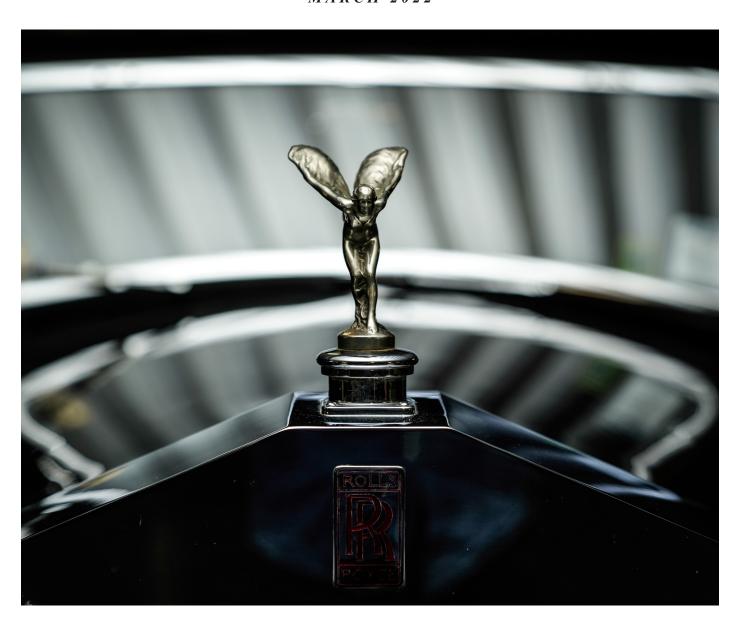


#### MARCH 2022

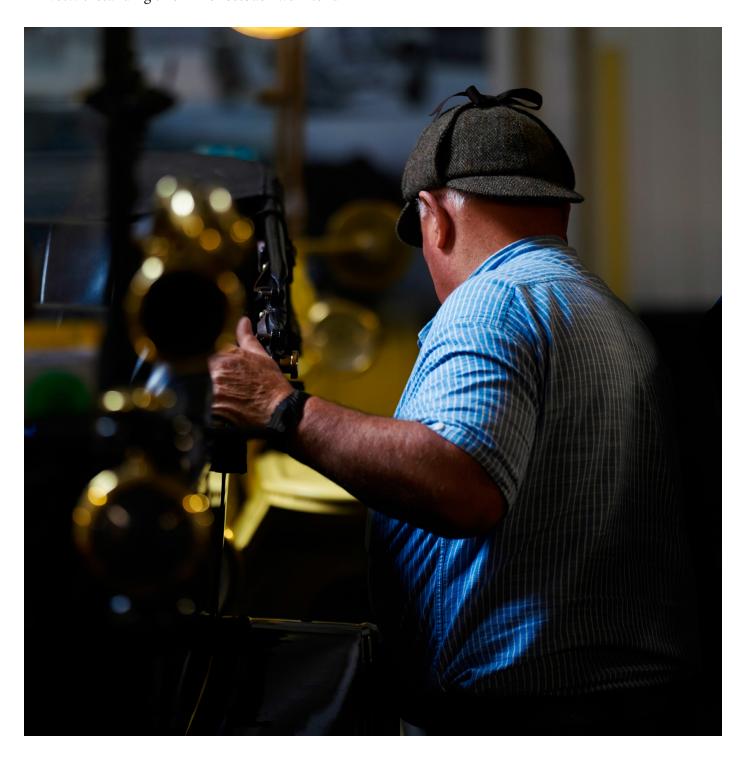


Welcome to the first RIAC Archive Bulletin for 2022 when we sincerely hope that the interruptions and restrictions of the past two years are behind us. Many of you will have suffered far more from the effects of the pandemic than the loss of some idiosyncratic motoring activities. For this we can only offer our sincere sympathy and hope that the arrival of spring will bring positivity and light to what at times may have seemed a period of endless suffering for so many.

# **AUTUMN TALK**

You will recall that in our edition of October last we suggested that it may be possible to organise one of our talks in the RIAC in springtime this year. However, due to the uncertainty relating to Covid-19 and the late removal of restrictions in January it has not proved possible to deliver on this plan. Notwithstanding this minor setback we intend

to plough ahead with an exciting guest speaker in the autumn. We will announce the date once we have everything in place to make it happen. We anticipate demand for tickets will exceed the capacity of the venue so it is important that you renew your membership of the Archive in order to stay in contact. It costs just €50!



# RIAC PICNIC IN THE PARK





Many of you will have made an online contribution to the "virtual" Picnic in the Park held over the last two years. This did not come close to replicating the atmosphere and bonhomie that exists during our annual visit to Marlay Park. Nonetheless, it did raise some much-needed funds for LauraLynn (sic) under the watchful eye of committee member Peter

Cosgrave. With Peter still at the controls for 2022 we look forward to the real thing in 2022. One small change is that the event moves from the traditional Wednesday date to Thursday and the date to note is 21st July. We have yet to select a featured marque, but news on this will issue shortly.

