



## Seasons Greetings

This is an appropriate time to review some of the ELVA news from 2011 which of course has been an unsettling year with much turmoil around the world involving natural disasters together with man made political and economical unease. However the headline news for ELVA has of course been the publication of the superb book, thanks to all the input by a number of people and the undoubted skills of author Janos Wimpffen and David Bull Publishing.

I have just learnt that the book has been awarded 'Book of the Year' by the Motor Press Guild and has just been included on the Jay Leno Garage website which attracts much interest from motoring enthusiasts worldwide. The book has been a 'sell-out' here in the UK and I feel sure there will be further publicity and special events resulting in additional awareness of the ELVA marque throughout 2012.

There has of course been many other noteworthy news items including an entry once again (fingers crossed) for the beautifully prepared ELVA-BMW GT160 (chassis #3) for the 2012 Le Mans race; the superb race wins including the Mk.VIII at the 2011 Goodwood Revival; the many restoration projects; the formation of support groups through Blogs and other social media sites; the many race entries and trophies won around the world; the contacts made with so many people involved in the Elva story both past and present. Amazing!



I thought you would like just one of the recent stories, this provided by Esa Illoinen from Finland .. In "*Simo Lampinen: Cars of My Life*" Simo revealed he used an Elva FJ single seater for shopping after being disallowed to race it, because as a polio victim he had restricted movement in his legs and feet. Simo's dad had bought the car, but as the son could not race, he gave up the entry in the annual "Elaintarhanajot" event (huge in Helsinki back then with two

day crowds in excess of 80,000) in favour of Timo Makinen. Afterwards Simo ran that Elva back home on small country roads, using it to go to the grocers and for local outings! Simo did later race the Elva on one or two dirt ovals (actually trotting tracks). Lovely story although there could not have been much room for the groceries!!

The exchange of many emails supporting and hopefully helping current and future owners will continue as will the huge input into promoting the ELVA passion which involves all the wonderful history and also to ensure that marque has an exciting future too. "ELVA ... She Goes Again!"

Thank you for keeping in touch and I wish you a very merry Christmas plus a peaceful and an extremely successful 2012. Enjoy.

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