

WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN-HOLT

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NEXT CLUB NIGHT 29th April Start Time 7:30pm

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

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

As I write, the weather forecast for the Easter weekend is looking good, and I hope that we all have the opportunity to enjoy driving our cars in the great weather.

Earlier in April I took the MG along to the Breakfast meet at Haynes Museum at Sparkford. I arrived at about 9.15 and there were already about 200 cars there, with cars queuing to get in. There was a good mix of cars from all eras, I have been there before but have never seen so many cars attending, the museum posted on social media that around 600 cars were there during the course of the morning.

We are now entering the busy season for events..

On Sunday April 28th I am organising an afternoon run to celebrate "Drive it Day", this will be a run of around 30 to 40 miles starting at 2.00 pm from the local area, more details elsewhere in this

newsletter.

Our next club night will be the annual "Prod and Poke". Bring your MG or other classic car to the Tollgate Inn, starting at the earlier time of 7.30pm,

I still have a few passes available for the Bowood Classic Car show on Sunday May 5th , so if you want one please let me know.

The following week a large contingent of members are travelling to Mid-Wales for the club spring break, hopefully the weather will be good for this trip.

A reminder that the booking deadline for the Chippenham Lions Classic Car Show is the end of April, please let me know and I can add you to the club parking area for the show on June 2nd.

Look forward to seeing you at the Tollgate Inn on Monday 29th April at the earlier time **of 7.30pm** for the "Prod and Poke"

Martyn







MGB Starting Problems - Part 1

Rick Meopham

The following experience with MGBs may well have been covered in Club newsletters previously or perhaps it is me being a numpty for not figuring this out sooner. So no groans from the front row with cries of "He didn't know that?" and/ or "This boy deserves to be drummed out of the club".

This is perhaps an example of "Fred the Wheel Tapper" who, you may recall, was employed by the then Britain Rail to inspect the large diameter steam locomotive wheels for cracks, by the simple expedient of whacking them with his special and well used hammer. Fred, by his vast experience was able to judge by the resulting sound if a wheel was cracked. After some months of rejecting huge numbers of wheels, Fred discovered his hammer was cracked.

I too fell into a similar trap.

My MGB has for some time had an intermittent start problem. First time on some occasions but often slow/intermittent starter motor rotation speed. This I added to my long list of "To be sorted" MGB problems. Until finally, a few weeks ago, when the starter failed to turn. Been there, got the tee shirt I hear you mutter. Dead easy to fix. Er, well, not quite in this instance.

Day 1. - The easy checks:

Step 1. Battery check. Found fully charged.

Step 2. Battery terminals checked for tightness and indications of corrosion. Found Serviceable.

Step 3. Battery negative lead to chassis earth. Checked found Serviceable.

Step 4. Engine to chassis earth checked. Found Serviceable.

Step 5. Starter motor terminals checked for tightness and condition. Found Serviceable.

Step 6. Is the starter solenoid making an audible sound when attempting to start? Result- affirmative.

End of day one. Retire with a stiff back for a stiff scotch to ponder

Day 2 - Early hours. Eureka moment. Make tea, have bowl of soggys , talk to dog while waiting for daylight.

Step 7. 07.15 hours - Retire to garage.

Step 8. Out with the trusty multi meter. (As any fule wud no, I should have done this first)

Step 9. Check power supply from ignition switch/relay to starter motor. Found Serviceable.

Step 10. Visual check of all applicable wiring. Condition, good.

Step 11. Back to Step 1. Loosen battery terminals. Positive battery terminal clamp found to be cracked in half. Ho, ho. Knew it would be easy to resolve.

Step 12. Fit new battery terminal clamps. Result - starter still inoperative.

Step 13.Remove the engine to chassis earth strap - On close examination it was found to be corroded internally. Ah, got it this time.

Step 14. Fit new earth strap- Result - starter still inoperative

Step 15. Rock car in gear to check engine not seized - Engine free to turn

Step 16. Remove starter motor for bench check - Starter motor found to be inoperative.

Hey ho, problem cracked.

