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Octane

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ON TRACK IN JAGUAR E2A
E-TYPE: WHY IT'S STILL BEST
THE SALOONS WE LOVE**



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BENTLEY MULSANNE & 8 LITRE • GO RACING FOR £1000
CHEETAH: 200MPH COBRA-BEATER • NEW MORGAN

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'I bought my first XKE 20 years ago in Rhode Island,' recalls Bronx-based bodyshop owner Mike Trinagel. 'I got addicted to the performance and handling; it was just so effortless on the highway and in the curves, no matter how fast you went into them. So I went on a shopping spree. I re-invested all my profits in cars as investments for my twin daughters – they're safer than stock and you can take them out and play with them. I bought a 150-acre farm in the mountains to keep them. Unlike other investments, you can look at them, touch them, smell them. I dreamed of restoring them one by one in my retirement and building a kind of museum like a living room, with cars instead of furniture.'

'But nine years ago my business started to be hit by illegal activity by insurance companies, steering business to their approved bodyshops which cut

E-TYPE TREASURE TROVE UNVEILED DISCOVERIES

Private collection of a dozen E-types, plus other Jaguars, emerges from long hiding in New York

corners and pay below the minimum wage to get approval. I was losing good customers and started a fight for my rights with the politicians, but the media don't want to report my problem because the insurance companies are such big advertisers.

'I lost a fortune and, though my business is now profitable again, I need to realise those investments to pay for my daughters to go through college. I'm

keeping that first XKE and my US muscle cars, but I want to sell the other 12 XKEs as one lot. I'm asking \$200,000: that's what they're worth. They are all good restoration projects and a great investment for someone with vision.

'I'll throw in an Austin-Healey 3000, an MG Midget and a BGT as well. I'm selling a lot of other cars, too: three MkIX Jaguars, an XK150, a Triumph GT6, a '57 Ford Thunderbird and more. I'd even sell my business if someone would like to take it on – my heart's gone out of it now.'

The E-types, dating from 1961 to '74, comprise three S1 coupés, an S1½ coupé and 2+2, two S2 roadsters and two 2+2s, a V12 Coupé and two roadsters. Call Mike on +1 718 652 3383 or email via www.personaltouchautobodyny.com.

Malcolm McKay

SILVERSTONE CLASSIC F1'S 60TH CELEBRATED

Historic race meeting marks six decades of top-line racing

The 2010 Silverstone Classic promises to be the best ever, with yet more racing, classic cars and live music. And to mark the 60th anniversary of the first Formula 1 race, which was held at Silverstone, one of the winning Alfa Romeo 158s from that first race will make a return.

The 1950 race, staged in front of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, was a clean sweep for the works 158s, which took first, second and third in the hands of Giuseppe Farina, Luigi Fagioli and British racer Reg Parnell.

The rare Alfa of Carlos Vogele (below, pictured alongside a 2008 Red Bull) is expected to race in the Pre '61 events from the Historic Grand Prix Car Association. It is thought to be the chassis that Juan-Manuel Fangio raced at Silverstone in 1950 and is the only car to escape from factory ownership.

The event takes place on 23-25 July. More at www.silverstoneclassic.com.



In brief...

■ Classic Adelaide

In a major blow to the South Australian historic motor sport scene, director of the Classic Adelaide Rally, Ivar Stanelis, has announced the closure of the Classic Adelaide organisation's offices. TV reports in Australia have confirmed that entrants who have paid deposits face losing their money.

■ Norton delivers

The rebirth of Norton continues apace with the first delivery of a Norton Commando since 1977. After bringing the brand back to Britain in late 2008, Stuart Garner and the team at Norton have been developing the new 961SE. More information at www.nortonmotorcycles.com.



■ Dewis' D-type

Fine Sports Cars has commissioned a run of 10 D-type continuation cars. These honour the legendary service to motor sport of Norman Dewis (above) and his contribution to the development of Jaguar's most famous sports racing cars. www.finesportscars.com for more details.

■ Bonhams in Dubai

The auction firm has announced an addition for its 2010 calendar. The Collectors' Motor Cars sale at the Royal Mirage Hotel in Dubai will be held during the company's busy

October series of sales. More details released soon. www.bonhams.com/dubai.

■ London to Brighton

The demand for entry in the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run has reached an all-time high, with the organisers raising the number of competitors to 550 pre-1905 veteran cars six months before the event on Sunday 7 November. More at www.lbvcr.com.

■ Alfa Romeo mosaic

As part of its 100-year celebrations, Alfa Romeo is asking Alfisti to contribute to a unique work of art. They are invited to send in Alfa pictures to be added to a mosaic to be unveiled later in 2010. To upload images, visit www.alfacentenary.co.uk.