



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

Hi to all BCCC members and supporters,

At last, we have arrived at the start of Spring, although it seems to be stalling on start-up – a bit like my Lotus! With some dreich, damp, and cold days interspersed with the odd hopeful sunny warm days. I for one am glad to see the back of the wet and miserable winter months, its just too uncomfortable working in the garage, and the garden is also so wet and waterlogged its not much fun there either.

However, the spring plants are poking out in abundance with the last of the early spring snow drops and crocus and the arrival of the daffs, tulips and the wonderful cherry and hawthorn blossom. So not all bad in this best of all possible worlds where every prospect pleases..... and only man is vile...!

The new classic car show season will soon be upon us and in full swing , with a few early year events having been and gone already so as you would expect, we the committee, in the hallowed BCCC Headquarters Building Executive boardroom (the Woodman side restaurant area!) have been beavering away planning a cunning and hopefully enjoyable series of meet ups and run outs for all to enjoy.

Along with the monthly meetings and runs we will be, as usual, attending some of the local car shows as a club representation -Tewin, Capel Manor, Enfield Pageant to name a few.

The annual **BCCC show** is now well into final planning stages and will be held at our favoured location in the Spires MSCP on Sunday 17th May ...more details further down...

However, to kick off spring in my usual fashion maintaining some random seasonal traditions below is a great spring poem I dug up by the eclectic, enigmatic and wonderful Christina Rossetti - a born Londoner !



“A Robin said: The Spring will never come,
And I shall never care to build again.

A Rosebush said: These frosts are wearisome,

My sap will never stir for sun or rain.

The half Moon said: These nights are fogged and slow,

I neither care to wax nor care to wane.

The Ocean said: I thirst from long ago,

Because earth's rivers cannot fill the main. —

When Springtime came, red Robin built a nest,

And trilled a lover's song in sheer delight.

Grey hoarfrost vanished, and the Rose with might

Clothed her in leaves and buds of crimson core.

The dim Moon brightened. Ocean sunned his crest,

Dimpled his blue, yet thirsted evermore.”

— Christina Rossetti



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BCCC 1st event of 2026

In mid-December BCCC were invited by the Mayor of Barnet to attend the London New Year's Day parade in central London. We happily accepted this offer and provided four classic vehicles for the parade. This year being the 40th anniversary of this splendid free event.

The London Parade (formerly the London's New Year's Day Parade or LNYDP) is an annual event through the streets of the West End and Whitehall, ending up in Parliament Square.

The event first took place in 1987, as the Lord Mayor of Westminster's Big Parade, subsequently the event was renamed in 1994 and 2025, and for the year 2000 only, it was called the Millennium Parade.

The parade went virtual in 2021 but returned live for 2022, albeit rather scaled-down, due to the Covid Pandemic fallout, however the following year 500,000 + spectators attended the 2023 event!

The parade is a vehicle for raising funds for charities in London and representatives from each of the 32 London Boroughs are encouraged to take part as a "borough entry", judged as part of the event. The parade since inception has raised millions for London charities.

The event is also broadcast worldwide and is hugely popular in the United States, receiving an estimated 100 million viewers, with each parade over the years featuring some excellent and colourful marching bands representing multiple US universities.

In 2010, the route was reversed to appeal to the US television broadcasters and to give the huge American audience the best views of our capital's iconic landmarks, such as the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben and Trafalgar Square. The revised route thus started at the Ritz Hotel, moving along Piccadilly to Piccadilly Circus, down Regent Street, then along Pall Mall to Trafalgar Square, and finally along Whitehall to end in Parliament Square.

For this invite, I teamed up with Derrick and his lovely Ford Popular. We set off from Sunny Barnet around 9am on a freezing cold morning, traffic was fortunately very light and so we sailed down Edgware Rd, Park Lane and to the entrance to the parade – Hyde Park Corner /Piccadilly. Here we were directed by the event Marshals to the LBB holding area outside the Ritz on Picadilly. By midday, Piccadilly all the way back to the Underpass was filled with all the participating groups, limbering up and preparing for the start at 1pm.

