

ISETTA GAZETTE



SUMMER EDITION2023

The Isetta Owners Club of Great Britain Ltd.

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Europe	£21.00	
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Editors Bit

It's a sorry state of affairs that with well over 400 members not one of you could be bothered to write a single word to put into the Gazette.

Many of you have told me how much you enjoy reading the gazette but you cannot rely upon others to contribute. You all have stories you could tell and with the amount of spares being sold there should be plenty of restoration projects out there that others would like to read about, so lets hear from you.

If there is insufficient copy for the Autumn gazette I will skip that edition and anything I do get will be passed on until there is enough to fill a reasonable number of pages.

Anyway, that's my gripe over.

I took the 600 out the other day and after about half a mile it started to run badly. I nursed it home and knew it was a fuel problem.

I drained the tank and removed the petrol tap/filter and found it completely clogged with fine rust particles. Now I understand why people use a tank sealer, lesson learnt.



Ian Parris

Chairman's Chat

My wife who is Secretary of the Club has a plan for me. We're on holiday this week so her plan is that we sort out the back garden, more specially clearing the scrap form behind the garage. Then some junk form in the garage can be stored outside thereby making space for my Isetta that's currently in a rented garage to be towed into the garage at home. Then it's handy for me to work on. Oh, and I have a mate who's a coded welder whom I'm sure will make me an A frame to tow the car the half a mile or so home. I notice it's already fitted with towing brackets on the bumper brackets, so no excuses.

Details of the AGM will be published in the next Gazette and will be held on a Sunday in mid-September to mid-October. The committee desperately needs more members, especially the younger element who may inherit our cars as family heirlooms to ensure continuity of the Club. So come on members, get your kids involved.

Jeff Todd

Isetta World

The IoC's Forum on Facebook
[Facebook.com/groups/267159327250111](https://www.facebook.com/groups/267159327250111)



First – the good news. On 12 April 2023, Isetta World's membership grew to exceed 3,000 Members world-wide.

Thank you to all who contributed to passing this milestone.

But now – some sad news ...It was with sadness that on 4 April 2023 I read a posting on Isetta World's Facebook page from Marilyn, the "Isetta Lady" which announced the passing of John Jensen, Author of "Isetta Restoration", aka the "Isetta Bible".



Marilyn wrote "John Jensen 1937-2023 was a worldwide Isetta Ambassador through his travels, helping owners all over the globe by sharing his expertise, Jensen style. He was an incredible friend, artist, photographer and prolific writer. He purchased an Isetta brand new in 1958 and that says a lot."

His obituary said "John Jensen, 1937-2023. It is with sadness that we learn of the passing of John Jensen, US native and

author of the book "Isetta Restoration", a complete guide to car restoration. Jensen was a global ambassador for Isetta, helping owners around the world, sharing his experience with all who seek him. His talents included fine arts, photography, and literature. His texts and reports, contributions he made regularly to the old newspaper "Minutia", were full of grace, delicacy



and humanity. With many regrets, he had to sell and part with his magnificent specimen a few years ago.

My response was “Thank you, Marilyn, for advising us of the sad news. John and I used to exchange postcard notes but I hadn’t heard from him for some time and it is only a few weeks ago that I was asking around if there was any news of him. In writing his book he performed a great service to the World-wide Isetta community and his book is a legacy which will keep his name alive in Isetta circles. Our sympathies and condolences go to his family and loved ones.”

John passed away peacefully in Oakland, California, at the age of 86. Born on January 30, 1937, in Council Bluffs, Iowa, he served as a photographer in the army during the Korean War. Upon returning from military service, he pursued his passion for photography by opening his own photography studio in San Francisco, where he worked for over 20 years. Beyond his career as a photographer, John's insatiable curiosity led him to become an author, writing “Isetta Restoration” to assist others in their passion for these unique vehicles. His love for learning and sharing knowledge was contagious and we are reminded of the countless lives he touched and the impact he had on those around him. John is survived by his son Julian, daughter-in-law Madison, brother Clark and sister Elaine. His wife Rosalyn passed away in 2020. John's ashes are

planned to be spread in the San Francisco Bay in April 2023.



John was raised in Iowa and bought his first Isetta, a brand-new red one, in 1958 at age 21. He registered it with the licence tag “58 BMW”. When he went to Chicago to become an Architecture student he drove it there to be his only transport.

