



HISTORIC AWARDS 2023

The Royal Automobile Club
Pall Mall, London



The stars of the 1953 film *Genevieve* – a 1904 Darracq and a 1905 Spyker – graced the rotunda in October to celebrate 70 years of the classic caper. Both cars later crossed the finish line of the 2023 RM Sotheby's London to Brighton Veteran Car Run to huge applause from the crowd.



The Royal Automobile Club Historic Awards

Thursday 23 November 2023



I'm delighted to welcome everyone here tonight to the Royal Automobile Club's 2023 Historic Awards, held in our appropriately historic Pall Mall clubhouse.

We at the Club have been advocating and championing motoring achievements for more than 125 years. Our founder members were pioneer motorists themselves, and many also built the bedrock of this country's motor and motor sport industries.

Tonight, you'll see some of our most recognised and historically significant trophies on display, including the British Grand Prix trophy and the Tourist Trophy. Now in their fifth year, our awards have quickly established themselves with a vitality and prominence that make us very proud.

They recognise exceptional people, events, endeavours and innovations in Britain's historic motoring sector. And this is, actually, a growth 'industry' that adds £18 billion to the UK economy and accounts for some 113,000 worthwhile jobs rich in skills, enterprise and knowledge.

The people and projects we're celebrating tonight contribute hugely to craft, business and leisure in and around veteran, vintage, classic and 'young-timer' vehicles.

We have specialist judging panels, experts themselves, for each category, who guide our choices amongst ever more deserving contenders. The entries continue to surprise and amaze us, and I give hearty thanks to our independent judges who perform their roles with such skill and wisdom.

Each year we're also proud to present a Lifetime Achievement Award to an extra-special individual for their contribution to historic motoring in Britain. This year it is presented to Doug Hill for his superb 50-year stint at the National Motor Museum, where he is the Museum Manager and Chief Engineer. He is steward to almost 300 unbelievably diverse cars, and an ingenious expert in complex restorations.

These awards cannot happen without the generous support of our partners, and on behalf of the Club I would like to extend our deepest gratitude.

Please enjoy this very special evening.

Ben Cussons
Chairman of the Royal Automobile Club

The Motoring Team's ambitions are always sky-high! Woodcote Park became an International Airport for a day in July, when Segrave Trophy winners Zara and Mack Rutherford landed their ultralight aircraft on the first fairway, led by 'Director of Aviation' Gemma Rowe.



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*With special thanks to
our Champagne partner,
Piper-Heidsieck.*

The Royal Automobile Club

The Royal Automobile Club was founded in 1897 and its distinguished history parallels that of motoring itself. In 1907, the Club was awarded its Royal title by King Edward VII, sealing its status as Britain's oldest and most influential motoring organisation.



Sir Stirling Moss's Mille Miglia-winning 1955 Mercedes 300SLR '722' roaring past the Pall Mall Clubhouse.

The Club's early years were focused on promoting the motor car and its place in society, which developed into motoring events such as the 1000 Mile Trial, first held in 1900. In 1905 the Club held the first Tourist Trophy, which remains the oldest motorsport trophy still being competed for today. It promoted the first British Grand Prix at Brooklands in 1926 and the first modern Formula 1 Grand Prix at Silverstone in 1950, while continuing to campaign for the rights of the motorist, including the introduction of the first driving licences.

Today, the Club develops and supports automobilism through representation on the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and the RAC Foundation while promoting its own motoring events including the Summer Veteran Car Run, the RM Sotheby's London to Brighton Veteran Car Run, and London Motor Week. Its membership includes racing drivers, industry leaders, car designers and countless enthusiasts of every different type of car and motorcycle.

The Club also awards a series of internationally recognised trophies and medals celebrating motoring achievements in racing, engineering, personal endeavour and motoring publishing. Some of these include the Segrave Trophy, the Torrens Trophy, the Simms Medal, the Dewar Trophy, the Motoring Book of the Year Awards, The Diamond Jubilee Trophy, the Hawthorn Trophy and the Tourist Trophy.