The variety of participants was amazing with dozens of troupes of dancers / performers in stunning costumes and playing some great traditional and fusion music. Close to our assembly area, the Shree Muktajeevan Swamibapa Pipe Band were forming up, an amazing traditional/fusion Scottish Pipe and Drum Marching band, based out of Kingsbury. With their wonderful full Scottish kilted outfits, disciplined marching and powerful fusion of musical traditions, they performed an impressive programme of classic Scottish Bagpipe music with Indian influences including a banging version of Auld Lang Syne! Needless to say, for a born and bred Scotsman this was heaven, we do like our tartan and a wee skirl of the pipes!

The event commenced promptly at 1pm and we/LBB finally set off around 1.45pm. The drive along the streets around the route was amazing with the crowds of thousands sometimes ten deep lining the route



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on both sides waving and hooting and hollering. The Royal hitchhikers in the Popular caused much laughter and photo snapping!

The main grandstands area around Trafalgar Square had commentators from the numerous TV channels broadcasting the event, they were extremely well informed and greeted each Borough entry with enthusiasm, as it passed by the stands before moving onwards down Whitehall past the Cenotaph and Downing street, until the end of the route in Parliament Sq. Here there was parking and facilities in the closed of roads to rest for a few minutes before heading off home.

An excellent and well organised event and an enjoyable fun start to 2026 😊

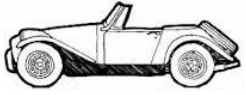


BCCC dream team !



The LBB Mayor with BCCC Paul & Tina Reed





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BCCC cars line up in holding area

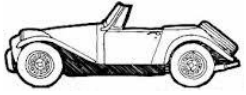


BCCC mascot Bertie blagging Mayoral treats



The Royals in the Pop!





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Traditional costume and phone



Posh Tuk tuk



LBB wonderful Chinese troupe display



Moke Club display



The Shree pipe band in full swing band





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Heading off along Piccadilly and through Trafalgar Square



Winter seasons major Sporting Event 2026.

The eagerly anticipated and exciting 2026 Winter Olympics were once again held across Milan, Cortina d'Ampezzo and surrounding venues in north Italy, marking the second time Italy has held the Games. The opening Ceremony was held at the San Siro stadium in Milan with simultaneous events in Livigno and Predazzo. With performances by Mariah Carey, and Andrea Botecelli, the lighting of twin Olympic Cauldrons and a parade of nations highlighting Italy's rich and long Olympic history.

Over a number of weeks in February approx 2900 amazing athletes from over 90 countries competed in 16 disciplines including: Alpine Skiing, Biathlon, Bobsleigh, cross country skiing, curling, figure skating, freestyle skiing, ice hockey, luge, Nordic combined, track speed skating, skeleton, ski jumping, ski mountaineering snowboarding and speed skating.

The Winter Olympics began in 1924 in Chamonix France with only 250 athletes from 16 countries and over the decades it has expanded to the huge and spectacular event it now is.

The games aim is for near gender parity, with women participating equally in 12 of the 16 events and making up 47% of the athletes.

Norway remains the most successful winter Olympics nation historically, followed by USA and Germany.



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The coverage from Uk TV channels was impressive for all the events and within a few days it became compulsive viewing especially the curling which seemed to capture everyone's interest and delight.

Note the Olympic curling stones are only sourced from one location – Ailsa Craig in the Outer Clyde Scotland. The finished stones made from a unique granite formation weigh between 38 and 44lbs. Kays of Scotland - since 1851- are the only Olympic approved manufacturer and produced 164 stones for the 2026 games. After the games finish these stones are remade into mini stones with official logos and certs of authenticity so that fans can own a piece of Olympic History

The final punteggi Sulle Porte being:

Norway - 44 Medals,

USA – 33 medals

Italy – 30 Medals

with 29 of the competing countries winning at least 1 medal

BCCC Springwatch Special

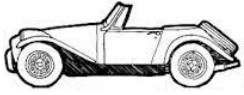
They are back again! The Ealing hospital Peregrine Falcons are back on the nest again this year and have ~~three~~ four eggs laid!!

I wrote about this a couple of years back when I had to stop my team working on the roof of the Hospital due to the live nesting. Since then it has become a spring fixation!, and I have a live PinP on my screen to be able to watch the progress of this year's brood sad but true!.....

