

2014 Round-up



HQ REPORT

by Ian Mallin (Chairman)

I would like to start by wishing you all a Merry Christmas and thank you for supporting the club throughout this year. As a club we have attended many shows in the south of the country and a few travelled that bit further north to a couple of other shows.

As always most of the regulars came to Bristol Volksfest where we had plenty of room to spread out this year in our club camping area. The Saturday night American Supper went well as we celebrated the clubs 25th Anniversary, I hope everyone enjoyed it. It's quite an achievement as far as clubs of any kind go these days, we must be doing something right! I'm sure most of you have seen the photos posted up of Busfest which was another good show made even better with the amount of BAC members coming along. I'm sure you'll agree the atmosphere was excellent all weekend with a 100% effort by members in fancy dress - it really made it one to remember and in my opinion part of what clubs are all about.

So, what have our members been up to this year. Liam & Bex have now had their van restored (see article). Jenny & Darren are also having some fresh paint on Lilybug. Graham has been spending again and now has an oval beetle AND freshly resprayed bay (see article). Next year should see my panel van emerge by spring and hopefully after a very long wait Daryl & Mels Golf should be back on the road. Amanda might have actually started work on the VengaBus, but I wouldn't hold your breath on that one!! About time you did something with that van of yours Mark & Tina...

For those who may not know that apart from the website, we now have an facebook and Twitter page as well as a QR code. We also have a new Membership Secretary as Graham Bailey has agreed to step into the post, and so far he's doing a grand job!

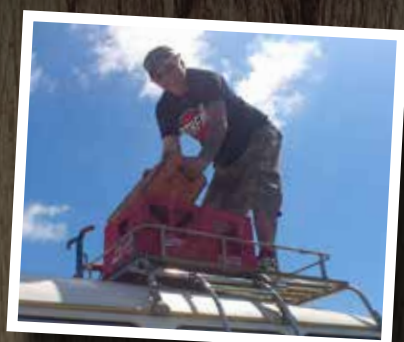
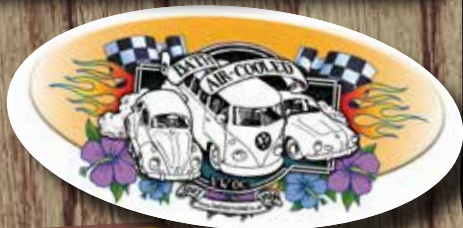
Club nights are being attended well and it was nice to see a couple of old faces rejoin the club after quite a few years away. So a warm welcome back you guys to Mark Matthews and Simon Plumstead!

We have held a couple of social nights at club nights in the form of a BBQ and firework display so hope all that came had a good time and we'll be including these on next years calendar as well as a couple of days out hopefully.

I'm looking forward to next years show calendar already and returning to Chimay's 'Bug In' but this time in a much quicker van!! Amanda's already decided to line up a lift home for when I break the gearbox...

We'll see!!

**NEW STICKERS
Coming Soon!**



From Dandyllion to Bleubelle by Liam Shields

When we bought Dandyllion, our '73 bay, in March 2008 she had been recently restored and kept in a barn. The bodywork was spotless and we had many years of compliments and cheap MOTs. The engine, on the other hand, was a nightmare and despite lots of attention still isn't right. However, 6 years of parking on the street took its toll and the bodywork finally beat the engine in the race for the 'new bathroom' cash. The paint had lost its sunshine, the front arches were falling to pieces and she had more bubbles than an Aero.



We asked around the club for recommendations then went to see a few experts. The quotes for a partial restoration all came in at about the same price so we finally decided on Coola Classics in Bristol as we liked Janek Krywald's preference for repairing rather than replacing panels where possible.

The resto gave us the opportunity for a change of image too. Dandyllion wasn't yellow originally. She came to us with lots of history and there was an old picture of her in Orient Blue. But green was the colour we fancied so we ummed and ahed over the shade for a long time. Then one day Bex went to see Janek and came back convinced we should go back to the original colour. She'd brought back a small pot of the same blue so we painted a board and stood it in the kitchen to see if we liked it. We did. So our bus went away for surgery in April 2014 and we crossed our fingers hoping we'd get her back in time for the summer shows.

