

# NEWSLETTER

**WESSEX  
MG CLUB**  
AT THE BELL INN SEEND



## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Hello All,  
I hope those of you who came to the Prod + Poke + BBQ had a good time even though it was a very cold evening.



Jane and I are just back from 8 Days in Germany. Like here the temperatures were soaring so I suspect the MG`s have been out and the hoods down. Just before we returned we saw a Classic Car Parade in a little village called Andernach.

Only two MG`s I`m afraid (See Photos) Sorry Paul and Peter no Morgans!

As I am writing this we are looking forward to the summer picnic, on the weekend at Berkeley Castle which Paul has arranged for us. Let`s hope the weather stays warm and dry.

We are off on our travels straight after it to visit our friends in Lincolnshire. We`ll be back in time for the Games night at David`s on the 27th. It was a great success last year and hope to see another good turn out.

**Graham**

For your diary in the coming month:

### July

27th - Club Night - Games Evening hosted by Carrie and David Whiteley.

Start Time 7:00pm

### August

19th - Peter Browning Talk Abingdon.

24th - Club Night - Talk

30th - Action Day - Tom's Field

See page 15 in this edition for more events and details.



Club Night start time 8:00pm unless otherwise stated

## A Summer Picnic - Berkeley Castle



What a great day! We began with a 'meet up' at Morrison's car park Chippenham and the weather was o.k. A good 'turn out' and raring to go - 9:00 a.m. and we were off.

A pleasant route to follow prepared by Paul, especially on a sunny day - but wait, oh no! a drop of the wet stuff, we had rain followed by more rain - well a hardy bunch the MG and Morgan enthusiast's, so no bother. The countryside still looked good, a gentle meander saw us arrive at our destination by 10:00am and parked in our prearranged designated area. The cars looked a picture.

In order to get out of the rain we all made for the unique Yurt Tearoom and a warm drink. Suitably refreshed we were joined by our guide for our prearranged tour.



A short walk to the Castle with stories of old and bold past histories along the way. The Castle is set in a beautiful landscape with glorious views of the surrounding countryside but in period, not everyone would have seen it that way....

The Castle's origins date back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century, owned by the same family throughout its history to the present day. Amongst the many stories colourfully told by our guide, it was the place where Edward II was murdered. Some say with a red hot poker, others that he was suffocated, however, the poor man met his end. He would not have been very pleased to find himself at this castle in 1327.

Wall hangings, the material of which was said to have been part of the tents at 'The Field of the Cloth of Gold' in Henry Tudors times, many paintings of members of the Berkeley family through the ages - who by all accounts were the greatest land owners in the country, including Berkeley square, until the then Earl sold it to install electricity and central heating at the beginning of the 20th century. Stories of the Civil War and Oliver Cromwell the list and stories were endless, so much to see and not enough time. We had an excellent guide to tell us the 'tales'. Oh and a display of costumes from the brilliant BBC series "Wolf Hall" in which of course the castle featured.



By the time our tour was over the rain had stopped. As it was the weekend some decided to dress-up... But now it was picnic time - summer picnic time - a dry and sunny success! The food was pretty good too. All in all a really nice day spent with like minded friends and our lovely cars, much admired and photographed as is always the case - where are we going next year?

Anne Warn

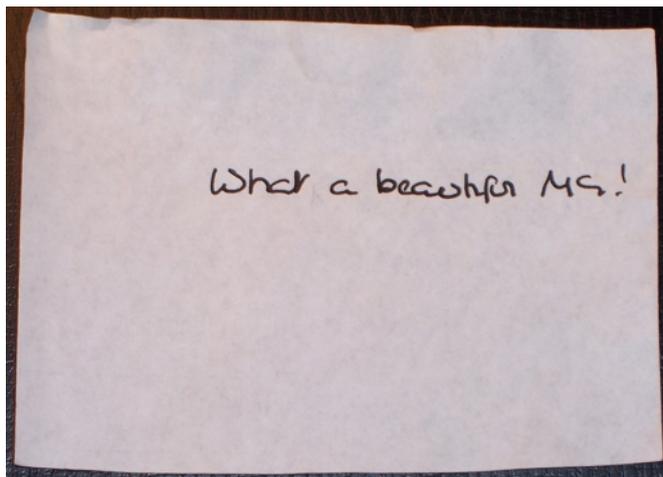


Finally after 8 years of trying the Warn's win a bottle of wine in the draw - thanks Tony!

