC Brands Hatch Race Meeting (Pre-War Team Challenge Round 3) Brands Hatch, Kent

12<sup>th</sup> VSCC Formula Vintage Race Meeting - Round 4 Mallory Park, Leics.

13<sup>th</sup> Brooklands Reunion, Brooklands, Weybridge, Surrey (Contacy Michael Drakeford 01903 872197)

19th LC W Midland Area Lunch The Kings Arms Ombersley

### September

1/3<sup>rd</sup> MRL Zandvoort Historic Grand Prix Meeting (Kidston Trophy Round 3) Zandvoort, Netherlands

16<sup>th</sup> VSCC Snetterton Sprint Snetterton, Norfolk

17<sup>th</sup> VSCC Formula Vintage Race Meeting Round 5. Snetterton, Norfolk
23<sup>rd</sup> VSCC Prescott Long Course Hill Climb Gotherington, Gloucs

30<sup>th</sup> AMOC Silverstone Race Meeting (Pre-War Team Challenge Round 4) Silverstone, Northants 30/1<sup>st</sup> Oct LC Annual 2017 Gathering. Featured Cars: The post 1945 Lagondas. Wokefield Park, Nr. Reading

No apologies for commencing again with the Club's most important event of the year - our Annual Gathering over the weekend 30<sup>th</sup> September/1<sup>st</sup> October when the Post 1945 Lagondas will be the featured models. If you are intending to come but haven't quite got round to making a booking yet, please help our hard pressed organiser and do it NOW. Full details in the flyer that follows this Newsletter.

Walter Thomson another long time 2 litre owner quotes from a letter he received as follows: "Dear Mr. Thomson,

I note you have purchased Mr. Plains 2ltr Lagonda and I shall be very willing to advise and help with the car as I have in the past. ... May I draw attention to the value of having a reserve stock of spares as an insurance for the future, in particular a beautifully made by hand, not to be repeated, head gasket @ £13.50 and 20 pence each for the camshaft tunnel sealing rings (now made in NEBAR), plus postage and packing. In much haste, but with my best wishes and with assurance of my interest.

Yours sincerely, Ivan Forshaw."

A kind and happy introduction to 40 years of Lagonda motoring, the car, OD 624 was a 2ltr Weymann fabric saloon bought at an Alexandra Palace, Carter Auction, the only lot left late afternoon that was within my bank manager's allowable expenditure, a brief chat to Mr. Plains the owner and out into the evening rush hour traffic and 100 mile journey home.

Later, anxious to find a tourer, OD 624 was sold, and on a trip to Paradise Garage, Parson's Green I spotted my present car TG 1547 a 1931, 2ltr tourer hiding in the back of the showroom, on asking Rory the proprietor if it was for sale he said "it could be, make me an offer", I did and was told I could not afford it but subsequently a price was agreed and honoured by Rory in spite of a higher offer received the same day after I had left to return home. It transpired that the car had been sold to a customer in part exchange for a Riley and had proved to be so unreliable the customer had asked for his Riley back. Rewired by Peter Whenman the principle reliability problem was resolved. Over the years, I have found the real joy of Lagonda ownership has been the many friends made and the valuable help and advice given. John Batt, Robin Colquhoun, and Charles Hobbins to name but a few of the mechanically knowledgeable that have been so helpful in keeping my car on the road.

On the social side my wife Rosemary and I have enjoyed wonderful Lagonda tours over the years, many arranged by Joan and John Fitton around the UK. With Robin and Mairwen Colquhoun we took part in three European tours following the Austro Hungarian Empire, from Bratislava to Budapest and beyond and last year took part in a very successful tour of the Dordogne with Rodney, Nigel and Jonathan who are now arranging another tour this time of Ireland, planned for May next year.