He owned that car until 1962. He wrote *“I traded an Oldsmobile 98 for the smallest car I had ever seen, and it soon became the most enjoyable car I had ever owned. I did all my own work on that first car and took it on several long trips. One from Omaha to Atlanta, nearly 1500 miles, was a five-day adventure. The Isetta performed beautifully. The Isetta always got me there.”*

Later, when drafted into the US Army he drove it from Iowa to Atlanta, Georgia, but reluctantly had to sell it when the Army sent him to Korea to work as a war photographer.

20 years later still, now with a wife Rosalyn and a job as an advertising photographer in San Francisco he saw an Isetta which prompted many happy memories, so he bought his second Isetta, and registered it with the licence plate “58 THMPR”. He wrote...

“I found my second Isetta after I left the Army and it has been great fun to restore. I managed to do almost everything (except specialist machining) using simple tools . Initially I encouraged others with more knowledge than myself to write a book, but was unsuccessful in persuading them. So after a few years decided to do it myself. “



After his retirement, John found he could not keep his Isetta so, with regret, he sold it .

.My initial intention was to feature here all the responses to the sad news but the response was such that there simply isn't enough space in one Gazette, so here is a selection from around The World...

John Wetzel (Isetta John, New Jersey) Sad to hear this. He sent me an autographed copy of his book when I joked that despite him being a photographer there are no photographs in his book.

Eugenio Chiti, Brasil (from the family who produced Romi Isettas) I'm speechless. So sad to hear that. What a true enthusiast and gentleman he was. John was a global ambassador for Isetta, helping owners around the world, His texts and reports and the contributions he made regularly to the old newspaper "Minutia", were full information and enthusiasm. I came to SF in 1995 and he wouldn't let me stay in a hotel, insisting that I stay at his home. We had so much fun and prolific talk. His book is a true bible and his Isetta is so beautifully restored. A great loss.

Remco Ruiter (Holland) John was a legend in the Isetta world. Sorry to see him go. I am happy to have his book. So he will be remembered worldwide.

Ernesto Parodi (Argentina) Bad news, very sorry. I had frequent contact with John 20 years ago when I was restoring my US Export Isetta. His book was an excellent guide.

Achilles Choursoglou (Athens, Greece), Very sad news... I bought his book many years ago, and I consider it as an Isetta Bible

Andrew Lawrence UK RIP. I never met him, but remember his Gazette articles and of course his book, plus the posts on Yahoo.

Jan Bain UK (Former Gazette Editor) Sad to hear the news about John. We met him when we visited San Francisco a good few years ago. He was a lovely chap and on leaving he presented us with a signed copy of his book. He will be missed.
Jan and Neil

Ian Lowther UK I won his book in a raffle at an IOC AGM years ago. It's a great read.

Charles Gould USA So devastated to hear this sad news. John Jensen was a true enthusiast and a resource and wealth of information for Isetta knowledge. I have bought his restoration book at least four times because every time I lent it to someone, I never got it back! Rest in peace, John.

Roelof Seevinck, Pretoria, Sth Africa

Dear John, RIP. Thank you for your great restoration book, for your many postcards and Isetta advice.



Jack Halikias, California John described to me going to college in Chicago in the winter and driving his Isetta thru the notorious south side of Chicago in 6inches of snow.

Marcus Schaffer, USA Yes, I met John at a local car show. I had just purchased my '58 sliding window in '87-'88 and there were 3 Isettias at this car show (me, John, and another guy). After the show we all took our Isettias on a drive. It was my first time seeing more than one Isetta in the same place and it was great fun. John was a great resource and mentor to a 17yr old kid.



Leonardo Correa Luna, Montevideo, Uruguay I am pretty sure he is happy bubbling in heaven. I visited John a few years ago in his lovely home

Manuel Calviño, Argentina What sad news, rest in peace. I remember him from his book and from the defunct Yahoo group where he was very active.

David Brower, (aka “Rimspoke”) JOHN WAS ONE OF MY SECRET CONTACTS WHEN I WAS BUILDING MY ISETTA 700 . I SAVED ALL THE CORRESPONDENCE SO IT WILL BE A GREAT TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE TO GO BACK AND READ THROUGH HIS WIT & WISDOM . (David always writes in upper case)

Alberto Marcellino, Argentina Such sad news. Her book was a great help in the restoration of my Isetta. My respects from Argentina.

Jeff Other, San Francisco Very sad of this news, John is a wonderful gentlemen also a dear friend...

Desmond Altona, Sth Africa I had a Cassells Book of the Isetta which John wanted and he sent me one of his books in return. A fantastic reference for the Isetta.



