

Absentee Ballot

***British Boots & Bonnets* January 2024 Election of Officers**

Pursuant to the provisions of Article V, Section 6 of the Club Bylaws, the following ballot is published to allow for absentee voting. **If you are unable to attend the meeting on January 17, 2024 and wish to vote, please do so below.**

<u>Office</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Vote of Member #1</u>	<u>Vote of Member #2</u>
President	Dennis Klemm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice President	Bill Leese	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary	Dee Gibson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer	Connie Frazier	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Membership	Rick Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Events Chair	Ron Kuhnau	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regalia Chair	Bruce Beneditz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newsletter Editor	Lynda Vickery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Webmaster	Hal Zenisek	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ballots must be received by the Club Secretary at least two days prior to the voting meeting which takes place on January 15, 2024. NOTE: If you wish to volunteer or nominate someone else for one of the above positions, you must attend the meeting to do so.

Signed by Member #1: _____ Date: _____

Signed by Member #2: _____ Date: _____

**Mail the completed ballot to British Boots and Bonnets Car Club,
PMB 254, 1643 North Alpine Rd, Suite 104, Rockford, IL 61107**



British Boots & Bonnets Chronicle

Voice of the BBC

Volume 29
Issue 2 Feb 9, 2024

Editor
Lynda Vickery

Website
www.britishbootsandbonnets.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Feb 2024

Greetings,

February is here, and so far the temperatures have been pretty mild. Punxsutawney Phil, the ground hog has predicted an early spring and I like the sound of that.

Looking forward to the upcoming February events:

February 10th, celebrate "Sir John Blacks" Birthday with a scenic drive on a country road, go out to lunch with your fellow triumph folks and take pictures of your car.

February 14th meet at the Butterfly Club, dinner is at 4:30PM. Please contact Ron to join the fun.

The elections will resume at this month's meeting.

See you soon!

**Next Meeting
Wednesday,**

Feb 21, 2024

Thunder Bay Grille
7652 Potawatomi Trail
Rockford, Illinois
(near East State Street and
Bell School Road)

**Dinner and social hour
at 6:00 pm**

Meeting begins at 7:00pm



From Your Webmaster February 2024

Our club's website at www.britishbootsandbonnets.com is up-to-date and active. Our monthly events calendars were created for 2024 and are populated with some state, regional, and national car shows/events related to British cars. Links to show specific information is included with each event for visitors who want to learn more. Other events will be added later in the year and as I get information from other clubs. Local BBB club events will be published later in the year, and are updated closer to each event after specific details are finalized. Remember, the calendars are a work in progress going forward, so check back often. They will change. The date of the last change to the website is noted on the footer at the bottom of the each webpage.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions about the website. Your webmaster, Hal Zenisek



The first gathering of the New Year, 2024, for British Boots and Bonnets.

The second Wednesday is February 14th, Valentine's Day so let's make it special.

The Butterfly Club, 5246 E County Rd X, Beloit, WI

Early dinner. 4:30. They made a special time for us because they are booked solid.

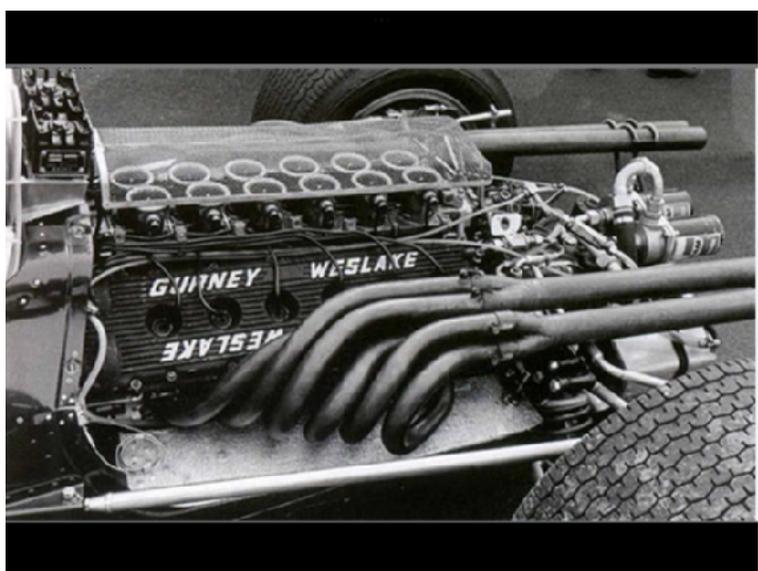
Please RSVP by February 10th to Ron at 815-262-3179, text or call or Nancy at 815-262-7816.