A few years ago, a journalist on the Daily Telegraph approached me to ask if I would be willing to cook lunch on the exhaust manifold of my car, he having read about truck drivers in America doing the same on a regular basis. I made an aluminum tray to fit the manifold and together with a photographer we set off into the Cotswolds with a full Christmas feast of quail and all the trimmings in place. A picnic site was chosen and the lunch inspected. It was not a great success and I recall we finished up in the pub it being a bitterly cold day. There followed a front page article with photographs in the Telegraph Motoring Section and by great good fortune this was read by Charles Diwiddy the son of the original owner of my car who recognised the registration number and wrote to the editor to offer me a beautiful model of the car commissioned by his father circa 1930 We arranged to meet shortly afterwards and Charles produced a photograph of himself sitting in the back of the car whilst being taken to his prep school by his father. A sixty year parallel time shot was then taken with Charles at the wheel and his grandchildren in the back. The 2ltr register of 1949 lists Mrs. Dinwiddy, Charles's mother as owner but the history since is incomplete. The model and the period photographs I was given are now however a valuable part of the car's history file.

On only two occasions did we fail to return home under our own power. On the one occasion a magneto failed, I now carry a spare, the other occasion was more dramatic. While descending a hill in Marlbrough on our way back home from the Dordogne a back spring broke on hitting a pothole forcing the brake cables to lock the brakes. A frightening skid and we came to a halt before a road junction causing traffic chaos.

The car was immovable and whist trying to direct traffic up came a white knight in the shape of Richard Jones a club member who just happened to be passing and knew exactly what to do as only a week or two earlier he had helped Jeff Ody in a similar predicament. The cables were released and the car pushed safely onto the pavement. The County Council paid for the new springs for which I was very grateful and with my son's help all was reinstated with matching performance characteristics from each spring. One point worth mentioning is that there is very little clearance in removing the springs the body of the tourer was presumably fitted in the factory after the chassis had been assembled. On a Belgium motorway one other drama and timely warning occurred when at high speed the front offside (N/S while driving in Belgium) wheel collapsed, the rim split and just sufficient spokes remained to avoid the car tipping over on to the brake drum. David and Gill Edwards, together with Robin and Mairwen Colquhoun followed me on to the hard shoulder and with my spare in place and one of Robin's two spares available if needed we were legal again. The disintegrated wheel still hangs on the wall at Longstone Tyres a cautious reminder of potential metal fatigue from 70 years on the road. No doubt such adventures might be avoided in a modern car but wouldn't that be less fun?

Of particular interest to 2 Litre owners, such as Walter, is the news that the revised 2 litre engine handbook compiled by David Hine and edited by Mike Pilgrim is now available from the Lagonda Shop. Order through the Website.

Sticking with 2 litre owners Nigel Paterson, our South West representative reminds us that he is organising the area's main event at Montacute House near Yeovil, Somerset on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Montacute House is a fine Elizabethan manor house, surrounded by lovely gardens belonging to the National Trust. Come along with whatever car you are driving, meet up with friends in the Lagonda Club and bring a picnic or sample the local hostelries. For more information contact Nigel on 01460 258844, or e-mail <a href="mailto:nigelandkathypaterson@btinternet.com">nigelandkathypaterson@btinternet.com</a>

On the competition front, the new two day format at Shelsley attracted 2 Lagonda entries and gave time for 3 timed runs. Terry Brewster put up a good performance but the handicappers know him too well and Andrew Cheyne is also at a disadvantage having to compete as a special. At Cadwell we only had one Lagonda entry, Tim Wadsworth's 2 litre, but here the handicappers were more generous and Tim came in first on handicap in the Geoghegan Trophy Race and 10<sup>th</sup> in his second race.

August sees the ever popular Prescott Hill Climb on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6th. If you are coming in a Lagonda and would like to park with other Lagondas, be at the Royal Oak Pub car park by 9.30 on the Saturday and 8.45 on Sunday, to join the "Lagonda convoy" to the car park. A week later, on the 12<sup>th</sup>, the VSCC moves on to Mallory Park and the AMOC Team Challenge is at Brands Hatch. The following day Michael Drakeford will be hoping to see a number of members at the Brooklands reunion.

