



# WESSEX MG CAR CLUB

## THE OLD BEAR INN STAVERTON



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**NEXT CLUB NIGHT:**  
27th February  
Start time 8:00pm

Club Website

<http://www.wessexmgclub.org.uk>

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Hi All,

Our January club night featured a talk by the Wiltshire Air Ambulance, which was very interesting. They were pleased with our generous donations which will help to keep them flying.

I would like to welcome our new members Rick and Joy, who have recently returned to MG ownership, I am certain that they will enjoy participating in the many events that we have planned this year.

I understand from those who attended, that the Valentines evening meal was very enjoyable and would like to thank Paul and Peter for organising and Sue and Terry for sourcing the roses.

Due to problems with obtaining a booking to visit the Police/emergency service control room in Devizes we have had to look for an alternative event for our March club night. We have a provisional booking for a visit to Wadworth Brewery in Devizes on Monday March 27<sup>th</sup> ur tour will start at 7.00pm prompt.

The cost will be £12.50 per person, this includes a tasting session of handcrafted beers. For those who are driving I believe there is an option of a "take away", the deadline to book for this tour is Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

Also in March, Vic is organising the ever popular Skittles night. This should be a very enjoyable evening, I know that I will not be the winner as I am not an accomplished skittle player.

For our February club night which is at the Old Bear we have a Movie Night which features some films with a motoring theme, this starts as usual at 8.00pm

Also on the 27<sup>th</sup> I will need confirmation of numbers for the Club Spring Tour and our visit to MG Era at Brooklands on Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Hope to see you on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Martyn**





## “Safety Fast” Down Under Clive Stephens

Shirley and I decided that this year's "escape the English Winter for aged wimps" tour ought to include Australia. It has before, but only NSW and Queensland so this time we opted for Western Australia and South Australia pausing for three weeks in Oman on the way since, when we put a ruler of the world map from London to Perth it seemed to pass right through Oman.

It's hard to get one's rapidly deteriorating brain round the sheer scale of Australia, so I've given up trying. Suffice it to say that South Australia is the fourth largest State but is more than four times the size of the UK and supports a population of about 1.8m of whom 75% live in Adelaide. Thus the lucky MG owner who can swim out of the glutinous porridge that is Adelaide's traffic can hit the open road in true "safety fast" style and enjoy endless empty roads through glorious countryside under blue skies in balmy temperatures. Bliss.



Having made contact with the MG Car Club of South Australia, we were invited to their parade as part of the 2017 Australia Day celebrations. Australia Day became an official public holiday only in 1994 though the arrival of the First Fleet under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip at Sydney Cove on 26th January 1788 had long been celebrated, though not without controversy. Protests, instigated by indigenous peoples and their supporters have consistently marked and marred the festivities, some dubbing it "Invasion Day" or "Survival Day" implying their losing battle to overcome colonisation and discrimination.



The MG Car Club of South Australia has a remarkable 950 members and was formed in 1986 when more than 100 enthusiasts gathered in Adelaide at an inaugural meeting. It has a full, lively and energetic membership, a crowded calendar and its own clubrooms in Adelaide.

Shirley and I were warmly welcomed by the officials and members of the club at the pre-parade assembly point. We were invited to inspect the cars which were generally immaculate/concours and a real testament to the skill and knowledge of their proud owners and to the globe-spanning camaraderie which is a mark of the marque.





## 20/20 Vision

Paul Warn

Over the last couple of years, I have been using the winter months to sort through my huge collection of motorsport magazines, catalogue my motorsport book collection and this year sorting through my many slides on all things motoring. Whilst sifting through the slides, I came across this black and white slide circa 1964 of a Ferrari 250 GTO - a wee bit scratched as you will notice - but it brought back memories which I'd like to share.



When I was much younger than today, I enjoyed assembling construction kits. In the fifties, two uncles emigrated to the USA, they used to send Revell and Monogram construction kits. The cars in John Bishop's piece on his visit to Cuba reminded me of the kits I received - my school friends thought my American cars were great!

However my passion was motorsport, European motorsport, and pride of place was my small



collection of Dinky Toy Grand Prix cars made by Meccano. Long since lost. Recently however, thanks to Anne, I've been repatriated with seven of those models.

