



## Press Release – January, 2017

### Jaguar XK Club 2017 ROUND BRITAIN COASTAL DRIVE, supporting Prostate Cancer UK

**“Jaguar XK Club 2017 ROUND BRITAIN COASTAL DRIVE, supporting Prostate Cancer UK”**

**Unique 18-day event - June 12 – 29**

**Entries now open**

**Drive the entire coastal roads of Great Britain – 3,500 miles**

**Sample the best of England, Wales and Scotland**

**Superb driving, fabulous scenery**

**Run in 2016 for Jaguar E-types - brilliant success**

**The turn of Jaguar's iconic '50's sports cars in 2017**

**Entrants can do one day, five days, all 18 or whatever suits**

**Raising awareness of this killer cancer**

**And aiming to raise £50,000+**

Entries are now open for this year's running of the unique Road Britain Coastal Drive for classic Jaguar XKs. The aim is have over 150 XKs taking part, whether participants do just one day or the whole amazing trip.

First run last year when over 200 Jaguar E-types took part, the event achieved its twin aims of raising awareness and funds.

The event was the brainchild of author Philip Porter, who drove, a few months after recovering from prostate cancer, the entire route in his E-type which featured in the film *The Italian Job*. Philip founded the International Jaguar XK Club 20 years ago.

'The drive was absolutely superb,' says Porter, 'and all the publicity did a great job raising awareness of prostate cancer which kills a man every hour in the UK. The forerunners of the E-type were the equally brilliant XK 120s, XK 140s and XK 150s of the '50s.

'They were the cars that put Jaguar on the worldwide map. Beloved of Hollywood stars and highly successful in racing and rallying, they led Britain's 'Export or Die' campaign to earn vital dollars in the dark days after WW2. Now they are going to do a great job leading the fight against this cancer which affects one in eight men.'

The 2016 event was hailed a tremendous success by every single one of the 200-plus participants with many saying they will do more days next time (2018) and a number swearing they will do the lot! Some are even buying XKs so they can take part this year.

With over £60,000 raised against a target of £50,000, the RBCD (as it is now known) was a

wonderful team effort with a fabulous spirit of camaraderie. 'Our crews, our sponsors, our VIPs, my hard-working colleagues and the media all pulled together,' states Porter. 'It was very moving but also tremendous fun. The driving, especially in Scotland where it was out of this world, was brilliant and it was great to use the cars, which we are fortunate to own, in this constructive way. Everyone wins.'

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To our friends in the media, please give this event as much ongoing publicity as you can. It is such an important cause and vital to raise awareness. Men need to get checked. Catching prostate cancer early is crucial. THANK YOU.

**For more information and photographs, please contact:**

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**The International XK Club** – formed in 1997 by motoring author and publisher Philip Porter and his wife Julie, the Club has members in over 50 countries and an exceptional magazine. With the emphasis on driving, the Club's mantra is: no concours, no committees and no politics!

**Philip Porter** – the award-winning author, he has written 30 books on motoring (around a dozen on Jaguars) and motor racing, including four with Sir Stirling Moss, one with Murray Walker and one with Martin Brundle. In 2005, he formed Porter Press which is now one of the world's leading motoring publishers. He has owned his XKs for 44 years. He is Prostate Cancer UK's Motoring Ambassador.

### **Jaguar XK Facts**

The XK 120 was launched in 1948 at the Earl's Court Motor Show and stole the Show

The name was based on the 120mph top speed and it was the fastest production car in the world

The XK 120 offered racing car performance on the road and had a futuristic body design of great beauty

XK 120s were owned by Clark Gable, Gary Cooper, Humphrey Bogart and Tyrone Power

The XK 120 won its first race and countless races in the States

The XK 120 helped Jaguar become Europe's leading dollar earner until overtaken by VW

The XK 120 won international rallies and was used for record-breaking by Stirling Moss who had one as his road car

The XK 120 was offered in three forms: Roadster (officially known as the Open Two-Seater Super Sports), the Fixed Head Coupé and the Drop Head Coupé (convertible). The XK 140 succeeded the 120 in 1954 and XK 150 was introduced in 1957. They were also offered in three versions.

Some 60% of XKs were exported

The XK 120C (aka the C-type) was closely based on the XK 120 and won the Le Mans 24-Hour Race in 1951 and 1953.

The amazingly versatile XK engine powered the Le Mans-winning C-types and D-types, the compact and luxury saloons of the '50s, fire engines, armoured vehicles, record-breaking power boats, the iconic '60s E-types and silent executive saloons in the '70s.

### **Celebrity Quotes from 2016**

'If, like me, you're a man who thrills at the prospect of handsome E-type Jaguars from all over the world making a historic round Britain trip, then please pause and consider the purpose of this extraordinary event. It's to remind us to be aware of, and get checked for, prostate cancer. Please allow your thoughts to return to the beautiful motor cars on their great mission. A talented and

modest man, who brilliantly runs our Club, with his team, has provided all with a way to do some good with our cars - Philip Porter.

'From a lifelong Jaguar fan, whose life will hopefully be a bit longer because of prostate cancer awareness.' **Jools Holland**

'Though this is not a race, it sounds to me like a great event. I wish Philip Porter and the other crews a really enjoyable drive. May they be blessed with much publicity for this important cause. Go, Go, Go!' **Murray Walker**

'What a fantastic adventure Philip Porter and the *E-Type Club* have embarked on, a round Britain coastal drive and all for Prostate Cancer UK. I wish all the drivers and their beautiful machines the very best of luck. I can only imagine the wonderful sight of that many cats together with that marvellous growl. I know you will raise a lot of money for this wonderful cause, and for that we should all thank you.' **Brian Johnson**

'As a Jaguar E-type owner I am delighted to be a Supporter of this unique event for a very good cause.' **Martin Brundle**