

# THE SWIFT GALLERY



## A Private Collection for Sharing

Taking part of a warehouse on an industrial estate in Stoke on Trent and turning it into a gallery housing several hundred exhibition quality photographs showing the history of Grand Prix racing was an unlikely venture, but when John Surtees OBE kindly opened the Swift Gallery in June 2012 a long held dream became reality.

The Collection is a classic case of a private interest which grew into something much larger. Having collected quality pieces over a thirty year period, gradually garages and various offices were filled. When the opportunity arose to bring everything together under one roof, for the first time it became possible to achieve something we had long wanted, a Gallery type space where not only could we show the photographs but where we could also share them with others.

Purely by chance, we realised that the Fenton location was appropriate. Our interest in motor racing was passed down at a very early age by our father Jim who had raced his XK120 and C Type Jaguar as a private entrant during the early 1950s. He had prepared his cars for racing at Byatts garage which was a well known local landmark, almost exactly parallel to where the Gallery now sits. Whilst the garage is long gone, we are pleased to be able to continue the local link with Stoke on Trent.

*Andrew and John Swift*



A proud moment. Andrew Swift shows a photo of Jim Swift to John Surtees at the opening of the Gallery, June 2012.



John Surtees, Andrew Swift, Martin and Lizzie Jordan of Jarrots, John Swift.

# Supporting the Henry Surtees Foundation

John Surtees enjoyed the most extraordinary motor sport career, taking seven World Championships in the 350cc and 500cc classes on motorbikes between 1956-1960. He took all of his titles riding for the famous MV Augusta factory team. His attention turned to four wheels and in 1964 he achieved the unique feat of adding a World Drivers' Championship. Again, he was with an Italian team, this time Ferrari. Add in the inaugural CanAm championship driving a Lola in 1966, many successes in Sportscar and Formula Two racing, and a decade as Grand Prix owner and entrant of the Surtees team and it is easy to understand why he occupies a very special place in the history of motor sport.

John's son, Henry, was showing the family traits of speed and determination as he worked his way up the motor racing ladder. Tragically Henry was killed in an accident whilst racing at Brands Hatch in 2009. The motor racing world was genuinely shocked by the accident and there was a very strong sense of support and sympathy for the Surtees family. Building on this the family launched the Henry Surtees Foundation which has very rapidly grown into a charity which is making a real difference.

The Foundation's work is currently aimed in three broad areas; helping victims of accidental brain injuries, supporting and developing air ambulance blood transfusion services and the encouragement and guidance of youngsters taking their first steps in motor racing. Details of the Foundation and its activities can be seen on its website.

The Swift Gallery has pledged to work for the HSF and various fund raising activities take place throughout the season. Most Gallery events and all visits are free, but we ask that wherever possible a small donation is made to the HSF through the charity boxes at the front.

For more information on the Henry Surtees Foundation  
visit [www.henrysurteesfoundation.com](http://www.henrysurteesfoundation.com)



## The Henry Surtees Foundation



# Gallery Contents

The majority of the collection is given over to the history of Grand Prix racing. By following the photographs visitors can trace the development of GP racing from its very earliest times, shortly after the turn of the twentieth century, right the way through to the present day. The changing shapes of cars, circuits and indeed drivers can all be seen. The Collection now includes a photo of every winner of a post 1950 World Championship GP race, with the exception of the 1950-60 Indianapolis rounds.

The sense of history is enhanced by the very large numbers of signatures within the collection. A signature can give a very personal feel to a photograph. The collection holds the signature of every World Champion since Giuseppe Farina who won the first title in 1950.

As well as Grand Prix racing, the Gallery has a separate area dedicated to the history of Sportscar racing, where the Le Mans 24 Hours race is featured, as well as the classic Italian road races, the Mille Miglia and Targa Florio, with their unique sense of enthusiastic crowd participation.

In addition to the photographs the Gallery also contains a number of scale model cars, in particular a number of examples of the much admired mph model series of Le Mans cars, by Tim Dyke (*below*)



# Gallery Layout

In order to present the collection in a manageable form we have had to split it into various sections. There are any number of ways in which to do this, but after some debate we decided to break it down into various eras named after the driver we felt most represented that period.