Awards Background

The Royal Automobile Club has been at the heart of the motoring and motorsport world for 126 years and the Awards continue its rich pedigree in celebrating motoring accomplishments. Underpinned by the Club's authority and integrity, they reward achievement and innovation by highlighting and celebrating the wide range of companies, clubs, events, associations and individuals responsible for influencing and driving the British historic motoring movement. The Historic Awards add to the Club's current extensive motoring activities as described in the history of the Club opposite, but also complement some of its motorsport involvements in events and races such as the coveted Historic Tourist Trophy, Woodcote Trophy and the Royal Automobile Club TT Celebration, the jewel in the crown of the Goodwood Revival.

Meet your Host



Hannah White

Hannah's first passion was sailing, something she turned into a career for many years, racing solo across the Atlantic three times and achieving a world record for the fastest crossing of the English Channel - a record she still holds. As well as sailing, Hannah has carved a successful broadcasting and public speaking career, covering many international sporting events and delivering motivational speeches to businesses all over the world. As a mother of three young children, Hannah's true passion project is the young person's mental health charity she founded during lockdown, The Nest Farms.

Award Categories

This 1925 Bentley 3-Litre was the first Bentley Motors works Le Mans entry. The Club celebrated 100 years of the world's most famous endurance race by displaying some of the most successful cars in its history, including the 1929 Bentley Speed Six 'Old Number One'.



Outstanding Journalism

Supported by the Royal Automobile Club

Young Achiever

Supported by 1762 RBC Brewin Dolphin and StarterMotor

Personal Endeavour

Supported by the Royal Automobile Club

Innovation

Supported by Bosch and Federation Skills Trust

Competitive Event

Supported by A. Lange & Söhne

Motoring Spectacle

Supported by RM Sotheby's

Collection

Supported by Footman James

Restoration

Supported by Bicester Heritage

Royal Automobile Club Lifetime Achievement Award

Meet the Lead Judges

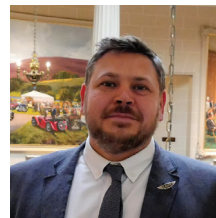
Each category had its own bespoke, specialist judging panel, headed by a Lead Judge who is an expert in that particular field. Each lead judge has appointed other members to the jury, ensuring each category was assessed rigorously by those best-qualified to do so.



Sarah Bennett-Baggs

The editor of AutoAddicts.com, and a classic biker and racing driver.

EVENT CATEGORY
Personal Endeavour



Alastair Clements

Editor-in-Chief of Classic & Sports Car.

EVENT CATEGORY
Motoring Spectacle



Steve Cropley

Editor-in-Chief of Autocar.

EVENT CATEGORY
Outstanding Journalism



David Lillywhite

Editorial Director of Magneto.

EVENT CATEGORY
Restoration



Vanessa Marçais

Historic motorsport competitor and event organiser.

EVENT CATEGORY
Young Achiever



Lizzie Pope

Associate Editor, Classic & Sports Car and historic rallyist.

EVENT CATEGORY
Innovation



Simon Taylor

Journalist, TV commentator and former Editor of Autosport and Managing Director of Haymarket Magazines.

EVENT CATEGORY
Collection



Ian Titchmarsh

Motor racing commentator and trustee of Silverstone Heritage.

EVENT CATEGORY
Competitive Event

Meet the Jury



Richard Barnett

Classic Car Weekly's auction editor and former SMMT media spokesman.



Peter Haynes

Peter has worked with RM Sotheby's since 2007. He previously worked for Caterham Cars, Ford, Peugeot and Autocar.



Danny Hopkins

PPA award-winning journalist and magazine editor and Editor of Practical Classics.



Paul Lawrence

Motorsport journalist specialising in historic motorsport, with nearly 50 years' experience in the sport.



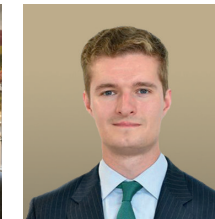
James Page

Author, freelance journalist and former editor of Classic & Sports Car.



Marcus Pye

Historic motorsport journalist, race commentator and competitor.