End of Day 2 - New bottle of Scotland's finest malt sampled by way of celebration.

Day 3. Hangover

Step 17. Obtain and fit new starter motor - Result - replacement starter fails to turn!. Really bad headache.

Step 18. Back to step 1. While the battery is charged, how is it performing under load? Remove battery and have load/shock test carried out. Result- Battery fully serviceable.

At this point frustration had definitely kicked in as had the strong March gales and my Anglo Saxon expletives were now beginning to impact the house prices in the neighbourhood.

Time to retire into the house with the single malt and give this problem some hard serious thought. I should point out that our Westie Millie who has been my mechanic in training ever since we got her, and who, up till now, was of the opinion that I was totally capable of fixing anything, began to give me sideways glances and elected to sit on the memsahibs lap rather than mine. The memsahib was muttering that it was time to get a man in to sort it. My cheaper plan was to talk to as many " starter experts" as I could, which Indeed I did, but to no avail.

Except that is one.....

To be continued in May Newsletter.

NOTE - Answers on a postcard please from all who have figured out the problem at this stage.





Fancy a Delivery Mileage MGB GT

Paul Warn

Remember this in the March edition?

As seen in Classic & Sports Car

Emerging after 37 years in a woodshed, this 106-mile, one-owner MGB GT is a rather special find and presents its next custodian with the chance to own an as-new example of this much-loved classic.

Chassis number GVGEJ1AG517027 is expected to sell for £11-13,000 at H&H Classics' Duxford auction on 20 March. There can't be many MGBs left like this.

Well it sold for £14,062.50 - including fees.





Jeff Rattle Memorial Concert

Lynne and I managed to attend Jeff Rattle's Memorial Concert in April.

The event was a sell out with around 250 people there.

Jeff's choir sang some of his favourites and the support all-ladies ukulele band called The Mother Pluckers were great fun, with Jeff's photo looking down on the whole proceedings.

Nic, Jeff's daughter said she had tried his MG but it ended in smoke coming through the floor, but is being sorted.



Hybrid or Hairbrained - An Alternate View Malcolm Taylor

For my response to Tom's question on hybrid cars see page 7. In the meantime, for an alternate view read-on.

I think the real answer is a system that I invented whilst in my teens. Nuclear powered cars!! OK, for 'invented', read, 'fantasised about.' Whilst doing my engineering apprenticeship, we went on an educational visit to the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell.

We were told about all sorts of fantastic things that were going on. How they could accelerate tiny particles, too small to see, to fantastic speeds. These then had great destructive power and could do immense damage if they escaped from their containing magnetic fields. I just thought they were a load of white coated con-men, fleecing millions of pounds of taxpayers money.

Another prominent feature was all the lead shields to stop all this invisible radiation from damaging the human body.

This got me thinking, 'what if this radiation could be made to make something rotate?' What we needed was a mall pellet of radioactive fuel causing the rotation of a shaft. This would need to be contained in something strong in case of collision and damage on the road. The strongest place I could think of was inside the differential housing of the back axle. Fortunately, this was also where the drive shaft came in and would be unlikely to be damaged in a collision. (This is the point where I don't mention the fact that I slid my MGA into a high kerb and bent the axle tube and half shaft.)

Bingo! If we had a small lead lined chamber within the diff. Casing, that housed the pellet and this had a door that was connected to the accelerator peddle, then we could control the amount of radiation that reached the device fitted around the input shaft. Of course the diff. casing would also have to be lead lined to contain all the radiation.

The harder the accelerator was pressed, the more radiation was directed at the magic device on the input shaft. That disposed of the engine. The fuel pellet would last for the life of the car, so no re-fuelling or charging of batteries.

A very simple system, don't you think? Apart from the fact that the magic rotating atomic device hasn't been perfected yet. Also, in hindsight there would be many other problems.

What happens to the millions of radio-active back axles at the end of life of the vehicles? There would be a massive disposal charge to cater for millions of axles being stored in concrete encasements waiting for the radioactivity to decay. The same sort of charge would apply to disposing of an axle when something simple like a bearing goes in the diff.

