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INDUSTRY PLEA TO 'GEN Z' TEENS

Trade body offers incentive for youngsters

The Historic & Classic Vehicles Alliance is now offering free membership to anyone under the age of 21 as part of its efforts to welcome the next generation into old-car ownership – as well as promoting apprenticeships and training schemes to safeguard the future of the industry.

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LOW-MILES ZODIAC

A restored Ford Zodiac Mk3 that's covered just 25,000 miles and comes with a packed history file is about to go under the hammer – with no reserve

More on page 4

MAESTRO & MONTEGO

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'Preserve our industry' plea to youngsters

HCVA offers incentive to young enthusiasts to help safeguard the future of UK's classic vehicle scene



Garry Wilson, CEO of the Historic & Classic Vehicles Alliance

Free membership of the Historic & Classic Vehicles Alliance (HCVA) is being offered to all enthusiasts under the age of 21 as part of its efforts to welcome the next generation into old-car ownership. The organisation hopes to safeguard the future of the classic vehicle movement

by encouraging Generation Z – those born from the late 1990s to the early 2010s – to get involved, according to Garry Wilson, chief executive officer of the HCVA.

"There's a new generation that we need to be bringing into the classic and vintage vehicle movement," said Garry in an interview for

CCB. "This is a generation of socially and environmentally aware young people, and so encouraging them not only to consider owning a classic car but to even look at working within the industry can only be good for the movement as a whole."

The HCVA was established in May 2021 to

represent the classic car industry and to campaign on its behalf, with a growing list of trade members representing all aspects of classic vehicles – from specialists and dealers through to insurance and restoration companies. It also offers individual membership, however, to any enthusiast who wishes to support the classic car industry, with anyone over 21 paying £48 including VAT per year.

"We're here to provide a strong voice for everyone

with an interest in protecting the future of classic and historic vehicles," explained Garry Wilson, "but the only way we can guarantee a long-term future for the industry is to encourage the next generation. That's why the HCVA has decided to offer free membership to under-21s, as the sooner they get involved the better it is for all of us and for the future of our industry and the vehicles."

The cancellation of membership fees for anyone under 21 is already paying off, with the HCVA attracting extra interest from youngsters who either own or aspire to own a classic vehicle, as well as those considering a career in the classic vehicle industry.

The HCVA has been working with other organisations aimed at the next generation, including the Heritage Skills Academy, said Garry Wilson: "We want to introduce more companies to the HSA, which does amazing work helping them to recruit and train future engineers. And we're also encouraging the efforts of Starter Motor, an organisation that gets youngsters driving and experiencing a wide range of older vehicles to help them catch the classic car bug."

The HCVA's push for young members is bringing positive results, confirmed

Garry: "Our purpose is to protect the future of the past, which means showing young people how owning a classic car can be an enjoyable and even sustainable activity. There are also some great career opportunities thanks to the apprenticeships and training that are available."

Unless youngsters know about the opportunities, however, the industry will miss out on future talent, and so Garry Wilson is appealing to older enthusiasts with Generation Z family members to highlight the HCVA's offer: "Free membership for under-21s is such a great deal, as they can really start to get involved and help to shape the future of our industry. But unless they're aware of the offer, they won't get to benefit. It's so important that the rest of us promote what's out there for young folk. Without them coming on board, the industry will suffer."

During its first nine months, the HCVA has attracted major support from trade members, enabling it to lobby on behalf of the industry and to help individuals with registration and import issues, as well as working hard to promote the sustainability of classic vehicle ownership. To find out more or to join, visit hcva.co.uk.

Trainees' Mini project

Apprentices from the Brooklands-based Heritage Skills Academy have been busy restoring a classic Mini in recent weeks, with project supporter British Motor Heritage treating

the trainees to a tour of its Witney factory and helping with the jiggging of the new panels. The entire project has been filmed by Middlechild TV and will be aired on the Yesterday Channel as part of the current series of Secrets

of the Transport Museum.

Based within the Brooklands Museum, the Heritage Skills Academy operates a 42-month block release apprenticeship in the traditional skills required by the classic car industry. The Mini currently undergoing restoration belongs to businessman Rob Pike, who couldn't afford a Mk1 Mini Cooper at the age of 18 and so bought a new Mk5 Mini instead. Thirty-two years later, his down-at-heel Mini is not only being restored but also converted to Mk1 Cooper spec.

Further details of the apprenticeships offered by the HSA can be found at heritageskillsacademy.co.uk.



The HCVA aims to encourage the next generation of owners