Michael Squire

Director of Research/Specialist for RM Sotheby's.



Jeremy Vaughan

Head of Motoring at the Royal Automobile Club.



Eddie Williams

Workshop manager at the Classic Motor Hub and regular historic racer with the VSCC and at Goodwood.



Allan Winn

Vice President of Brooklands Museum, Pebble Beach judge, former Director of the VSCC and former CEO of Brooklands Museum Trust.

Outstanding Journalism

The finalists

This award is presented to the author of what the judges deem to be the best written or broadcast feature that has appeared in a British publication, TV/radio/film/broadcast media or digital platform within the twelve-month judging period. The feature can cover all aspects of the historic motoring world.

LEAD JUDGE Steve Cropley

SUPPORTED BY The Royal Automobile Club

Karl Ludvigsen

Pom. *The Automobile*



Karl Ludvigsen's tale of the unique character and contribution of the journalist Laurence Pomeroy, a man whose father had already contributed much to British car design and engineering, is one of his finest. Ludvigsen uses his own close understanding of how things work inside car companies to describe the importance of Pomeroy's work.

Angus MacKenzie

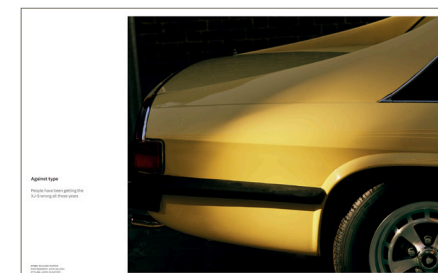
Mercedes-Benz CLR. *The Road Rat*



Angus MacKenzie's quick and direct writing style is perfect for describing the life and times of Mercedes' infamous 'flying' sports racer whose wayward aerodynamics launched Mark Webber twice into the air and came close to killing him. MacKenzie fascinatingly links the CLR near-disaster to the much more serious Le Mans accident of 1955.

Richard Porter

Against Type. *The Road Rat*



In this beautifully written piece Richard Porter contends that "people have been getting the Jaguar XJ-S wrong all these years" and proceeds to argue cogently that, despite a lifetime of being denigrated and passed over, the car was one of the most far-sighted and adventurous to wear the Jaguar badge.



The Royal Automobile Club has one of the finest collections of motoring books, publications and archives in the UK and has been supporting and inspiring journalists and authors for over a hundred and twenty years in their quest for painstaking research for their next article, book or film.

The Club's library in Pall Mall has over 6,000 books and the archive has a wealth of original material and manuscripts that chart the development of motoring in the UK dating back from the Club's formation in 1897 to the present day. The Club's annual book awards have grown to be the accolades to achieve in motoring book publishing, with record quality entries from around the world.

So it was only fitting that the Club's Historic Awards should have a journalism category to reward excellence in this specialist sector that supports the vibrant historic motoring world.

Young Achiever

The finalists

This award is aimed at rising stars aged between 18 and 30 who are going above and beyond and building their future in Britain's historic motoring world. This is a vibrant industry and it's vital that future generations who are making an exceptional contribution within their organisation are recognised. There is a wide remit for this category - from apprentices to club officials through to event organisers and classic car dealers. The possibilities are endless!

LEAD JUDGE Vanessa Marçais

SUPPORTED BY 1762 RBC Brewin Dolphin and StarterMotor

1762

RBC Brewin Dolphin

1762 RBC Brewin Dolphin is a new level of wealth management designed to make your money work hard so that you can get on with life.

Since 1762, RBC Brewin Dolphin has been planning futures. Our clients' futures, the futures of those they hold dear, their businesses, and all the things that matter most to them.

Investing your money is actually the last thing we'll do, because first we'll invest all the time it takes to get to know your unique circumstances, understanding what makes you tick, and laying the foundations for what we hope is a lasting relationship.

Capital at risk.

STARTERMOTOR

Our historical car world is at risk. If nothing is done it will eventually disappear. StarterMotor works tirelessly to introduce the next generation. It provides vehicles and other resources to education facilities and apprenticeship schemes, for students to use for learning and to enjoy driving in competitions, events and shows. In particular it provides pathways for young people to become a part of our old car world, to provide a real haven in the digital age: enjoyment, adventure and community. It's a place to belong; where friendship, common interest and mechanical fun are self-evident.

