



THE 20-GHOST CLUB LIMITED

20-Ghost Club Summer Newsletter

It is hard to believe that as we enjoyed reading of the adventurous past of the Club with the publication of the 70th anniversary book and met for our Annual Dinner in the grandeur of Goldsmith's Hall in March, that all our activities would come to an abrupt halt, potentially for more than 12 months. Our lifestyles have had to change radically and most of us have put more petrol in the lawnmower than our cars this year! I am sure, like us, you have missed meeting up with 20-Ghost Club friends and sharing experiences on our tours. Sadly, as each event in our 2020 calendar has approached, we have had to postpone it. With recent new spikes in infection rates across Europe and fluctuating quarantine requirements, the prospects for International travel remain uncertain.

We also sadly heard recently that Peter Crauford, Chairman of the Australian Chapter, had lost his battle with cancer. Our thoughts are with Elizabeth and their family.

On the plus side, with the easing of UK lockdown conditions, we have been able to take our cars out for a run at last, even if there are precious few places open to visit to make a day out worthwhile. At least the sun has been shining for much of lockdown. We also have a new Editor for News & Record, Johnnie Gallop, who is busy working on his first edition with some lively and interesting content, despite the lack of events. Henry has also loaded copies of the excellent 'Gazette', produced by the Australian Chapter on the website. These are full of interesting stories and photos of their exploits and cars, to keep you amused.

Little substantial change seems likely until an effective vaccine becomes widely available, so we have to be patient and hope for better times in 2021. However, hope is not a strategy and your Committee have been busy re-scheduling and re-organising events for 2021 and beyond, so that we have events ready to run and hotels booked ready when the time comes. A Zoom Committee meeting has, in my experience, been much more effective than Zoom cocktail parties, where everyone talks at once!

In true 20-Ghost Club style, our members have been universally appreciative of the efforts of tour organisers and graciously allowed deposits and payments to roll forward to the next time. This has been a great help in enabling us to forward book hotels etc, who have themselves responded positively and appreciated our commitment to future bookings, rather than cancellation. Let us hope they are all still in business by the time we can actually stay!

The safety of our members is paramount and we have given careful consideration to the effect of Covid-19 on our events. A statement of the principles we have adopted will be published on the website shortly on the 'Future Events' page. In essence, we will always abide by Government regulations and guidelines, where possible. Our organisers will be requesting details of the precautions in place at each venue and we will give as much notice as possible of event postponement or cancellation. This is particularly the case where international travel and car shipping are concerned. We will update the website regularly with any news on individual events, so please check on the status of an event here first.

We must all be aware though that things can change at short notice and a flexible and pragmatic response from participants will be appreciated. Local lockdowns or quarantine requirements can suddenly be introduced and we will have to react accordingly. A number of us were stranded in the middle of a tour when lockdown happened in South Africa in March, so we are fully aware of the problems that this can cause.

Ultimately, the Club is run by volunteers and the events are organised by volunteers, so we act as facilitators only. Participants join tours at their own risk. Should anyone feel unhappy about joining a tour that does go ahead, we will do our best to return any payments, as long as the club is not out of pocket.

So how do we see the calendar for 2021 and beyond and what are the prospects for each event?

Planned Events and Tours in 2021

13 May *AGM Oxford* This is to be cancelled and likely replaced with a Zoom meeting

18-20 Apr *Mallory Court with Concours and Spring Lunch* Brian Fidler

We hope this event will proceed, as the hotel are currently satisfied they can provide Covid-19 compliant arrangements, but probably only for UK based participants. We will take a decision on this in January. The Spring Lunch at the end of the Concours on the last day will be open to other members, but bookings will not open until a decision is taken on the main event.

May *Irish Georgian Tour, Derbyshire* John Redmill

The dates have yet to be finalised by the IGS and whether the event can proceed in the light of Covid-19 rules at the time will be decided by the IGS, as it is their event.

11-13 May *Lancaster Experience &BBMF* John Snook

This looks reasonably hopeful as a smaller number is involved and the hotel report they can cope

11-26 June *Habsburg Tour* Angelika Elliott/John Stuttard

The Elliotts are concerned and a postponement may be necessary. A decision will be taken in December. (Note: Austria is now on the black list, quarantine is required after a visit there and it is not possible to visit Slovakia).

12-15 Jul *New Forest & Beaulieu short tour* Irvine Laidlaw/Johnnie Gallop

This is a 3 night event, currently proposed for 12-15 July, based at Careys Manor, to include probably one day on the Isle of Wight, and lunch and a visit to Beaulieu on 15 July. The Beaulieu visit could be opened to other members as a one day event. It was felt important to have a UK based event in the Summer, as this has the best chance of going ahead.

4-8 September *London to Edinburgh Top Gear Run Re-enactment, 4 nights* Nick Naismith

This will be run as a precursor to the Scottish Tour, to celebrate the 110th Anniversary of the original L to E. The RAC are keen to support the event, which will start at the RAC Club. We hope that there will be a semblance of normality by then. More details to follow when arrangements have been confirmed.

8-21 Sept. *12 night Scotland Tour (2nd tour to follow if required)* Ken Forbes

It is now planned to run this tour in reverse, starting close to Edinburgh to link up with the finish of the L to E Tour. Priority on the first tour will be given to those on the L to E. Hotel confirmations are awaited and full details will be sent to participants as soon as they are available. A minimum of 3 months notice will be given if the tour is in doubt.

Tours and events in 2022

June Possible postponed Habsburg Tour Alternative Loire Valley

Aug/Sep Tour of Wilts, based near Stourhead Johnnie Gallop

Tours and Events in 2023

June Alpine Tour highlights for 110th anniversary Mindworks

I am sorry we cannot be more specific, but this is as far as my blindfold juggling skills extend at the moment! If our calendar continues to be disrupted, we will look at some one day outdoor events as an alternative, if conditions dictate and the demand is there. We will be ready to adapt our events in the light of developments next year.

Do email me if you have any queries, but in the meantime, stay safe.

With best wishes

Ken

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