



## Classic Car Loan Project helps young enthusiasts develop and maintain interest in older vehicles

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Author:

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*Above: A wide range of classics pictured at handover to their custodians for a year.*

Classics galore available to encourage young enthusiasts into the classic car movement...

*(All words and photographs kindly provided by Bob Wilkinson, founder and manager of the*



## *Classic Car Loan Project).*

The Classic Car Loan Project was started by long-term classic devotee Bob Wilkinson. Here's what Bob says about his scheme, in his own words, "I started my project as a continuation of the day course I started and directed at the British Motor Museum, Gaydon, nearly 10 years ago - 'Classic Virgins' - designed to introduce newcomers to the classic car scene. My CCLP was born from an offer of a car, for a year, to a young driver. The feeling behind the generous offer was that having a car for that length of time, with good support, would give a realistic experience. I now have 24 cars (with more in the wings awaiting better times! ) across a range of 60 years (1929 - 1988) with each car offering a unique challenge.

The success is down to cars being well prepared by owners who are not "precious" about their vehicles; good selection of young drivers; support and mentoring; and backed by an involved and reputable insurance company (Peter James Insurance). Sponsors too play their part.

We have now been able to give around 50 young drivers, not forgetting to add their families and friends, an exciting and challenging experience. Small numbers, yes, but growing and being increasingly recognised as one good way of reaching the next generation. Ideally, I would like car clubs to use my project as a blue print for running their own "in house" schemes. In that way we may reach far more interested younger drivers.

Covid has slowed us up at a vital time in our growth....but the wheels will be moving again very soon."

## **More About this Innovative Scheme; Loan Car Wheels Roll Again!**

The Classic Car Loan Project (CCLP) is still alive and active despite the virus! Cars are loaned to young enthusiasts for the year - to encourage the next generation - 14 cars are already on loan with another 10 to follow in April.

CCLP Manager, Bob Wilkinson explained, "The virus affected but has not destroyed our programme. Cars were handed over to younger drivers at various times in 2020 to be used, albeit on a more limited scale, during the year. Generous owners have extended the loan



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period to avoid any disappointment but I still have cars available for April.”



MG Maestro 2.0 EFi - available under the scheme.



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1967 Riley Elf.



Austin Seven on 'hand-over day' at the British Motor Museum, Gaydon.

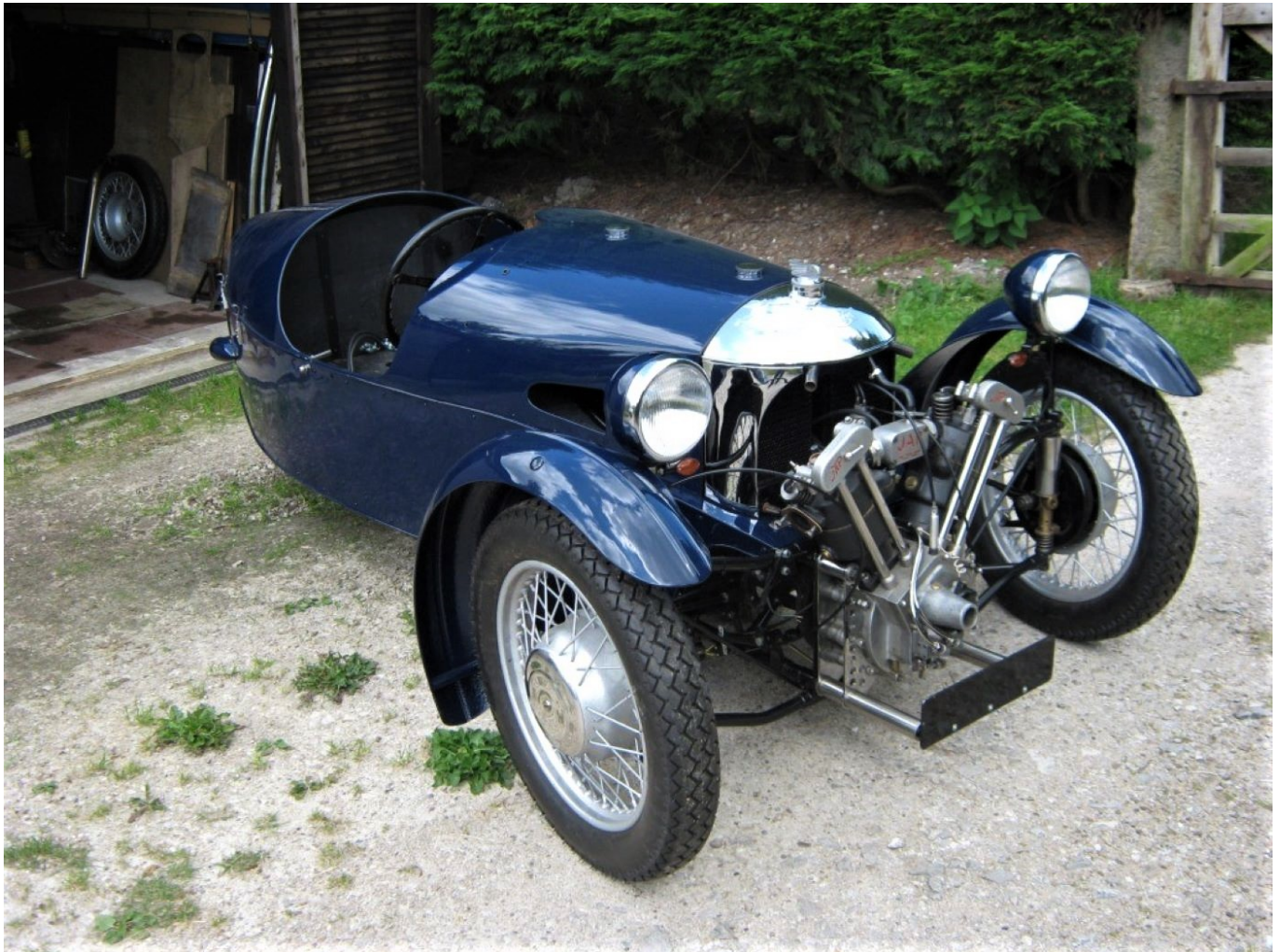


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1929 Ford Model A Phaeton.



1934 Morgan, powered by a twin cylinder JAP motor.

Some of the more modern classics - MG Maestro 2L EFi, Triumph Acclaim, Volvo 240 Estate - are still on offer as we write so applications are invited via [www.classiccarloanproject.co.uk](http://www.classiccarloanproject.co.uk)

Applicants must have access to safe garaging and have an obvious interest in the classic scene. Good support is given by car clubs, and owners, through the loan period with insurance cover provided by Peter James Insurance in a dedicated scheme.

I have a range of cars from 1929 Ford Model A, Morgans, Austin 7's, Fords, MG's,



Vauxhalls, Triumphs, Alvis, Riley, Wolseley and through to an 80's Volvo! What a group. More welcome incidentally.

Bob added, "The project has been extremely successful due to the enthusiasm and level of responsibility shown by the young drivers selected. It is important that the project continues despite the Covid crisis. We are looking forward to handing over cars at an outdoor event in April sponsored by The British Motor Museum at Gaydon."

If you feel up to the challenge of applying for a classic for the year ....

Or want to consider offering a car to the project..... visit [www.classicarloanproject.co.uk](http://www.classicarloanproject.co.uk)

Kim adds: "It is great to think that this innovative scheme is helping to develop and maintain in younger people, an interest in, and passion for, classic cars. The encouragement and involvement of youngsters is essential for the classic movement to survive into the future. Well done Bob Wilkinson, Peter James Insurance and all involved".