

AUCTION PREVIEW

CLASSICS CENTRAL PREVIEW BEDFORD AUTODROME, 6 SEPTEMBER

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

Classics Central's first sale offers well-balanced selection

The latest newcomer to the classic auction world is Bedfordshire-based Classics Central, founded by Justin Lazic.

His name will be familiar to readers through his Lazic Classics restoration business, and now the former telecommunication and IT man hopes to use his hi-tech skills to sell classic cars.

Held at Bedford Autodrome near Thurlleigh, this sale isn't the biggest seen this year, but it offers a well-balanced selection of post-WWII classics and, thanks to its location, should draw in punters from right across the South and the Midlands.

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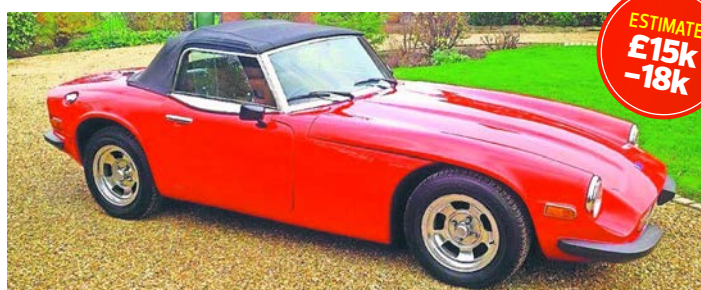
SUBTLE ITALIAN STAG RIVAL

1984 Lancia Gamma coupé

One of the last built, and a UK-market car too, this Gamma coupé offers wonderfully subtle looks, interesting engineering and the chance to join a small group of owners in this country.

The paint is said to be 'excellent', the interior 'utterly superb' and the engine bay 'extremely tidy.' Tempting? Definitely. And would you really rather be driving a Stag?

ESTIMATE
£9k
-11k



ESTIMATE
£15k
-18k

THE STUFF OF DREAMS

1979 TVR 3000S

A three-owners-from-new, warranted 42,500 miles example, this 3000S must be the stuff of dreams for the TVR hunter. With a body and interior said to be in 'excellent' condition and all MoT certificates back to 1988, it's surely got enough going for it.



ESTIMATE
£39k
-42k

SOPHISTICATED TEMPTER

1972 Alfa Romeo Montreal

Values for this sophisticated junior supercar have been a long time rising, but its mix of advanced engine clothed in stunning bodywork creates a car deserving far more recognition than other Italian cars selling for 10 times as much. With history to back its 64,000 miles, it's very tempting.

AUCTIONS INSIDER
RICHARD HUDSON-EVANS



Modern classics lead the way in £2m sale bonanza

The accelerating appeal of relatively recent, 'modern classics' was powerfully confirmed when a same-owner-since-1984 Renault 5 Turbo 2 with 67,150 warranted miles and retro event upgrade potential rallied past the ACA rostrum in King's Lynn last Saturday to achieve a £56,700 result. During what is likely to amount to a £2m barrier-breaking afternoon (after only a few more post-sales have been buttoned up), a 2001 BMW Z8 Roadster left-hooker also cruised into new hands for £152,250 with five per cent premium.

On Black Monday, after 214 (74 per cent) of the record 291 entry had been acquired by new stakeholders, the stock markets of the capitalist world plummeted in sync with the Chinese freefall, because pension fund managers had bet on the wrong horses with other people's money.

By contrast, among the bullish prices paid during another marathon gig at the former cattle market site on the outskirts of the still-expanding Norfolk town, a 1957 Austin-Healey 100/6 that had started adult life on the right-hand side of the road in South Africa fetched a just-over-guide £40,950, and a 1993 Lotus Carlton also pulled a just above ACA forecast £32,550. While the same money, the mid-estimate figure, was available for a claimed genuine 1971 Sprint version of the much rebuilt and spec-changed Lotus Elan, and one of two

'It was incredible that a scabby 1959 Splitty had a valid MoT, but it did and it made £12,600'

Ford Sierra RS Cosworths with two doors sold for £30,450, the lower estimate.

