

Chairman's Chat

Happy New Year all! Hope you are all fully recovered from the excesses of the festive season and for those that were travelling and experienced frustrating journey delays you can put all that behind you and look forward to the spring and summer ahead. I really don't need to remind you that 2010 is the Club's 25th Anniversary year and there is to be a celebration event in September. Details will emerge as the year progresses but it is important to keep the weekend of 19/21 September free of all other engagements, and for those who have not already committed to coming along a £10 deposit to our Treasurer will secure you a place.

At its first meeting of the year the Committee has set in motion a full gambit of activities to keep the Club lively and entertaining throughout the year ahead. There will be some of the usual events but we will also be organising new activities and visits to provide you with an excuse to get out in that MG whilst providing a wide range of interest to all the membership. At the January meeting we are having a presentation from a policeman about the activities of the Wiltshire and Swindon Safety Camera Partnership including an explanation of the aims and objectives of the Partnership and description of the equipment used. It should be quite an enlightening talk and a great opportunity for you

to ask those awkward questions that you always wanted to ask.

Together with this Newsletter you will find a copy of the Club Rules amended to address the revised subscription approved at the AGM last November. I am mindful that many Members, both new and long established, may not have seen these before or may not even be aware that they exist. I believe the rules were established early in the life of the Club and in the main stand the test of time. However I invite you to read them through and if any matters arise which you consider might be inappropriate, to raise with the Committee for consideration. The intention of the rules is not to be officious and bureaucratic but to be open and transparent (*sorry for the government speak*) and provide clarity across the whole of the membership.

Also on the matter of clarity and a full understanding by all, elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find details of how the Annual Awards are made. Again the awards, represented by a shield and cups, are long established and are designed to encourage members to give continuing support to the Club and involvement in activities organised by the Club for its Members. As an added interest is the award for the



The WESSEX MG CLUB

At the Bell on the Common Broughton Gifford

25th Anniversary Year - 2010

For your diary in the coming month

January

25th – Club night 8:00pm.
Wilts & Swindon Safety
Camera Partnership talk.

February

14th – Valentine's Day
lunch.

21st International MG Show
and Spares

Membership Shield, it is the intention to publish each quarter the on-going scores as we progress through the year.

Look forward to seeing you all at the January Club Night.

Gordon

My MG

Having only been the proud owner of a MGB Roadster since 28th June 2006 you can appreciate this month's article will be fairly brief! Due to this and the fact not all of you will know me very well; I thought I would give you a short introduction into my reason for buying a MGB.

At the end of 2004 I retired after a 40 year career with the RSPCA, having been an Inspector in Dorset, Devon, Kent before transferring to Wiltshire in 1989. During these years I had very little free time due to being on call evenings/nights and many weekends, so I dreamt of the day when I could look forward to enjoying a hobby which would also provide a social life for Gina and me, as this had been lacking in our lives.

As I had done a lot of sailing in my teens and was a qualified yachtsman I decided to buy an Enterprise dinghy and to join a Cotswold Sailing Club. Unfortunately I lost my crew member – not overboard I hasten to add! I also found the Club was nothing like as friendly as I had been led to believe, so cutting my losses I decided to sell the dinghy.



Gina had been going on at me as I always said I would like a car I could tinker about with, so why didn't I get on and do something about it.

So, in June 2006 I find myself travelling down the motorway from Wingrave, near Aylesbury in my very own MGB with my son following on behind with his car lights occasionally flashing, warning me I hadn't cancelled the indicator.

The first year both car and I spent getting acquainted. Although the car was sound in body and paintwork I felt it needed some TLC. Having re-carpeted the boot I then re-painted the spare steel wire wheel, then worked my way forward, removing the seats so I could repaint the floor pan, finally fitting new carpet, door panels etc. With help from my son-in-law we worked on the engine and having had problems when in Guernsey getting the old dear started each morning, we converted it to electronic ignition. The help given to me by my son-in-law has been invaluable, as has the help and advice I have received from so many of you in the Club.

