

Dec  
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2016

# THIS WEEK

Right now in the classic car world

## OUR FAVOURITE BEATLES-OWNED CLASSICS

DAVID SIMISTER  
EDITOR

### PHANTOM V

It has to be John Lennon's rather colourful take on the Rolls-Royce Phantom V back in 1965. Proof The Beatles were ahead on everything, including *Pimp My Ride*.

JAMES SADLIER  
MANAGING EDITOR

### ANGLIA 105E

George Harrison bought a Ford Anglia in the early '60s. Not only did he have great taste in motors, he was also the first Beatle to own a car.

GERVAIS SEYMOUR  
PRODUCTION EDITOR

### PRINCESS

The modified 1964 Austin Princess Hearse, GNH 240, owned by John Lennon that appeared in *Help!* in 1965 and *Imagine* in 1973. Allegedly.

DAVID BROWN  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

### BEDFORD

I loved the Plaxton-bodied Bedford VAL 'Chinese six' coach in *Magical Mystery Tour*. The Hard Rock Cafe purchased it in 1988.

MURRAY SCULLION  
NEWS EDITOR

### FACEL VEGA

Ringo Starr owned a 1964 Facel Vega II Coupé. If I had that sort of money in that era I'd have bought one too. It recently sold for £337,500.

CALUM BROWN  
WEB PRODUCER

### SERIES I

Sir Paul McCartney's magical Land Rover Series I. Apparently it was the inspiration behind the Wings song *Helen Wheels*.

NICK LARKIN  
EDITOR AT LARGE

### SEE BELOW

'I got no car and it's breaking my heart. But I've found a driver and that's a start. Baby, you can drive my car.'

## DVLA: now it's an MoT glitch

Agency systems exempt post-1960 classics from test



Only the very earliest Minis are exempt from MoT testing, but later cars are being described as such by the DVLA.

Some post-1960 classics are being inadvertently classed as MoT-exempt on the DVLA's computer systems.

Anthony Jackson, who runs Merseyside-based classic specialist Parkhill Garage, discovered that his Humber Hawk and Austin Mini Seven are both classed by the registration agency's vehicle enquiries website as being exempt from MoT testing, despite both being recorded as 1961 models. Both have been off the road for a decade.

Anthony says: 'According to the DVLA's vehicle enquiries website, both of these cars are MoT exempt. It's very unlikely they would have been manufactured before 1960 and then sat around for 18 months before they'd been registered.'

'In theory all I'd need to do to take either of them out on to the public road is to get them running. It would make more sense for the DVLA to say that the cars are not MoT-exempt unless you, as the owner, can prove otherwise.'

Cars manufactured before 1 January 1960 have been exempt from MoT testing since 2012. Later classics are still required to undergo annual tests, though the Department for Transport has consulted the public on how this might change (2016 News Review, page 6).

The DVLA says: 'We'd like to thank CCW for bringing this error to our attention. We are working to resolve the issue to ensure that the correct information is displayed.' **David Simister**

### IN BRIEF

## Rallying at Gaydon

Scores of top rally cars are lined up for the British Motor Museum's Historic Rally Car Register Open Day on 14 January. The 2017 event at Gaydon, Warwickshire, will host a special feature on the Motoring News Rally Championship, headlined by a number of cars which competed in the most recent series. Entry to the event is free of charge, and attendees can visit the Museum at a discounted rate of £9 per person.

www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk



## Price correction

In our 7 December issue we incorrectly priced a 1976 Volkswagen Type 181 in our *Chasing Cars* section on page 61. We published the vendor's asking price as £3550, but it is actually for sale for £7999. We apologise to Wigan-based Just-German for the error.

www.justgerman.co.uk

### AUCTIONS

## Baby, you can buy Lennon's car

John Lennon's 1965 Mercedes-Benz 230 SL Pagoda is to go under the hammer at Worldwide Auctioneers' Scottsdale auction in the USA on 18 January. No estimate has been given but experts reckon it should fetch £400,000.

The car was delivered new to Lennon in London in 1965, as attested by the accompanying original documentation. After that it found its way into the Sarasota Classic Car Museum's collection in Florida, where it sat for 18 years along with other Lennon Mercedes-Benzes.

Martin Godbey, director of the museum says: 'We're privileged to share this lovely part of rolling rock and roll royalty. We hope that it will give its new owner as much pleasure as it has museum visitors.'

John Kruse, principal at the auction house, adds: 'It will be the only car in our auction with no published estimate. The value does not lie in the year, make or model, but rather in the ownership history. The only way to know what it's worth is to sell it at auction to passionate bidders from around the world.'

A raft of Shelys are also in the sale, including a 1966 GT350 Convertible offered without reserve and a 1966 Shelby GT350H, believed to be the first black/gold car built.

www.worldwide-auctioneers.com



Lennon's Pagoda was previously for sale in 2012 with an asking price of £369,000.