Giles Gunning (age 27) & Charlie Waller (age 26)



Giles and Charlie have experience beyond their years when it comes to building a business and supporting the classic car community. The Classic Valuer has fast become one of the world's leading websites for classic car values. They are a shining example to other young adults who want to commit to a business in the classic car world.

Tom Parrott (age 29)



In January 2022 Tom changed direction with his career, and joined the family firm, N P Veteran Engineering Ltd. In doing so he entered a very specialist field covering the maintenance and conservation of Edwardian and pre-1904 vehicles. It has been inspiring to witness his passion and skills grow in such a short period of time.

Becca Treston (age 26)



During the last year Rebecca has worked tirelessly running and organising the Young Members section of the Morris Minor Owners Club and used the Your Podcasting platform and social media to share her highs and lows of daily life with a classic car - Peggy, the Morris Minor - and getting to grips with classic car maintenance.

Personal Endeavour

The finalists

This award seeks to recognise any individual who has made a truly outstanding contribution to heritage, historic motoring or historic motorsport during the judging period. The winner can come from any part of the British historic motoring world - private enthusiast, club organiser or perhaps a specialist who has achieved something remarkable.

LEAD JUDGE Sarah Bennett-Baggs

SUPPORTED BY The Royal Automobile Club

Tiggy Atkinson



Tiggy is one of those rare people in the historic motoring community whose contribution can so often appear to be one behind the scenes. However, the work she does, and the results of it, have very positive long-term effects, from her roles at Bicester Heritage to more recently her position as a Trustee in the REVS community.

Philip Bashall



Philip has been the driving force behind the Dunsfold Museum project, overseeing the design and layout of the museum and overcoming many obstacles on the way. He shows no sign of stopping, already planning a new library annexe to the museum and working on the schedule of activity for 2024.

Harry Bott



In 2022, 24-year-old Harry Bott raised more than £10,000 for the RNLI by completing an 8,000-mile journey on a 1926 Sunbeam motorcycle originally owned by his great grandfather. The bike had been untouched for 67 years and Harry restored it for the trip, in which he visited every one of the 238 RNLI lifeboat stations in Britain and Ireland.



Anyone who spends a few hours at the Royal Automobile Club's Pall Mall home can see up-close, on our walls and in our display cabinets, evidence of daring and mould-breaking endeavours. The adventures, achievements and landmarks live on here, which is why we seek today to recognise those traits in tenacious types anywhere, with our Personal Endeavour accolade. Every year we're on the look-out for intrepid individuals seeking to expand the scope of the historic car world with a very personal and memorable project. It is, in a way, the least prescriptive of all our Awards, which is why the candidates can be active in any sphere of Britain's historic vehicle world.

Innovation

There has never been a better time to be celebrating innovation in this industry. Turning great ideas into solutions, harnessing technology to improve or re-produce components, creating initiatives that enrich the industry or evolving products and services that meet the ever-demanding appetite of the growing historic motoring and motorsport scene - it's time to reward this remarkable creative talent that exists in the industry. There is a wide remit for this category, which is open to British-based classic vehicle clubs, individuals and organisations.

LEAD JUDGE Lizzie Pope

SUPPORTED BY Bosch and Federation Skills Trust



The Bosch Group is a leading global supplier of technology and services. Employing more than 6,000 associates across 36 sites, every one of the Bosch Group's business sectors has a presence in the UK: Consumer Goods, Energy and Building Technology, Industrial Technology, and Bosch Mobility. In the latter, Bosch brings together comprehensive expertise in vehicle technology with hardware, software, and services to offer integrated mobility solutions. We are excited to be involved in many cutting-edge projects, including the decarbonisation of automobiles through diverse powertrain technologies. We are motivated by the desire to develop products that are 'invented for life' - sparking enthusiasm, improving quality of life, and conserving natural resources.