Link is : <https://www.youtube.com/live/QhUlfWwcA6U?si=KaDCGGngy9d7Oe5R>



The nest is nice and clean now, but later on there will be many different coloured feathers remaining from mealtime snacks! The two ramps on either side were added last year and make it so much easier for the growing chicks to get back into the nest when they fall out or start exploring the ledge!



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BCCC Events planned for 2026

For your **2026 diaries** we have now organised several runs and are finalising the final events and meet ups/runouts.

Note: please keep an eye on **your Groups I/O and emails (checking trash as well as inbox)** for full details as we continue to develop and finalise the 2026 BCCC diary

Unfortunately for 2026 the **East Barnet Festival** is having a gap year but will return stronger and better in 2027 where BCCC have again been asked to organise the popular Sunday Car show

Drive it day April 26th

Stockwood Park Discovery Centre, Luton LU1 4LX.

We plan to depart at 10.45 from the Woodman Waters End for those wishing to 'follow my leader and travel in convoy. Alternatively, you are welcome to do your own route to arrive at Stockwood at 11.30. The Centre is free entry with plenty of parking. It houses the largest collection of horse drawn transport in Europe with a sprinkling of Vauxhall cars and a Bedford truck. There is also a museum featuring regional history and industry and extensive laid out gardens. There is a cafe on site and plenty of outdoor seating as well as inside. Further details to follow closer to event.

Annual Show Spires 17th May

Our ever popular and impressive annual car show and parade.

This year as before we have sole use of the Spires Car Park top floor. We are anticipating around 140-150 vehicles on display with approx. 80 parade vehicles starting from Everyman Cinema and ending in the Spires MSCP.

The Mayor of Barnet Mayor will be opening the event for us from 11am, and live music will be provided by a new local band of performers -Rowan and Boxy- starting from around 12am.

Invitations to attend have already been sent out by Chris Martin with all the payment details etc, so please check your emails and respond asap if you are coming along.

Further details to follow closer to event.

BARNET CLASSIC CAR CLUB presents
The Spires
CLASSIC CAR
PARADE & SHOW 2026

Sunday 17th May

High Street Parade from 10.30am
Vehicles displayed in The Spires car park (top floor) from 11am to 3pm

SHOW WILL BE OPENED BY THE MAYOR OF BARNET, DANNY RICH
OVER 70 VEHICLES IN THE PARADE • OVER 150 VEHICLES ON DISPLAY
ST. JOHN'S AMBULANCE DEMONSTRATIONS • LIVE MUSIC
BARNET ROTARY CLUB • NOAH'S ARK TOMBOLA
REFRESHMENTS • CHILDREN'S COMPETITION
SUZI EARNSHAW THEATRE SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

FREE PUBLIC ENTRY

Raising funds for
NOAH'S ARK
children's hospice



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Enfield Pageant 23rd/24th May

This will be the 47th year of this local and well-loved show.

BCCC will again have its own display area close to the arena and details are as below:

Our club has a special ticket price of £10 which gets you in both days should you like to make a weekend of it, or either Saturday or Sunday if you prefer.

To secure a place with BCCC you need to:

1. Advise Chris Martin of your **Name, Vehicle and VRM** and whether you will be attending SAT / SUN / BOTH
2. Pay £10 by bank transfer to the club account with reference "**PAGEANT+your car registration**" so we can correctly allocate your payment:

Bank details:

Barnet Classic Car Club

NatWest 83680977 51-61-34

De Havilland Museum Sat 13th June.

This museum is located near London Colney and houses numerous aircraft originally designed and built at De Havilland Hatfield including an original Comet airliner.

We visited a few years ago and it was a very enjoyable and worthwhile visit. We will again be going for the guided tour option and details for attending have been sent out, but as a reminder:

The cost of the tour is £20. Per person including refreshments on arrival, 1.5-2 hr tour and dedicated parking adjacent to the aircraft exhibits.

If you would like to join in, please make payment to the club account using the reference: **De Havilland** and please **email Marty Collins** with your name and how many people.

July 2026 - TBA

Tewin Classic Car Show Sunday 16th August- BCCC Club area

Capel Manor Sunday 6th Sept - BCCC club area

Treasure Hunt -October 10th

Copped Hall Essex Sat 24th Oct

Barnet Xmas Fayre 6th Dec



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Monthly Social Meetings for 2026:

Our ever popular social meet ups will continue on **2nd Saturday every Month** . The venue will change over summer months to add some variety , but all will be close to Barnet. The winter and early spring meet ups will be at our home base – the Woodman at Water End.

