

## Three-quarters of entries sell to capacity crowd at Brightwells' end-of-year sale

Brightwells rounded off an excellent 2011 season with a very strong result at the final sale of the year on November 30th. A total of 67 cars were sold out of 90 offered to give a highly impressive clearance rate of over 74% – well above the current rate prevailing amongst most other auction houses. The car park was packed to capacity with many visitors having to resort to parking on the field at the far end of the 10-acre site.

Top seller on the day was an imposing 1923 Rolls-Royce 20hp Barrel-sided Tourer, restored and rebodied in the 1960s, which made £41,900. This was closely followed by another Rolls, a 1934 20/25 Thrupp & Maberley Sports Saloon with just four owners from new and restored in the late 1990s, which fetched £37,950.



Two appealing sports cars entered by long-term owner Ken 'KK' Downing, lead guitarist of heavy metal band Judas Priest, also performed strongly: his highly original 1966 Austin-Healey 3000 MkIII sparking an intense bidding war before finally going to a Belgian buyer for £35,750 while his somewhat scruffy 1959 Jensen 541R made a huge £26,950, almost twice the pre-sale estimate and showing what great gains this rare model has made in recent years.

Morgan 3-wheelers are always keenly sought after and a well-restored 1933 example proved no exception. Despite being fitted with a replacement JAP engine in place of the original Matchless unit, it was finally knocked down for £33,250. A 1983 Morgan Plus 8 was also much viewed and, even with flat paintwork and colour-faded leather, duly sold for £26,000, £3,000 more than the guide price.

A historically interesting 1963 Alvis TD21 Drophead Coupe which had been modified in period by the Alvis factory from left- to right-hand drive and upgraded to TF specification also did well to raise £31,900 despite being in rather poor cosmetic condition. Triumph TR3 sportscars always have a strong following and a pair of freshly restored examples did not disappoint, a 1959 TR3A in British Racing Green making £18,150 while a left-hand drive 1962 TR3B in red appealed to a German buyer at £18,350.

Another model that has come on strongly in recent years is the Austin-Healey 100/4, with prices now not far short of those being realised by the iconic Healey 3000. A cosmetically refreshed 1954 example duly realised £27,050 perhaps helped by the fact that it remained in original left-hand drive format, good news at the moment given the bouyant Eurozone demand for English classics (despite all their other financial woes!).

The once-unloved MGC has also had a dramatic turnaround in fortune and a beautifully restored 1969 Roadster made an excellent £20,900 – about twice what it would have made just a few years ago. More predictably a classic 1949 MG TC with very little history but clearly well-restored some while ago made a market-correct £21,150.

Jaguars are always sought after and a rare 1958 2.4-litre MkI did well at £9,900 while a tidy 1973 E-Type V12 Coupe fetched £16,500 and a Lister-modified 1986 XJS Le Mans with a 6-litre V12 made £18,050. Even a very scruffy 1966 E-Type 2+2, the least desirable of the breed, got away for £11,000 helped by having a current MOT despite the large amount of TLC it was clearly crying out for.

Amongst the older cars on offer, a lovely 1929 Riley Nine Monaco Saloon fetched an estimate-busting £13,650 while a tidy 1923 Ford Model T van raised £10,550 and a beautifully patinated 1933 Sunbeam 25hp Limousine that had reputedly carried the Queen Mother on several occasions made £15,850.

“Yet again we were delighted with the results of the sale which rounds off another successful year for us,” said Brightwells consultant, James Dennison. “With other auctions struggling to sell more than half their entries at recent sales, we were very happy with our 74% clearance rate. The market for classic vehicles appears to have held up well throughout the year, despite the somewhat depressing turn of events in other areas of the economy. However, buyers have definitely been getting more choosy and condition and provenance are now more important than ever. While good or historically interesting cars continue to fetch ever higher prices, lesser cars need to be very realistically priced to attract interest.”

To view the results of the November sale in full, please visit [www.brightwells.com](http://www.brightwells.com) and click on ‘Classic Vehicles’ or phone 01568 611122. Brightwells’ next sale is on 7th March 2012 and entries are now being accepted.

**Note to editors:**

All the prices given above include the 10% buyer’s premium but exclude the VAT.

For hi-res images of any of the vehicles, or for more information, please phone James Dennison on 01568 611122 or email [classiccars@brightwells.com](mailto:classiccars@brightwells.com)

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