

NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

WESSEX
MG CLUB
AT THE BELL INN SEEND



A warm welcome to all new members (and not due to the weather).

During the last six to nine months, I have been lost in house moving and making alterations to the interior of our new house. As a result, both my MGs have had only the basic TLC. Washing and cleaning for Bertie and occasional start-up for Sid.

As you will see in the newsletter (page 7) our next meeting is a boules evening. Not in our usual meeting place, but The Bell on the Common, Broughton Gifford. Having been told, I don't want excuses - "I went to the pub but you weren't there!"

The evening will run under the usual WESSEX MG rules - therefore no normal rules apply.....

Last weekend, nine adult and two very junior members

travelled to the MG Owners' Club's 40th anniversary celebrations. We were there over the two days and enjoyed the large display of MGs - old and new - even a MG3. For details on the MG3 see Tom.

Sunday morning was so hot that we decided to cool off by travelling up and down the A14, A428 and M11 in all directions - although SAT-NAVs don't like Cambridgeshire.

No real problems with the cars, Kevin's got a bit hot, Tom had minor fuel starvation (pump safety switch) but all in all a good weekend. Other clubs had a few more cars than us, but they didn't have so far to travel.

Our next event is Classics at the Castle - Sherborne Castle - see you there.

Vic

For your diary in the coming month

July

21st - Classics at the Castle.

22nd - **Club Night** - The Bell on the Common Broughton Gifford. **7:00pm start.**

August

19th - **Club Night** - Marlborough College

For details see pages 7 & 10



The Places We Go - the People We meet - 2

Our son Nick, being another petrol-head, is looking around for an early Austin 7 to play with. He would like a pre-1930 Chummy, but of course these are what everyone else wants!



The ubiquitous source of information is "Classic Cars for Sale" on the inter-web and e-bay for the full restorations. One popped up last week near Thacham so it was worth a visit.

I rode Shot Gum with him for a viewing. From the advert, it clearly needed a total re-build, having been a genuine barn find following the death of the owner, a petrol head ex Wing Commander. It wasn't the easiest place to

find, being at the rear of an old farmyard turned set of industrial units and set behind a builders shed.

It was worth the visit however, because we had found another Aladdin's Cave. The Seven wasn't of much interest - very far gone and there was already a bid of nearly £3000 for it (ultimately sold for £6,270!!!!).



The story was that the Austin and some other classics were left to the owner of a small business that prepares cars for long distance rallies. His workshop had six such cars - three Lagondas and three Bentleys - all of which were about to go or were just back from rallies. The largest was a Lagonda that arrived a couple of days before from South America where it took part in a rally from Buenos Aries to the foot of Chile via Bolivia and Peru! It is owned by a Brit who lives in Switzerland and is due on another rally in a couple of weeks time.



There was also a Bentley that had done the Peking to Paris and another Lagonda recently returned from a run in Africa. We guessed that there was well over a million pounds worth of cars there, all of which were in very good condition bar the muck and grime of their journeys.

I would love to see this majestic beast making its way over the Andes.

This was a wonderful window into another world.



An acquaintance of ours who lives near Seend has done the Beijing to Paris in a 1950s Humber. He told me that it is a humbling motoring experience, with appalling roads and very little local mechanical support. A mechanic in Siberia apparently now displays a sign that says "Aston Martin Service Centre" as a result of assisting a driver on his way though....

David Whiteley

Inside out



Here's a pic of Sue literally getting to know a 'B' from the inside out.

Do you think she's getting ready for the next PROJECT?!?!? This was taken at the Gaydon Heritage Motor Museum when we were there in June for the Banbury run.

For those of you not into motorcycling, this is an annual event organised by the VMCC open to Veteran & Vintage machines manufactured before 31st

December 1930. 600 bikes start from (and hopefully end at) Gaydon and tour the countryside on routes varying from 30 - 60 miles (some including the locally famous Sunrising Hill) depending on the ability of the vehicle and maybe also the rider - as many appear older than their bikes!

Terry Warder

June Mystery Car

1938 Rosengart (SuperSept) 6 cylinder Grand Lux Coupe.

The architect of this rare French car was Lucien Rosengart. Born in 1888, Rosengart's early life was influenced by carriages and the advance of the automobile age. He first started working as a mechanic at the age of 12, and by age 24 he had a machine shop and several patents to his credit. By 1914 his products included railway parts, bicycle parts, and a rocket that allowed shells to be exploded while airborne. This attracted the attention of the French Government and they set him up with two factories.