Mike Ayriss, IOC Used Spares Manager Sad loss to the World of Isetta. We visited John some ten years ago and I have a signed copy of his excellent Workshop manual. RIP, John, you will be missed by us all. (Please also see Mike’s separate article .)



John's book "Isetta Restoration", sub-titled "A guide for Restoring the BMW Isetta 300" is ref ISBN 0-9629963-0-0 , approx A4 size, 202 pages, was first published in 1991, and is currently available at www.lulu.com/shop/john-jensen/isetta-restoration/paperback/product-18922yz.html?q=John+Jensen&page=1&pageSize=4

Terry Parkin, Isetta World,
The Isetta Owners Club Forum
and Daily Digest on Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/267159327250111



John Jenson 1937 – 2023 by Mike Ayriss

We decided to visit my cousin in October 2010 who lived just a half hour drive from John in Kensington, California so it seemed an opportunity not to be missed having corresponded with John over many years. The John Jenson Isetta Restoration is a go to book when answering questions on the clubs Tech helpline as it normally helps confirm what I originally thought.

John lived in Kensington and its hilly so a when we arrived I was thinking this is not the place to own an Isetta however both Helen and myself jumped at the chance of a drive in his red car with its registration plate number “58 THMPR”. Setting off down hill on the suggested route the car drove really nicely but how would it do going back up?

We have driven a lot of Isetta miles in our car but “Thumper” really flew up those hills with Johns special silencer “barking” quite nicely and the engine pulling really well, hills, what hills!

Technical talk ensued of course with both John and myself looking and going over Isetta problem areas especially drive donuts which on a 4 wheel cars car really stressed in operation and can fail quite quickly.

John contacted me many times over the years always replying quickly and I was really concerned when I spotted Thumper was for sale as it meant something was wrong and Isetta ownership was taking a back seat.

I think all owners now and in the future will be thankful for Johns excellent self published book which will continue to help owners throughout the world

Mike Ayriss

April 2023



58 THMPR, Rosalyn, Julian and John

Mike Ayriss and John



Helen Ayriss and John



BMW 600 and BMW 700 Support

There has recently been a forthright discussion around the Club's willingness to support BMW 600 and BMW 700 Members.

The Constitution states:-

"The objectives of the Club shall be: -

a) To promote and encourage the preservation and use of all models of Isetta including the BMW 600 and BMW 700." "

For the BMW 600, in particular, some parts are shared with the Brighton-built Isetta and are therefore available to Members through the New Spares Website

In the distant past, the Club sourced some parts for the BMW 600 and BMW 700, but given the very limited number of these cars known to the Club, these did not sell and were eventually disposed of.

The Committee, given this history, cannot sanction the purchase of expensive BMW 600 and BMW 700 parts, without firm orders.

There is available a small budget for small numbers of cheaper parts, if members would advise us of any ideas for such parts that would be helpful.

With the exit of the UK from the EU, it has become more difficult to import parts, particularly from Germany. We have been asked to assist BMW 600 and BMW 700 members in sourcing and importing parts through our established supply chain.

The IOC is happy to comply with such a request on the following basis: -

a) That anyone wanting such assistance has to be a current paid-up Member of the IOC, as indeed does anyone wanting to buy spares from our Website.

b) The Member has to provide the IOC with supplier details for the part(s) required. The IOC will however assist in finding such suppliers from their limited knowledge of these cars, where it can.

c) The IOC will only purchase such parts against a firm order and payment from a member. The part will then be ordered from the Supplier.

d) Any refund sought because of the wrong part being ordered will be difficult and at the discretion of the Supplier. If the Supplier will not give a refund, neither will the IOC.

e) The IOC will apply its standard mark up and Postage and Packaging charges to the overseas price plus any Import Duty, VAT and Administration charges.

BMW 600 and 700 Members who wish to avail themselves of this service, should in the first instance, contact Mike Ayriss Email michael.ayriss@talktalk.net

To advertise your items for sale or want adds etc. please email the editor at 'isetta@ianparris.com'

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WORDSEARCH

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BUBBLE	OIL	DYNASTART	GEARSTICK
ISETTA	VOLTS	DASHBOARD	CABLE
GAZETTE	TANK	TYRES	HANDBRAKE
MICROCAR	INDICATOR	TICKOVER	TRACKROD
RALLY	SEAT	VALVE	KINGPIN
SPARKPLUG	GEARBOX	GASKET	CYLINDER
CRANKSHAFT	REGULATOR	WHEELS	BALLJOINT

IDENTIFY THE MISSING WORD

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

48th National Micro Car Rally 2023

The NMCR Administrators are delighted to announce that the 2023 NMCR will be organised by Ray Glendinning on behalf of the Micro Maniacs Club and will be based at Woodhouse Farm Holiday Park, Winksley, Ripon, HG43PG, <https://www.woodhousewinksley.com/> Tel 01765 658309. Advanced booking is required.