Members in Wales may be interested in exhibiting their vehicle at a Roaring 20s & 30s Gala weekend on The Vale of Rheidol Railway Aberystwyth on the 16th and 17th of September. Information from Wendy Thomas at wendv@rheidolrailway.co.uk

Looking much further ahead the 2018 Northern Dinner and Tour will be on the Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May. The hotel, format and cost, will be as for the successful 2017 event. We are holding most of the hotel rooms at our special rate and early booking - direct with the hotel - will avoid disappointment. Early birds have already bagged their rooms! Monk Fryston Hall Hotel, 01977 682369. Further details and a Dinner booking form for this popular event will appear in the New Year. Meanwhile, enquiries to Nigel Hall 07831 638383 nigelhalluk@tiscali.co.uk

Finally John Sword writes to say the he regrets to have to inform members that Tim Ludbrook, our Company Secretary, has resigned from the Board, for personal reasons. Tim is a very busy lawyer, and we are grateful that, during his relatively brief 'period in office,' he was able to spend a considerable amount of time on the Club's affairs and to contribute a number of ideas.

**ADVERTISEMENTS**: All advertisements should be sent to Len Cozzolino (len@cozzolino.co.uk).

### **FOR SALE**

Lagonda LG45 DHC June 1937, Sanction 3 engine with G10 centre change synchromesh gearbox. Colour is dark blue



with blue leather interior and black hood. Documented ownership history back to 1940 with supporting cardboard logbooks. Current and previous owner, who was a surgeon, account for over 50 of its 80 years with invoices and paperwork showing maintenance and improvement work since 1961. The engine was rebuilt in 1961 by Maurice Leo and the car has only covered 6000 miles since 1974. The documentation includes invoices with descriptions of work by John Ryder over several years. In 2001, the body was repainted and the interior completely retrimmed. In addition, the rear axle has been rebuilt with a new CWP, the magnetos have been refurbished and the front wheels rebuilt with new hubs. There are some issues to be addressed, for example the hood is worn along its side panels and some of the door glasses are yellowing, a new owner may wish

to consider replacement of glass or to maintain the patina. My strong preference is for the next owner to be an enthusiastic club member who will enjoy driving and maintaining the car. Only for sale due to ill health offers around £175,000. Nick Birch (B37) 01989 751991 Herefordshire.

For sale Lagonda LG45 saloon Interesting history. Fitted with Gardner 4LK engine from new Moss gearbox with Leycock overdrive, all fitted by Gardner from new. A recent complete off body restoration, 6000 miles since. Ideal touring car, 40mpg £75000.00 Contact John Walker 01344 622972 or 07967221564





Beautiful painting of an LG45 Rapide with reflection of owners picnicking in the rad. Original oil painting by Andrew Stride from 2000 and owned by me for 17 years. Please also see the artists website andrewstride.co.uk. Can be viewed in Exeter or high resolution photos sent. Offers. Please call Richard Provis on 07973 237757 or by email richard\_provis@hotmail.com (Non-Member)

### **SERVICES TO MEMBERS**

Vintage and Classic mechanical car clocks rebuilt, restored, overhauled and repaired. Please contact Simon Drachman (member D10) for further details. Vintage Watch Store, our shop is located in Hampstead, London NW3. We also sell Vintage and Classic clocks and watches and offer a full restoration and repair service. Contact 0759 830 1277 or <a href="mailto:info@vintagewatchstore.com">info@vintagewatchstore.com</a>. (Trader)

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome the following new members:- \* Rejoin\*/