Three kits in particular I remembered assembling. An E Type Jaguar, which had recently entered production in 1961, my favourite a Ferrari 250 GTO - the scratchy slide - and a Corvette Stingray. The Ferrari and Jaguar were the models I treasured

most. They stayed with us and survived a number of house moves, but alas eventually went missing.



Why the Ferrari and Jaguar? well throughout the fifties both these marques dominated international sports car racing with interference from Mercedes, Maserati and Aston Martin along the way. Until 1957 that is when Jaguar won their last of five Le Mans and withdrew factory support of their cars. Ferrari of course continued to race - it was their raison d'être.

Internal pressure was brought to bear on Sir William Lyons to reenter the fray. Eventually the E Type was born and launched in 1961. Ferrari was concerned that their 250 GT SWB Berlinetta would be beaten by this new rival, the E Type. However by 1962 the boot was on the other foot, because Ferrari's new 250GTO was completely dominating this class of racing.



Ferrari 250 GTOs at Goodwood in 1963

Jaguar was quite aloof and slow to respond to this challenge. Until that is John Coombs the company's leading private entrant and important Jaguar dealer, became so frustrated with the lack of progress in improving the E Type that he decided to

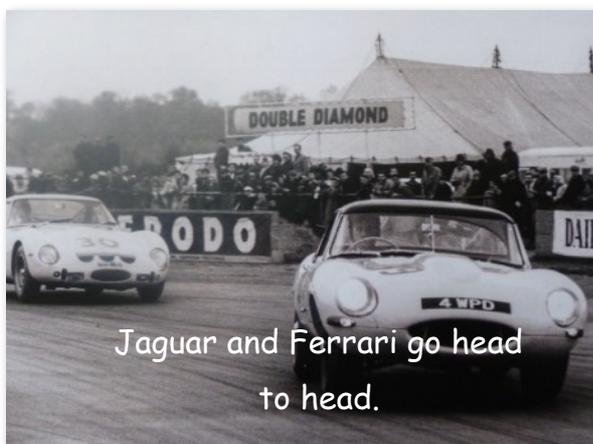
buy a Ferrari 250 GTO. This jolted Jaguar into raising their game. So much so that Jaguar borrowed Coombs' GTO for evaluation purposes. As a result more effort was put into development of the E Type, with a batch of 18 Lightweights signed off for production. Another story...

Without wishing to bore you with more of this story, suffice to say Ferrari and Jaguar battled it out for supremacy in their class of racing.

The Ferrari cost £6,500 new in 1962. However, as with all competition cars it became obsolete.

In the early 1970s it had been superseded by the mid engined sports car and values dropped

to around £4,000. In 1972 we bought our first house for £4,500. I suggested to Anne at the time - tongue in cheek - that we buy a Ferrari 250 GTO instead, just like the model I had in my room. For many reasons this didn't happen!



Jaguar and Ferrari go head to head.

Now here's the rub. One of these Ferrari 250 GTOs has now come onto the open market for the first time in 20 years. John Collins, who runs Ascot-based Ferrari specialist Talacrest, is selling it for more than £45 million (\$56 million)... What more can I say.



## MICE FACTOIDS

Having read Tom's scribbles this month, I thought the following would be of interest:

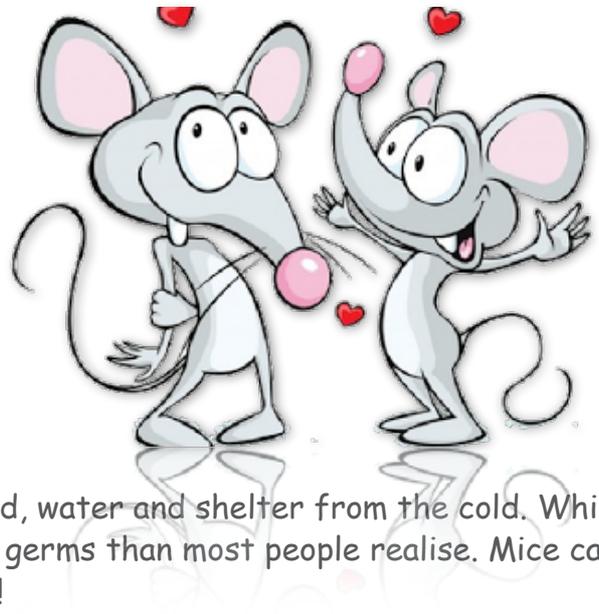
Despite their tiny bodies, mice eat between 15 and 20 times a day.

