



WESSEX MG CAR CLUB

THE OLD BEAR INN STAVERTON



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NEXT CLUB NIGHT:

25th January

Club Night Start time
8:00pm unless otherwise
stated.

Club Website

<http://www.wessexmgclub.org.uk>

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Firstly let me wish you all a Happy New Year, just in case some of you did not get my e-mail.

I hope you all had a good time over the festive season as Jane and I did, although Jane did come down with a nasty bug and is now getting over it. Your Committee meets in a couple of day`s time to sort out the calendar for the coming year. By the time you read my chat we will hopefully have most of it listed in your News Letter.

I would like to congratulate John Bishop on his win on the Christmas draw and Lynn Hole on winning the booby prize.

I have had two good days at Castle Coombe skid pan Just before Christmas. One was my present from Jane and the other was my treat for our sons. We all enjoyed it as it was good fun.

I usually take the MG out at least once over the Christmas period, but this year with so much poor weather it has stayed in the garage.

I would like to welcome Ken (Scott) onto the committee, as "new" members have new ideas. We are also open to any of our members putting forward any suggestions that they may have as it is not always easy for us to please everyone and our ideas can sometimes be a little stale.

As you can see, Paul has redesigned our letter. Personally, I feel it is a fresher look, thank him for his efforts.

We have a talk on bees and honey at this month`s meeting by Claire Barker which should be interesting. I look forward to seeing you all then, and thank you for your support as usual.

Graham





2015 CLASSIC MOTOR SHOW NEC

*Taking a Trip Down
Memory Lane...*

John Bishop

Without Peter Hines' timely email informing us about available discounts, I would not even have remembered that this event was happening! But as I was planning to pass by Birmingham on Saturday November 14 the temptation was too great. So thank you Peter for prompting what became an engrossing trip down memory lane in several senses!

Having been stung £12 for parking I wimpishly jumped aboard the so-called free shuttle bus which whisked me to the new venue of the

"lakeside" halls which are huge and easily house the amazing array of 2500 classic cars and motorcycles spanning over 100 years of motoring. With so many treasures on offer I hardly knew where to begin! With Priscilla in London and having only myself to please, I opted for the totally aimless approach whereby I would allow the stands to distract me on a random basis.

Of course some people have little time for classic cars, but I guess that in the MGOC we "get" the thrill of owning an oldie

and take an interest in other types and makes of vehicle. Anyone surely will understand why someone might wish to own a gleaming 1930s Bentley for example, but the first car that I encountered was the wreck of a Ford Cortina that had been in a hedge since 1983 yet somehow, miraculously, had been driven to the show by its proud owner who promises to restore it to concours condition. Hundreds or even thousands of hours of painstaking work lie ahead to resurrect a car that some people would feel was best suited to the

crusher - but of course one of the great sociological truths of this exhibition is that "it takes all sorts"!

But then things became a bit more personal. On the Rover stand was a

gorgeous two-tone green Rover 100 - the vehicle on which my father had taught me to drive



and subsequently to take (and pass) my driving test. Could it be the same car...?

But no, this one hailed from Cambridge while we had lived in south London. But when I stuck my head through the window the smell of leather was wonderful: just as I remembered it. And then the Triumph stand where of course they had a

Herald: my first car was a two-tone yellow and white hardtop which I bought for £70, although I had hankered after a convertible. This "ladies car" as they called it had a 25 foot turning circle

which would rival a London taxi.

As if this had not been enough of a trip down memory lane, I then came across the wreck of a 1963 blue MG Midget which was the spitting

image of my 1966 Austin Healey Sprite. This was displayed by Banbury and Bicester College who teach and

run courses in vehicle restoration: this particular car will be fully restored by students as part of their training course.

Whilst utterly failing to understand how anyone could get a car into

such a pitiful state, the (now ex-) teacher in me was interested to learn about providers of full-time classic vehicle restoration programmes and apprenticeships.



Adjacent to this decrepit MG was a totally magnificent 1912 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost. This vehicle had been restored and displayed my P and A Wood who also offer a 4 year apprenticeship leading to a qualification in classic vehicle restoration. The juxtaposition of the two cars, rusty wreck and gleaming Roller, somehow symbolised what this whole exhibition is about. Time is a great leveller and I just loved the idea that these two cars could be exhibited side by side.

