

NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

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



Hi to you all, new and old (duration of membership of course).

As you read this, Jeni and I will be touring around France in Bertie, visiting old friends and enjoying good food and wine.

Unfortunately during my final check through, Bertie decided to leak fuel from the front carburetor. I changed float needles and cleaned excess deposits in the float bowls and with slight tweaking, all is well again.

Although I don't relish treasure hunts, Tony and Jenny's was a good challenge and we were starting to enjoy ourselves until we found out we had missed a few questions - too late nearly lunch time.

Lunch at the Bell in Standerwick was excellent

and it would appear that everyone had good fun.

Very many thanks to Jenny and Tony.

Christmas is looming and the committee need to know numbers to be able to arrange a venue. (See note from Peter Hine on page ??)

A late date for your diary is 29th September - the Shalbourne Manner Classic Car Show. A very good relaxing day, take a picnic or have a hog roast - your choice. Meet at the Devizes Wharf car park at 10:30.

Vic

For your diary in the coming month

September

23rd - Club Night

29th - Shalbourne Manner Classic Car Show.

October

?? - Sunday lunch

28th - Club Night

Club Night start time 8:00pm unless otherwise stated



See pages 9 & 10 for details of events.

Bath Classic Car Show - Supporting Help for Heroes

As you can hopefully see from the pics, the event was well supported by the club. We collected £52.89p toward the H4H charity. Terry Gazzard who organised the H4H part of the event, sent the following message:



"I don't have accurate details yet, but the H4H table and raffle collected £541.74, so with the club's collection the total was about £600. - a very successful day's outing. Would you please pass on my sincere thanks to all who contributed from our club, they made the day very special, it is much appreciate."

Rick Meopham, the organiser of the show, sent the following message via Peter Hine who coordinated the event on behalf of the club:

"Many thanks to all from the Wessex Club who supported our "Marque in the Park" event last Sunday. You have a great bunch of folk as members and I look forward to popping along to your October meeting".

Rick will hopefully be joining our club soon.



The highlight of the event was a collection of Horstman Cars. As there are apparently only around 10 cars surviving, most of them could be seen at the show in Alice Park.

In 1904 Sidney Horstman and his brothers established the Horstman Gear Co to develop a variable speed gear-box he had invented for cars and motorcycles. This was not a success but the company became well-known for its clockwork mechanisms and timers. He went on to make cars in Bath producing about 1500 Horstman Cars between 1913 and 1929.

ED

Talking of Morgans

I mentioned last month that we had been to the Vintage Sports Car Club's annual hill climb at Prescott.

What I should have mentioned was that Anne and I also spent a couple of days at the Silverstone Classic in July. Some years ago, it was known as the Coys Historic Festival, a great meeting back in the 90s but a much bigger event now.

Peter Hine and I managed to get places in the Morgan enclosure on the circuit as did Sue and Terry in the MG enclosure, I also spotted JAM 600E (Viv Alexander) in the MG enclosure.

Apart from the biggest race card you can imagine, featuring single seater and sports cars from the 1920s to the 1990s every club marque you care to mention was represented, so plenty to do and see.

One of the ITV channels showed recorded highlights of the event, now you may not all agree, but the best part of the highlights was the back-drop to the which was the summing up of the event

Tom



Club Visit to Marlborough College - 19 August

You can't live in Marlborough without being aware of Marlborough College. Based at the western end of the High street the coming and goings of college life have an effect on the town. When we first moved here in 1989 Marlborough College had suffered from a few negative press stories but the new college master soon turned things around.

Several famous students were pupils, Kate Middleton and Sting's children all attended to name but a few. The college is very much linked with the life of the town as they offer local schools tuition and the use of their facilities. Our daughter, Abbey, attended a nearby village primary school, the school concerts were held in the college and the Christmas service in the chapel. Every summer the college runs a summer school and many people attend the courses or the Friday night parties held in the quadrangle. Some lucky students at the local comprehensive, St John's, received 2 years' free education at the college when both schools did not have the numbers to run the IB (International Baccalaureate, an alternative to A levels), so collaborated with Marlborough College hosting the programme. You should have seen how many parents signed up their kids the following year!



There are lots of buildings dotted around the college grounds including a mysterious hill dubbed "Merlin's Mount" - see opposite, by locals so it was a good opportunity to hear more about these from Terry, archivist and former master at Marlborough college.

