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Classic celebration

Tickets are now on sale for the 2013 Silverstone Classic powered by the AA. Firmly established as the world's biggest classic motor racing festival, this year's Silverstone Classic will be staged at the world famous Silverstone Grand Prix circuit from Friday 26th to Sunday 28th July.

Building on the record-breaking successes of recent events, this summer's Silverstone Classic will feature unrivalled racing grids featuring the full spectrum of classic motor sport, an exceptional line-up of classic car displays and parades, an amazing array of interactive family entertainment plus outstanding live music from renowned classic rock bands in the evenings.

Sticking to the event's hugely popular and widely acclaimed 'access all areas' policy, tickets will include free entrance to all racing paddocks, trackside grandstands and all live music concerts. For 2013, the event will be advance ticket only with no tickets available on the gate.

Following world record celebrations for the E-type Jaguar's golden anniversary in 2011 and then 25 years of the Ferrari F40 in 2012, the 2013 Silverstone Classic is already gearing up to honour some equally evocative automotive landmarks. Porsche is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its iconic 911 model with a planned parade of 911 cars on track. Aston Martin will be there in force to celebrate the centenary of its marque and Lamborghini celebrates its 50th anniversary.

► www.silverstoneclassic.com



Going the distance

Porsche is to field two new GT race cars for the 2013 racing season. Based on the new 'Type 991' generation of the Porsche 911, they will compete in the Le Mans 24 hours race and in the World Endurance Championship (WEC). This is the first time since taking overall victory in 1998, that a factory team from Porsche will tackle the world famous long distance motor race in France.

The two new Porsche 911 RSR race cars, which will contest the GTE category, will be run by Porsche AG Team Manthey. Team manager will be the experienced specialist in endurance motor sport, Olaf Manthey, who has celebrated five overall wins with Porsche at the Nürburgring 24 hours race and recently ran a 911 GT3 RSR in the International GT Open.

"The new 911 RSR is currently being developed by our engineers and tested by our works drivers," said Hartmut Kristen, head of Porsche Motorsport. "What better time could there be to introduce the new car than in the 50th anniversary year of the Porsche 911."

Pump it up

During the rebuilding of a service station in 1966, Guido Fisogni's attention was taken by a rusty 1930's Satam petrol pump. Instead of throwing it away he took it to back the office to have it repaired by his specialized technician. Knowing the importance of the authenticity and completeness of the piece, he started collecting historical fuel pumps. During 40 years of research, Mr Fisogni gathered 150 different models dating from 1892 until 1981, all in perfect functional condition and shining like new. Among them there is even one, in proud 'Littorio' style, used by Benito Mussolini to refuel his Alfa Romeo.

He also gathered thousands of related objects, each of them showing a petrol company logo: oil cans, grease guns, signs, gadgets, toys, post-cards, projects, and even an old car wash. This historical collection shows clearly the evolution of the design of petrol pumps.

The collection, currently in Milan, also focuses on the history of the brands used by the different petrol companies. An example of the evolution is the addition of a 'detail' to the Mobil Pegasus to make it look like a male animal in order to increase fuel sales in the Arabian countries. In 2001 the museum was awarded with the Guinness World Record for displaying the most complete collection of its kind worldwide. Although the exhibits are not for sale, the museum may consider an offer for a complete acquisition.

