

NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT



Last month's club night which was held at David and Carrie's house was a lot of fun and I would like to thank them for their efforts.

It is good to see that the club is still attracting new members, which leaves me to welcome Ken and Sarah into our fold.

Jane and I have had another busy month visiting relatives including a weekend in Weston-Super-Mare looking after our youngest grandson and he behaved himself very well. (Obviously follows his Gramp)!

The MG is still not liking stop start driving and still over heats somewhat. I thought I would take a look and to my surprise the fan belt although still in one piece

would not have lasted very long. I have now changed the thermostat for one which cuts in at a lower temperature and of course the fan belt. The engine does run a lot cooler but the test will be in real stop start conditions.

I hope as many of you as possible will turn up for our next meeting. Perhaps a general meet and greet in the garden until eight then Sue is going to show a short video of our picnic last month. The night will also give everybody the chance to discuss ideas and preferences for next year's weekend away and next year's picnic venues.

Graham

For your diary in the coming month:

August

18th - Club Night

31st - Action Day in Tom's field

September

7th - Club-run to the new forest

8th - Committee Meeting

22nd - Club Night - Talk.

See page 8 and ads in this edition for more details.

Club Night start time 8:00pm unless otherwise stated



FAMILY HEROES NOT FORGOTTEN - PART 2

Some of you may recall that in the June 2013 newsletter, I wrote about my Great Uncles, Ernest and Richard McNamara and cousin Arthur Cawthra who were killed in WW1. Many of you were very kind and commented on the article. This is a follow-up for those that are interested.

Paul and I travelled to France and Belgium some weeks ago with the 'Squeaky Wheel Club'. It was our opportunity to search for, pay our respects and give our thanks to Ernest, Richard and Arthur.

We began with Great Uncle Arthur. Arthur served in the 6th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment. I discovered that he had no known grave, but that his name is remembered as part of the Tyne Cot Memorial. Arthur was 28 when he died on 27th August 1917



On the 2nd of July 2014, on a beautifully sunny day, we travelled from our hotel in the centre of Ypres to the Tyne Cot Memorial, situated on the southern outskirts of Ypres, in search of Arthur McNamara.

The cemetery lies on a broad rise in the landscape which overlooks the surrounding countryside. As such, it was strategically important to both sides fighting in the area during the battle of Passchendaele. It was occupied by the Germans and it was the job of the allied forces to capture it. The cemetery faces a wide expanse of low lying farmland which the British and allied forces had to cross before achieving their goal.

The men were instructed to move forward in silence, side by side at a steady pace into No Man's Land. They were told "it would be safe "because of the amount of shells that had been fired onto the German positions. But, as history has shown that was not the case. Our guide was able to show us the positions held by the German and Allied forces, describing how the tragedy of the day unfolded as thousands of British and allied troops were cut down and wounded or killed by German machine gun and rifle fire. Many never even reached the German wire on the other side of No Man's Land.



The area was eventually captured by the 3rd Australian Division and the New Zealand Division, on 4 October 1917. Two days later a cemetery for British and Canadian war dead was established. The cemetery was recaptured by German forces on 13 April 1918 and was finally liberated by Belgian Forces on 28 September. After the Armistice in November 1918, the cemetery was greatly enlarged from its original 343 graves by concentrating graves from the battlefields, smaller cemeteries nearby and from Langemarck.



Every grave and inscription on the memorial is allocated a reference number which I used to trace Arthur, as part of my research. With this information we found his inscription in the centre memorial. Arthur's name faces the main cross, which stands in the centre of the cemetery.

It is not until we visited the cemeteries and the Menin Gate, that the reality of just how many men died hit home. The area is littered with cemeteries and memorials and can only wonder how many really understood what was happening to them. One thing that horrified me in particular was being told that each soldier that died was wrapped in his service blanket and the money for the blanket was taken from whatever pay he was due. This was eventually stopped. But whoever thought of that one? These men died for their country and gave everything they had, only to be 'slapped in the face' for doing so.



Cousin Arthur - Saily
au-Bois

We were very moved by the whole experience at Tyne Cot and finding Arthur's name was so important, at least he will always be remembered there by our family, but how sad that he does not

have a grave, even sadder that he did not make it back home.

The following day we travelled some two hours south, out of Belgium and into France and the small military cemetery at Saily-au-Bois. Cousin Arthur is buried here, his grave marked by a headstone. Arthur served in the 16th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment; he was 28 when he died. The cemetery is backed by Delville Wood, very quiet and peaceful. Although not in England, this is a lovely place. The cemetery has about 200 graves, some British, some New Zealand and one German. Alongside Arthur are several other men from his regiment, all of whom were killed on the same day.

