



## Dragon / Y Ddraig Jensen Owners Club — South Wales Area

Autumn 2006

### Hibernation?? Hibernation Schmibernation!!!

Now that the nights are drawing in, this perhaps gives me the opportunity to reflect on what has undoubtedly been another great year for the SWJOC. During the year, we have continued to meet new members and hope that this continues. This seems to suggest however that the fun is over for 2006, which of course it isn't – not by any means!! Though there are only two months of '06 left, we have managed to squeeze in two further meetings. First up is Ed's weekender near Tintern, which promises to be a great weekend jaunt.

Secondly, as is traditional now, I am organising Christmas lunch, for 12:00, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December. This year a different venue has been selected, the Farmers Daughter restaurant near Bassaleg, Newport. Though I have already spoken with many local members to confirm their attendance, as I need to clarify numbers with the restaurant, which may be limited, if you have not yet done so then please let me know as soon as possible if you are planning to come along. Though the cars may see less use, the SWJOC never takes the foot of the throttle!!

Though taking place over in Europe, I'm sure we all read (in the main JOC Mag) with envy of Bodfan and Bev's clearly enjoyable trip to Het Genootschap in Holland. Perhaps a few more SWJOC members could keep them company next time? Prior to handing over to Ed for his valued contribution to this letter, I would like to thank all those members who helped to make the Tredegar Park show in September such a success – 14 Jensen's (plus the honorary Buick of course) is a terrific turnout and, like last year, our stand did, I believe, look very impressive indeed.

That about sums it up for me for now – I suspect that our first meet of '07 will be at the Cider Mill at which we can then plan events for the year, though this will of course be confirmed in due course. So, please send your ideas to the usual address.

Looking forward to seeing as many as possible at the next events.

Rich.

## Notes From Ed...

Members of our SWJOC group that met up for a scenic tour starting at Llandovery and proceeding around Llyn Brianne down to Abergwesyn on to Garth, over the Epynt and finally into Brecon certainly got their monies worth!

Organized and controlled by Bodfan and morally supported by Bev, not that Bodfan ever acts with any sense of impropriety you understand, the journey proved to be a real classic.

July 30<sup>th</sup> dawned bright and promising and hopes were high as some fifteen members met up in the Castle Hotel public bar - where else?

After the usual banter a fine selection of Jensen's to include 541R Jensen/Healey Inter/Convertible Jensen/GT and of course the Inestimable 1919 Buick proceeded from the Llandovery Castle car park and onto the open road. Open may not be quite the best description in this instance as at the time one got the impression that we were pioneer's opening up new territory, so varied was the journey. At one point looking down a 1 in 4 gradient onto a particular severe hairpin bend with nothing to stop you going over and into the valley below, I marvelled at the way John somehow managed to keep control of the Buick!. I am not sure whose pulse was racing the fastest, mine, Johns or Barbara's, or maybe the occupiers of the oncoming car jammed into the bank at the bottom of the hill as, upon looking up they could see this unique car from another age fast approaching with sparks flying off from the rear/only brakes!

My own position in the convoy placed me behind Stuart and Molly in their newly acquired Jensen Healey, this was their first real road experience with their car and I found it very interesting to observe just how much Stuart doubled his clutch on this run, possibly more than the average J/H owner does in a whole year of motoring! Bringing up the rear was definitely a plus for me with the journey being so full of incidents, and interest.

Sheila was pleased that we didn't get shot at by the army whilst proceeding over the Epynt.

Upon arrival at Bishops Meadow, Motel/Roadhouse, our designated lunch stop, I thought that Bodfan's customary skills had forsaken him. The car park had a distinct Transport Café look about it. Just how wrong can you be? Upon entering the restaurant we all experienced excellent service and very good food well presented. It just goes to show you shouldn't judge a book by its cover, or in this instance by its car park.

Reading our visitor member event book the comments made by one and all bordered on the ecstatic for the day's experience!

A TRULY WELSH JENSEN DAY BY COURTESY OF A LOVELY WELSH COUPLE OUR THANKS TO BODFAN & BEV.

And There's More...

So much has happened or taken place over the past months that I find it hard to believe that at the time of writing it is late October. However as far as all things Jensen go there are still plenty of good things to look forward to.

Some of our SWJOC members will be enjoying a late autumn weekend November 24/5/6 at the Florence Country House Hotel situated in the beautiful Wye Valley. North of Tintern Abbey. The house has just eight bedrooms, which we hope as a group to take up. If that became the case, and six rooms are already booked then S/W Joc has its own weekend party

The area has plenty to offer, the stunning grounds extend to over five acres and a woodland walk joins the famous Offers Dyke Path with incomparable views across the Wye Valley. Monmouth & Chepstow towns have a wealth of interest to offer the visitor, and last but by no means least there is Tintern Abbey. Interested? Act quickly! Contact me on 01873840446 ASAP

Richard has again ably booked an excellent venue for our Christmas dinner. Hope to see you all there.

Many of you will no doubt have read recently in our Joc magazine that one half of our twinned French Jensen group namely Bob Nelson hasn't been to well. In fact Bob has been through quite a rough patch.

Although reading the current mag issue its evident he still has retained his indomitable unique style of journalism. Long may it remain so.

On behalf of all of us a wish for a speedy return to level par.

JENSENA HAPUS, ED.

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