It was interesting to find out that the site of the college has been a pre-historic settlement, a Norman castle, a stately home, and a coaching house all before it became a school in 1843. The mound has only recently been carbon dated to around 2400 BC putting it at the same age 4500 years as it's more famous neighbour Silbury Hill. The mound is amazing to look at with tall trees on the top and a steep path-way to the top. The town's motto "Where now are the bones of wise Merlin" may well be a form of medieval tourism.



After the Norman conquest the site became a fort and castle and the indentation of the moat is still visible today. Henry V111 dated Jane Seymour at nearby Wolf Hall and gave the lands to the Seymour family who built a house there. Several generations of the Seymour family lived there and the current Georgian house was built by Lord Hertford in 1711. Lady Hertford built the grotto and they raised a family there. In 1750 the house was leased as a very fashionable coaching inn on the Marlborough to Bath/Bristol road. We saw

the fine dining room where it would have been nice to relax after a day shaking around in a bumpy carriage. It also answered one of my questions because on summer school evenings I had often noticed the stone pillars at the back of the house did not match the Georgian building and



why was the back the front anyway? Terry said that when the house was a coaching inn the pillars had been added so that people could alight from their carriages under cover. The back of the house is in a direct line from the high street so became the main entrance.

The coming of the railways meant that the coaching business died almost immediately and in 1843 the building became a school for boys. It was intended that the richer pupils would subsidise pupils from the clergy. The school specialised in the Arts, Latin and Classics. Conditions were spartan, so much so that it was generally accepted that a few boys would die each year basically from the cold and hunger. There was even a riot at one point but by 1870, the College's reputation both for scholarship and as a forward-looking, Christian boarding school was established. Over the best part of the next hundred years the College was seen as a school which provided a reliable stream of able young men to the professions, the armed forces, the Church and all walks of public life, both in the U.K. and abroad.

Following the First World War it became accepted that to succeed as a public school more investment was needed for the sciences and maths and at this stage a new block was built. This white building stands behind the Memorial hall, built at the same time with Corinthian pillars and a stone facade, but the odd looking white building is the one that is listed!

Marlborough College also has a connection with Morgan cars. Henry Frederick Stanley Morgan, the founder of Morgan cars attended the college in the 1890s. He was not particularly happy at Marlborough probably because he wanted to study maths and engineering and he was not there long. He served an apprenticeship at the Great Western Railway works in Swindon before going on to design and build cars in Malvern.



Today the college has about 870 pupils and 98% board. They became co-educational in 1989 and during term time boys and girls are often seen shopping for food treats and sweets on weekends. There is no doubt that the shops in town benefit from the spending power of the pupils and of course their parents!

Sue Hine

August Mystery Car

Well, I had two respondents. Ken Scott of course who always supports this spot in the newsletter and on this occasion Paul Wheal.

First Paul, who correctly identified the car as a C Type Montlhery Midget.

Now Ken who usually has something interesting to say:

It is supercharged as you can see from the front apron which is much deeper to house the supercharger and the top of the SU carburettor is just visible on the right. Some supercharged J4's were built but are more obviously conversions of a J2 so have a standard height radiator. This is a shortened radiator and, from the apparent length of the car, I don't think it is a K3 which was a 6 cylinder OHC and therefore is longer. It therefore must be a Q Type, which is a very rare beast indeed! It was built solely for racing with a 750cc version of the OHC engine and 4 speed pre-selector box and only 8 were built! If this is a Q Type, and not a replica, then it is priceless. I assume the owner is both very wealthy and an absolute MG 'nutter' to use it for what it was designed!



Ken had second thoughts and also sent this:

The 'C' Type (which it is) is usually referred to as the 'Montlhery' Midget as it was built to establish speed records at the famous French circuit of that name. It was possibly the first model to be built specifically for racing in 1931 and was based on the 'M' Type engine with single SU carburettor. Generally they were normally aspirated although a supercharged version was available. This is what threw me as your photo was of a supercharged car. Only about 43 were built although there are a number of 'replicas' about! The originals were fitted with a cowled radiator for streamlining.

The 'Q' Type came much later in 1934 based on the 'P' Type engine with its cross flow head and reduced in capacity to 750cc and fitted with a supercharger. I believe that one still holds the Brooklands 750cc lap record of 122 mph.

