

CLASSIC DRIVER

[Bonhams at Mercedes-Benz World, Weybridge, 1 December 2011: Preview](#)

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1955 AC Ace: £100,000 - 130,000

It's a selection of quality British classic cars that leads the way at Bonhams' end-of-season Home Counties sale.

The years spanned range from a 1913 Rolls-Royce 'Silver Ghost' 40/50hp *Roi-de-Belges* Tourer (£450,000 - 500,000) to the ex-Sid Taylor, 1969-70 Lola-Chevrolet T70GT Mk IIIB, a nigh-on 200mph sports-racer estimated at £500,000 - 600,000.

In between, there's the supremely elegant 1929 Bentley 4½-Litre Drophead Coupé with Dickey (£400,000 - 450,000) and the 1953-55 Austin-Healey Special Test Car/100S Prototype - the very car at the centre of the sequence of events that led to the infamous 1955 Le Mans disaster.

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'Barn Find' fresh from 42 years in single ownership, The Ex-Works, Le Mans 24-Hours, Sebring 12-Hours, Carrera PanAmericana and Bahamas Speed Week, Nassau, 1953-55 Austin-Healey Special Test Car/100S Prototype: 'Refer Dept.'

Catalogued as 'barn fresh', the 'Refer Dept.' Healey has an extensive history in period that includes two Le Mans 24 Hours outings and runs at the Sebring 12-Hours, the Carrera PanAmericana, and the Bahamas Speed Week, Nassau. While quite obviously requiring a full restoration, history apart (Bonhams believes it could well have its original, '55 Le Mans engine installed) don't forget that it's also in the state-of-the-art tune of the very fastest works 100Ss and capable of mixing it with contemporary Ferraris and C-type Jaguars at the Le Mans Classic or Goodwood Revival.

The pre-War Bentley is one of eight Bentleys in the sale, joined by two other Cricklewood cars (1926 3-Litre Speed Model Tourer at £300,000 - 320,000, 1922 3-Litre Tourer for £120,000 - 150,000) and two 'Derbys' (1937 4¼-Litre All Weather Tourer, £140,000 - 160,000 and 1938 4¼-Litre Coupé, £80,000 - 100,000). There's also an Abbott-bodied 1954 R-Type Coupé for £80,000 - 100,000.

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2011 Triumph 865cc Bonneville T100 'Great Escape Replica': £9,000 - 12,000

Finally, for a bit of fun, why not bid on the 2011 Triumph 865cc Bonneville T100 'Great Escape Replica'? Sold in aid of the worthy Help For Heroes & The Royal British Legion charities, the matt-green motorbike (appropriately registered 'WW11 POW') is estimated at £9,000 - 12,000. Just the thing for Christmas: instead of watching 'The Great Escape' on the box, you could be re-enacting the famous fence-jumping scene in the garden.

Prior to the motor cars, Bonhams will sell a selection of automobilia that includes books, paintings, models, trophies and other collectors' items.

The 2011 Bonhams December Sale will take place at Mercedes-Benz World, Brooklands, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0SL on Thursday, 1 December. Motor cars will commence at 14:00.

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1967 Maserati Quattroporte: £45,000 - 55,000

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1965 Aston Martin DB5: £250,000 - 300,000

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1990 Ferrari F40 Berlinetta: £250,000 - 300,000

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1966 Citroën DS21 *Décapotable*: £40,000 - 60,000

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1939 Lagonda V12 Sports Saloon: £70,000 - 80,000

To see the complete lotlist please click [HERE](#).

Text - Steve Wakefield

Photos - Bonhams

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