

NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT



At last we have been able to join club members for weekend activities.

The first was in Basingstoke at The Vine where a dozen of us had a very good day out and on the way back stopped for a meal. All organised by Martyn, so on behalf of all who attended our thanks.

The second was more on the spur of the moment where a few of us went to the Shalbourne motor show. The weather not too good to start with, but a good day out again was had by all.

The MG is behaving itself at the moment, the new fan is cutting in and out when the engine is left running and the car is not being driven. There's

hope for the summer weather yet!

As I write this, Paul is completing his studying for this month's talk on motor racing. Once again it promises to be interesting and a tiring night for him. Hope to see a good turn out again to give him plenty of support.

Those of us going to the Christmas Party will need to give Vic their monies and order as the Greyhound management require paying.

Hope to see you all on the 26th.

Graham

For your diary in the coming month:

October

28th - Club Night - Talk, Nazi sponsored Grand Prix racing in the 1930s. Paul Warn.

November

23rd - Club AGM

Club Night start time 8:00pm unless otherwise stated



A Big Thank You to Lynne and Roger

You will, I am sure, remember the Club's visit to Brittany in the Spring. This was a highly successful jaunt, by all accounts, and enjoyed by all who took part.

You will also recall that a thank-you collection was made at the time in recognition of Lynne and Roger's excellent organisation. This was put in the charge of our illustrious Chairman to present to Lynne and Roger at a suitable occasion.

The Chairman's problem was that our Franco-Indian friends were too often absent, so the gift languished in Graham's drawer (contrary to a rumour that he had spent it....).

F/F to September and Graham believes that R & L are in the UK - could the V-C present the gift at the Club night? Sorry, no, R & L are away in the U.S. (for Franco-Italian read Americano-Franco-Italian).

At last, your V-C tracked them down in early October and Carrie and I made our way to Edington and presented your gift to the happy couple.



(At first glance, this may look like a Japanese Geisha house but it is in fact Lynne and Roger's conservatory).

The envelope contains £65 worth of John Lewis vouchers collected with gratitude for Lynne and Roger's hard work in organising the trip.

David

Lynne and I would like to thank the group who joined us earlier in the year on our trip to Dinard for their kind thank you gift. It was totally unnecessary but a very nice kind thought.

Roger and Lynne

Mollie's Makeover

Well it's 5 years since we purchased Mollie our '73 teal blue Roadster from an Oxford Uni professor not far from where she was built. She wasn't the prettiest then and as I am sure some of you are aware, time has not been kind to some of her body parts including a rather tatty rear end. Parking with her back to the wall was always the preference but the time has now come for her to have a bit of a makeover so she can waggle her bottom in public once again. She also is first in line although Harvey the Healey is getting impatient as I have had him for nearly three years and as yet have been unable to get started. This has been due to building a house, sorting out Mollie's mechanicals and for some reason having to go to work from time to time.

The intention then is to get going over the winter to have her ready in the spring for further adventures and being MG enthusiasts (well most of you anyway), I thought you might be interested in how I get on. Every month I will give you an update as to how it's going with a few pictures and not too much technical details and hopefully by about March/April time she will be ready to face the world once again.



After a rather busy September which included Goodwood Revival, a track day and the last Classic car racing at Castle Combe I finally managed to get her into the garage and get started. So far I have removed the seats, dashboard, doors and windscreen and front wings with the intention of checking out the sills and identifying any panel repairs that need sorting. So far both doors need work and I may have to redo the dash. I also need to get my new garage sorted and ensure the welder and compressor are working correctly. So not much to be getting on with!

Harvey is not being completely left out as he is being used as a store for Mollie's seats and large items too big for the racking. I also keep him well covered so that he can't see what's coming in his direction once Mollie is finished.

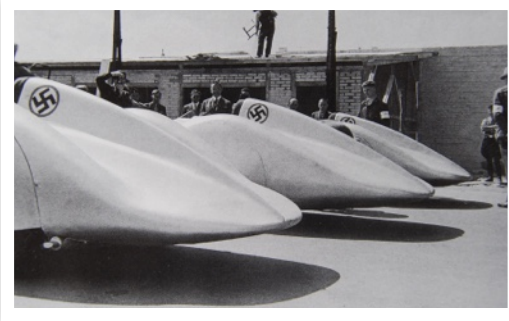
Hopefully more news and progress next month.