DID – U – KNOW by Facia Nearside

Harry Weslake was recognized as the foremost expert on cylinder head design in the world. That exceedingly dull description belies the talent of one of the greatest gas flow engineers of all time. Although most famous for his work with Bentley, Austin, and Jaguar, Weslake's expertise also extended to lorries, marine diesel, motorcycle, and aero engines.

Born in Exeter UK in 1897 Harry was the son of John Weslake, a director of Willey and Company LTD, maker of coin operated gas meters. (At this time in England it was common for homes and flats to have coin operated meters which functioned much the same way as a parking meter in today's world.) Willey and Co. made the majority of the gas meters for the entire country and at an early age Harry was apprenticed to learn the business. In 1915 he purchased a Rudge Multi motorcycle to commute to work. This started his interest in motor cycles and racing. An accomplished tinkerer, he had soon modified the Rudge to provide a substantial increase in performance. One of his first improvements was to design a new carburettor, which he then patented under the name Wex. Immediately recognized as one of the best performing carburettors available the Wex became the choice of most competition cycle riders, and was used on Sunbeam, Borough Superior, and Zenith cycles. Weslake became a regular at Brooklands and while working with the Sunbeam team he developed an airflow meter, the first device of its kind to measure gas flow into the combustion chamber.



His reputation rapidly growing, Weslake was approached by W.O. Bentley to improve his racing engines. Results of the 1929 24 hours of LeMans were proof of Weslake's genius. Bentley captured the first four places with Weslake tuned engines. William Lyons, owner of SS Cars, was at this time working to dispel criticism that his cars were "more show than go". When approached by Lyons, Weslake replied in his typical brusque manner "your cars remind me of an overdressed lady with no brains, there's nothing under the bonnet!" Despite this inauspicious beginning Lyons and Weslake developed an excellent working relationship. First Weslake improved the engines being supplied by Standard for SS Cars, then he went on to become a key player in the development of Jaguar's famous XK engine as well as their highly regarded V-12.

During WWII Weslake worked on the development of the Rolls-Royce Merlin engine used in aircraft and tanks. Following the war, he started a research facility in Rye. His company did work for a number of manufacturers including Austin, Austin-Healey, Coventry-Climax, Daimler, Connaught, Jaguar, and Wolseley. Even into the late 1960s Weslake continued to push gas flow technology forward. Dan Gurney became interested in Weslake's work leading to the development of the Gurney-Weslake V-12 GP engine which won the Race of Champions at Brands Hatch. The same engine then powered the Ford GT 40 which won LeMans in both 1968 and 1969.

Harry Weslake passed away in 1978 at the age of 81.

DUK2024/2

In English pubs, ale
is ordered by pints and quarts..
So in old England , when
customers got unruly, the
bartender would yell at them
'Mind your pints and quarts,
and settle down' . . .