A 7	Rolf Annecke	Freudenthalstraße 45, Schneverdingen, Lower Saxony, 29640 German		
		16/80 VdP Tr	S10266	AGH 289
C 16	Paul Cooke	2/703 Orrong Road, Too	rak, Victoria 3142 Australia	
		V12 Sln	14066	n/a
G 30	Michael Gitterle	Urgen 80 Landeck, Tirol,	6500, Austria	
		N/O		
J 17	Clive Jones	Moonfleet Farm, Higher Ansty, Dorchester, Dorset. DT2 7PU		
		N/O		
K 18	Tom Kleinschmidt	506 N. Maple St, Prospect Heights, Illinois, 60070 USA		
		N/O		
N 7	John Northcott	Lickfold Farm, Wiggonbolt, Pulborough, W Sussex. RH20 2EL		
		LG45 Sln	12192/G10	759 YUB
S 42	Tim Sage	Les Cloutets, 11190 Sougraigne, 11190 France		
		2L L/C tr	9512	PK 9775
S 38	Peter Saglietti	961 Mountain Highway, Boronia, 3155 Australia.		
		DB 2.6 Sln	LAG/50/247	na
S32	Leonard Schuster	53 Sawyer Hill Road, Ne	w Milford, Connecticut, 06776 USA	4
		N/O		
T 19	T 19 Eberhard Thiesen Griestr. 73, Hamburg, 22763, Germany.			
		LG6 Rapide DHC	12365	нн-ет699н
		LG6 Rapide DHC	12365	нн-ет699н

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# THE POST 1945 GAZETTE

# Lagondas the proper touring cars



### **Welcome**

Peter Saglietti, Boronia, Victoria, Australia DB2.6L Saloon LAG/50/203

### **Auction watch**

A restoration project LG45 Saloon at Brightwells Auction in September. Estimate £15k to £20k. <a href="https://www.brightwells.com/classic-motoring/leominster-classic-vintage/leominster-classic-vintage-september-2017/catalogue-27th-september/">https://www.brightwells.com/classic-motoring/leominster-classic-vintage/leominster-classic-vintage-september-2017/catalogue-27th-september/</a>

The ex Peter Ustinov Lagonda DB 2.6/3.0 Litre Drophead Coupe failed to sell as did a lot of other cars in the recent H&H Duxford auction, with a number of those which did sell, selling below their estimate range. Seems the market is softening somewhat, at least in the UK.

### **October Gathering**

## The 70th anniversary of David Brown Post 1945 Lagondas.

The indications are that this will be the largest turn out ever seen but I need your help, with your

# Post 1945 Lagonda

to make it one of the greatest displays of Post 1945 Lagondas.

**Please join us at the Lagonda gathering** on Saturday 30th September and/or at our main display on Sunday 1st October 2017. 9am until 4pm

An event for these Lagondas of this size is unlikely to happen again so let us try and make it work!!

Please try and enhance our display with your Lagonda.

Αt

Wokefield Park Hotel. Goodboys Lane, Mortimer. Nr Reading. RG7 3AE 0871 2224828

Contact: Alan Heard. 1 Beaufort Gardens, Ilford, Essex. IG1 3DB, 0208 554 8938 alandheard@yahoo.co.uk

## Article on one of the early DB2.6L prototypes

Arnold Davey was kind enough to send me a copy of a bit of history he wrote some years back on the prototype. Not enough room to copy it all here as the item above on the upcoming gathering is more pressing, but I do have enough room to add some of the info he

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shared. Although the car, LAG/48/4, carried features of the prototypes, it carried sales indent No. 1 so was the first car sold and was as the article suggests, sold to Sir George Usher who later moved to South Africa. The car changed hands twice in Africa before being returned to the UK where it eventually wound up sitting in the open for some years and suffered the expected deterioration. It then suffered some confusing ownership issues but was eventually bought, engine missing, by a club member and after some legal wrangling, wound up with another club member in Norfolk.

Martin Peters knows the current owner and sent me a photo of the Cotal gearbox in bits on a bench. I've never seen inside one of these so was impressed with how compact the unit is, reminds me somewhat of the insides of a Jaguar compact overdrive I restored a few years back, though the operation is quite different.

DB Spares news from Martin Peters, mjpeters@supanet.com, tel: 01480-212657

I have received little response to my query about the rubber end cap on the steering rack. Simon Constable advises that he has satisfactorily repaired very small splits or holes using bicycle inner tube repair patches, in cases where the damage is in the flat, end section. I will put this part on our "reserve" list for future consideration.

The various lock washers and shims - steering rack, suspension, etc, have been made. They should be appearing on the website soon. There are seven lock washers and three caster shims. The lock washers include the very useful ones for the brake and clutch pedal pivot bolts.