As 'a green horn' where MGs are concerned it has been terrific knowing there is always someone with an answer to one problem or another and that help is given so willingly, and for that I thank you.



Gina and I have been made to feel very welcome, and have enjoyed the various meetings and events we have attended. Our first trip away to Guernsey last April was great fun and we look forward to sharing with you many more enjoyable events in the coming year.

Philip

International launch of all new MG

I realise that there is a similar piece in this month's 'Enjoying MG' on the MG6.

However, I received the content for this piece from the MG PR group at the end of November but as there was no newsletter in December I kept it for this edition – I'd like to think I received it before the Enjoying MG magazine.....I asked the PR group if they could provide a speaker for one of our club evenings – but they declined:

MG Motor proudly announced the international launch of the all new MG6 on 23 November 2009.

The launch took place at the Guangzhou Auto show in China and is the beginning of an exciting new global future for the MG brand. The launch in China, the world's largest automotive market began the international roll out of sales of MG6 which includes the UK. Sales in China will begin in January and plans for the UK and other markets will be released during 2010.

Guy Jones, Sales and Marketing Director for MG Motor UK said, "This is a milestone day for the iconic MG brand and for the UK automotive industry.

MG has begun the international launch of an all new model that has been designed and engineered here in the UK, for the global automotive market. Currently we only build and sell the mid-engined TF sports car here in the UK, but we can now look forward to expanding the range of MG products."

It was also announced that production of MG6 for the China market will begin at the brand new state of the art factory in Lingang, China in December 2009. It is also planned to commence production of MG6 at the Birmingham plant in the UK before the end of 2010.



The world famous MG brand has never had such a bright future as it starts to expand global sales with an exciting new range of products.

About the MG6

The MG6 is a sporting five seat fastback model, designed to capture the character of the MG brand and bring something different to the volume market.

Specifications for the UK and European markets will be released at a later date.

MG Brand Corporate Identity



The MG6 proudly displays a new modernised version of the famous MG octagon badge for the first time. This new design is planned to carry forward on to all new MG models. This new branding features in the new corporate identity for the launch in China which also uses the Morris Garages naming. This reflects the pride in the history of the brand, the need to communicate this in new markets and is a clear differentiator for the MG brand.

MG6 Key Dimensions

Length: 4651 mm

Width: 1826 mm (without mirrors)

Height: 1480 mm

Specifications for the UK and European markets will be released at a later date.

ED



Guess What?

The 'guess what' feature seemed to be quite popular, judging by the responses I received to the mystery car piece I included in the October/November newsletter. So much so that I asked for any other pics you may have to further test our knowledgeable readers. There was an avalanche of one photo received from Jeff Rattle – which I include below.....



Now, the only information we have is that included in the photo, which was taken in Santillana del Mar in Northern Spain - so put your thinking caps on.

Caption Competition

C'mon lads! He said he was chair of The Wessex MG Club.... and was insistent that he dropped the 10p while he was looking at the car...



No entries were received (Sigh) for the November Caption. So I have included this one.....

ED



I've included this caption to remind us of sunnier and warmer days....

MG Factoids

A new feature for 2010. I will attempt to include a snippet of hopefully interesting and perhaps unusual information each month. If you have something that you would like to include, then please let me know.

Old Speckly Hen

Old Speckly Hen was the name given to the factory's Edmund Road-built 1927 fabric-bodied four-door 14/40 Mark IV saloon, registered WL 3450. It featured one of Cecil Kimber's experimental liveries of "a grained tan colour....sprinkled with gold dust" and was also available in black. It was one of the variations of the otherwise sober Featherweight Fabric Sports Saloon by Gordon England, of which only 32 examples were built.

After the move to Abingdon, it became a factory hack, but MG's first draughtsman. Keith Smith, lost his job when he borrowed the car for a subversive weekend's motoring..... It was broken up in about 1934-35.