This venue used in 2022 offers brilliant facilities including, a bar, restaurant, on site shop, exclusive use of club house on Friday and Saturday evening and dedicated camping and show area for our use only.

The event will formally start on Thursday 31 August 2023 through until show day on Sunday 3 September 2023.

Early arrivals and later departures are welcomed.

All rally specific enquires to Ray who is currently working on the road runs and rally planning.

Regular updates will be made on the NMCR website and on the NMCR Facebook page.

Ray can be contacted at: bubblecarray@gmail.com or via messenger at the NMCR FB page

The Club is pleased to welcome:-

Mike Gregory	Houghton	Niall Crawford	Northern Ireland
Bernadette Palombo	Westhampnett	Julian Parker	East Sussex
Don Macleod	Hayes	John Clarke	Clitheroe
Wayne Machan	Wakefield	Dean Allen	Basingstoke
Marcus Bassett	Exmouth	David Roe	West Sussex
Magnus Törnqvist	Sweden	John Giddings	Aberystwyth
Yuki Yamagata	Japan	James Hamlin	Leighton Buzzard
Yu Sun	California	Chad Thomas	Australia
Alex Mutch	Scotland	Richard Thurlow	Nottingham
Neil Gilbody	Warrington		

New Members since the last Gazette

HAGERTY

Drive more

Your vehicle is meant to be enjoyed and we encourage driving. Take a Sunday drive, travel to a car show, have fun! Our policy allows for pleasure with flexible mileage limits up to 5,000 miles per year, 90 days EU coverage, as well as roadside assistance and recovery.

Get what it's worth

Our Agreed Value policy means if a total loss occurs, you get the value that you agreed with us less any excess. Guaranteed.

Talk to experienced car enthusiasts

Our UK- based Client Service Advisors are car enthusiasts through and through. Whether it's making a change on your policy or guiding you through the claims process, we understand the nuances of classic vehicles.

For cars... and whatever else moves you

Think motorcycles, classic tractors, even vehicles under restoration. Your policy will fit your needs and protect what you own.

Fuelling a community of car lovers

Rarely does having a classic vehicle begin and end with simply owning it. We offer lots of opportunity to connect with other car enthusiasts through our events, daily online articles, newsletters, livestreams and video series.

Exclusive discounts for The Isetta Owners Club of Great Britain members

Belong to The Isetta Owners Club of Great Britain? Take advantage of up to 15% off and enjoy multi-vehicle discounts too. Make sure you mention your club member discount code **CCIOC** when you call.*

Call us on **0333 323 1190** or visit our website at www.hagerty.co.uk

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CLASSIC CAR INSURANCE?



THE HARD WAY

- Ring an insurance broker that's not Hagerty. Spend half an hour explaining why your classic isn't just "an old banger".

- Politely decline home, pet and travel insurance. Patiently explain that you only need agreed value classic car insurance. To get off the phone, promise to get a quote for your home "in the near future".

- Go out to the garage, pull off your car's cover, snap several photographs. Email photos but hear back that "the photos are too dark" or "we need six and you only sent five".

- Cough up a £15-50 "certification" fee, on top of your policy premium.

- Wait on hold half an hour while their staff reviews the information. Lose the connection. Ring back, get transferred to three wrong departments. Get put on hold again.

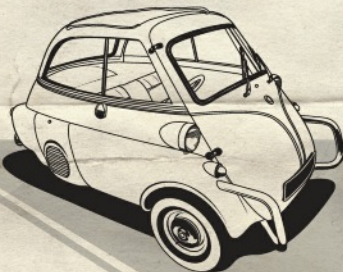
- The Agreed Value certification finally arrives. You begin looking forward to repeating the entire tedious, maddening process, fee included, if you want to increase your value again.



THE EASY WAY

- Call Hagerty. 0333 323 1383.

- Go for a relaxing drive.



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Good news for club members.

The club has agreed a discount on insurance premiums for club members insuring with Hagerty International Ltd. By quoting our club code CCI0C members will receive a 15% discount on their premium. Don't forget, laid up cars can also be insured.

Telephone 0333 323 0989 email: www.hagertyinsurance.co.uk