Ken B

I've included more of Ken's "before" photos in the Photo Gallery [ED](#)

October Club-Night Talk

For the last few years I've talked about Grand Prix racing in my living memory which has included our experiences attending meetings and indeed how on a couple of occasions I came to be involved in the periphery of the sport.



This year we are going back into time - the 1930s - a time when the world was both politically and financially unstable.

It was arguably the most exciting period of the sport. A period when as part of Hitler's propaganda campaign to promote German superiority, he sponsored Mercedes Benz and Auto Union to build cars for the 1934 - 1939 Grand Prix seasons.

The design of the cars was a quantum leap in the evolution of the GP car. Hitler's aim was to pit the two companies' against each other in an arms race to dominate Grand Prix racing. As a result they became bitter rivals.

Over the year's I've accrued numerous books, magazines and stuff on this period. It is this information I will be drawing on for my talk.

The German teams also invaded England ...you will need to come to my talk to find out more...



ED

Hi All,

This year, the club Christmas dinner will be at the Greyhound in Bromham on Saturday 12th December. As in previous years, club funds will provide a subsidy to the cost of each meal, so this year 3 courses is £18.99 per person.

The deadline for letting me know you are coming is this month's club night 28th September - or if you are not coming to the meeting by email please - vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk I will collect a £5/person deposit on the 28th. If you pay/ send a cheque you will need to make the cheque out to me.

The menu is included on page 14. For the October meeting, I will need your menu choices along with full non-refundable payments.

Vic

PS - Don't forget secret santa, £5 - £8 per person.



Answer to September's Mystery "Car"

It's an Opperman Motorcart, built by S.E. Opperman of Hertfordshire in the 1940's. As a quote from the brochure at the time proudly proclaims 'Materials of the finest quality, much scientific research and high class engineering design have gone into the manufacture of every Opperman Motocar'

The vehicle had four forward gears and a reverse, and was fitted with a Opperman patented "improved control lever" which enabled the vehicle to be driven whilst the driver was either standing on the platform or walking alongside, making it extremely useful if there was a desire to move it over short distances with frequent stops.



- The engine was a petrol, single cylinder, four stroke, air cooled type, Douglas SV63 a 630 cc unit of 6 1/2 hp.
- The optimum load carrying capacity for the Motocart was 30 cwts (3380 lbs) (about 1 1/2 ton), but this depended entirely on the type and condition of the ground over which the vehicle travelled. For soft, boggy ground the load had to be considerably reduced.
- Overall dimensions were 13 ft 11" in length and 6 ft 7" in width, with a turning circle of 27 ft 5 ".
- Cost was not listed but some parts options were. For example, a chassis similar to the one drawn on the front cover of the brochure would cost approximately £105 to assemble, and a complete gear box assembly would set you back £74-7-6.

I'm sure many will be relieved to know the answer after many sleepless nights of research....

Peter

October's Mystery Car

This month's mystery car arrives courtesy of Vic.



Make Sure You Keep Your Teabags Dry

I finally remembered to have the camera with me. I keep meaning to get a picture of this road sign, which is on the A350, coming into Westbury from the Warminster direction.

It just makes me chuckle every time I see it. It conjures up images of the shopping plaza being flooded and people being fully clothed and floundering across it dragging their shopping bags behind them!

Or maybe I just have a vivid and distorted imagination?



Malcolm T

Photo Gallery

More "before" pictures of Ken's winter project.



Is this the answer to limited luggage space? as seen on a recent tour of Cornwall. ED



Club News

Secretary's Scribbles

So Paul wants to know my thoughts on the illegal and disgusting conduct of the VW group. Not the sort of behaviour that one would get from a British company! I am beginning to feel ashamed that the British army saved and restarted VW after the Second World War. On a serious note I do hope that none of our members have been caught out but has it changed members buying habits? Would you still consider buying one? I have been put off by the VW group gearbox issues and the endless VW owner letters to Honest John in my Dad's paper before this recent scandal. They are going to pay financially but will they lose sales? By the way the MG 6 diesel is a good alternative to a cheating diesel VW.