Ah well (not Harwell). Back to the drawing board.

By the way I also fantasised about the sorts of things other teenage boys fantasise about.

APRIL FOOL'S DAY AND OTHER MISHAPS

Harvey's been on SORN for the winter and I've been looking forward to putting him back on the road on 1st of April. The week previously I was warning everybody that it would be raining on Monday the 1st April.

Come the day, it was lovely and sunny. I dropped the hood and took him out for a bimble to re-introduce him to all the lovely potholes.

Tuesday we had hailstones!!

I don't know if anyone went to Jeff Rattle's commemoration concert at Box? Pat and I tried to go. We decided to pay on the door because that seemed the easiest option. Fat chance! It was sold out and we couldn't get in. There seemed to be other people there that were thwarted in their attempts at entry. Jeff seems to have been a very popular member of his community.

Malcolm Taylor





Many thanks to Frank Fletcher and Malcolm Taylor for responding to the question of hybrids:

Frank wrote:

Perish the thought of our motors becoming extinct but until we have a charging point each, then hybrids will have to cope as best they can.

We are all custodians of proper cars and hope that we can hand them on until time with us expires.

Plus I've spent a lot on having mine restored so it should be good for a very long time!

Malcolm wrote:

With regard to Tom's opinion of electric cars, I agree that they have a lot of drawbacks. I think that their supposed cheap operating cost is somewhat compromised by the expense of replacement batteries. This is about 4 times the cost of a battery for a self charging hybrid. This is because the battery has to be so much more robust to cope with fast charging.

I think in the short term, self charging hybrids are the way to go. But there is one technology that is here now and should be enforced urgently. All new combustion engined vehicles should be fitted with 'stop-start' systems and you should not be able to over-ride it. The air quality in our cities is bad and is failing to meet the standards set for it.

Given the congestion, masses of vehicles sit stationary for long periods pumping out unnecessary pollution, which could be dramatically reduced with 'stop-start' technology.

BETTER THAN A BUNCH OF FLOWERS!









I thought this article would make a change for the bikers amongst us. As you may or may not remember, I found this sparse collection of BSA Bantam bits in my late Uncle's donkey shed. I knew that he had always intended to build a Bantam but didn't know it was hiding under a log pile.

Sue was learning to ride a motorbike and as a Bantam was my first bike I thought it would be an idea to build one for her.

It would always be a "bitsa" due to the variety of parts that I found. The original engine - I think - was sent to auction with the rest of my Uncle's collection, so a search on E-Bay found a 1950 substitute. It required plenty of modifications to keep the height of the saddle suitable for Sue (she's not very tall) and the gearing for off-roading.

Sue was allowed to choose the colour and silencer, the rest was sympathetically designed to match the early D1 model.

The parts range from 1950 to 2019 due to the fact that I fabricated the chain guard, skid pan, tool box and fitted a digital wireless speedo hidden in a copy of the original D shaped one.

The result has attracted a lot of favourable comments, especially when recently exhibited at the Bristol Classic Bike Show.

Sue showed the photos to her work colleague and his reply was "He must love you, IT'S BETTER THAN A BUNCH OF FLOWERS!"

Hope to bring it to the Poke and Prod night.

Terry Warder

PS The next project pictured here might be of interest to Roger.

APRIL CAPTION



WESSEX MG NEWSLETTER

Steve Todd is hoping that his caption will throw up all kinds of responses....

To get you in the mood I've included this: "Say Ahh"

ED



EVENTS UP-DATE

CHIPPENHAM LIONS CLASSIC CAR SHOW

I have had an email today from the Chippenham Lions to say that due to unforeseen circumstances they have had to relocate the show to an new venue which is-

Sunday 2nd June 2019, at

Meadow Farm Nurseries, Langley Burrell, SN15 4LW.

You may also have received an email from them stating this.

They are limited to 200 cars and if you have not already let me know that you want to attend with our club please do so soon as I can still book you in to our club area.