The approximate periods are broken down thus:

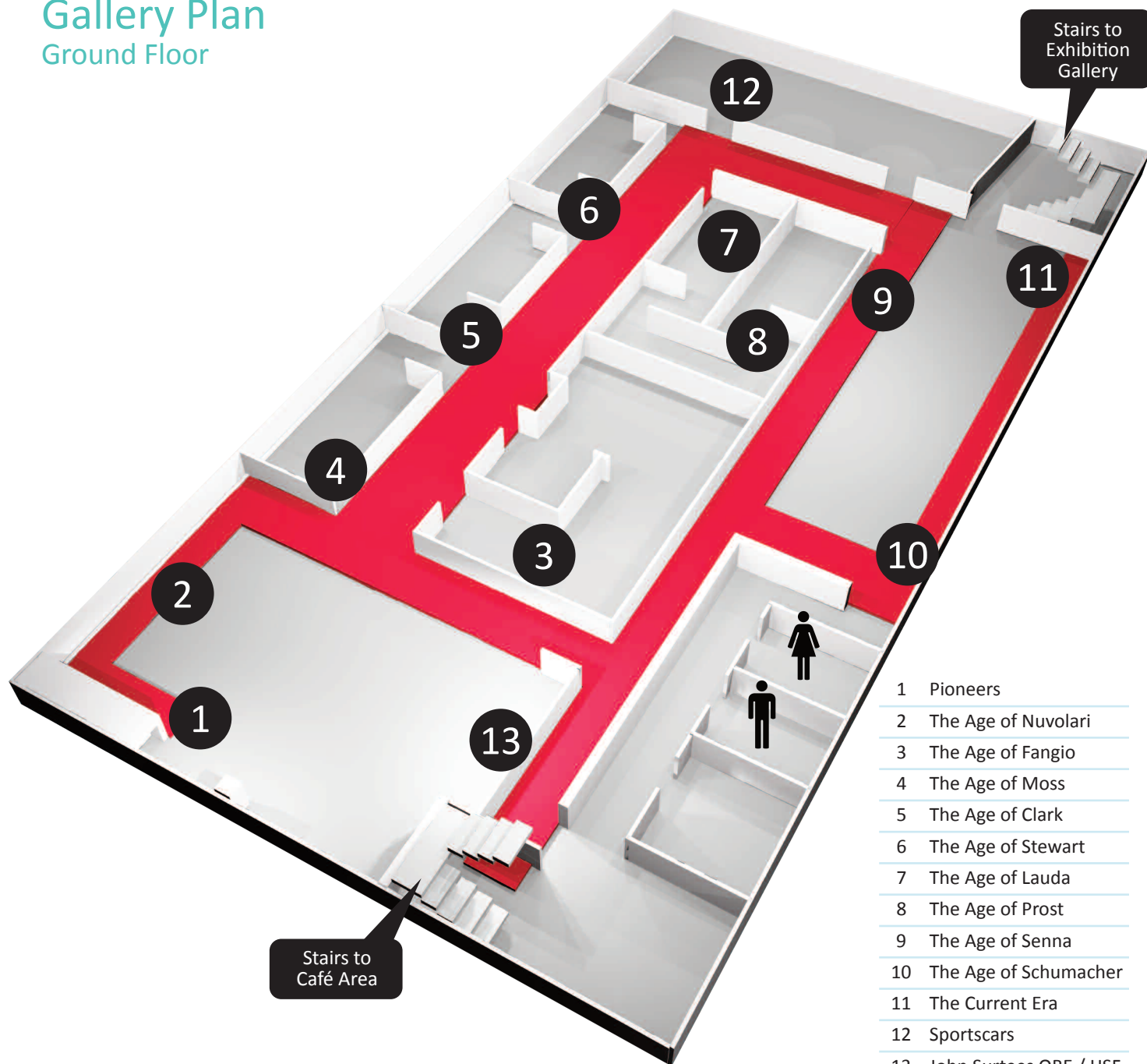
|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| The Pioneers.         | 1905 - 1929 |
| The Age of Nuvolari.  | 1930 - 1939 |
| The Age of Fangio.    | 1946 - 1957 |
| The Age of Moss.      | 1958 - 1962 |
| The Age of Clark.     | 1963 - 1968 |
| The Age of Stewart.   | 1969 - 1973 |
| The Age of Lauda.     | 1974 - 1979 |
| The Age of Prost.     | 1980 - 1987 |
| The Age of Senna.     | 1988 - 1994 |
| The Age of Schumacher | 1995 - 2006 |
| The current era.      |             |

Within each period we have tried to bring a cross section of as many of the top drivers and cars as possible. The key rivalries across the ages become apparent as visitors follow the story around the gallery.



# Gallery Plan

## Ground Floor



- 1 Pioneers
- 2 The Age of Nuvolari
- 3 The Age of Fangio
- 4 The Age of Moss
- 5 The Age of Clark
- 6 The Age of Stewart
- 7 The Age of Lauda
- 8 The Age of Prost
- 9 The Age of Senna
- 10 The Age of Schumacher
- 11 The Current Era
- 12 Sportscars
- 13 John Surtees OBE / HSF





## Gallery Events

In addition to general visitor days the Gallery offers a small programme of events, varying from the annual charity lunch and auction in aid of the Henry Surtees Foundation to the informal Pie and Quiz night at the end of the Gallery season. For details of forthcoming events please see the Gallery website.