But what about MGs you may well ask! Of course I spent a long time enjoying

the various MG stands which were stimulating a great deal of interest. I even treated myself to a

nice mug with a red MGB on it.

And so to fantasy time - if I could enter cloud cuckoo land and take a car home regardless of price, what would it be? I absolutely



loved a red 1939 MG TB which just sparkled, the Ferraris were tempting and there was a wonderful Bentley S1 Continental which was a snip at £350,000, but I found myself stuck in the groove of memory lane. So I'm going for a lovely black 1933 MG J2 at a mere £46, 500. Why? Well my neighbour had one when I

was growing up and I always hankered after a drive in it but was never offered.....

I am sure that the 2016 exhibition will be even bigger and better. I bumped into Andy Hole who was critically eying up the Singer stand and I somehow missed Tom who I believe was also there,

but perhaps we can get a group of us together one year. I can certainly recommend it both for the spectacle and for the memories that these cars will inevitably trigger.



A Great Nostalgic Photo - courtesy of Tom





MOLLIES'S MAKEOVER PART 3

Ken Binstead

Lots of cleaning up around floors with various repair panels fitted being the main tasks that were ongoing before Christmas. Basically continuing as before but getting closer to the more interesting bits.

On inspection the near side wing needed some major repairs as the soda blasting had revealed some very thin areas. Luckily MGOC do a repair panel for the lower section and for the remaining areas I have managed to patch it and lead load the areas where some minor panel beating was required.

The Inner sill was fitted but prior to welding I refitted the wing and door

to check alignment and it seems ok at this stage, fingers crossed. So I spot welded and plug welded the inner sill and castle into position, gulp!



The next part was to fit the vertical section and then the bulkhead section before the outer sill went on. I was hoping to get one sill complete by the

end of November but just missed that target so here's hoping the offside doesn't take so long. Once that was all complete I fitted and welded the outer sill and once again did a wing and door fit to check the gaps. Although not absolutely perfect they are a lot better than before I started the work so that's a bonus. It's also amazing how things start to speed up once you get so far through. I managed to paint all the areas that were complete with a high zinc content primer from Bildt Hamber and will then apply seam sealer to prevent leaks and finally a coat or two of Rustbusters excellent epoxy mastic that sticks



like the proverbial to anywhere that it's applied, including hands and face!

During a break from metalworking I had a look at the front valance which is made of fibre glass on Mollie and it has seen better days. A fibreglass kit and some Ultimate filler from Halfords though managed to sort it out, however, once I had etch primed it, it was obvious that the finish wasn't great so I have put a thin layer of filler on it and will sand it back to see how it goes.

Despite the variety it was always going to be back onto the metal removal sooner rather than later and so it was. The off side sill was looking quite good and I had hoped to get away without changing the castle rail but further inspection highlighted some rather crumbly areas at the rear and holes in the vertical sill so off it had to come. Thankfully like most homo sapiens I learn from experience, so they didn't take nearly as long to remove and without much damage either.

I ordered a large array of parts including; rear valance, rear wing repairs

and an offside sill kit and they all arrived a few days later. I was going to order them at the NEC classic car show but for some reason the organisers changed the rules and



would not allow the MGOC to have their usual offer of free delivery. However, a huge box the size of a coffin turned up and it only cost £8 delivery which I though was quite a bargain.



One thing I have learnt is not to concentrate too long on one area, so I would work at the front end of the sill for a few days and then move to the back. It can be slightly disheartening otherwise as sometimes it seems as if

very little progress is being made and when you go back to that area things appear to move along much faster.

We are away on holiday for a lot of January so not much progress is expected but over Christmas and New Year I managed to repair the drivers pedal box and start to fit the new castle rail, this one went n much easier!

Jobs still to do:

- Sound proof door and floor,
- RustBuster epoxy mastic everywhere,
- Complete offside sill,
- Waxoil sills,
- Repair rear wings and wheel arches, and
- Prep for spraying



THE JANUARY MYSTERY CAR.