- A house mouse produces between 40 and 100 droppings per day.
- Mice are good jumpers, climbers and swimmers.
- Mice can live in a lab for up to two years, but usually only live for about 5 months in the wild, mostly because of predators, such as cats, snakes and foxes.

Mice typically enter our homes - or garages - between October and February, looking for food, water and shelter from the cold. While these rodents may look cute, mice spread more germs than most people realise. Mice can actually carry as many as 200 human pathogens!

If you spot a mouse in the house, it is safe to assume there are more or there will be soon. Female mice can give birth when they are two months old and are able to have babies 6 to 10 times per year.

Find information on [rodent pest control](#) at the official NPMA website.



Courtesy of Tom - A 5 Litre  
V8 Midget

## The Gloucestershire Vintage and Country Show



### The Gloucestershire Vintage and Country Show

South Cerney Sunday August 6<sup>th</sup> 2017

I have a provisional booking for a club area at this show .

In return for displaying our cars we will get free entry to the show for driver and one passenger

I need to confirm to the organisers very soon as space is limited, the members names and car registration numbers of those who wish to attend.

I have been to this show as a visitor about 4 years ago and it is a good day out.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you wish to attend

#### 2017 Attractions

- Live Arena with demonstrations from steam to dancing tractors and much much more.
- Steam Arena and demonstration area.
- Fun fair - Walzters, bumper cars, ride on model steam train etc
- Animal section with live demonstrations including the famous Sheep Sheer Experience and dog agility course.
- Vintage displays of over 600 classic cars, Motorbikes and cycles from every era, Miniature Steam Engines, Model Engineering, Tractors, Buses and Coaches, Military Vehicles, Emergency Vehicles, Vintage Caravans, huge Stationary Engine area, and Model Aircraft flying displays.
- Specialist Displays of memorabilia from a bygone era
- Massive Trade stand area and the Craft Bazaar
- Vintage Tea Room and Lindy Hop dancing
- Kids entertainment and picnic area

Bring a picnic or enjoy one of the many 'Pit Stops' around the sho

**Martyn**

## WADWORTH BREWERY TOUR

In our club diary for the March Club Night on Monday March 27th we were planning to visit the Wiltshire Emergency Service control room in Devizes, due to circumstance beyond the club control this is not now possible.

As an alternative we are suggesting a visit to Wadworth Brewery in Devizes, this will comprise of a tour of the brewery including going up the Victorian tower and visiting the sign studio where you will see a collection of hand painted signs followed up by a visit to The Harness Room bar for a tutored sampling session where you can try a selection of handcrafted ales.

They are willing to put on an exclusive tour for us on **Monday March 27th starting at 7.00 pm prompt** at a cost of £12.50 per person, if we wish to do this tour on that evening we need a minimum of 10 to attend and I have book and pay a deposit by Friday 24th February.

**If you are interested in going to this event please email me before Wednesday 22nd February**

We will hopefully be able to arrange a tour of the Police/emergency service control room later in the year.

## SKITTLES EVENING

I would like to welcome all members to an evening of entertainment - Skittles! The alley is reserved at the Cross Keys Rowde for Saturday 25th March with the first ball thrown between 7:30 and 7:45 pm.

Supper will be included. The cost will be around £6-£7 per head in any event a bargain!

I need to know **ASAP** if you would like to join in so I can finalise arrangements with the pub.

Please phone/email 01225 704685/[vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk](mailto:vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk)

Vic



## Secretary's Scribbles

Hi all,

Unfortunately I have made little progress on anything MG related this month. But that is about to change..... I am on half term and this afternoon the Magnette is going out for a drive and a top-up of fresh posh unleaded.

I have watched an ancient version of Wheeler Dealers where they did-up a BGT - anyone seen it? They put velour seat covers on - I nearly cried (nice and comfy in my Honda mind). I think it is available on YouTube if you have never seen it.