DRIVE IT DAY RUN - SUNDAY APRIL 29th 2019

A social run to celebrate Drive it Day, starting at 2.00pm from the Lovemead car park, Duke Street, Trowbridge BA14 8EA, taking a scenic route of around 40 miles.

If you wish I can arrange a meal stop after the run, if you would like to do this, **please** let me know by email before Thursday April 25th and I can arrange a venue.

I have several names on the list already and if you have not already put your name on the list please let me know as soon as possible.

MYSTERY RUN - MONDAY MAY 20th 2019

Please see below, the menu from the pub finishing point of our May mystery run. The run will start at 7pm from the Halfords car park in Chippenham.

We don't have to preorder our food, but it will help the pub, and it will save any delay when we arrive. I've suggested we should have all arrived by 8:30pm, but this is largely dependent on my ability to produce coherent instructions. If you do not wish to preorder then you may experience a longer wait for your food.

They have also sent me a menu for Gluten Free - please advise if anyone needs this, or any other dietary requirements.

For anyone arriving a little early to the start point there is a brilliant fish and chip shop (Langley Fish Bar) around the corner!

I will be at the Prod and Poke to collect your menu choices or alternatively you could email or phone. <u>s_toddy@hotmail.com</u> or tel:07469 928982

• 'Please bring a suggested £5 minimum contribution per car for the Mystery Run' Dorothy House to receive the monies in remembrance to Geoff and June Rattle, former active members of the club.

Steve Todd

While you wait	
Mixed marinated olives with sun blushed tomatoes and feta - v	5.25
Rustic bread with selection of flavoured butters	4.75
Courgette fritters with sweet chilli sauce - v	4.75

Starters and Sharers

Homemade soup of the day with rustic bread - v	5.95
Halloumi chips with sweet chilli and rocket - v	6.25
Spiced avocado and roasted butternut squash bruschetta with a chilli tomato salsa - v	6.25
Potted rabbit and pork with garlic and apricot chutney and toasted rustic bread	7.75
Tiger prawns with avocado, tomato, crab crème fraîche and herb oil	9.25
Sautéed oyster mushroom with shallots, garlic and parsley butter on toasted focaccia - v	7.50
Baked Camembert with honey and rosemary served with rustic bread and roast garlic jam - v	12.95
Cheese ploughman's with Cheddar, Stilton and Brie, tomato, pickled onion and apple with rustic bread - v Add home-cooked ham for 2.00	12.95

Mains

6oz beef burger topped with Dorset Blue Vinney, crispy pancetta on a seeded bun, romaine lettuce, crispy onions, fries and spicy tomato chutney	13.25
Fish of the day in a Wadworth 6X Gold beer batter served with chips, homemade mushy peas and tartare sauce	13.95 / 8.95
Homemade pie of the day served with seasonal greens, creamy mashed potatoes and gravy	13.95
Home-cooked honey glazed ham with free-range fried eggs, slow roasted tomato and chips	12.50 / 8.50
Grilled cod with a crayfish butter, seasonal greens and minted new potatoes	14.50
Ballotine of chicken filled with roasted red pepper, goat's cheese and spinach, wrapped in bacon served with garlic parmentier potatoes, seasonal greens and a pesto cream	15.50
Root vegetable, chilli and Old Winchester cheese hash served with a poached duck egg - v	10.95
Red lentil and vegetable biryani served with a carrot salad and poppadums - vg	11.50 / 7.75
Confit duck, mango, spring onion and cucumber with a soy, honey and sesame dressing	11.50

GLUTEN FREE - SOME DISHES CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE AS GLUTEN FREE ASK US FOR MORE DETAILS AND PLEASE MENTION THIS WHEN ORDERING (v) = vegetarian option (vg) = vegetarian option. All weights are approximate before cooking. All food is prepared in our kitchen where nuts, gluten and other allergens are present. Processes and training are in place to ensure that gluten-free meals on our gluten free menu are gluten-free. Our menu descriptions do not include all ingredients. IF YOU HAVE A FOOD ALLERGY PLEASE LET US KNOW BEFORE ORDERING.