The car's unusual colour scheme is said to be the origin of the name, accorded by the Abingdon workforce, of "awd speckly 'en", which evolved into Old Speckly Hen and so to Old Speckled Hen beer.

On September 8 1979, MG celebrated 50 years of its presence in Abingdon, and exactly one week earlier, Morland, the local brewer, had launched **Old Speckled Hen** beer, inspired by Old Speckly Hen, as an anniversary brew. Created at MG's suggestion, no less than 48,000 half-pint bottles of this strong ale, with 5.2% specific gravity, were produced. In 1990, Morland launched the beer nationally on draught.



The beer was launched, appropriately, at the Boundary House, Oxford Road Abingdon. This was the home of Cecil Kimber and his wife and family between 1933 and 1938. It has been a pub since 1962 when it bought by Morland, its MG connection is indicated by a bronze plaque unveiled in 1990. The pub is still there but there seems to be a grumpy landlord in residence according to a pub guide on the internet – it could have made an interesting day out for the club.

The annual Old Speckled Hen tour - organised by the MG Car Club - commemorates the association between MG and the Abingdon brewer Morlands (now part of Greene King in East Anglia) who brewed Old Speckled Hen in 1979 as a tribute to the MG factory and the golden jubilee. The 2010 event will be run on 30 May.

I'm including a photo of the original sales brochure for the 14/40 and a photo of a 14/40. I've not been able to locate a picture of the Speckly Hen car – perhaps that's not surprising as it was broken-up in 1935.



ED



Photo Gallery

Christmas has flown by as if it never happened. So as we start a New Year and decade, here are a few pics to remember those Gangster and Molls at our Christmas dinner – the last of the noughties.

ED



Club News

WESSEX MG 2010 EVENTS LIST				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Details
25/01/2010	Club Night	YES	The Bell	Wilts & Swindon Safety Camera Partnership talk.
14/02/2010	Valentine Lunch	YES	See below	See below
21/02/2010	International MG Show and Spares	NO	See De-tails	Stoneleigh Park Exhibition Halls
22/02/2010	Club Night	YES	The Bell	Quiz Night
TBA	Skittles Evening	YES	See De-tails	Fox & Hounds Devizes
22/03/2010	Club Night	YES	The Bell	Talk by Paul Warn - Post War Grand Prix Racing
11/04/2010	MG ERA Day	NO	See De-tails	Brooklands - For info only
16th - 19th April	Club Annual Tour	YES	See De-tails	Isle of Wight - POC Paul Warn - see update below.
26/04/2010	Club Night	YES	The Bell	Prod & Poke with Questions
02/05/2010	Abingdon Works Centre	NO	See De-tails	For info only -MG Display by the Abingdon Works Centre as part of the Abingdon Air & County Show
16/05/2010	Treasure Hunt	YES	TBA	TBA - POC Vic Wright
24/05/2010	10 Pin Bowling	YES	See De-tails	The Christy Miller Centre Bower Hill
4-5-6 June	MG Live	NO	Silverstone	For info only - 3 Days of live action on and off the track organised by the MG Car Club
TBA	Club Trip	YES	See De-tails	GAYDON
28/06/2010	Club BBQ	YES	The Bell	TBA
TBA		NO	See De-tails	
26/07/2010	Club Night	YES	The Bell	TBA
23/08/2010	Club Night	YES	The Bell	Boules
11-12 Sept	25th Anniversary Celebrations	YES	See De-tails	The Lydiard Conference Centre
27/09/2010	Club Night	YES	TBA	TBA
TBA	Driving Test	YES	TBA	TBA
25/10/2010	Club Night	YES	TBA	TBA
27/11/2010	AGM	YES	TBA	
TBA	Christmas Dinner	YES	TBA	TBA

Club Awards

In his Chairman's chat, Gordon made this statement on the subject of awards.

"Also on the matter of clarity and a full understanding by all, elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find details of how the Annual Awards are made. Again the awards, represented by a shield and cups, are long established and are designed to encourage members to give continuing support to the Club and involvement in activities organised by the Club for its Members. As an added interest is the award for the Membership Shield, it is the intention to publish each quarter the on-going scores as we progress through the year."