## Before We Jump To The Wrong Conclusion

This little tale may be of interest. Last Tuesday I braved 30 degree temperatures to drive top down up to Gloucester to visit an old school friend who is in hospital for some intensive physiotherapy. Along with hundreds of other motorists I was caught up in some road works and the inevitable traffic jam - some drivers' tempers seemed to be fraying a little.

I parked in the hospital car park, duly visited my friend, and returned to the MG to spot a note tucked under a flap in the tonneau cover. Fearing the worst I gingerly removed it. Was it a rude note saying I had parked in a reserve bay? Was it a militant environmentalist vilifying me for driving a car that lack fuel efficiency. Was it from someone who had just spent half an hour in a miserable traffic jam and wanted to be rude to another driver? Imaging my surprise - and relief - when I saw what it said:



John Bishop

## Wessex MG - Peter Browning Talk - Wednesday August 19th

Peter Browning (Former BL Competitions Department Manager) Talk, Wednesday August 19th at MGCC Abingdon.

I now have confirmed arrangements for what will prove to be a very interesting presentation by Peter Browning, who worked in the BMC/BL competitions department during the 1960s and 70s and was the department manager between 1967 and 1970.

His talk will cover the Monte Carlo entries and also Le Mans.

The talk will be held at the Kimber House, Cemetery Road Abingdon, OX14 1AS, to commence at 7.00pm on Wednesday 19th August, there will be tea/coffee and biscuits available, also the opportunity to purchase MG related items.

As Peter is advancing in years I feel this is an opportunity not to be missed, in return for the talk we will be expected to make a donation to a charity of his choice.

I already have several members wishing to attend but there is still space for others, if you wish to come along or have any questions please let me know by phone, email - see below - or at the July club night, as I have to let them know numbers by August 5th. [martyn.lucas2@btinternet.com](mailto:martyn.lucas2@btinternet.com) or 01373 859583.

**Martyn Lucas**

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Lydiard Park Auto & Retro Festival showcases the heritage of classic/ Vintage cars, modern classics and looks to the future with the latest automotive icons and accessories. Set in the beautiful Lydiard Park Estate, its just waiting to be discovered....

## An Evening of Sport and Elegance

The time has come again to challenge your sporting prowess and the shine on your pride and joy.

The Date: **July Club Night -Monday 27th July 2015**

The Venue: sunny (I hope) Bulkington - to be precise,  
**46b Bulkington, SN10 1SL**

The Time: **7pm** onwards

Your hosts: Carrie and David Whiteley, ably assisted by Anne and Paul Warn

The Challenge: can you beat Sue and Peter to the WessexMG Sports Trophy?

At the same time, a Mystery Judge will ponder our Concours d'Elegance, the chance for you to show-off your shiny MG - or Morgan - or Lea Francis - or whatever.....

Refreshments (sponsored by The Club): nibbles, wine, beer and soft drinks.

**R.S.V.P:** Please let us know by **Tuesday 21st July** whether or not you will be coming - preferably by e-mail ([david@whiteley0.plus.com](mailto:david@whiteley0.plus.com)) or by phone - 01380 828806.

We hope to see you then.



### The Camerton Classic Vehicle Gathering

Andy Hole has sent this flyer about this year's Camerton Classic - hopefully it's fairly self explanatory.