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Full allergen information is available upon request. Fish dishes may cortain small bones. We aim to support local farmers and growers from the Assured Food Standards Association. 0617/1.



Sidos

Jues			
Beer battered onion rings - v	3.75	Seasonal vegetables - v	3.50
Chips - v	3.50	Rustic garlic bread - v	4.00
Fries - v	3.50	Rustic garlic bread with cheese - v	5.00
House salad - v	3.50		

Sandwiches

Please ask for today's bread selection and then choose from the fillings below

Brie, bacon and cranberry	7.75
Fish goujons with lettuce and tartare sauce	7.75
Mature Cheddar cheese and spicy tomato chutney - v	6.75
Grilled halloumi with spinach, roasted peppers and chilli jam - v	8.25
Open rye bread sandwich of steak rarebit with crispy onions and fried egg served with summer slaw	9.75
BBQ pulled jack fruit with sweetcorn relish and pickled red onion - v	8.50

Puddings

All puddings 6.50

Double espresso

3 scoops of dairy ice-cream or seasonal fruit sorbet, just ask us for more details - v Affogato - vanilla ice-cream topped with an espresso and shortbread - v Tequila lime tart with salted honeycomb crumb - v Sticky toffee pudding with rich toffee sauce and vanilla ice-cream - v Passion fruit cheesecake with frozen yoghurt - v Peanut butter parfait with caramelised bananas and chocolate sauce - v

Chocolate cherry fondant with cherry compote, white chocolate and morello cherry ice-cream - v

A selection of British cheeses with assorted biscuits, apple, grapes, celery and chutney 8.95

Hot Drinks			
Americano	2.75	Flat white	3.00
Cappuccino	3.00	Hot chocolate	3.25
Latte	3.00	Pot of tea	2.75
Espresso	2.50	Speciality tea	2.90

Seasonal daily specials are always available ask us for more details

3.00 Mocha

Putting on our Sunday Best... We only use the best ingredients for our Sunday roasts – our roast joints are cooked to perfection and served with Yorkshire pudding, seasonal vegetables and crispy roast potatoes with a rich flavoursome gravy. So sit back and let us do all of the hard work.

MAR19_WWM349

3.25



Sides

3.50
4.00
5.00

Sandwiches

Please ask for today's bread selection and then choose from the fillings below

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All puddings 6.50

3 scoops of dairy ice-cream or seasonal fruit sorbet, just ask us for more details - v Affogato - vanilla ice-cream topped with an espresso and shortbread - v Tequila lime tart with salted honeycomb crumb - v Sticky toffee pudding with rich toffee sauce and vanilla ice-cream - v Passion fruit cheesecake with frozen yoghurt - v Peanut butter parfait with caramelised bananas and chocolate sauce - v

Chocolate cherry fondant with cherry compote, white chocolate and morello cherry ice-cream - v

A selection of British cheeses with assorted biscuits, apple, grapes, celery and chutney 8.

8.95

Н	ot	D	rin	ks

Americano	2.75	Flat white	3.00
Cappuccino	3.00	Hot chocolate	3.25
Latte	3.00	Pot of tea	2.75
Espresso	2.50	Speciality tea	2.90
Double espresso	3.00	Mocha	3.25

Seasonal daily specials are always available ask us for more details

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Steve Todd - 07469 928982 <u>s_toddy@hotmail.com</u>

http://www.wessexmgclub.org.uk

Secretary's Scribbles

We have just returned from Norway and electric cars, such as Teslas are the same price as BMWs because of the tax on cars. In the past we have seen a lot of Teslas, however this time we saw much less and the trend now seems to buy Jaguars. This at least is a good thing.