I have indicated in the 'Club Event' column with a 'YES' those events that will qualify for the various awards. Descriptions of the awards are included below.

The Club's Valentine's Day Celebration

Sunday Lunch 14th Feb, 12:30pm for 1:00pm, at The French Horn Pewsey (SN9 5NT)
www.frenchhornpewsey.co.uk £25 pp including bottle of wine per 4 people. Please confirm attendance and menu choice to me as soon as possible and by January club night. Payment to me please before the meal – thank you.

Paul Adams

I have included a copy of the menu below, as e-mailed to you all by Paul Adams on 13th January.

Ed

Club Annual Tour – Isle of Wight

Thank you all for your deposits, which have been duly paid. As a result I have received confirmation of our reservations for 16th – 19th April. I have also received the eTickets for our ferry crossing, the times for which are:

Southampton to East Cowes Friday 16th April depart 12:00 arrive 13:00

East Cowes to Southampton Monday 19th April depart 13:30 arrive 14:30 **Ed**

GoKarting

Test your racing skills at the Wessex Raceway located 10 minutes south of Salisbury. The event is planned for a 7pm start on a Saturday in April (exact date to be decided).

The event will be a grand prix style evening, starting with a 5 minutes practice session for all, followed by everybody driving 4 heats of 5 laps. Everybody then gets to drive in an 8 lap final based upon the points scored in the heats (there is usually 2 finals made up of the top and bottom halves of the leader board but this depends on the number of drivers taking part).

The minimum age is 8 years so kids are welcome. The cost will be between £38 ~ £50 per person depending on the numbers going.

We need a minimum of 12 people (but it's £50 per head if only 12 go!) but if we can get 16~18 people going, then the cost will drop to around £38 per person.

Please let me know if you would like to go, either by email or at the next club evening. www.wessexraceway.co.uk for more info.

Peter Hine

Wessex MG Club Awards

The Club has 3 trophies awarded annually at the AGM. They are:



1. The Membership Shield

This awarded to the club member who has attended specific identified club events as highlighted in the Newsletter.



2. The Treasure Hunt Cup

This is awarded based on results from the Club Treasure Hunts and Driving Tests.



3. Most Enthusiastic Member

This is voted for at the AGM and is awarded to the person who the members think is the most enthusiastic.

MG Club Valentines Menu
(£25/head incl bottle of wine per 2 people)

Foreplay

Mixed Starter to **Share** - HOT Brie wedges, King Prawns in filo pastry, Crispy duck rolls and whitebait.

Fresh Avocado Bacon and fresh herb salad, **Tossed About** in our Plum dressing.

Brie Wedge **Hearts** in our own crispy batter, served with a cranberry sauce

Mouthwatering Lobster Bisque served with a hot Ciabatta

Sexy Pan-fried Scallops on a bed of rocket salad with a balsamic dressing

The Main Event

Medallions of Tender lamb rump **Laid** on a rosti potato and finished in a rosemary and oregano jus

8oz Locally sourced sirloin steak grilled and topped with our wild mushroom and oregano sauce.

Pan-fried Seabass fillets topped with baby prawns and our own **special** creamy leeks

Free range chicken **Boob**, panfried then wrapped in bacon and baked with applewood **Smokin'** cheddar and finished in a white wine sauce.

Char grilled duck breast drizzled in our **sweet** homemade strawberry sauce & a hint of Black pepper

Homemade Aubergine, Squash and **Red** pepper Lasagna served with Garlic bread and Fresh Herb Salad.

Bumpy Bumpy

Scrumptious Raspberry Pavlova

- Homemade **Mouthwatering** Fresh Fruit cheesecake

- **Inviting** Homemade Vanilla crème Brule

- **Seductive** Homemade Chocolate Pancakes served with white chocolate Ice cream

- Homemade **Orgasmic** Baileys Cheesecake