

It was nice to see the CCW team go for a bit of a road trip to the Grampian Transport Museum in order to visit the excellent *How Many Left?* event. You can read all about their exploits on page 10, but needless to say, much fun was had by the boys in my old Saab 9000 Aero – even if they weren't exactly kind to it in the process.

The thinking behind the event is fantastic, though. It's a proper celebration of cars, of which there are fewer than 500 examples left on British roads. Of the cars that made it there,

many were far rarer than that, with the Chrysler Horizon being perhaps the least common at all, with the owner claiming his has the only one left.

What's nice is that this event, along with the Festival of the Unexceptional, makes heroes of the ordinary cars, which in the past, many so-called enthusiasts might have said aren't classics at all. But what do they know? These cars are loved, so they're classics.

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NEWS

THREE CAR AUCTION RECORDS SMASHED

Prices for low mileage classics still heading skyward

Three more world record prices were achieved at auction last month, taking the tally for 2016 up to at least 18.

Last week's records were £27,000 for a Ford Sierra RS Sapphire Cosworth (right), £26,000 for a BMW E31 850CSI M and £18,250 for a Honda Z600 (all prices without premium).

They were set at Classics Central's Bedfordshire auction. Managing director Justin Lazić says: 'They're world records for any Sapphire Cosworth, any E31 850CSI, and any Z600. Each of the cars was consigned early so interest could be built. What we've demonstrated is that low mileage, original cars are worth top dollar.'

'People are more prepared than ever to pay for original examples and as time goes on, original, unrestored examples are becoming rarer and rarer.'

These sales are the latest records in a boom year for auction houses. Silverstone Auctions set two world records in February, and Artcurial set an astonishing 13 at its Retromobile sale two weeks before that.

Artcurial broke seven world records on the first day of the sale which included the highest auction price ever for a car – a 1957 Ferrari 335 Sport Scaglietti sold for £24.7m. However, there is some controversy over this claim, as Gooding and Company say their sale of a Ferrari 250 GTO in 2014 still holds the record because of exchange rate variances.

On the second day six Citroën price records were broken – one for a 2CV Sahara which sold for a staggering €172,800 (£131,436).

The Silverstone Auctions records were set for a 1990 Mercedes-Benz 190 E2.5-16 Evolution II which made £292,500 and a 1987 Ford Capri 280 'Brooklands' that sold for £54,000.

Markets editor Richard Barnett isn't overly impressed. He says: 'Taking year and model into account devalues records. And although it's great news for sellers and auctioneers, it's not for people who need a stepping-stone into the classic car game. Real enthusiasts could be priced out too.'



1961 Citroën 2CV Sahara. €172,800



1990 Ford Sierra RS Sapphire Cosworth, £26,000



1957 Ferrari 335 Sport Scaglietti, £24.7m.

NEWS AND EVENTS HOT OFF THE PRESS

NEWS

- 04** Euro classic chiefs say there's an ECU crisis looming. We're not sure... and neither's Fuzz.
06 A classic convoy in Keswick helps celebrate an important road reopening after a storm.

EVENT NEWS

- 08** We preview MGLive!, Coventry Motofest and a spectacular event at Tatton Park.

- 10** How Many Left celebrated hundreds of near extinct classics at a rainy Grampian Transport Museum.
12 A tasty selection of motors attended another filled breakfast meet.

LETTERS & OPINION

- 17** In out, in out, Fuzz shakes it all about. Probably doesn't actually do the hokey-cokey.

BUYING AND SELLING

20 AUCTION NEWS

- We preview Historics' next auction which has all tastes catered for.
22 A review of H&H's 18 May sale. A Renault 10 that went for a good price grabbed our attention.

47 CARS FOR SALE

- Find your next classic right here in CCW's classifieds
47 A-Z Cars
71 Caravans and motorhomes
71 Commercial vehicles
71 Kit Cars
74 Project cars, motorcycles and classics wanted
75 Classics under £1000



- 76** Autojumble
78 Dealer directory
79 Trade directory

48 SELL CARS FOR FREE

CARS FOR SALE TESTED

- 55** Daimler Double-Six
57 Ford Mustang **59** Jaguar XJS
55 VW T3 Camper

FEATURES

28 7 BRILLIANT STORIES FROM THE MG ARCHIVE

Think you know MG? Think again.

34 BUYING GUIDE MGC

Previously a black sheep of the MG family, here's why now's the time to buy one.

38 DRIVEN VAUXHALL T-TYPE

The original car for golfers driven in Monaco. Lah-de-dah.



38 BUYING GUIDE RELIANT RIALTO

If you're tempted by a three-wheeler, this is the easiest place to start.

LIVING WITH CLASSICS

82 EVENTS DIARY

More great events from the coming months. Plan those summer weekends now!

84 OUR CLASSICS

We welcome a new arrival to DB's fleet, and Calum and Nick have been messing with their Austins.

86 THE WAY WE WERE

Nick Larkin takes you on a guided tour through Bristol. You lucky people.



RECORD
PRELIMINARY



£18,250



£54k

Ten minutes to help keep classics on the road

The Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs is asking classic car enthusiasts to take part in its national survey to establish the needs of the classic car movement.

The survey closes at the end of June and currently has 9000 responses – 3000 down on the previous survey five years ago. Spokesman Geoff Lancaster says: 'It is important that as many enthusiasts as possible take part as the

results will be used to take forward our political lobbying for the next five years. If you want to protect your rights to use your vehicle, get online and complete the survey. It's everyone's chance to make a difference.' The survey takes as little as 10 minutes to complete.

'Typically we've been having 100 responses per day,' says Geoff, 'but in the last fortnight this has dwindled

almost to nothing. I cannot believe we are going to have fewer responses this time, when our new web-enabled survey allows a far wider number of people to get in touch.'

The FBHVC estimates there are one million vehicles over 30 years old on the UK's roads and had hoped to capture a wider cross section of this group.

Sam Skelton

www.fbhvc.co.uk/research