

# 1911 ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER GHOST TOURER

We are delighted to display this glorious Rolls-Royce 40/50hp, often referred to as a Silver Ghost. It's a car with tremendous significance to the Club. Our first secretary Claude Johnson was a driving force in the early days, building membership and rooting the Club firmly in Britain's motoring life; 2026 is the centenary of his passing.

Although Johnson left us as early as 1903, it was to join Rolls-Royce as its first managing director. Sagely, he guided the Hon CS Rolls (also a Club member) and Henry Royce into concentrating on a single, exceptional model with a whisperingly quiet six-cylinder engine; the robust 1906 40/50hp was the result. Later on, Claude also expanded the company into aeroplane engines, for which it's still world-renowned today.

And what of this particular car?

It was ordered on 4 November 1910 for Samuel Gibson, a well-known department store owner in Melbourne, Australia. The chassis was given beefed-up suspension for life in the outback, while brass fittings and wire wheels were specified. Upon arrival in Australia, bespoke touring coachwork was produced by Kellow Motor Company.

The Gibson family drove the car around Australia and in 1913 shipped it back to England for a Grand Tour. After enjoying travels across the UK, Colombo, Aden, Genoa and Gibraltar, it returned to Australia where it was used by Samuel Gibson until his death in 1917. His widow kept the nomadic car until 1927, and then it led a varied life as a taxi and even to deliver mail. Since restoration in 1993 it's won many awards and covered over 60,000 miles competing in rallies all over the world.