The Federation Skills Trust is a registered charity which promotes the teaching of engineering skills and processes. It encourages and supports the transfer to new generations of traditional skills in the repair, maintenance, preservation and restoration of heritage transport, historic vehicles and machinery.

The FST and its predecessor have made grants of over £500,000 to support the development of Heritage Engineering Apprenticeships since 2014.

The finalists

Autocar Digital Archive



Digitising nearly 130 years of a weekly magazine was no small undertaking. Since it was established in 1895, Autocar has been the go-to motoring title and authority, and this digital archive documents the history of the motor car in a unique, accessible, future-focused format. A wonderful resource now, and for future generations.

HERO-ERA Rally for the Ages



The maiden running of this event proved such a hit that its entry capacity was achieved and raised twice. The idea was to encourage younger participants to take up grassroots historic rallying. The combined age of each crew could be no more than 70 years and entry was free, plus crews were offered a tank of Coryton's biofuel.

REVS Restore



Rather than shying away from mental-health challenges, this encourages people to come together via a shared passion: classic cars. Without judgement, whatever your age, gender or background, whether you have lots of experience or none, together the group restored a Series III Land Rover, a process which also proved restorative for many participants.

Competitive Event

This award seeks to celebrate the very best of the events that have a strong competitive element, from motor racing meetings and hill climbs to navigation and stage rallies, regularity trials, and hot rod and drag races. Historic racing series are also eligible, as are individual races if they are spectacular enough to form an 'event' in themselves. Eligible events must have taken place within the UK, or have had a significant part taking place within the UK.

LEAD JUDGE Ian Titchmarsh

SUPPORTED BY A. Lange & Söhne

A. LANGE & SÖHNE
GLASHÜTTE I/SA

Our timepieces are the embodiment of everything that A. Lange & Söhne stands for. We feel a deep sense of pride when we hold them in our hands. And yet it is not only the results of our work that make us who we are.

It is a sincere dedication that shapes us - a passion that makes us strive for perfection day after day. Our unending diligence and patience, our artistic determination, our striving for innovation, our imagination and our persistent belief that everything is possible - followed by our ambition to make it possible. And even if we have already found a compelling solution, we never stop looking for an even better one. This is what unites us among ourselves, and with all the many people who are enthusiastic about our watches.

The finalists

Castle Combe Autumn Classic



Introduced in 2012 and a stand-alone event since 2013, the Castle Combe Autumn Classic has always been a favourite with competitors and strongly supported by the classic car club fraternity. Family entertainment, a popular grid walkabout, bigger and better race grids and a fine central Lotus 75th birthday feature attracted a record attendance, packing the paddocks and spectator banks.

Super Touring Power, Brands Hatch



The Super Touring era attracted a following of tens of thousands of fans, both trackside and on TV. The combined enthusiasm and efforts of MSV and the Classic Touring Car Racing Club went a long way to recapturing the essence of the era with many iconic drivers and cars involved.

VHRA Pendine Sands Hot Rod Races



The dedicated organisers run an event tirelessly against the odds of moving elements such as the wind, tides, sea and sand. VHRA members the world over spend months, even years, building their Hot Rods with meticulous detail and craftsmanship, all for a few minutes of high speed thrills and a chance to enter the esteemed 100mph club.

Motoring Spectacle

This award recognises the stunning range of classic and historic car events that take place around the UK throughout the year. Potential nominees must have no element of timed competition. Eligible events include concours d'elegance, tours, classic vehicle shows and club gatherings. The judges look for events - big or small - that have displayed a true sense of spectacle. Eligible events must have taken place within the UK, or have had a significant part of the event take place within the UK.

LEAD JUDGE Alastair Clements

SUPPORTED BY RM Sotheby's



With over 40 years of proven results in the collector car industry, RM's vertically integrated range of services, from auctions (live and online) and private sales to estate planning and financial services, coupled with an expert team of Car Specialists and an international footprint, provide an unsurpassed level of service to the global collector car market. RM Sotheby's is currently responsible for six of the top ten most valuable motor cars ever sold at auction.