We are beginning to think that Nancy's mum may be affected with her red 'Postman Pat' Skoda Yeti (I would love to badge it up with a Jess the cat on the passenger seat!). I'll let you know what happens if she is affected.

I have taken out my Speedo this weekend ready for it to be recalibrated and to have the Mileometer fixed. The Mileometer has never worked and the new gearbox has stopped the speedo being accurate and I have got fed up having to turn the satnav on every time that I go out.

I had to get Nancy in the car and pop a cardboard arrow on the centre of the cable. I then had to push the car for twenty turns of the road wheel whilst she counted the revolutions of the cable. I also had to measure the distance covered for one wheel turn, the distance from the centre of the wheel to the ground and give all the tyre information. I had the choice of Speedycables or Speedograph Richfield and I couldn't make my mind up so I asked Nancy to choose from the names and instead she replied which is the oldest company? The Speedo has gone off to Speedograph Richfield.

Tom

2015 EVENTS LIST				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
26-Oct	Club Night (Grand Prix talk - Duel of the Titans - including Nazi sponsored GP racing 1930-1939)	Yes	<i>The Old Bear Inn</i>	<i>Paul Warn</i>
23-Nov	Club AGM	Yes	<i>The Old Bear Inn</i>	Formal notification will be included in the Sept & Oct newsletter.
12-Dec	Christmas Party	Yes	<i>The Grey Hound</i>	



Christmas Menu

2 courses £20.99 per person • 3 courses £23.99 per person

STARTERS

Seasonal Butternut Squash Veloute (v)

Bromham Butternut squash, roasted and puréed into a rich soup, served with thyme crème fraîche and fresh crusty bread

Oak Smoked Salmon & King Prawn Cocktail

served with a Marie Rose sauce and fresh crusty bread

Duck, Orange & Grand Marnier Terrine

served with melba toast and homemade chutney

Sea Bass

fresh fillet of Sea Bass served with a sweet pepper sauce

Somerset Brie (v)

baked Somerset Brie with cranberry, orange & port sauce

MAIN COURSE

Traditional Free Range Roast Turkey

free range turkey breast from Woolley Park Farm in Bradford on Avon, served with all the trimmings

Aged Sirloin Steak

aged Scotch Sirloin steak topped with a red wine, shallot & pancetta sauce (£2 Supplement)

Berkshire Rare Breed Pork Loin

served with a Lemon, thyme & cream sauce

Herb Crusted Cod Fillet

prime fillet of Cod topped with a herb and parmesan crust, with a white wine & parsley sauce

Pheasant Breast

roasted Pheasant breast, stuffed with prunes & spinach, wrapped in smoked streaky bacon, with wild mushroom sauce

Christmas Cracker Pie (v)

short crust pastry pie filled with honeyed parsnips, pearl onions, Wensleydale and cheddar cheese with chestnuts, white port and orange

**** all will be served with a selection of locally grown ***
seasonal vegetables, roast and new potatoes*

DESSERTS

West Country Christmas Pudding

West Country recipe, brandy, cider, spices and loads of fruit!
Served with brandy cream

Raspberry & Cointreau Cheesecake

rich vanilla cheesecake topped with fresh raspberries in Cointreau, served with cream

Toffee Apple Crumble

served with lashings of custard

Festive Crème Brûlée

Orange, lemon & cinnamon crème brûlée, served with homemade shortbread

Cheese and Biscuits - £2 supplement

Wookey Hole Cave Aged Cheddar, Waterloo Brie, Wyfe of Bath, Rachel Goats Cheese and Long Clawson Stilton, served with grapes and chutney

£3 discount for parties booked on Monday to Wednesday

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

2015 Annual General Meeting

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

23rd November

at

The Bear Inn Staverton

commencing at

8:00 pm

Preceded from 7.30 onwards by the payment of subscriptions for the 2016 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 2014 AGM.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Consideration of any motions received.

Break

6. Election of Committee for 2016.
7. Presentation of Awards.
8. Arrangements for 2016 AGM.
9. Any other business.