Martyn also sent a reminder. He will be on car parking duty so there will be a friendly face to greet you.

Last year there were over 300 cars attending during the day. There should be a wide variety of cars on display from various makes. You can come and go when you please - and it's free!!



## Secretary's Scribbles

Two tales this month... A tale of woe and a tale of great accomplishments. I will start with the positive tale.

Vic masterminded (and did 90% of hard work) my 5 speed gear box conversion which is now done and works brilliantly. We had a few naughty core plugs that jumped out on inspection runs and I need to get the exhaust tweaked to give a bit more clearance - but the result is very positive. I also got the chance to give the engine a clean and a paint so all looks good in the engine bay.

The car was ready a week before the Wessex Picnic and just needed a few little jobs to be done. I refitted some of the interior trim and then noticed that the heater wasn't heating up. So whilst the car was warming up I squeezed the pipes and wiggled the taps etc to see if I could clear any air pockets in the system. It was at this moment that I caught a glimpse of a whisp of smoke out of the corner of my eye.... We are going into the other tale now.....

There appeared to be a small amount of smoke coming out of the exhaust and when I pushed the accelerator I got quite a lot of what I still hope is black smoke. I decide that the carbs must be running rich as the plugs were black and the choke hardly needed using to start the car. Time was moving on now and I decided to just try and tweak the carb settings without taking the air cleaner and the massed gubbins off to do the job properly. I soon lost track of how many flats I had turned which carb and which way etc so I got out

the colour tune device and tried to balance them using that - no good! I then tried Tweaking the idle speed as that had crept up in all my fiddling. It was now about 9pm on Saturday so I went off for a quick drive to see how she felt on the road - disaster she barely wanted to move!

I now sat on the drive nearly in tears and phoned Vic - "stop! Use your other MG tomorrow" was the much needed instruction. I had been playing with the car all day by this point and needed to stop. I cleaned the MG3 and crawled to bed a nearly dead and very angry Tom. I felt a bit better the next day and Vic and then Jeni gave me



a hug at Morrisons which helped. I then had a good look at the carbs on Nigel's MGA which are very similar to mine and he gave me some pointers. On return from the Picnic I eagerly waited for the kids to go to bed and I started looking at the carbs - this time properly. I took all the air cleaner stuff off, I detached the coupling between them and started again with the colour tune - but they were still far too rich. Next I decided to check the function of the pistons- the left one got stuck straight



away and wouldn't come down! Then I looked at the brass floats- both had liquid in so had had it! Next I noticed a gauze filter that was so clogged with brown gunge that at first I couldn't see that it was a filter. There was also some brown gunge in the float chambers. Well I am now waiting for an expensive parcel from the Owners Club so that I can get those

carbs running properly - I hope! I would sincerely like to thank Vic for all the help he gave me both physically and spiritually.

On another note Nancy and I are about to have our 10th Wedding Anniversary and it is amazing to think that we paraded an MG convoy bedecked with flowers and white ribbons down the high street of Wootton Bassett on the way to our Reception at Lydiard Park - I think we gave the repatriation parades the initial idea. We certainly felt like a 'Royal' couple that day. Many of the longer serving club members will remember that the traffic lights turned red and we had a horn 'honk off' much to the amusement of the crowds.

**Tom**

You Always Hurt The One You Love etc...Follow Up

I do like Paul's Random Ramblings in the Newsletter. In February, he wrote about the Peking to Paris run and the London to Sydney Marathon and both articles prompted some additional thoughts.

Paul queried which model of MG was shown in his picture. Could it be a "J" Type from the early thirties? With cycle wings and those lovely, it certainly pre-dates the "T" Types.

There was a plethora of different MG models in the early thirties and, unless you are a true geek, the differences are hard to spot. So, any advance on MG "J" Type?



At the end of his article on the London - Sydney Marathon, Paul mentioned that the winner was Andy Cowan in a Hillman Hunter.