At this point he began working with Andre Citroën's company, which provided the shells. By the end of the First World War, he had become a skilled businessman and helped both Peugeot and Citroën stave off bankruptcy. Involvement with these companies led Rosengart to think of building his own car.

In 1927, he saw the opportunity to produce a very small car for a segment of the market in France that was not at that time being covered by any of the major players.

The early Rosengart cars were licensed copies of the Austin 7. This model, the LR2, was dressed up in various ways using various styling techniques and remained in production for quite some time, and long after the 7 had been consigned to history.

In the early 1930s, he added a conventional rear-driven car based on a stretched and widened Austin. The development of front-wheel drive models led to the elegant Supertraction model in 1937 which competed with larger cars like the Peugeot 402 and the Berliet Dauphine for the first time in Rosengart's short history.

Unfortunately production of the Supertraction was never large, and the company was devastated by the Nazi invasion of France. The company was able to survive the German occupation of France until after the war but did not produce cars during the conflict.

After the war Rosengart, tried to return to the manufacture of the small cars that had made it a success in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Unfortunately, the major manufacturers of France were by then making very small, economical cars that were well suited to the conditions of post-war France.

The last Rosengart car, the Ariette, was produced from 1947 to 1954, but failed to sell. The company finally closed its doors in the summer of 1955.

Our particular Mystery Car is currently for sale at £40,000 and is black with its original cord trim/ headlining and red wheels. It spent 42 years of its life in a French car collection and has covered just under 9,000 Kms from new. Recommissioned in 1997 and is in "time-warp" condition. The original bill of sale to French nobility is still with the car. **David Whiteley**

Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder

Anne and I went to Goodwood over the weekend for the Festival of Speed. We attended the first event in 1993 - so this was the 20th anniversary of the Festival. I used to get really excited in those early days - for the first few years it was a two day event - as there was the opportunity to see and touch historically significant racing cars that I had only seen on television or read in Motorsport magazine as a youngster in short trousers!! moving right along.....

Before I left I was wondering if there would be anything interesting to report. Most of the ground on the estate is now given over to a massive motor show, with it seems the historic racing cars as the supporting act. The contemporary F1 cars are always interesting to see and hear! In fact when the 2014 formula gives way to the green lobby, with 1.5 litre turbo-charged engines, with a plethora of energy recovery systems, the festival will be our only chance of listening to



those wonderful full fat wailing engines. There were a few interesting displays and cars. Not to mention bikes for Terry and Sue Warder. Land Speed Legends was a great display. The goal of achieving the Land Speed Record has always inspired great feats of courage and the UK has always been central to this endeavour. Including the current Bloodhound SSC. The display had the theme of Daytona Beach. The picture shows the Sunbeam (red) and the Golden Arrow that Sir Henry Segrave used to establish LSRs in 1927 and 1929. Also on display was Bluebird, Sir Malcolm Campbell's final LSR, shipped over from the USA - amongst many others.

What else? well away from the action, there was the usual auction. But this time there was a significant and historically important Mercedes-Benz up for sale. The 1954 Mercedes-Benz W196 was the racing car driven by five-times F1 world champion Juan Manuel Fangio when he clinched his second title in 1954. A similar car to the one Stirling Moss drove when he was team mate to Fangio in 1955. Price? £19 odd million.



As for contemporary racing cars, the 2013 Le Mans winning Audi was there for all to see. One thing about the Festival is that you are able to get



close and have a good look at these machines which would not have been impossible at Le Mans. Particularly from the inside! that's another story.....



To my mind the most impressive car was the Peugeot 208 T16 used by Sebastien Loeb to set a new record on America's Pikes Peak Hill Climb. Weighing 875Kg with 875bhp - is that 1bhp/kilo - from a 3.2 litre turbo-charged V6 and four-wheel drive. Driven at Goodwood by Gregory Gilvert.

On a more sophisticated level was the annual Cartier



concours d'elegance. Anne and I talked



about the Mona Lisa as probably the most famous and desirable painting in the art world. What about in the automotive world? Mine would be a 1938

Bugatti Type 57S Atlantic. Not looking its best in grey. Anne's favourite was this beautiful 1938 Alfa Romeo Spider Corsa.

What would be your automotive Mona Lisa?

I recognised Vince Cable being escorted around the paddock by Lord March - looking completely bemused.....