If you are having difficulty sourcing or repairing DB chassis or body parts that you think we could reasonably have made please let me know - we will at least look into it.

If possible please order parts via the website.

<u>DB Archives</u> Please send any information on your car(s) that you have not already submitted, to Arnold Davey, Registrar of The Lagonda Club. Arnold's address is in the Website or Member's Register. In addition I recommend sending the same information to Alan Heard for his Post 1945 Archives. He is also collecting body numbers. Alan's email address is: alandheard@yahoo.co.uk and his postal address is: 1, Beaufort Gardens, Cranbrook, Ilford, Essex. IG1 3DB

<u>Club and other websites</u> The Club website, www.lagondaclub.com, is fully operational and continually being developed with information on spare parts for most models of Lagonda. The Newsletters, including the Post 1945 Gazettes, are archived here.

Also of great interest is the www.lagondaforum.com run by Peter Schirg.

Ron Press' Post-1945 website www.lagonda1949-1958.co.uk for DB Lagondas has a huge number of photos, with more being continually added and other information, including members who have parts for sale. A section for technical items was added some time ago.

For the 2.6 & 3 Litre visit www.DB-Lagonda.com

For DB Rapide information visit <a href="http://lagonda-rapide.com/">http://lagonda-rapide.com/</a>

For the William Towns V8 visit <a href="http://lagondanet.com/">http://lagondanet.com/</a>

Compiled by Nick Proferes. email: <a href="mailto:nproferes@internode.on.net">nproferes@internode.on.net</a>

## **SPARES NEWS – AUGUST 2017**

E-mail; spares@lagonda-club.com, website: www.lagondaclub.com

NEW PARTS NOW AVAILABLE	PRICE
GRS105 – ENV input coupling.	£262.50
DBBDY05 - DB return spring, accelerator pedal 2.6 & 3L.	£4.56
VLV427S - Tappet nut 4.5L	£5.70
PARTS BACK IN STOCK	PRICE
GRS416 – 4.5L sump gasket with improved design & manufactured from high	£25.25
temperature non-shrink material.	
CSTX03C - Ball end spare wheel spinner, chrome plated	£54.91
CSTX03N - Ball end spare wheel spinner, nickel plated	£63.55
All prices quoted are excluding VAT and carriage	

#### **NEW PARTS IN PROGRESS.**

CST104 - Low water pump, side elbow, 16/80

CST105 - High water pump, front head offtake, 16/80

CST106 - Low water pump, bottom elbow to radiator, 16/80

CST111 - High Water pump, bottom elbow, 16/80

BEN201 - Starter bendix and pinion assembly for 2L, 3L and 3.5L.

BRKV06 - Front hubs, V12/LG6.

ENGV02 - Lower sump for V12.

BDY231 - Interior door pocket securing latch

SSPX13 - U-Bolts Heavy Rear Axle

All cars - range of gaskets in 'Chieftain' material.

Various DB parts, please see Nick Proferes's Gazette for details.

#### PARTS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

# Please e-mail Robin Cooke if you are interested in any of these. Your support will influence the Committee's decision to proceed or not.

BDY211 - Throttle Body lever bush & link.

CLT211 - Camshaft cover plate (cast aluminium) for 14/60 and early HC cars.

CST208 - Radiator cap T-bar.

CST302 - Radiator to head casting, 3L ZM.

GRS233 - Timing gear sprocket set supercharger, 2L.

SSPX10 - Andre Hartford fitting kit.

Fuel tank senders (3-terminal type), 2L, 3L.

Baffle plate for flywheel (oil thrower), 2L, 3L, 14/60.

Pinion bearing for CWP, 2L, 3L, 16/80.

Shock absorber mountings & pins, M45.

Rear spring U bolts, LG45. Fuel filler cap, M45. Rockers, 4.5L.

PMP103 - High water pump housing, fully machined, 16/80.

PMP104 - Low water pump housing, fully machined, 16/80.

ZM chassis - braking system (13 parts).

 $4.5\ \text{axles}$  - differential units, small gears, cross to which they are fitted & large gears.