HSF Charity Lunch  
September 2014



John Surtees at the HSF Charity Lunch  
- June 2012





# Annual Exhibition

We decided to create a mezzanine floor at the rear of the Gallery to facilitate the holding of an annual exhibition around a particular theme. Exhibitions held to date have been,

2013. From Red to Green, the rise of British motor sport 1950-1959.

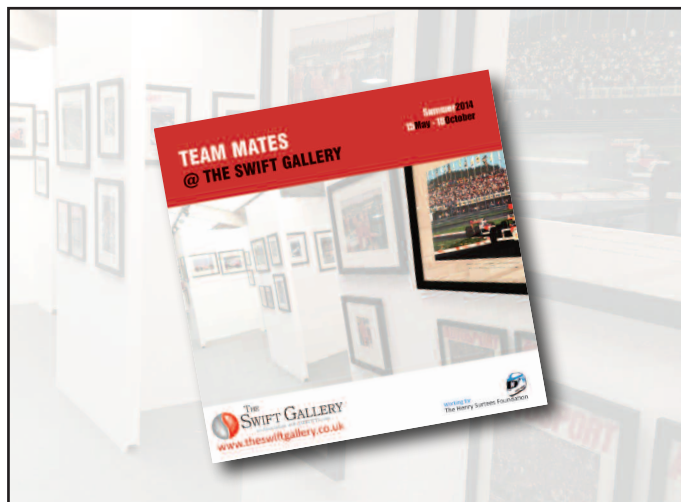
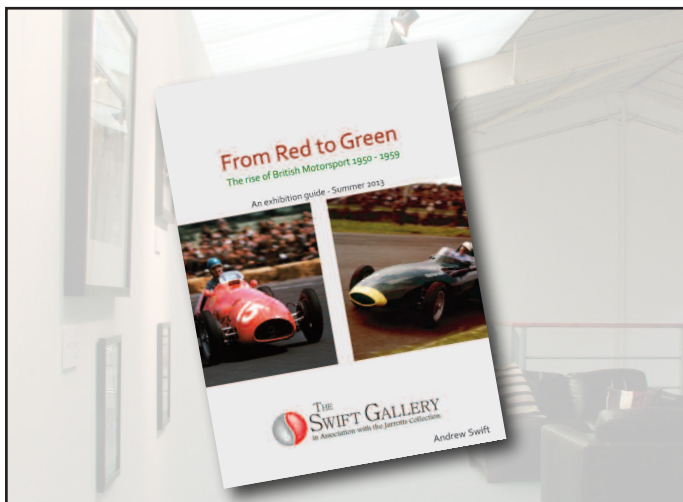
Over seventy photos showing the growing success of British teams and drivers in Grand Prix racing and Sportscars.

2014. Team Mates.

From Caracciola and Lang in the 1930s to Hamilton and Rosberg in 2014 the question of how to manage team mates in GP racing has presented endless questions and generated controversy.

2015. Favourite Drivers.

An exhibition based on a poll among our visitors and friends to discover which drivers have inspired us over the years. Over fifty drivers garnered enough votes to make the final list, which stretches from Campari to Button.



# The photographs and photographers

From the outset the Gallery has worked closely with the leading motor racing photography company, Jarrotts. The Jarrotts archive contains over fifty thousand negatives from all types and periods of motor racing.

Many of the greatest racing photographers' work is featured in the Gallery. The names of Louis Klemantaski, Edward Eves, Alan Smith, Geoff Goddard and Nigel Snowdon are well known to enthusiasts throughout the world.

From the start we asked Jarrotts to undertake the preparation of every piece on display in order to achieve the required standard of presentation. Whilst the majority of pieces come from the Jarrotts archive, we take this opportunity to thank our other photo suppliers, in particular,

- Dale LaFollette at Vintage MotorPhoto.
- Klemantaski Collection
- A.W. automobilia.
- Graeme Simpson
- LAT Photographic
- Arundel Autographs.
- Chris Bayley
- Markus Brandes.
- Motorsportcollector
- Ferret Photos.

There are a number of artworks in the Gallery, gathered over many years from numerous sources. We now deal almost exclusively with Historic Car Art.

Please see [www.JARROTTS.com](http://www.JARROTTS.com) [www.historiccarart.net](http://www.historiccarart.net)





# THE SWIFT GALLERY



The Gallery is open to the public on most Thursday afternoons from May until October. Visits at other times may be arranged by prior appointment. Please see our website for details of times and forthcoming events

[www.theswiftgallery.co.uk](http://www.theswiftgallery.co.uk)