I am sure your programme is correct, as the entrant must know what he has, but I still think it looks like a 'Q' Type!

Thank you both for your interest.

ED

A Cautionary Tale of Four Starter Motors

Take one Beast, introduce it to a new up-start on the block, SM1 and all is swinging until things just don't click. Apply a hammer to encourage a bit more reaction but still no satisfaction. Introduce SM2 on trial, but the Beast quickly rejects it. SM3, an interim mate, arrives with a proven pedigree but soon, in an isolated field, it fails to perform and Alcoholics Anonymous comes to the rescue. The Beast is taken to hospital with the advice that it should be brought back down to earth with a hefty strap and SM3 put out to grass on the grounds of incompatibility.



Whilst in the ICU, the Beast's underside is examined and as well as the hefty strap, SM3 is replaced by SM4, a newly acquired stud. And so it was with a new strap and a happy mating with SM4 that the Beast was again free to roam. However, and to the clicking sound of disapproval, SM4 was all too soon found to lack the necessary thrust and the Beast was again returned to hospital. However this tale does have a happy (for now) ending in that the Beast has been reunited with its first mate, SM1, and the lion roars tonight.

Jeff Rattle

When is a MG not a MG?

Through this newsletter Tom and I have been exercising the question of when is a MG is not a MG.

On reflection it could be a Morgan!!

ED



A Walking Treasure Hunt

Sunday the 8th September saw 21 members plus our brilliant organisers Jenny and Tony meet in Frome in weather which, sad to say, persuaded some to default to their euroboxes. A 15 minute quiz in the car park required us to identify roads etc on the map of Frome from clues cleverly contrived by Jenny and Tony. An example was "Bertie's owner gets cross" to which the answer was "Vicarage" - (knowing that one of our chairman's cars is called Bertie helped!)

The second part of the Hunt required us to search for the answers to 64 sometimes really quite difficult clues, starting off in the Cattle Market car park and then following a pre-determined route through



Frome. For those of us unfamiliar with the town, it proved to be an interesting and informative way of getting to know Frome and to be forced to look more closely than is normal at shop fronts, houses and general signage. Indeed some of us were quizzed by passers-by as to what we were up to - quite difficult to reply when you're not quite sure yourself! One thing I did learn and I'm sure will come in useful in future, is that NFFF stands for the National Federation of Fish Friers.



Anyway we all managed to find our way back the Archangel for a drink and for our answers to be marked by the inscrutable scrutineers. First came Terry and Sue (plus two little helpers); second were Paul and Andrea followed in third place by Ron and Ann. We then all moved to the Bell at Standerwick for lunch and agreed that it had been a really enjoyable day out and that Jenny and Tony were very much deserving of our applause and thanks for all the hard work that had gone into it.

Jeff Rattle

PS

Jeff is too modest to record that he and June collected the prize for the first quiz.

ED

Upcoming Events

[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 25th August - See below for details](#)

[Bath Classic Car Show - 1st September](#)

Supporting Help for Heroes



CLUB NEWS

2013 EVENTS LIST				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
22-Sep	MGOC - Doughnut De-light Run	For Info	Basingstoke	http://media.wix.com/ugd//aee198_3bbccc42db1f222023ed66dbdcc665ea.pdf
23-Sep	Club Night (Review of Spring Weekend - slides etc. and discuss 2014 Spring Weekend)	Yes	The Bell	8:00pm start
29 Sept	Shalbourne Manor Classic Car Show	Yes	Shalbourne Manor	<i>Vic Wright - meet at the Devizes Wharf car park for 10:30 for an eleven o'clock start</i>
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

SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLES

This month I have fitted a fuel filter..... Yes a fuel filter.... May be I don't need one, may be there is one in the pump.... I don't know really. Having an MGB plastic or as I have one of those chrome posh ones just gives me confidence. You can see if there is anything dodgy trying to get to your carbs and so on. My Pump is in the boot in the ZB and because I have nice new braided pipes in the engine bay I chose to put my filter in the boot too (engine side of pump). It was a fairly easy process of cutting the pipe and slotting in the filter, using jubilee clips to get a safe seal. I tested for leaks and all was good - this of course changed by the next time I used the car when it poured petrol into my boot on start up! A quick tighten up of the clips and all has been good since.