It's where we get
the phrase 'mind your P's and
Q's'

A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO IRELAND

by Rich Cannistra

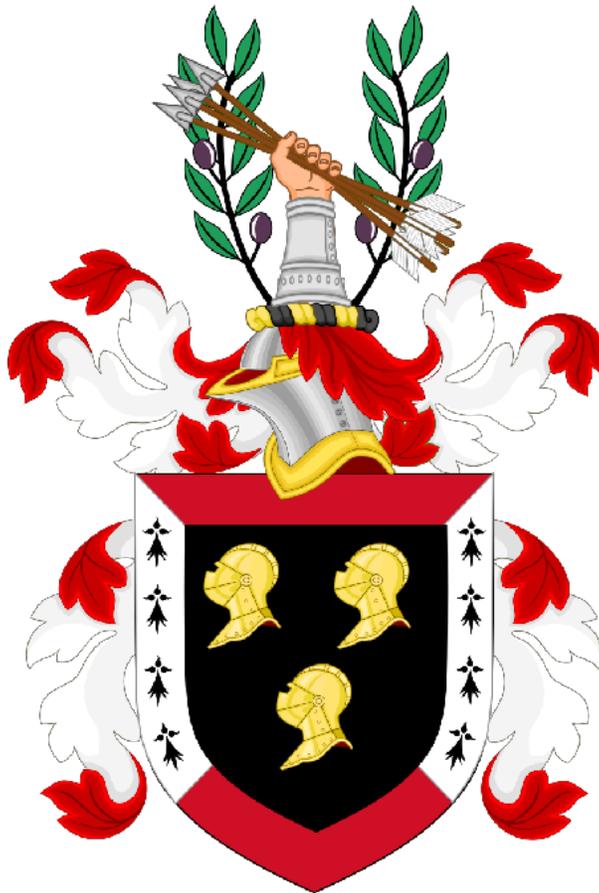
On June 27th of 1963 President John F. Kennedy visited the ancestral home of his great-grandparents in Ireland. The trip probably went unnoticed by most Americans, however JFK's status as the first Roman Catholic elected President, first sitting President to visit Ireland, and the first US President to visit the Independent Irish State ensured his rock star status in that country.

It had been more than 100 years since his great-grandparents immigrated to the United States, yet the farm was still in the family. Kennedy was of course given a hero's welcome, and ushered into the humble home for a cup of tea with his cousin Mary. The furnishings were modest and as luck would have it the President sat down on a repurposed Morris Minor seat! Less than five months later President Kennedy was dead.



During his four-day visit to Ireland Kennedy heaped praise upon the Irish both there and abroad. When he departed the whole country was in love with him. If he had been a hero when he visited, his status was now elevated to stratospheric. Going to the ancestral home site became a pilgrimage as loving admirers tried to cling to any tangible thread which reminded them of the President. The Morris Minor seat began to suffer from the ravages of souvenir hunters looking to secure anything which might help them remember their departed celebrity. As the condition of the seat rapidly worsened it was taken from the house to be discarded. One far sighted relative had other plans however and after being hidden in the barn for years the seat was rediscovered.

When Roxann and I visited recently we were warmly greeted by Mary's grandson. He loves telling the story of JFK's visit and showing what artifacts they have. As for the Morris Minor seat, it occupies a place of honour in a recreated 1963 living room. To hide the damage a very appropriate blanket now covers that famous chair, ensuring for all time visitors will remember who sat there.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

New membership applications are available on the club's website.
Register by sending your completed application to:

Brian Kobischka Treasurer
British Boots and Bonnets Car Club, PMB 254
1643 North Alpine Rd. Suite 104
Rockford, IL 61107

Please include \$20 annual membership dues plus a one-time fee of \$18 for name tags.



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CAR CLUB
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CHAIRPERSONS**

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BBB REGALIA ONLINE

FEBRUARY 2024



Regalia club merchandise is available by contacting Bruce Beneditz. This includes:

BBB Grill Badge - \$35

BBB Hat/Lapel Pin - \$1

All other regalia can be purchased online via our BBB Regalia Page found on our Club's website.

You buy online, securely pay with your credit card, and select one of the following delivery options:

Shipped directly to you (additional fee)

Pick up at Embroid This (no charge)

Bruce, bruce.beneditz@charter.net

Lynda Vickery, *Chronicles Editor*
British Boots & Bonnets Car Club
5549 Gray Eagle Road
Roscoe, IL 61073



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February 21, 2024

Thunder Bay Grille
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(near East State Street and Bell School Road),

Social hour and dinner at 6:00pm.