My research suggests that they were shelled or machine-gunned, probably during a trench change-over in the dark. A main ploy of the German Artillery was to blast the changeover, when they had dense targets to hit and not many places for our men to hide as the trench would have been packed with men travelling in opposite directions. Arthur's 'resting place' is beautiful, and once again, we were moved by the sights of these young men's grave stones standing side by side, as if on parade. Prayers said we left our own tokens of remembrance, as we had the day before and travelled in search of Great Uncle Ernest, Arthur's brother.



Side by Side as if on Parade

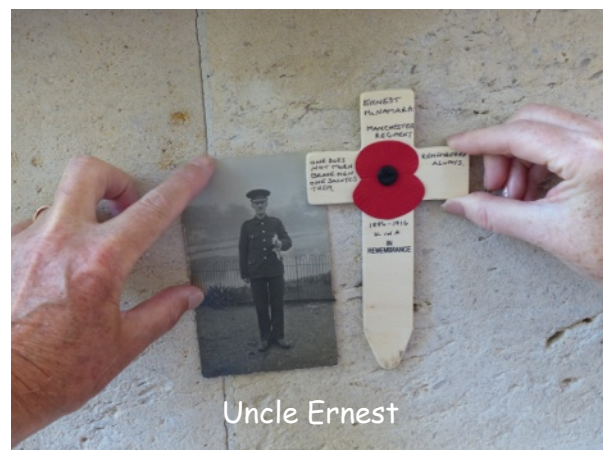
Thiepval Memorial is not far from Sully-au-Bois but in comparison a huge memorial, designed by Sir Edward Lutyens, in a vast area of ground. Ernest served in the 18th Battalion Manchester Regiment; he was 31 when he died. He was also the first of the brothers to be killed in action, northwest of Maricourt at the Somme on 1st July 1916, along with 38 other men from the 18th Manchesters. Probably by shell fire as they advanced to Montauban. Again, no known grave, his name is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial along with so many others. I was not im-



Thiepval Memorial

pressed by the Memorial, I found it cold and lonely, and even on a warm summer's day, a cooling wind was whistling around the memorial. I wished for a better place for Ernest's name, but there it is...

As we were leaving, a party of school pupils, who had also been looking up relations' names, were sitting talking to their teacher, when one of the group stood up with his trumpet and played, beautifully, The Last Post. Tears flowed as a result of this simple but moving tribute, which brought home the sacrifice of all those brave brave men, and the horrors of it all. But even after all that tragic loss of life it happened all over again in the Second World War, only one question 'WHY'?



Uncle Ernest

CAPTION OF THE MONTH

Last month I included a pic for you to have a bit of fun with.

David and Nigel provided the following amusing captions:

David:

- "No ketchup in Moscow - must stock-up".
- Filling-up with John's Turbo-juice.

Nigel:

"a good squirt of Redex beats colonic irrigation any day"

and from me - Gordon is wondering where the ketchup has gone.



MYSTERY CAR FOR AUGUST

This car had familiar underpinnings but I only vaguely remember it being marketed.

Any ideas?

David



WESSEX MG JULY CLUB NIGHT

The day dawned warm and clear but by 6pm, it was raining. This posed a challenge to the Posh Gazebo erectors, none of whom had built this edifice in anger before. Raindrops are a great motivator of course, so twenty minutes later, there it was in all its glory.

By the time members started to arrive however, the rain had passed and we had a pleasant summer's evening playing garden games and having our cars judged by Poulshot MG enthusiast John Bell.

John had arrived in his MG RV8 - wrong colour, according to Ken - but nonetheless, it sounded marvellous.



"I wonder what the rules say?"

John diligently spent his evening studying and prodding our cars and developing his impartial judgement as to his favourite.

Meanwhile, in the sports arena, table tennis, boule, shuttle-ball and croquet were being played under the watchful eye of Referee Binney.

Occasionally players questioned him about the rules which the Ref. seemed to make-up as he went along. Some consternation and complaint arose when The

Frome Contingent was accused of Lewd Behaviour but this was quickly resolved when the Ref. couldn't spell Lewd.....

Points were awarded to winning teams and, of course, points mean prizes. The games were therefore fiercely fought, eventually resulting in a tie for first place. Referee Binney spontaneously devised a tie-break challenge and the Marlborough-Morgans emerged the winners. Our Impartial Judge also awarded points in his evaluation of our cars and this also resulted in a tie. At prize giving, bottles of bubbles were awarded to Sue and Peter for the games and to John for his MGB and to Ron for his MGC.