# CARS & COFFEE

We have planned a new series of dates for our popular Cars & Coffee events for 2022 (see list elsewhere in this bulletin). The first event kicks off on Sunday April 24th from 10am to 12 noon when Lancia cars will be the featured marque. It is of course purely a coincidence that one of our number actually owns and runs two of these historic cars. The great history of Lancia from its standalone existence until it was ultimately taken over by FIAT in 1969 will be familiar to many of you, including their history in motor sport. It is a little known fact that despite not competing in the World Rally Championships since 1992,

Lancia still holds more Manufacturer titles than any other brand (source Wikipedia). And who can forget the great cars from this period including the glorious sounding Stratos and the supreme rally machine that was the Delta Integrale. This writer had the great good fortune during the 70's to witness Billy Coleman competing in Galway in the Chequered Flag supported Stratos in conditions that were more akin to the Monte Carlo Rally than the west of Ireland! The memory - and in particular the sound - lives on to this day.





# RIAC PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2022

#### Sunday 24th April

Cars & Coffee at the RIAC
From 10am to 12 noon each day. At
each Cars & Coffee event Coffee/
Tea & Pastries will be available at
€5 per person

### Sunday 29th May

Cars & Coffee at the RIAC

#### Sunday 26th June

Cars & Coffee at the RIAC

### Thursday 21st July

RIAC Picnic-in-the-Park, in Marlay Park. From 4pm to 7.30pm.

#### Sunday 31st July

Cars & Coffee at the RIAC

#### Saturday 20th August

RIAC Classic & Sports Car Run

## Sunday 28th August

Cars & Coffee in the RIAC

## Saturday & Sunday 3rd/4th September

RIAC Pioneer Run This event will be based in Moyvalley.

#### Sunday 25th September

Cars & Coffee in the RIAC

## Sunday 30th October

Cars & Coffee at the RIAC

### Tuesday 6th December

Friends of the Archive Lunch in the RIAC

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Despite all the rigmarole surrounding the pandemic, the annual Christmas lunch did take place on 7th December. A maximum of 52 attended, as permitted by the social distancing regulations. A highlight of the occasion was the awarding to, and presentation of, the Dudley Reynolds Trophy to Bob Montgomery. Bob has been largely responsible for the maintenance and operation of the archive facility at the RIAC over a long number of years, ably assisted by Robin McCullagh and Richard Warbrick. Alongside his many publications on motoring and motorsport. Bob also contributed to the Irish Times on a series highlighting the Great Driving Roads of Ireland.

As if this were not enough Bob also managed to fit in the creation of the RIAC Classic Car Show which took place at the RDS. Sadly it was not possible to maintain the bi-annual show due to the costs involved, but no one who attended or exhibited were in any doubt as to its quality. Of course, Bob would never agree that such an award should be presented to him. Thankfully, there are those who think differently and a more fitting recipient one could hardly think of such has been his contribution to the stated purpose of this award. For the record, the Dudley Reynolds Trophy is presented from time to time to those who have made a significant contribution to motoring and motoring

journalism over many years.

A further highlight of the occasion was the announcement of a new award, the Cecil Sparks Memorial Trophy, which celebrated the links between all sides of this island in the close knit world of Irish motorsport. Cecil was a brilliant advocate of these links and was seldom happier than when spending a day out with friends and family at the 500 Motor Racing Club of Ireland events at Kirkistown. The presentation of this important new award was made by Cecil's son Nicky to a stalwart of the 500 club and Kirkistown, Richard Young. From his involvement with Kirkistown and his reporting on motor sport events which he continues to this day - Richard is best known in this neck of the woods as a hillclimb competitor of some repute. His exploits throughout the country in a singleseater racing car with the oddly named title of "Cougar" are the stuff of legend. This particular beast was fitted with a V8 engine which Richard guided to a hat trick of Irish championship wins in 1989, 1990 and 1996. We all wish Cecil was here with us, but we have no doubt he would be absolutely thrilled to have his name associated with such a presentation to someone with whom he shared many happy times. Our sincere thanks to the Sparks family for their very kind initiative and thoughtfulness in creating this award which we are honoured to be associated with.





#### PHOTO CREDITS

Photos provided courtesy of:
Sam Burgess
Alex Sinclair Jr.
RIAC Archive

#### WHO ARE WE?

The RIAC Motoring sub-Committee consists of nine members listed below, all of whom act in a voluntary capacity:
Robin McCullagh (Chair)
Arthur Collier (ex officio)
Richard Warbrick
John Larkin
Jonathan Bewley
Peter Cosgrave

Dermott Quigley Alex Sinclair

Larry Armstrong

All can be contacted through the RIAC office at 01 6775141 or by emailing info@riac.ie



## MEMBERSHIP

Please do renew your membership of the Archive (or indeed introduce new members). The person to contact is Holly at 01 677 5141 who will be only too pleased to relieve you of the paltry sum of €50!