Although Janek repaired many panels we did have to buy new parts too. Arches, anchor points, bumper, seals... It was a long shopping list in the end as it seemed criminal to put tatty parts back on to a shiny van for the sake of saving a few quid. The wheels were very rusty so the resto gave me the perfect excuse to get some alloys which I'd always wanted to do. I bought a bargain set of BRMs on eBay and took them round to try on while Janek was prepping for the new paint and they looked great. With the yellow paint gone the zebra look was also out so we started thinking about the new look for the interior. The door cards were shot so we planned to make new ones ourselves, to which end I managed to source a pair of reasonable Danbury ones on eBay for a fiver to use as a base to cover.

Well, we did miss a couple of shows unfortunately. The restoration overran as these things tend to do, but we didn't mind too much as Janek was posting updates on Facebook and Bleubelle was looking fantastic. Bex picked a sparkly blue vinyl for the floor and started making candy skull curtains and crushed velvet door cards. We would have liked a new matching canvas for the pop top but that expense has to wait for next year. We took out a few of the shabby interior wood panels and had new ones cut. I ordered new black and white metal number plates.

About a week before we were due to collect I went over to fit the alloys but... disaster! They didn't fit! I hadn't thought to test the clearance on the rear arches when the bus was on the ground! After a bit of googling I realised I should have paid more attention to the offset which is stamped on the back of the wheel. These were ET6 and the standard wheel offset is ET41 so they were a mile out. With time running out I had to buy brand new wheels and opted for SSP Fuchs replicas from VW Heritage who gave me the club discount. These have a better offset than the BRMs (ET20 rather than ET12) and fitted nicely under the arches. I prefer them anyway.

We collected Bleubelle in July and we were very chuffed. In a picture of our first camp, at a site overlooking Chesil Beach, a friend noticed we'd pitched the gazebo a good ten feet away from the van. Our next trip was a week in Brittany and we got plenty of waving and compliments from French admirers.

This year, for the first time, we decided to store her under cover and she's now packed away for the winter. Can't wait for next spring.



MY 2014 by Graham Bailey

It's been quite a year for us what with the coming and going of motors and a reasonable busy events calendar though wish we could have attended more.

My year started off trying to get the Bay completed, we purchased it back in June 2012 and it was now ready for a respray and retrim, will come back to this one later.

In March travelled to Crowhurst near Hastings along with good friend Ant Adlam to take a look at a 1956 Oval, it was worth the trip loved the car, left a deposit and returned the following month to collect with Ant following me home. My thanks to Ant for his help and input. March also kicked off my show season with a trip to Sandown Park and the Volksworld Show as usual it was one not to be missed full of stunning show cars and great parts.

Took the Oval out to its first show in May total wash out Vanwest glad I only went on the Sunday not a bad drive though. Next to Stanford Hall always worth a visit met up with Ian and Manda.

End of May off to Porth near Newquay. We do this every year Run to the Sun. The show

wasn't up to much but the camping and company were great. Like a mini club meet we were with Ant and Kath Ian and Manda, me and Sandra, had a great few days. June was a little sad said goodbye to the Split. Work on the Bay continues with a goal to try and get refitted in time for Bristol Volksfest, failed next target Spa. Took T5 to Bristol Volksfest and the Oval to the club stand many thanks to Dale for helping me ferry the car's to and from the show. Can't remember what month Old Friends show was but did go in Oval, great little show.

It was flat out now to get the Bay completed need to have it ready for Spa in August. Window trims were a sod to fit had help with the cab windows from Ant. The Dubshop got the MOT sorted for me, had to fit four new tyres and shocks. The only show I went to was Dubs at the Castle again in the Oval. Adjustable spring plates were fitted on Thursday 30th and the next morning at 0400 met up with Ant and Kath and headed for Dover to get the ferry. On route met up with my son John in his 68 Beetle and his mates Viv and Jim in Vivs Oval and off we went. Took about three hours to get to Spa with Ant leading. The show was as expected brilliant. I love this show two full days of heaven. Started back for home on Monday no problems experienced however did have a fuel pipe go at the show thanks to John's mate Jim Bob for fixing.

Along with the show at Spa we also went to the Camper and Bus show organized by Volksworld