RM Sotheby's employs over 100 full-time professionals within the organization — the largest staff of any collector car auction house — who are committed to achieving the best possible results for our clients.

Every car entrusted to RM Sotheby's has a unique story, and we're here to tell it.

The finalists

Coventry MotoFest



Coventry MotoFest was a real show of strength from the classic car movement in the UK's 'motor city'. The takeover of Coventry by classic and historic vehicles makes the event hugely accessible, with old cars everywhere you turn, and the headline Coventry Concours in the photogenic ruins of the old Cathedral is truly spectacular.

Heveningham Concours



Bringing the glamour of a high-level classic concours to a part of the country that isn't well served by such events, this superb charity gathering mates an original format - featuring cars displayed on the unusual, terraced lawns - with a spectacular location and some fine quality vehicles plus an action element, courtesy of 'Horsepower Hill'.

MG & Triumph 100



Collaboration is becoming increasingly important in the historic vehicle world, and this event united two arch rivals, MG and Triumph, as they came together at Silverstone to celebrate their centenary. That in itself is worthy of applause, but the two-day event the clubs put on at the home of British motorsport was also fantastic.

Collection

Historic vehicle collections come in many forms, from those amassed by private individuals to those curated by museums large and small or by internationally-renowned marques. The award is presented to a British-based collection which makes a significant contribution to the historic motoring movement in the UK or internationally. Examples include public-facing activities held in a museum or through sharing the vehicles from the collection at public events, or creative virtual events/seminars etc. that have allowed a wider audience to participate online.

LEAD JUDGE Simon Taylor

SUPPORTED BY Footman James



For over 40 years Footman James has been at the heart of the classic vehicle movement; providing specialist cover for classic vehicle owners, collectors, restorers and traders to name a few. They understand that classics are more than just vehicles, they are a passion and a labour of love. This is why FJ pride themselves on their commitment to the classic community. They work with automotive businesses, awards and institutions to ensure classics are here to stay for the long-term. In 2023 over 3,500 vehicles attended their hugely successful Coffee & Chrome meets, giving enthusiasts a place to enjoy their passion with likeminded people over a coffee on a Sunday morning. Insuring over £1.4bn within their Private Clients insurance product, the Private Client team specialises in providing tailored insurance packages for high-value collections and vehicles and, as a Private Client policy holder, not only do you get a dedicated account handler throughout the lifetime of the policy, but clients also get access to the Chrome Collective which offers perks and benefits such as exclusive event tickets, hospitality and discounts throughout the year. If you'd like to see more about what Footman James can do for you or to join in on the fun at their Coffee & Chrome meets in 2024, please visit www.footmanjames.co.uk or call 03308 281 397. FJ's opening hours are 9am-6pm Monday to Friday and 9am-1pm on Saturday.

The finalists

British Motor Museum



The British Motor Museum celebrated its 30th anniversary with an exciting and thought-provoking exhibition, Transitions: The Impact of Innovation, which covered the changing face of car design and motoring. There were special displays and talks around the work the museum has done, a host of single-marque events and an Auto Art gallery.

The Dunsfold Collection



The largest collection of Land Rovers in the world became a permanent museum in 2023, in the year that the Land Rover celebrated its 75th anniversary. The Dunsfold Collection has expanded to include not only prototype and pre-production vehicles but examples of almost every model made by Land Rover from 1947 to the present day.

Haynes Motor Museum



After nearly 50 years the Haynes Museum continues to grow and has now received Arts Council accreditation. It houses almost 400 vehicles, a large number of which can be started and driven at special visitor events. The museum's determination to reach the next generation of car enthusiasts has resulted in over 2500 visits annually by school and college students.

Restoration

The Restoration award is presented to the restoration that results from impressive technical expertise, significant research and sensitivity to the vehicle and its history. The judges look for evidence of a dedication and determination to learn as much as possible about the subject's provenance, and for an immaculately-documented research and restoration process, combined with world-class skills.

LEAD JUDGE David Lillywhite

SUPPORTED BY Bicester Heritage



Bicester Heritage has created a revolution in historic vehicle ownership. The unique location is the UK's only hub for historic motoring excellence and is the national centre for an £18bn per annum industry that employs over 34,000 skilled people.