Various half-shafts.

Various DB parts, please see Nick Proferes's Gazette for details.

#### **NEW PARTS AVAILABLE**

GRS105 DBBDY05

**GRS105 – ENV input coupling.** 

DBBDY05 – DB return spring, accelerator pedal 2.6 & 3L.

VLV427S Tappet nut 4.5L.

**VLV427S** 



# The Lagonda Club 2017 Annual Gathering 30<sup>th</sup> September/1<sup>st</sup> October 2017



As at the end of July there are still a few superior rooms available in the main part of the hotel. Those that have attended previously appreciate the excellent rooms available and the very good wines and food at the celebratory dinner.

In 2016 there were problems with accommodation due to difficulties with the room restorations that were behind schedule following a fire. These issues have now been addressed and the Club has been guaranteed 40 rooms in the main building, provided you book mentioning the Club's name. We are looking forward to a convivial occasion of the highest standard.

The 2017 event commemorates the 70<sup>th</sup> year since David Brown purchased Lagonda and the featured cars are the post-1945 Lagondas. We expect to see well over 20 there of all persuasions and this should be the largest club gathering of DB Lagondas. Of course the earlier cars will shine just as brightly and we are hoping for a record turnout on the Sunday.

Not to be missed is the Annual Gathering dinner, always a highlight of the weekend. Not overly formal, but an excellent chance to meet fellow members with shared interests. For new members it will be time to learn about the club and the friendliness of fellow members. There is always a willingness to help with the questions about the history of our cars or some technical issue that has arisen.

If you have not already booked do so now by contacting Wokefield Park Hotel on 0118 933 4100 — please mention the Lagonda Club to get the preferential rate. Why not make a weekend of it and avail yourself of the Hotel's facilities of swimming pool, two gyms, sauna and Jacuzzis plus outside tennis courts and a large onsite golf course? Stay on the Friday and/or the Sunday as well, the rate is the same. All booking details were on the May newsletter.

The outline of the event is as follows:

**Saturday car run**— 2.00pm set off from Wokefield Park on a prescribed run in wonderful countryside over 35 miles to the establishment of Bishop-Gray at Aldermaston, which is situated not far from Wokefield. Here they we will provide a tour around the extensive workshop followed by tea and cakes of the highest quality to match the many Lagonda cars under repair or restoration. Maps and instructions are supplied at the start.

Annual Gathering dinner – This notable event on the calendar normally attract well over 80 diners. Pre-dinner drinks from 6.30pm and dinner at 8.00pm. Dress is smart casual. Jackets and ties for the men and the ladies always impress with their elegant dresses. As ever, David Hine will provide the after dinner entertainment in a way that only he can. Table sittings are arranged by Valerie Bugler. If you have a wish to sit with a particular group, please let her know at the time you book the dinner.

**Sunday** – The field display for the special cars of the year, being the Post 1945 Lagondas, will be well marked out for these and all other types. During the day YOUR car will be judged along with all the others and prizes will be presented later in the afternoon.

The main part of the day is the holding of the AGM at 11:00. A pre-meeting coffee will be provided.



# The Lagonda Club 2017 Annual Gathering 30<sup>th</sup> September/1<sup>st</sup> October 2017



In the marquee there will be numerous Stalls. Robin and Leah will man the Spares section, and the Bugler family will cover the regalia and the membership tables. There will also be a second hand parts table. Just bring anything you would like to sell, and it can be displayed. Labels for your name and mobile number will be supplied. We also hope to have a selection of experts there to discuss technical concerns about your cars and help generally.

This is always an event that brings people together from far and wide. Most will be meeting old friends, but importantly it will help new members to get to know our club better. Those members who have not already booked either the hotel or the Saturday dinner are asked to do so now. For hotel accommodation ring 0118 933 4100 and for the dinner please refer to the Lagonda Club web site at lagondaclub.com/shop/agm-2017

If you have any questions please contact Michael Drakeford on michaelwdrakeford@hotmail.com or telephone 01903 872197.

### **Location of Wokefield Park**

