



PRESS RELEASE

23rd September 2020

For immediate release

Announcement of changes to the Association of Rootes Car Clubs

With effect from the 1st December 2020 the Association of Rootes Car Clubs, having achieved its key objective of preserving the Rootes Archives, will be dissolved and the collective Rootes community will then become part of the Rootes Archive Centre Trust.

The attached statement explains the rationale and signposts the future for the Rootes community.

Starts:

When the Association of Rootes Car Clubs (ARCC) was formed in October 1982 three of the key objectives set were:

1. To represent the interests of and encourage co-operation between the various Rootes Car Clubs.
2. To assist in the maintenance and preservation of Rootes Archives
3. To co-operate with spare parts availability across the Rootes ranges

Since 1982 the ARCC committees have worked tirelessly on these objectives and made the Association one of the foremost organisations in the classic car world and the envy of many.

One of their major achievements was in 2002 when Peugeot offered the ARCC the contents of the old Rootes engineering department comprising of 300,000+ original engineering drawings and through the quick reactions of the committee these historical and very useful documents were put into a place of safety.

The ARCC formed a charitable Trust in 2004 (The Rootes Archive Centre Trust) and for the last 16 years have worked to preserve and protect the history of the Rootes Group by funding a rented Archive building initially in Wescott Park near Aylesbury and then in Banbury.

The decision was taken in 2015 to fundraise to buy a freehold Archive building and since then the ARCC have worked with the Trust to raise the funds to repay the £181,500 loans the Rootes community provided to buy a building at Wroxton near Banbury.

By early 2021, the building loans will have been fully repaid and the ARCC will have realised its vision of preserving the Rootes Archives for generations to come in a freehold building owned outright by the Rootes Archive Centre Trust.

Having achieved so much since 1982 the time is now right for the ARCC to hand over the baton to the Rootes Archive Centre Trust to work with all the Rootes Clubs and through that single organisation make the Archive Centre at Wroxton the focal point of everything Rootes thereby ensuring the great automotive history of the Rootes group is preserved for generations to come.

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Registered Charity: 1108882



Current ARCC Chairman James Spencer said “the ARCC can be understandably proud of what they have achieved and the vision and hard work of ARCC committees over the last 38 years has enabled us to get where we are today with our own Archive building. The ARCC, on behalf of the Rootes clubs, will be making a final donation to RACT to assist in the repayment of the building loans. We also shouldn't forget some of the great events organised over the years at Blenheim and the NEC and overall, it's a fantastic achievement”

The Rootes Archive Centre Trust will continue to be totally engaged with the clubs and their members through an enlarged Friends supporter programme and have plans to take the preservation of the Rootes history to the next level.

Rootes Archive Trustee Andy Bye said “The ARCC has done an incredible job in preserving the Rootes history for all these years but now we have a well-established Archive Centre it makes sense to consolidate all our focus and efforts through just this one organisation. We really want to engage and involve both the clubs and their members to make the preservation of the Rootes history beneficial and available to everyone.”

Ends:

For all media enquiries regarding either the Association of Rootes Car Clubs or the Rootes Archive Centre Trust, please contact:

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Editor's notes

1. The Association of Rootes Car Clubs was formed on 10th October 1982 with the aims of representing the interests of and encouraging co-operation between the 12 Rootes Car Clubs.
2. The Rootes Archive Centre Trust is a charity based in Wroxton, Oxfordshire whose objectives are the preserving, protecting, and promoting of original material and artefacts of interest from the Rootes Group vehicle manufacturer, its associated and successor companies.

Photographs

The “copyright free” photographs supplied are:

New Archive Centre	this is a front shot of the New Archive located at Wroxton near Banbury
ARCC Competitions	this is an ARCC stand at the NEC Classic Car Show to celebrate the history of Rootes motorsport

If additional photographs are required, please contact Andy Bye