Jan 10th – Woodman Water End

Feb 17th - Woodman Water End

Mar 14th -Woodman Water End - a special event with a presentation by member Paul Griffin based around his recent book “the Past and the Spurious”

April 11th - The Farmers Boy Brickenden

May 9th - TBA

June 13th - De Havilland Museum visit

July 11th - TBA

Aug 8th - TBA

Sept 12th - TBA

Oct 10th - Woodman Water End- Treasure Hunt

Nov 7th -Woodman Water End

Dec 12th - Woodman Water End Xmas Lunch

Reports /updates so far:

Jan 10th – Woodman Water End

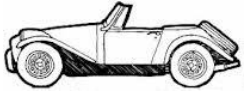
On a not so nice day, turnout was good with some 20 members attending. Not so many cars made it out, but the hearty conversations and atmosphere was enjoyable as usual, with everyone looking forward to the new year’s events and shows.

Feb 14th Woodman Water End

Well the weather gurus magicked up a lovely sunny day in between all the miserable rainy ones we have had , as a result of the clash with a well-known but better avoided St Valentine’s Day, there was a good handful of classics out of torpor and displaying in the car park. Approx 26 members and partners etc turned out and a good afternoon was had by all. Emergency Roses were available in the pub for those who were worried the forecourts would have sold out!!

Poor Ethel relegated to car security!





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March 14th Woodman Water End

With a lovely sunny afternoon this meet up was well attended with many classics on display. We had arranged as a special treat, a talk/presentation from BCCC member Paul Griffin based around his book "The Past and the Spurious"- The case of legitimacy in Historic cars. A big thank you to Paul who delivered a very knowledgeable, entertaining and thought-provoking talk on the authenticity pitfalls of classic ownership. I think we're all better prepared when holding up our paddle at the next Sotheby's or Mathesons auction! Thank you also to Howard Pryor for the introductions and vote of thanks. If you want to read more a copy the ISBN is **978-1-7397673-0-3**. and all proceeds are donated to a worthy charity in traditional BCCC style.

Paul in full flow



nice "authentic" Jaguar



Club Merchandise

We have now onboarded a new merchandise supplier so items, if not held in stock will be available to order as before, so please go ahead and kit yourself out!

- **Caps-** fit all head sizes
- **Woolly hats** – as above
- **Polo Shirts-** a range of sizes available from normal to mahoosive
- **Fleeces** - a range of sizes as above
- **Windscreen stickers** – one size fits all
- **T Shirts** – **this is a new item and we have still to finalise the end product.**

If you need any item, please contact Marty who will happily relieve you of your finest English pounds...



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BCCC Committee update

At our monthly meetings, we still continue with discussions re the club future and direction, and the consensus going forward, and as now, is to keep matters as simple as possible supporting the friendly all welcoming ethos of the Club, but also ensuring we continue to enhance our visible profile by utilising social media platforms for information dissemination/exchange.

Eg : Facebook https://www.facebook.com/groups/922544478743138/?ref=share_group_link.

Don't forget our own excellent Web site : <https://barnetclassicar.club>

A lot of effort goes into organising even the simplest of meet ups and keeping the club's momentum going. So, if you fancy putting and event/run together or a period on the committee, please just let us know 😊, all suggestions will be welcome and considered.

Club Funds: To keep our tradition for a "free at point of use" club we will still seek to raise any special funds we may need through voluntary contributions at events, or sometimes via mandatory small contributions where necessary. This is on going and currently we have a healthy positive bank balance. We have decided to maintain a balance of around £800 to cover any advance costs the club incurs and to ensure we can cover any unplanned costs that may arise. With the Xmas raffle etc this year we raised enough to fully cover all our costs for 2026, which is where we want to be.

Finally to wrap up this first newsletter of 2026, I would like to thank all in BCCC, from those that regularly turn up and give their time freely supporting the clubs' activities, and to all our club members and friends, everyone is important and without this support and loyalty the club simply would not exist. Here's looking forward to another successful year for BCCC and all the enjoyable gatherings with our friends and members ...

James Beeton