The Hunter was an unlikely winner in some respects but was a very simple and evidently strong car, so suited long endurance rallies well.

This wasn't the Hunter's only long distance rally success. Dodwell and Ober won the Ladies Prize in the Peking to Paris rally in 1997 and this same car won the Round the World Rally in 2000. On that occasion, it was piloted by Freddie and Jan Giles who some will know as the Seend based owners of a lovely 1930 Bentley 41/2 litre.

There is an MG twist there too - Jan Giles is a fan of MGAs and has rallied her own MGA until relatively recently, participating amongst others in the Rome-Liege-Rome and Acropolis rallies and the Rally to the Nile



Referring back to the London - Sydney in 1968, I lived at that time in a flat at The Oval, only a few hundred yards from Vauxhall which was on the rally route. I was therefore lucky to be there on that sunny Sunday morning to watch

them through. It would have been good to be in Sydney to see them arrive in a somewhat less showroom state. Somewhere I have some photos from that morning but my filing system has failed me! Instead, here is one from the World Cup Rally in 1970 .....a Morris "Land Crab" 1800 driver by Jean Denton and what the entry list describes as a four door Mini Cooper, rounding Trafalgar Square, 19<sup>th</sup> April 1970.



David

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### Gloucestershire- Warwickshire Railway

Just received a flyer with the freebee paper advertising the Gloucestershire-Warwickshire Railway. They operate out of Steve's ancestral home, Toddington, Glos. Amongst other events, there is a Classic Vehicle day on Sunday 13th September. A picture, I assume from last year, shows a line up of T series MG's. Website is [www.gwsr.com](http://www.gwsr.com)  
 For Steve, Tom, et all, there is a Thomas the Tank Engine event this weekend.

Malcolm T

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To stop you getting bored, lets have a different mystery this month.  
What is the link between this...



And this.....

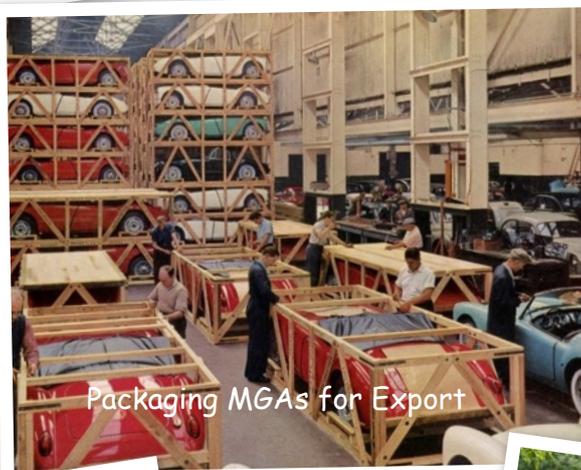


And this.....



Answer next month, with a sequel. **David**

Photo Gallery -



Club News

Secretary's Scribbles

For an extended scribbles see Page 8

2015 EVENTS LIST				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
27-Jul	Club Night (Games Evening)	Yes	David's House	David Whiteley
19th Aug	Peter Browning Talk	No	Abingdon	Martyn Lucas
24-Aug	Club Night (Talk) - TBC	Yes	The Old Bear	TBA
30-Aug	Action Day	Yes	Tom's Field	Tom Strickland
20-Sep	Club-Run Basingstoke Milestones Museum			Martyn Lucas
28-Sep	Club Night (Theme TBA)	Yes	The Old Bear	TBA
26-Oct	Club Night (Grand Prix talk - Duel of the Titans - Nazi sponsored GP racing 1930-1939)	Yes	The Old Bear	Paul Warn
TBC	Committee Meeting	No	The Old Bear	Paul Warn
23-Nov	Club AGM	Yes	The Old Bear	Formal notification will be included in the Sept & Oct newsletter.
13-Dec	Christmas Party	Yes	The Grey Hound	

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 7. Just click their email address or give them a call.

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