Having clearly been well cared for by three owners during 51,215 miles, a 1985 BMW M635 CSi really was very nice indeed and deserved to sell for £29,925, the top estimate, while a mid-estimate £29,400 was handed over for a 1974 Jensen Interceptor III with 8319 recorded mileage.

Veedub camper vans were much viewed by prospective campers, led by a 1973 Type 2 Westfalia Continental with photo-recorded restoration that was auctioned at 'no reserve' and raised a Glastonbury-sized £26,250. It was incredible to think that a scabby 1959 Splitty with double barn doors on both sides and 12v electrics had a valid MoT, but it did and it made £12,600, while a surface-rusty 1976 T2 Bay Window Microbus US import was swept up for £4410.

Three more grids full of classics for all budgets will next face the hammer test at Historics at Brooklands this Saturday and there will be two CCA sales on both Saturday and Sunday during Car Fest South, where aerial displays may well yet be grounded after the Car Fest North air crash at Oulton Park and the Shoreham Air Show disaster.

For times change and if the skies above Goodwood at the forthcoming Revival are beaten up as they normally are by chaps in flying jackets, then in response to public opinion, the legislators may put up the barrage balloons.

Let's we forget, it was due to competing cars slaughtering spectators on the Mille Miglia that unrestrained motor racing was taken off public highways. Only in the anachronistic Isle of Man are TT motorcycles still permitted to exceed 200mph between the kerbs and stone walls with regular and almost certainly fatal consequences.

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL	ESTIMATE
1972	Alfa Romeo Montreal	£39,000-42,000
----	Alvis TD21 pjct	£n/r
1982	Austin Mini City E	£4500-5500
1994	Bentley Brooklands lpt	£tbc
2000	Bentley Arnage Red Label	£16,000-20,000
1996	Chevrolet Camaro pjct	£n/r
1970	Citroën DS pallas	£16,000-20,000
1959	Fiat Multipla	£25,000-30,000
1972	Fiat 500 + Graziella caravan	£23,000-26,000
1978	Ford Escort pjct c/w Zetec engine	£3500-4500
1984	Ford Capri 2.8i	£11,000-14,000
1985	Ford Escort XR3i Cabriolet	£6500-7500
1993	Ford Granada	£tbc
1995	Ford Fiesta Azura	£1250-2250
1998	Ford Puma pjct	£n/r
----	Jaguar XJ6 3.2	£1500-2500
1970	Jensen Interceptor	£13,000-16,000

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL	ESTIMATE
1961	Lancia Appia	£6000-8000
1984	Lancia Gamma coupé	£9000-11,000
2002	Maserati Cambiocorsa	£8500-10,000
1967	Mercedes-Benz 300SEb	£10,000-12,000
1979	Mercedes-Benz 450SEL 6.0	£15,000-18,000
1981	Mercedes-Benz 500SL	£7500-9500
1982	Mercedes-Benz 280SL	£13,000-17,000
1983	Mercedes-Benz 380SL	£11,000-13,000
1990	Mercedes-Benz 500SL	£7500-9500
1993	Mercedes-Benz 190E 1.8	£1500-3000
1993	Mercedes-Benz 190E 1.8	£1500-3000
1997	Mercedes-Benz 320SL	£10,500-12,000
1961	MGA 1600 Roadster	£25,000-27,000
1977	MGB GT	£2250-3250
----	MGF pjct	£n/r
1997	MGF pjct	£n/r
1999	MGF	£2000-4000

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL	ESTIMATE
2001	MGF pjct	£n/r
2002	MG TF pjct	£n/r
1995	Mitsubishi FTO pjct	£n/r
1990	Peugeot 205CTi	£tbc
1995	Range Rover 4.6HSE pjct	£n/r
1996	Range Rover 4.6HSE pjct	£n/r
1978	Reliant Scimitar pjct	£n/r
1960	Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud	£40,000-45,000
1982	Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit	£n/r
1994	Rover Mini Tahiti	£6500-7500
1998	Saab 9-3 cvtble pjct	£n/r
1974	Sunbeam Sceptre	£2000-4000
1979	TVR 3000S	£15,000-18,000
1992	TVR V8S	£14,000-16,000
2001	Vauxhall Astra	£1800-2800