

This is a compilation of emails, [program info](#), and [answers to questions](#) regarding Overseas Rootes Club (via email from Andy Bye, RAC)

This is the original plea:

You will be well aware of the Rootes Archive Centre Trust (RACT) in the UK where we have set up a charity to preserve everything about the Rootes group and all its brands.

We hold 300,000+ original engineering drawings and many other pieces of Rootes information which are now preserved in our Archive building near Banbury in the centre of the UK.

We have recently purchased our own Archive building to ensure the security of the Archive collection for generations to come and this was achieved through the generosity of many clubs and individuals to whom we are very grateful.

As a charity RACT has to fund all its activities and we calculate, once the building is paid for, that our annual running costs will be £4000 all of which has to be raised every year through fundraising.

Within the UK we used to have the Association of Rootes Car Clubs (ARCC) and some of you were associated to it. The decision has now been taken to disband the ARCC because the Association and the RACT's aims were so closely aligned and moving forward all Rootes activities will be operated under the RACT banner.

We are therefore, launching a RACT club supporter programme and I attach details of it. All annual donations will go towards our running costs of preserving the history of Rootes

. If you are the not right person to receive this information we would be very grateful if you could forward it on to your club chair or secretary for their attention.

We really hope that your Club would consider becoming a Club Supporter and look forward to hearing from you once you have had time to consider the programme but don't forget if you have any questions please e-mail me.

Kind regards and stay safe.

Andy

Andy Bye

Trustee

Rootes Archive Centre Trust

Mobile: 07771943988

Registered Charity Number: 1108882

www.rootesarchivecentre.org.uk

www.facebook.com/rootesarchivecentretrust

To make a donation by PayPal to support our work please use this link:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=R36A2FWT8WYGW

ROOTES HERITAGE
CLUB SUPPORTER PROGRAMME 2021
(Clubs based outside the UK)

Club Benefits:

- Creates an identifiable link with the Rootes Archive Centre

- Links you to the history of the Rootes brands

- Shows your support for the Charity & its preservation aims

- Enables the Club to have reasonable access to drawings and Rootes information held by

RACT

- Updates on events held at the Archive Centre

- Opportunity to utilise PR support from the Trust

- The Trust will act as the single voice of Rootes clubs when required**

- Access to Rootes Gazette stories for club magazines

- Opportunity for an Archive Centre "Zoom" presentation to club members about the Centre

Club Supporter Programme Subscription:

For a minimum annual donation, the club can become a Club Supporter of the Rootes Archive Centre (January – December)

For more information contact Andy Bye: andybye@rootesarchivecentre.org.uk

Questions for Web Conference with Andy Bye, Rootes Archive Center

1. Is there a plan to complete the digitization of all the engineering drawings? Will you continue to rely on volunteers? If any our members find themselves in the UK, would they be able to volunteer some time for this effort? Have you considered contracting the digitization of holdings to a commercial company that specializes in such services?

Volunteers continue to do the work. Continued enthusiasm is limited. Finances are not in place to contract with a commercial company

2. Do you have plans for a web presence for the digitized documents? If so, how would access to these be controlled? Would they be publicly available, available via password control to participating clubs? Or on a pay per view basis? Or in some other fashion?

Generally, documents will be provided to clubs upon request, but not to the general public.

- a. We read in a recent Rootes Gazette that the RAC has a substantial holding of repair and parts manuals for the spectrum of Rootes models. Are there plans to digitize these holdings?

yes

- b. What other holdings do you have that might be digitized and made available to individual Rootes owners.

See below

3. We understand that you now have an archivist on your staff. Has a filing system for the Archive's documents been established? If so, can it be published?

A system of archival records has been determined. At this time it has not been started

4. What plans, if any, do you have to improve the RAC Website? The current site contains limited information the individual owner might find useful and the current design is less than conducive for an optimal user experience.

Kerch “volunteered” to discuss updates to the existing site.

5. In your presentation to the PTC you mentioned that the Archive had drawings of the outlines for the various rubber gaskets and seals for the doors, boots and bonnets of the various models. Are these retrievable by model?

To some extent.

6. We know that some clubs have started to re-manufacture some obsolete parts, e.g. the Imp water pump and gears for the Talbot OHV transmission. Has the Archive considered establishing itself as a clearing house for these efforts, for example listing them on your website, so that the wider Rootes community can participate?

This would not be a listing of “preferred” manufacturers, but a list of places to ask questions.

7. Have any of the major Sunbeam parts suppliers in the U.S. or the UK reached out to you for drawings of specific parts? If so, can you elaborate?

This is a liability issue for the RAC and is not being pursued at this time, nor is it likely to be in the future.

8. As the focal point for all things Rootes, what procedures are in place to respond to information requests? I know COVID has interfered with your operations but based on the limited interaction by a few of our members, the experience has been less than ideal.

9. Are there any specific tasks or skills (e.g. information technology consultation) or donations other than money that you need and that we in the participating clubs might provide?

There was some conversation about scanning or locating scanned versions of manuals. This could be done from “away.” Additionally, Andy asked about the existence of some graphic design help. Kerch asked that he send her what he’s looking for and we’ll try to find help.

10. As far as your participating club program is concerned, is your objective to simply develop an income stream to keep the archives afloat or do you have a broader vision of an international confederation of Rootes clubs with the RAC as its headquarters?

RAC sees itself eventually as the world-wide overarching museum for all things Rootes.