TOM STRICKLAND

I have had 3 entries for the mystery car slot - thank you.

Rather than spoil you all with all 3 at the same time, I will use them over the coming couple of months. Ed



Valentine's Supper

Hi All,

The club Valentine's supper will be on Saturday 13th Feb. at the Old Bear Inn, Staverton (7:30 for 8). You will find the menu for the evening on **page 8**.

In order to fix a 'group' booking, I will need your confirmation, deposits (£5 per person non-refundable) and menu choices on or before the Jan club night (25th).



I will be at the January club night to collect deposits/menu choices. However, if you can't make the January meeting, please email me your choices and ensure a cheque reaches me by no later than the 25th.

To note, due to the short timeline, final payment will be in person direct to the pub on the night and I will send more detailed information to those going once I have confirmations.

Thanks

Peter



The Old Bear Inn
Staverton

VALENTINE'S DAY MENU

STARTERS

- Homemade Wild Mushroom Soup with garlic love heart crouton £5.50
- Smoked salmon with pickled shallots and lemon dressed leaves £6.00
- Grilled asparagus and poached egg on toast £6.00
- Pan seared Scallops with parsnip puree and crispy pancetta £7.00

MAINS

- Sticky fig lamb cutlets with warm bean and couscous salad £15.00
- Peppered fillet steak with dauphinoise potatoes and a red wine jus £22.00
- Duck breast with oriental passion fruit and orange sauce with wild rice timbale and rocket salad £15.00
- Baked seabass with lemon caper dressing, wilted spinach and sautéed potatoes £14.00
- Linguine with lemon, garlic and thyme mushrooms £10.00

DESSERTS

- Merlot poached pear with vanilla and cinnamon £5.50
- White chocolate and raspberry cheesecake with dark chocolate sauce £5.50
- Butterscotch fruit fondue £5.50
- Tarte au Citron with fresh berries £5.50
- Rhubarb and panna cotta trifle £5.50
- Cheeseboard to share £9.00

Please note we do not add a service charge to your bill

If you suffer from any food allergies or intolerances please let a member of the team know
V – vegetarian options g/f – dishes made with gluten free ingredients

The Battle of Ethandun and Egbert's Stone (An Invitation)

Many of you may have already heard of the Battle of Ethandun here in Edington in 878 AD, on a field site just half a mile from our home. It was here that King Alfred, then the King of Wessex, gathered together an army and fought the Danes to victory, before going on to create England as a country under one rule. This was to be probably **the** most momentous occasion in the history of England but, one much less celebrated than perhaps the signing of the Magna Carta or The Battle of Britain.

Prompted by watching the recent series on TV, The Last Kingdom, which covered the subject (albeit with a bit of licence and a few juicy bits!), Lynne and I decided to track down the actual, quite local, meeting place where Alfred gathered his troops before the battle..... Egbert's Stone.



The stone, no longer in its original site lies near Longbridge Deverill, in a poor state, having been dragged downhill from its original location on King's Court Hill, used a stepping stones in a stream and finally resting surrounded by nettles next to a pigsty!

Nevertheless the walk to find them was exhilarating and really interesting and gave some amazing views of the countryside and the strategic position of the designated meeting place.

So if anyone is interested, we propose a winter walk on Tuesday 16th February, where we will take you on an hour's circular trip, ending with the Stones, and maybe giving you an historical review, before retiring back to The George at Longbridge Deverill for a well earned lunch.

If anyone is interested we will meet at The George , Longbridge Deverill at 11am. on

Tuesday 16th February and we will take you from there before returning for lunch.

Please let us know if you would like to join us so that we can give warning to the pub to reserve tables. The walk does involve a steady hill climb and good boots (remember the Edington walk a couple of years back!)

Contact: roger.binney@btopenworld.com

Roger and Lynne

Secretary's Scribbles

So my Speedo carried on being a drama with my Magnette. I have previously written sending it away to get fixed. Well it came back looking shiny and had a little gearbox that converted the number of speedo cable turns for the speedo to read the correct speed. I was told that this fitted on the back of the gauge. I waited until I had some spare time and went to fit it..... It didn't fit - totally the wrong fixing!