Unfortunately it looks like My MG3 has been delayed to October. I was offered a September car in an alternative colour but I decided this would forever bug me and I should stick with my initial choice. I took my father to look at one (he drives a fiesta.... Ugh) as his wise head would help point out potential issues I might overlook. To my amazement he was so impressed with the quality, design and value for money that he has ordered one too!!!! I include a chart (see next page) comparing the more expensive Fiesta to the MG3.. There are similar tables showing it beating the Fabia and DS3 if you are interested. MG has an active Facebook page that I think you can check out just from typing 'MG Facebook' into Google. With that in mind don't forget our own Wessex MG Facebook page - look us up.

Tom

PS: Ken could you explain ' brake disc wiping' to me?

Tom you will be pleased to hear that the German car industry introduced this feature. "Brake Disc Wiping" increases the efficiency of braking when it is raining heavily. Unbeknown to the driver, the brake pads are briefly brought into contact with the brake discs at set intervals, preventing a film of moisture from forming on the discs. **ED**

SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLES CONT.....

MG3 STYLE	vs	Ford Fiesta 1.25 Studio
£9,999	Price	£11,345
1.5 VTi (106Ps)	Engine	1.25 (60Ps)
15,000 / 1 year	Servicing (mileage/time)	12,500 / 1 year
4E	Insurance Group	3
10.4-sec / 108	0-60 (mph) / Top speed (mph)	16.5-sec / 96mph
Yes	Remote central door locking	No
Yes	Electric front & rear windows	Front only
Yes	Electric heated mirrors	Yes
Yes	DAB audio & CD	No
Yes	Bluetooth audio streaming	No
Yes	Smartphone docking	No
Yes	Bluetooth telephone preparation	No
Yes	Aux in with USB	Yes
Yes	Dynamic stability control	Yes
Yes	Hill hold control	Yes
Yes	Brake disc wiping	No
Yes	Tyre pressure monitoring	No
Yes	LED Daylight running lights	Yes
Yes	Alarm & immobiliser	Yes
Yes	Multi-function steering wheel	No
Yes	Trip computer	No
Yes	Cruise control	No
Yes	Air conditioning	No
Yes	Automatic headlights	No
Yes	Automatic wipers	No
Yes	Body coloured door mirrors	No
Yes	Body coloured rear spoiler	No
Yes	Body coloured side sills	No
Yes	Body coloured door handles	Yes
16" Diamond cut alloys	Wheels	14" Steel wheels
Yes	Reverse parking sensors	No

Never let an opportunity go begging.....

I thought the point of producing a MG saloon was to place it apart in a sporting way from the rest of the dross:-

Remote central door locking, dab radio, smart phone docking, blue tooth audio streaming, cruise control, multi function steering wheel - come on!!!!.

ED

Member's Secretary

Membership

I'm pleased to be able to send out an updated membership register and directory with this newsletter. A very warm welcome to Frank & Pamela and

Bryan & Heather. As you will see from the members register the club now has a very healthy 58 members. On the subject of the register & directory, please check your details and let me know if there are any errors that need correcting or changes that need to be made.



Christmas Party

Whilst writing this looking out at the blue sky, Christmas seems so far away but it's time for us to start planning for the club Christmas party on Saturday 7th December. Whilst it's great that the club has so many members, it does make it a real challenge finding a venue for the Christmas bash when trying to predict how many to book for. Therefore to be sure to get the best arrangements for us all, I will be asking for confirmation and a £5 non-refundable per person deposit at the October club night. Full payment and menu choices will be taken at the November AGM in the usual way. If you can't make it to the October club night, please email me your confirmation (no phone calls please) and send me a cheque to reach me by no later than 1st November.



Peter Hine

AGM

Please be advised that in accordance with the Club's rules, two month's notice is given for our Annual General Meeting.

Wessex MG Club

2013 Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the above meeting will take place on the

25th November

at

The Bell Inn, Seend

commencing at

8:00 pm

Preceded from 7.30 onwards by the payment of subscriptions for the 2014 season.

Notice of any resolution to be proposed at the meeting should be given in writing to the Secretary before the 1st October.

The proceedings of the meeting shall be as follows:

Agenda for AGM

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Approval of minutes of 2012 AGM.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Consideration of any motions received.

Break

6. Election of Committee for 2014.
7. Presentation of Awards.
8. Arrangements for 2014 AGM.
9. Any other business.