Founded in 2013, Bicester Heritage has gone from a standing start to a home for over 50 specialist businesses with a collective turnover of over £200m, making it the largest player in the industry, growing exponentially with a global reach. The unique ecosystem of businesses based at the beautiful 444 acre former WW2 RAF Bomber Training Station acts as 'marina-like' cluster, promoting skills and expertise, employment, qualified customer footfall, shared business incubation and aggregate growth. Collectively, Bicester Heritage is all about driving the future of the past.

Bicester Heritage is a component part of Bicester Motion, which is set to become the UK's pre-eminent destination to experience all forms of motion technology, past, present and future.

The finalists

1926 Amilcar CO

(Walter Heale, Historic Motor Car Workshops for Micah Lazarus)



This diminutive Amilcar can be termed a genuine 'barnfind' though, more accurately, it was discovered in a lock-up in Hastings in terrible shape. Painstaking research revealed that it was one of circa 12 Works CO chassis, with a Le Mans racing history. The Amilcar's original coachwork was recreated and the car restored to exacting period specification.

1937 Bugatti Type 57S by Corsica

(Clark & Carter Restorations and Ivan Dutton Ltd. for Lord Bamford)



This Bugatti has a strong early racing history and had been out of the public eye for decades; it's said to have been the world's last remaining 'lost' pre-war 57S, with a possible link to the legendary 'Tank' Le Mans cars. Its new owner, Lord Bamford, commissioned a full restoration of the car to the highest standard.

1972 Lancia Fulvia 1600 Zagato Sport

(Harry Metcalfe, Day & Whites and Prestige Refinishing)



As a schoolboy, Harry Metcalfe once came home to discover a Fulvia Zagato parked outside the family home. Decades later, searching for a Fulvia, he discovered the very same car. It had been restored previously, but it became clear that it needed complete restoration due to the poor quality of the previous work. Harry documented the process on his YouTube channel, Harry's Garage.

Royal Automobile Club Lifetime Achievement Award

At tonight's Royal Automobile Club Historic Awards, our recognition for Lifetime Achievement will be presented to Doug Hill.

Doug Hill



Shortly after the National Motor Museum was opened at Beaulieu in 1972, a quiet young fellow started work at the gleaming new complex in the New Forest. Some 50 years later, he is still there and is now in overall charge of a collection of motor vehicles acknowledged as one of the world's best.

Doug Hill grew up in Orpington, Kent and was training as a Fleet Street photographer when his father spotted the vacancy for a trainee apprentice at Beaulieu. He joined the Museum aged 16 with a passion for vintage Morgans and an eagerness to learn more about its treasures from Louis Giron, the legendary ex-Bugatti team engineer.

Many of the historic cars had been donated to the newly-established Museum Trust by Lord Edward Montagu, son of pioneer motorist John Montagu. In its previous guise as the Montagu Motor Museum at Beaulieu, the collection had been a private endeavour added to randomly.

In the 1970s, though, Doug Hill was part of a professional team of curators and experts in charge of displaying, maintaining and conserving a world-class collection. And through his sympathetic experience of everything from a humble Austin Seven to humdinting land speed record cars, he gathered a unique expertise.

The job became more than just workshop mastery; to promote the Museum, Doug frequently accompanied Edward Montagu on rallies and events all over the world, in vintage icons from a Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost to a Bentley 4.5-litre Blower. No matter how much preparation was involved, these trips often did not go as planned, and called for a level of mechanical problem-solving few could match. This has, of course, included countless forays on the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run in some of the Museum's oldest and least dependable machines.

As a consequence, his knowledge of technical innovations in the context of motoring history is unparalleled, and his title of Museum Manager & Chief Engineer at Beaulieu relays a uniquely knowledgeable status. There is no better human guide to the vehicles themselves. Doug is constantly leading delegations around the collection, being interviewed by media, and hosting a series of compelling 'Under The Bonnet' live evenings and filmed YouTube videos. Even the least technically-minded will know how to crank-start a Ford Model T after his good-natured explanation.