With some help from Vic we worked out that it actually went on to the new Ford gearbox instead. Vic kindly offered to help me do this. I drove over to his and a cir-clip later and we had a turning cable. I then drove home connected the speedo up, put the dash all back together and went for a drive..... No reading on the speedo at all!!!!!! Grrrrrrrrrr!!!

After much trial and error and the buying of my own

cir-clip pliers I traced the fault to the little new gearbox thingy. This duly got changed and hey presto it all works and accurately! Thanks goes to Vic for his support with yet another Tom drama.

With the warm weather I actually got a great drive between Christmas and New Year down to Dorset and back in her and I thought she may get a bit damp but no as I parked her in the garage and had a look in her wheel arches she was bone dry.

The Magnette currently has a bright red MGB as a stable mate - the owner didn't leave the keys but amazingly I tried some old keys and got her fired up. I have been teaching Claire to power-slide on our wet field!



Tom

2016 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
25-Jan	Club Night - talk on bees. Invited speaker	Yes	The Old Bear Inn	Graham Bennett
13-Feb	Valentine's Supper	Yes	The Old Bear Inn	Peter Hine
22nd	Club Night - talk on spiders. Invited speaker	Yes	The Old Bear Inn	Graham Bennett
TBA	Skittles Evening	Yes	Cross Keys Rowde	Vic Wright
21-Mar	Club Night - Beetle Drive	Yes	The Old Bear Inn	Jane Bennett
25 -28 March	Easter Bank Holiday			
7-Apr	Committee Meeting	No	The Old Bear Inn	Paul Warn
17-Apr	Club run to Gaydon - The British Motor Museum	Yes		Martyn Lucas
25-Apr	Club night - Prod and Poke	Yes	The Old Bear Inn	
1-May	Club Run to Abingdon Country Show	Yes		Martyn Lucas
16 - 19 May	Club Spring Tour Normandy	Yes		Roger Binney
23-May	Club Night (Mystery Run)	Yes	A Mystery	Ken Scott
4-Jun	Vintage Nostalgia Warminster	No		Tony Neale
18-Jun	Club Run to Beaulieu	Yes	Beaulieu	Terry and Sue Warder
27 Jun	Club Night - Battle of the Somme talk by Tom	Yes	The Old Bear Inn	Tom Strickland

2016 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
TBA	Summer Picnic	Yes	TBA	Paul Warn
25-Jul	Club Night - BBQ	Yes	The Old Bear Inn	Paul Warn
22-Aug	Club Night - Boules/ Games	Yes	TBA	Vic Wright
28-Aug	Action Day	Yes	Tom's Field	Tom Strickland
11-Sep	Club Run to Toddington Steam Railway	Yes		Martyn Lucas
16/19 Sep	MGB CC Register weekend	No	TBA	Ken Scott
26-Sep	Club Night - Talk on Wiltshire Transport - Invited speaker	Yes	The Old Bear Inn	Graham Bennett
24-Oct	Club Night - The Racing Life and Times of Sir Stirling Moss. Talk by Paul Warn	Yes	The Old Bear Inn	Paul Warn
TBA	Pre AGM Committee Meeting	No	The Old Bear Inn	Paul Warn
28-Nov	Club AGM	Yes	The Old Bear Inn	Formal notification will be included in the Sept & Oct newsletter.
10-Dec	Christmas Party	Yes	TBA	TBA

NB The last column includes the committee member responsible for the event. If you need to contact them, you will find their details on page 10. Just click-on their email address or give them a call.

ED

Club-Run to British Motor Museum - Gaydon

The Heritage Motor Museum has undergone a massive extension and has changed its name to the British Motor Museum. We are planning a club run on Sunday 17th April to visit this impressive venue.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you wish to go and then I can finalise a group deal on admission and refreshments with the museum.



Martyn

Buying an MGF?

I received the link below from John Bishop. It is a buyer's guide for anyone looking to buy an MGF. As John says, it is genuinely comprehensive and useful. I have forwarded it to Paul Wheal our webmaster guru for inclusion on our website. I have suggested that we have a section on the website for this sort of useful information. ED

http://www.mgf.ultimatemg.com/group1/info/mgf_buying.htm