I am now going to start my spring jobs on the Magnette. Spark plugs are my latest thing. How often do people change their plugs? It isn't like we use our cars for 12 months flat out and supposedly they are better made these days and last longer. One thing I have noticed is the price they have gone up quite a lot. I used to pop in to Halfords for a pack and I am sure that they use to cost about a tenner (I may be wrong). The last few years I have ordered any service items I need online and then crack on without having to get in my car. I went on the MGOC spares site and was just about to pay when I looked at the price and nearly fell off my chair. I shopped

around a bit and bought some pukka NGK N9YC/BP6ES from Sussex Classic Car Parts for £2 a plug - much better! Admittedly the MGOC were trying to sell me some posher looking plugs (NGK Iridium GO98 at £10 a plug). Do people cosset their MGs and Morgans with the best possible plugs or keep to the basic ones?

So this week I will do an oil change, change the plugs, check the electrics and brakes. I don't believe in points anymore due to the poor quality of spares so I just need to check over the electronic ignition bits. I will then check for corrosion and top up with Dynax S50 in the cavities as required.

Do others have a set routine to their spring maintenance? Morgan owners presumably need some wood filler and chisels?



Club Diary

	2019 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time	
28th April	National "Drive it Day" - 60 miles club-run starting 2:00pm	Yes	Start Lovemead car park Trowbridge BA14 8EA	Martyn Lucas	
29th April	Club night - Prod & Poke - with complementary chips	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn		
5th May	Bowood Classic Car Show No 1	Yes	Bowood House	Martyn Lucas	
9th - 12th May	Club Spring Tour	Yes	Llandrindod Wells	Martyn Lucas	
15th May	Classic Car Evening Gathering	For Info	Atwell-Wilson Museum		
20th May	Club night - Mystery Charity Run	Yes	A Mystery	Steve Todd	
2nd June	Chippenham Lions Cherished Vehicle Show		Langley Burrell SN15 4LW	Martyn Lucas	
9th June	MGs in the Park	No			
15th - 16th June	Bath Pageant of Motoring	For Info	Landsdown	Saturday is free, but Sunday is £5/car. You will need to apply for a pass personally	
15th - 16th June	Bristol Classic Car Show	For Info	Shepton Mallet		
19th June	Poulshot Green 'turn up' show	For Info	Poulshot Green		
24th June	Club night - Boules	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn		
30th June	Summer Picnic - Wealds and Downland Living Museum - Chichester	Yes		Malcolm Taylor	
7th July	BMC & BL Show at The British Motor Museum	Yes	Gaydon, Warwickshire	Martyn Lucas	
14th July	Atwell Wilson Friends Car Show				



2019 EVENTS DIARY					
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time	
22nd July	Club night - BBQ	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn		
4th August	South Cerney Gloucester Steam Fayre	Yes			
18th August	Bowood Classic Car Show No 2	Yes	Bowood House		
19th August	Club Night - Name that tune	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	Tony Neale	
25th August	Tom's Action Day	Yes	Tom's House		
26th August	Corsley Show	For Info		NB If the 25th August is too wet then the 26th will act as the reserve day	
1st September	White Horse Car Show	For Info	Westbury		
23rd September	Club night - Talk	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	Talk by Tom Strickland	
ТВА	Club Skittles Event	Yes	TBA	VIC	
5th October	Autumn Classic	Yes	Castle Combe		
28th October	Club night - Talk	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	Talk by Paul Warn	
8th,9th,10th November	NEC Classic Car Show	For Ino			
25th November	Club night - AGM	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	Club AGM	
14th December	Christmas Party	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn		

Club Asset List

CLUB ASSET LIST			
ASSET	CURRENT HOLDER	CONTACT DETAILS	
Engine Hoist	Vic Wright	01225 704685	vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk
Club Sail Banner	Vic Wright	01225 704685	vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk
Event Shelter + Sides	Tom Strickland	012489 447125	<u>stricklandto@hotmail.com</u>
Projector	Peter Hine	01672 512847	peter_hine@btinternet.com
Speakers	Paul Warn	01225 768676	paul.william.warn@gmail.com
Projector Stand	Paul Warn	01225 768676	paul.william.warn@gmail.com
Projector Screen & Cover	Paul Warn	01225 768676	paul.william.warn@gmail.com
New Set of Boules	Vic Wright	01225 704685	vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk

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 Paul Warn by email to ensure the asset list is kept up-to-date.