His skill in passing on knowledge to new generations has become a true asset to the historic car movement. This is also evident in keeping vital skills alive and building a team of what he proudly calls "mavericks", including talented senior engineer Ian 'Stan' Stanfield, to maintain and overhaul almost 300 hugely diverse cars.

Working with the Trustees, Doug has been central to several key acquisitions. One of the most significant was the 1903 Napier, Britain's first purpose-built racing car and first wearer of British Racing Green paintwork, which returned to this country in 2013.

In recent years, Doug has been closely involved in projects to put the fire back into unique competition cars that have, for years, been simply static exhibits. These have included both Sir Malcolm Campbell's Sunbeam 350hp 'Bluebird' land speed record car - he and 'Mr Sunbeam' Stan installed and modified a contemporary Bentley gearbox to make it function - and the incredible BRM V16 Formula 1 racer. They will soon be joined by the anticipated roar from the Sunbeam V12 1000HP record car whose rejuvenation has been masterminded by Doug and his team, including making exhaust pipes and wheel spats from scratch. In all cases Doug has planned the painstaking work involved and undertaken the early test-driving... no matter how daunting.



Doug Hill's name is synonymous with the National Motor Museum and is recognised internationally within the historic motoring movement. He is unwaveringly supportive of vehicle owners and fellow enthusiasts. "True 'legacy' and succession is a passion of mine," he has said, "as I believe we have to look to the future and pass knowledge on."

In 2015 the Guild of Motoring Writers recognised this in him with its prestigious President's Trophy right here in this room. Earlier this year, Beaulieu itself marked his 50 years of service with its own accolade. Tonight we are delighted to make this a hat-trick.



Previous Award Winners

2019 **Outstanding Journalism:** Nick Trott - *'Helter Skelter' (The Road Rat)*
Competitive Event: Chateau Impney Hill Climb
Race Series: Historic Sports Car Club International Historic Formula 2
Motoring Spectacle: The Concours of Elegance at Hampton Court Palace
Personality: Paul & Andrew Wood
Collection: The Jim Clark Motorsport Museum
Restoration: 1967 Jim Clark Lotus Type 38 Indy car - Nick Fennell and Classic Team Lotus
Royal Automobile Club Lifetime Achievement Award: Allan Winn

2020 **Outstanding Journalism:** Gary Pusey - *'The Wildlife Conservation Pioneers' (Land Rover Monthly)*
Young Achiever: Jack Bond
Competitive Event: HSCC Legends of Brands Hatch Super Prix
Race Series: GT & Sports Car Cup
Motoring Spectacle: Classics for Carers
Personality: Janice Pitchforth
Collection: British Motor Museum
Restoration: 1948 Land Rover JUE 477 - Ineos Automotive and Julian Shoolheifer
Royal Automobile Club Lifetime Achievement Award: Peter and Betty-Ann Banham

2021 **Outstanding Journalism:** David Tremayne - *'Donald Campbell, the Man in the Shadow' (Magneto)*
Young Achiever: Billy Earwicker
Competitive Event: The Longstone Tyres Light Car Race (VSCC)
Motoring Spectacle: Hagerty Festival of the Unexceptional
Personality: The Reverend Adam Gompertz
Collection: Silverstone Interactive Museum
Restoration: 1979 Aston Martin Bulldog - Classic Motor Cars and Phillip Sarofim
Royal Automobile Club Lifetime Achievement Award: John Grant

2022 **Outstanding Journalism:** Mark Dixon - *'Preferred Carrier' (Octane)*
Young Achiever: William Heynes
Personal Endeavour: Simon Diffey and Sarah Jane Adams-Diffey
Innovation: TR Register European Breakdown App
Competitive Event: Rally the Globe Generations Rally 2022
Motoring Spectacle: Austin Seven Centenary Celebration
Collection: Sammy Miller Museum
Restoration: 1931 AEC Regent 486 bus - Transport Museum Wythall
Royal Automobile Club Lifetime Achievement Award: Simon Taylor

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