My MG 3's rear sensors only now work in the dry as in the wet they just bleep away to a made-up tune irrespective to how far I am from an object- it is out of warranty now....

I do seem to have had an ongoing battle with rodents in the garage this year, fortunately the Carcoon protects the Magnette! Does poison not

only kill but also attract? Do the little furry monsters smell the blue death granules from Gloucestershire and thus head for me?



I remember Ken had some wiring damage a few years back - anyone else do battle with the critters?





## Club Diary

2017 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
27th Feb	<b>Club Night - Night at the movies...with a motoring spin</b>	Yes	The Old Bear Inn	<b>Paul Warn</b>
25th March	Skittles Evening	Yes	Cross Keys Rowde	<b>Vic Wright</b>
27th Mar	<b>Tour of Wadworth Brewery Devizes</b>	Yes		<b>Martyn Lucas</b>
14 - 17 April	Easter Bank Holiday			
2nd April	MG ERA at Brooklands			Martyn Lucas - Must have numbers by February
6th April	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	No	The Old Bear Inn	
24th April	<b>Club night - Prod &amp; Poke</b>	Yes	The Old Bear Inn	
6th May	Club Spring Tour Kent & East Sussex	Yes		Martyn Lucas
22-May	<b>Club night - Mystery Run</b>	Yes		Tony Neale (Vic)
4th June	Vintage Nostalgia Weekend - Stockton Warminster	No		Tony Neale
18th June	MG Live - Silverstone			Martyn Lucas
26 Jun	<b>Club night - BBQ</b>	Yes	The Old Bear Inn	

2017 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
<b>TBA</b>	Summer Picnic	Yes		Paul Warn
July 8th	<b>NEW</b> Chateau Impney Hill Climb	No	Chateau Impney	Peter Hine
24th July	Club Night - Social evening	Yes	The Old Bear Inn	
12th Aug	<b>NEW</b> Retro Festival		Newbury Showground	Peter Hine
20th Aug	Trowbridge Lions Show	No		
21-Aug	Club night - Boules	Yes	The Tollgate Inn	Paul Warn
<b>TBA</b>	Tom's Action Day	Yes	Tom's Field	Tom Strickland
25-Sep	Club night - Talk	Yes	The Old Bear Inn	
23-Oct	Club night - Talk Grand Prix Racing	Yes	The Old Bear Inn	Paul Warn - <b>Topic TBC</b>
<b>TBA</b>	Pre AGM Committee Meeting	No	The Old Bear Inn	
27-Nov	Club night - AGM	Yes	The Old Bear Inn	
<b>TBA</b>	Christmas Party	Yes	<b>TBA</b>	

NB The last column includes the committee member responsible for the event. If you need to contact them, you will find their details on page 8. Just click-on their email address or give them a call.

**ED**

## Club Asset List

CLUB ASSET LIST			
ASSET	CURRENT HOLDER	CONTACT DETAILS	
Engine Hoist	Nigel Fowler	01380 840031	<a href="mailto:erchfonte@gmail.com">erchfonte@gmail.com</a>
Club Sail Banner	Kevin Meakin	01380 727151	<a href="mailto:kevinmg1@live.com">kevinmg1@live.com</a>
Event Shelter + Sides	Vic Wright	01225 704685	<a href="mailto:vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk">vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk</a>
Projector	Paul Warn	01225 768676	<a href="mailto:paul.william.warn@gmail.com">paul.william.warn@gmail.com</a>
Speakers	Paul Warn	01225 768676	<a href="mailto:paul.william.warn@gmail.com">paul.william.warn@gmail.com</a>
Projector Stand	Paul Warn	01225 768676	<a href="mailto:paul.william.warn@gmail.com">paul.william.warn@gmail.com</a>
Projector Screen & Cover	Paul Warn	01225 768676	<a href="mailto:paul.william.warn@gmail.com">paul.william.warn@gmail.com</a>
New Set of Boules	Vic Wright	01225 704685	<a href="mailto:vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk">vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk</a>

### NOTE:

If you need to borrow or take custody of any of the club's assets, the current holder should be contacted directly to arrange transfer. The new 'holder' of the asset should notify Paul Warn by email to ensure the asset list is kept up-to-date.