

Crossley Register: statement of aims, services and organisation

Brief history

The Crossley Register has over the years, been indebted to the actions and responsibilities of a number of individuals. In the early 1960s, Geoff Lee and John Constable worked at AEC when Arthur Fogg, a director of AEC, acquired archive material from Crossley Motors to be used for the benefit of Crossley owners. Subsequently Colin Thomas took over responsibility. In the early 1970s, Geoff Lee took it back and with the assistance of Nick Sloan, gathered information to form the first register of cars and owners. Peter Caunt, then in Manchester, was energetic in corresponding with owners. Geoff found it impossible to be expert in every model and Bob Fleet took over the material for the Climax engined cars which then passed to Godfrey and Geoffrey Harvey and finally to Martin Sims.

In the 1980s Malcolm Jenner and Malcolm Hatfield gradually took over the archives and information from Geoff and the Register in its current form published its first Newsletter in April 1985. Since that time the number of well restored Crossley vehicles to be seen on the road and the visibility of the marque has increased dramatically. Archive material includes comprehensive press cuttings books from before the First World War to the beginning of the Second; large numbers of high-quality photographs of newly built vehicles; a good number of original factory blueprints and engineering drawings. Unfortunately factory records concerning production and production numbers and employee records have not survived.

Register objectives; what we are here for

- To promote the accurate and balanced reporting of the historical record and the reputation of Crossley Motors and their products.
- To build and maintain registers and details of surviving Crossley vehicles.
- To make available a website to the general public giving information about Crossley Motors and their vehicles.
- To support members in ownership, proper running and historical accuracy.
- To encourage the use of cars and interaction between members.
- To maintain a relevant archive of information useful to members and as a historical record.
- Whilst having interest in all aspects of Crossley Motors products, due to the absence of any significant archive material covering the military commercial and PSV models, the focus is primarily upon cars.

Organisation: how we operate

The Register started on a small and informal basis and developed as a result of input from a relatively few committed individuals. The informality and flexibility of how we have always operated has been commented on positively by many and is something which we prize. It is not a 'car club'; we choose not to structure ourselves with formal roles.

Our approach has been to ask people who are knowledgeable, able and willing to contribute to take responsibility for things to be done; these are the people on the Register letterhead. We all welcome open discussion, questions and comments from members which can be communicated to all via the newsletter.

What we do: services for members

- Membership is a subscription to the newsletter. This is currently of over 50 pages in full colour and is produced three times a year.
- A website covering Crossley Motors' history, the various models and a large number of photographs is regularly updated and generates a good number of visits and questions.
- An annual rally of 2 to 3 days is organised by volunteer members in a part of the UK providing interesting driving and opportunities for members to meet. Our rallies have a reputation of being sociable and members' partners are especially welcome.
- The Crossley Register is a member of the Inter-Register Club, and organises an annual meeting in North Yorkshire along with members and cars from other participating clubs. We also are subscribers to the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs. [FBHVC]
- The letterhead and the Newsletter indicate individuals who have specific responsibility as a source of information for individual models in which they have particular experience and interest. A technical book is available for the 14hp and 18/50, 20.9, and Golden models which contains copies of archive material and notes and experiences and articles from members.
- As custodians of the Crossley Motors papers, we take the task seriously and have preserved and expanded the collection over the years. The safekeeping of this information and its availability to Crossley owners is paramount. This archive material is retained for the benefit of members either by inspection, photocopying and as a source of content for the newsletter.
- The Crossley Register is also the official signatory body for the DVLA for the authentication of original registration numbers. We seek to sustain a position where we are known as the custodians and source of accurate information about Crossley cars.

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