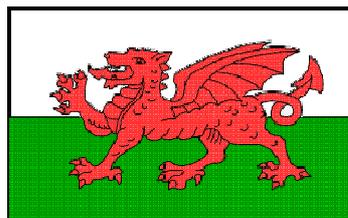




Dragon / Y Ddraig
Jensen Owners Club, South Wales



March 2008

Stick This Up Your Exhaust Pipe Ken...

Firstly, many thanks to Ed for organising the last meet, it was wonderful to see such a large turnout at the Cider Mill and welcome so many new faces to the club – we hope that you enjoyed the meet and look forward to seeing you again, hopefully at the next meeting which has been arranged for the 13th April – more on that later.

The car park was a sight to behold. In addition to several Jensens, it was great to see John's glorious XK150 and Stuart's Rover P6 3500S – surely the only car that has ever looked best when finished in 'hearing aid' beige! Also sharing car park space were several Corvettes – I hope that the local fuel stations were well stocked. Given that we are being constantly assured by those in power that the car is one of the main causes of global warming, I have consequently been rather disappointed with the rather cold damp weather of late...surely after this meet, if these people are to be believed, we should have had a mini heat wave by now...

However, on this note, I have decided to take a lead from such inspired and enlightened individuals such as Ken Livingstone and Alistair Darling. As we know, if Ken has his way, any type approved pre 2001 car with an engine capacity of 3000cc and above will soon be charged £25 per day to enter London. (Jensens aren't 'type approved' but TFL have admitted that the 'type approval' clause is an unintended loophole which we can consequently expect to be closed). This is of course all dressed up as being 'green', to encourage us to scrap our old car and buy a Toyota Prius, (Pious?) polluting Japan as a result of the steel, plastic and rubber manufacture associated with production of a new car, and the rest of the world with shipping them here. This policy also ignores the fact that recent tests have proved that the Prius actually uses more fuel than a conventional BMW... Perhaps we should revert to the private transport that was most widely available prior to the invention of the car, as demonstrated by Mr Livingstone in this recent picture of him...



The 'exhaust emissions' of such traditional transport would indeed be comparable to what comes out of Mr Livingstone's and his colleagues mouths. Indeed, in his recent budget, Mr Darling increased taxes – again - on the basis that they are 'green', though it is notable that he conveniently forgot to reduce them elsewhere...

Nevertheless, what is clear is that labelling anything as 'green' seems to be a licence to print money – perhaps this why the Americans call Dollars 'Greenbacks'. With this in mind, as editor of this newsletter and with Livingstone like megalomaniac power going to my head, I have decided that this newsletter should 'go green'. I will therefore introduce a charge of £25 for each letter delivered. After all, the paper to which I have access isn't recycled, the photocopier uses electricity and just think of the carbon cost of the postman delivering all these letters in his van, particularly if you live in a rural area where your postman will have to travel further as your local post office will probably soon be closed. Don't think that by electing to have your future copies e-mailed to you will avoid the cost – I have concluded that with countless millions of e-mails being sent daily, the information superhighway must be every bit as congested as our roads. If Ken can increase the number of traffic lights and speed bumps, generally slowing everyone down then raise loot by claiming to be 'reducing congestion' then so can I! Rest assured, I will use every penny of the money raised for 'green' issues and projects. Indeed, I have immediate plans to dig up a crappy old patio in my garden and replace with turf – you can't get greener than that! These plans will of course be subject to the approval of the relevant focus group (aka Donna) and I will arrange several out of town meetings with the focus group, probably in an expensive hotel in Europe, where such important decisions tend to be made these days, having flown there first class of course.

I am sure that you will appreciate the need for such measures to be introduced and look forward to receiving your payments which should be in cash lest I declare them to Mr Darling...

Whilst I'm keen to exploit the green issue, I am equally keen to avoid having to pay increased costs that have little bearing on actually doing anything to benefit the environment. The only way I think that this can be achieved is by moving to a mud hut (subject to an exhaustive planning process of course), wearing hemp sandals and eating leaves and berries. This isn't entirely attractive, so instead I think I shall continue to 'do my bit' and, for example recycle where possible – the ultimate example must be by continuing to use an old car, and live my life guilt free, and I encourage you to all do the same. With this in mind, fire up those Jensens and head out to the beautiful looking Peterstone Court (<http://www.peterstone-court.com/>) near Brecon on the 13th April which is the venue for the next meet being organised by Bodfan and Bev to welcome Richard and Pam 'home'. This really does look like the meet could be something special (aren't they all?) and should not be missed.

As always, it is extremely helpful if numbers are known in advance so please let either Bodfan, myself or Ed know. As always, we aim to meet at around 12.00 and the warmest of welcomes goes out to all those in the area (and beyond) and we particularly look forward to meeting those who are new to the club.

The week after sees the Spring Break near Gloucester and of course is also the FHBVC's 'Drive it Day', so no excuses for not using those Jensens. Stuart Powell has organised a local South Wales event – for further details, please speak to any of your local contacts or liaise directly with Stuart.

Until then...happy guilt free motoring.

Rich.

Your Area Contacts are:

Area Rep - Ed Pillinger (01873) 840446

Newsletter Editor – Richard Streeter (07717) 674670 rdstreeter@btinternet.com