

JECSOFA - PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2023 AGM

Welcome everyone to our 2023 AGM and thank you all for making the effort to be here today.

It is with sadness that I have to start my report by informing you of the recent death of one of our Founder Members, John Hill from prostate cancer. He was very active in the Club until his return to Scotland a few years ago and was made a Life Member following his donation of the large gazebo which we use at our annual charity barbecue. He was a good friend to me personally and helped me on many occasions with mechanical advice. Those of us who knew him will miss him and his dry sense of humour very much.

There have been a few changes since our last AGM. Our Treasurer and our Webmaster, Mary and Mike Hurst moved back to the UK and their places have been taken by John Sharp and Tim Sankey. Our thanks go to all four of them for their past and future contributions. Sharpie has made an enthusiastic start as Treasurer, Tim has improved and expanded our website and our new committee member, Régis di Giulio is helping us to try and attract more French members to the Club.

We had a successful start to our events calendar earlier this month, with a very interesting visit to the Château de Dampierre organised by the Northern Region. But today marks the start of our main programme of outings and our next event is the wine-tasting and coastal tour of the Médoc at the beginning of May, organised by Régis. All up-to-date details of our plans for the year can be found on our website, so please do check it from time to time. You can also see a geographical spread of where our members live and follow reports from events as they take place. If you have any specific questions about what we are up to this year though, please feel free to have a chat with me or any of our committee members today. I have here a copy of our calendar both in English and in French if anyone wishes to see it.

Our grateful thanks go to Alan and Jackie Barnes for hosting last year's charity barbecue, which was a great success, raising 1350€ for the Jardins ouverts charity in aid of seriously ill or handicapped children.

A date for your diaries – on Sunday 27th August this year's charity barbecue will be hosted by Annie and I at our home and the proceeds will go to prostate cancer charities in the UK and France. The donations will be dedicated to Graham Searle, a Founder member of the JEC in the UK, and to John Hill (of whom I have already spoken) both of whom recently died from this disease. I was also diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2020 and two friends are currently undergoing treatment. We

have all been fortunate enough to survive but it makes this year's appeal very personal for me. Our club is not a charity and I don't want to put pressure on anyone, but if you are not going to be at the barbecue in August and would like to make a donation, please do come and see me and I shall happily relieve you of some cash!

A great big thank you to John McLennan and John Sharp who do a huge amount of work for the Club, and to Tim Sankey and all our committee members, and event organisers. We are always looking for new ideas for outings, so if you have anything to contribute, please do come and talk to us.

Thank you to you, the members, for coming along today I very much hope to see you all again at one or more of our outings this year and would like to thank you for your continued support. Without you, there would be no Club.

And finally, thank you to Annie for putting up with my love of Jags and coming along so often to listen to us old farts talk endlessly about cars!

Chris Park.

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