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Upcoming Events

Classics at the Castle - Sherborne - 21 July

Meet at Warminster Services (Travel Lodge) 9-00am to leave 9-30am can you please let me know if your coming so we don't leave anyone behind.

Those that have already let me know are Vic- Jeni , Gordon- Sandra, Jeff- June, Paul- Anne, Graham- Jane, Kevin if he is around.

See you all then.

Tony Neale



July Club Night - 22 July

This month's (JULY) club night is a boules night. It will be held at The Bell on the Common at BROUGHTON GIFFORD. The evening will begin at 7:00PM. Food can be ordered at the pub.

The boules area is behind the pub garden.



Marlborough College Visit - Monday 19th August - Club Night

As previously confirmed, the August club meeting will be a visit to Marlborough College, the details of which are:

Meet at Marlborough College in the Parade Ground car park by 7pm to be met by the college archivist. The Parade Ground car park is accessed through the entrance by the Memorial Hall of the A4 (see picture) - Enter and drive straight ahead for about 150 yards, the car park is on the right (sign posted). Please do not try and go in the main college courtyard entrance by the college bridge. I'm assuming that everybody knows where Marlborough College is but if not, please give me a call.



7pm~8pm Talk & tour of the college and its history.

Depart for drinks & chat at the 'Who'd A Thought It' pub in Lockeridge about 5 minutes' drive heading west down the A4.

I currently have 23 confirmed but if you would like to join the visit, it would be good if you could let me know (if you have a last minute change of mind, it's fine if you just turn up on the evening but please arrive in good time so we don't start the visit without you...). Please note that there is a £5 per person charge to cover the college archivist's time (payable to me on the day).

For those club members not attending this visit, there will be no meeting at the Bell. Peter Hine

WESSEX MG SOCIAL BBQ - Sunday 25 August - 10:30am start

Tom & Nancy's house



SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLES

The Magnette is now going much better and we had a good time on the Wessex Picnic. One of the girls tested the 'wipe off' nature of the leather seats on the way! Luckily I pulled over opposite a Tesco Express so roles of Kitchen roll were quickly bought! Thanks to Paul Warn for the run and the weather - although we wished we had an open top- it was very hot in our tin can!

We are not far off August 25th which sees us opening up our field to the club for a friendly BBQ lunch at leisurely Autotest. Last Year it got dark too early running it as an evening event so it is now a Sunday event. You can come and just socialise and eat etc or you can do some or all the autotests. They will be slow, fun and non damaging to precious cars so please so keep ensure it is in your diaries.

We are off To the MGOc 40th event this weekend which looks to have fine weather too.

Oh nearly forgot..... I have sold the little Peugeot thing and put a deposit down to be one of the first to get an MG3! About time that I got back to driving an MG as my daily drive!

Tom

When is an MG not an MG?

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2013 EVENTS LIST				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
21-Jul	Classics at the Castle	YES	Sherborne Castle	<i>Tony Neale - Meet Warminster Services (A36) 0900 for 0930 departure. A route will be provided.</i>
22-Jul	Club Night - Boules evening	Yes	The Bell on the Common' Broughton Gifford	Vic Wright 7:00 pm start
23-Jul	Committee Meeting	No	The Bell	<i>8:00pm Tom Strickland</i>
19-Aug	Club Night - Visit Marlborough College	Yes	Marlborough College	Peter Hine 7:00pm - 8:00pm talk and tour
25-Aug	Action Day & BBQ	Yes	Tom's Field	<i>10:30 am Tom Strickland's house</i>
1-Sep	Bath Classic Car Show - Supports Help for Heroes	Yes	Alice Park Bath	<i>Terry Gazzard & Peter Hine</i>
8-Sep	Walking Frome Treasure Hunt	Yes	Frome	<i>Arrangement to be announced - Tony and Jenny Neale</i>
23-Sep	Club Night (Review of Spring Weekend - slides etc. and discuss 2014 Spring Weekend)	Yes	The Bell	8:00pm start
Oct ??	Sunday Lunch at a Pub		TBA	
28-Oct	Club Night (Talk - 1970-79 GP Seasons - When Sex was Safe & Motor Racing was Dangerous)	Yes	The Bell	<i>Paul Warn</i>
7-Nov	Committee Meeting	No	The Bell	<i>8:00pm Tom Strickland</i>
25-Nov	Club AGM	Yes	The Bell	Formal notification will be included in the Sept & Oct newsletter.
7-Dec	Christmas Party	No	TBC	Peter Hine