What style, Ron!



The result was a tie

As darkness fell, an impromptu working party demolished the Posh Gazebo, returned the games arena to garden and cleared up all the rubbish.

Carrie was delighted!

David

Club News

2014 EVENTS LIST				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
18-Aug	Club Night	Yes	The Bell	See page 10 below
August	Evening Trip to Butcombe Brewery			EVENT TO BE CONFIRMED - Vic Wright 01225 704685 vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk
31-Aug	Action Day	Yes	Tom's Field	See page 9 below 01249 447125 stricklandto@hotmail.com
7-Sep	Run to the New Forest ending in Bournemouth for Classics on the Prom	Yes		Martyn Lucas
8-Sep	Committee Meeting	No	The Bell 8:00 pm	Tom Strickland
22-Sep	Club Night (Talk by Ian Brooks - Road Pilot Heavy Loads)	Yes	The Bell	Graham Bennett 01380 723872 graham.bennett1945@yahoo.com
15-Oct	Devizes Ghost Walk	Yes		Meet Market Cross Car Park Devizes Jane Bennett 01380 723872 janexbennett@btinternet.com
27-Oct	Club Night (Talk Part 4 - 1980-89 GP Seasons)	Yes	The Bell	Paul Warn 01225 768676 paul.william.warn@gmail.com
7-Nov	Committee Meeting	No	The Bell	Tom Strickland
24-Nov	Club AGM	Yes	The Bell	Formal notification will be included in the Sept & Oct newsletter.
13-Dec	Christmas Party	Yes	The Bell	Peter Hine 01672 512847 peter_hine@btinternet.com

WessexMG August Club Night -

Monday 19 August 2014.

A Pot-Pourri of **MG** stuff

Starting at 8pm in the garden of The Bell (weather permitting), a chat time to revive old friendships and to welcome newest members Ken and Sarah Binstead and Bill and Jessica Ritson.

As the evening cool descends, we will revert to our meeting room for a mixture of activities:

- Sue has a video of the Summer Picnic
- Roger has a movie of a ride through Avebury

after which there will be an opportunity to discuss ideas for next year's Weekend Away and Summer Picnic. Roger has a proposal for the former, accompanied by a short presentation and for the latter, we need members' ideas for a sparkling new venue.

So get your thinking caps on and help the committee plan activities that you really want.

Secretary's Scribbles

31st August sees our annual "MGs in Tom's field" - please put the date in your diaries. It will consist of the usual social and BBQ lunch activities as well as some basic 'non-damaging' car auto-tests. You only do what you want to do and if you want to wander the orchard or just sit and chat the that is fine too.

Now to my MG3.... Yes you guessed it I have had another airbag fault. There seems to be a poor connector under the driver's seat that doesn't like the seat position being changed much!

I am currently out in France and dragged the family to the Manoir de Automobiles in Loheac, Brittany - this was a chap's personal collection but now a very large car museum that is a great visit. Unfortunately it had 2 Triumphs to only 1 MG but the MG was way cooler being a Metro 6R4 rally car that won the French rally championship. The Triumph Spitfire would rattle apart in a mile on a rally



course it (maybe a bit harsh and perhaps the competitions department at..... Oh Abingdon would make it ok?). Back to the museum it is well

worth the visit and considering it was a wet day in peak season it was amazing to virtually have the run of the place. It is easily in the Haynes/Beaulieu quality and size. There was a great room with a double line of F1 cars - grid style with a big screen at the back showing F1 racing. Damon Hill's Williams was one of the cars that I knew straight away. There are over 400 cars and thousands of model cars and model dioramas too. I haven't seen many MGs in France this year and the French seem to be taking more care of their 2CVs these days - many more about in good nick. See you all soon.

Tom

Club Asset List

Club Asset List (Version 5)			
Asset	Current Holder	Contact Details	
Engine Hoist	David Whiteley	01380 828806	david@whiteley0.plus.com
Club Sail Banner	Vic Wright	01225 704685	devizesdomestic@gmail.com
Club Fence Banner	Tom Strickland	01249 447125	stricklandto@hotmail.com
Event Shelter	Vic Wright	01225 704685	devizesdomestic@gmail.com
Gazebo	Tom Strickland	01249 447125	stricklandto@hotmail.com
Projector	Vic Wright	01225 704685	devizesdomestic@gmail.com
Projector Stand	Roger Binney	01380 830524	roger.binney@btopenworld.com
Projector Screen & Cover	Tom Strickland	01249 447125	stricklandto@hotmail.com

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 Peter Hine by email to ensure the asset list is kept up-to-date.