



# WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN-HOLT

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

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**NEW 2020 DIARY**

**NEXT CLUB NIGHT**

27th January

Start Time 8:00pm

[http://  
www.wessexmgclub.org](http://www.wessexmgclub.org)

I trust that everyone had a great Christmas and New Year,

Our Christmas meal at the Tollgate was a pleasant evening and I would like to thank Sue & Terry for organising the raffle and secret Santa, Roger for his skill in selling the raffle tickets and Peter for collating the menu choices.

Following the AGM your committee continues unchanged for the coming year and I would like to thank all members for their confidence in us.

Congratulations to Paul Warn for winning both the Member of the Year and the Photo Competition.

This is the first newsletter of the New Year and decade and this year is also the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the club.

In this newsletter you will find information on some of the events planned for the coming year, but there will

be more added in the coming months when dates are confirmed.

The events for the coming year will include the regular favourites plus some special events for our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

Whilst at present we seem to be in the rainy season, let's hope that we do not get really wintry weather in the next few weeks ,

For those who have not yet booked for the club spring break on the Gower Coast there are still two rooms available on reserve at the hotel.

Our first club night of the year is on January 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 8.00pm and the highlight of the night will be the "Guess what's in the Bag" competition

Look forward to seeing you on the 27<sup>th</sup> at The Tollgate.

**Martyn**





Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year and trouble-free motoring in 2020.

## VALENTINE'S SUPPER



Hi Folks,

As is our club tradition, there will be a Valentines meal at the Tollgate which will be on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb (time probably 7:30 for 8pm but this will be confirmed closer to the date).

**The menu follows on page 4.** If you would like to go, can you please send me your **menu choices** and the **full payment** by **no later than Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Jan.** - the pub requires full payment before the event and I will be on holiday from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb so I need to get this all sorted before I go away.

2 Course - £23.95

3 Courses - £28.95

**Payments are not refundable.**

As always

**Ø If you are paying by bank transfer,**

Account Name Wessex MG Club

Account No. 00392302

Sort Code 30-91-99

When making payments by bank transfer, please can you:

- Put your surname in the payment reference so I can identify the payment easily.
- Send me a short email letting me know that you have made the payment .

**Ø If you are paying by cheque,** please can you make the cheque payable to 'Wessex MG Club' and send to me at 18 Dando Drive, Marlborough, SN8 1TT, to arrive by 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Ø If you have to pay by cash,** I will not be at the January Club night but **please email me by the 26<sup>th</sup>** to let me know your menu choices and that you will be giving the cash to Martyn who will collect on my behalf at the Jan club night (although it will be very helpful if you could pay me by bank transfer or cheque if possible).

Thanks

Peter

**2 Course Menu £23.95 3 Course Menu £28.95**

## **Starters**

### **Pan Fried Chilli & Ginger Tiger Prawns**

*Mango Salsa, Micro Coriander*

### **Crispy Lamb Belly**

*Pea, Radicchio, Black Pudding, Mint Dressing*

### **Roquefort Mousse**

*Beetroot Purée, Pickled Candy Beetroot, Walnut Crumb, Leaves.*

### **Roasted Tomato & Balsamic Soup**

*Basil Pesto, Parmesan Crisp. Bread*

## **Mains**

### **Pan Roasted Barberry Duck Breast**

*Confit Duck Leg & Lentil Tart, Pak Choi, Duck Sauce*

### **Tandoori monkfish**

*Bombay Potato, Pickled Red Onion, Crispy Kale.*

### **Crispy pork bell**

*Whole Grain Mustard Mash, Hispi Cabbage, Pork Sauce.*

### **Roasted Red Pepper & Tomato Risotto**

*Basil Pesto, Parmesan Crisp, Toasted Seeds*

## **Desserts**

### **Apple and pear crumble**

*White Chocolate & Vanilla Custard*

### **Dark Chocolate Brownie**

*Chocolate Mousse, Pistachio Crumb, Orange Candy*

### **Deconstructed strawberry cheesecake**

*Raspberry Sorbet, Meringue, Berries.*

### **Trio of ice cream**



## End of an ERA

Paul Warn

Morgan will this year end production of its models built on the simple steel ladder-frame chassis - top right - a system it introduced in 1936 with its first four-wheeled model, called the 4/4.

The story goes that in recognition of modern customers' need for greater road ability, even in traditional sports cars, the company plans to replace the outgoing models - the 4/4, Plus 4 and Roadster - with "a range of models" that will utilise versions of the light and rigid CX-generation chassis - top left - it introduced with the Plus Six last year.

"We recognise a need for a more resolved core product that meets both our customers' needs and future legislative requirements," said Morgan CEO Steve Morris. "The advanced engineering of the new platform is a vital underpinning for the next generation of Morgan sports cars."

The chassis decision is part of a suite of changes and improvements that follow the purchase of the Malvern Link sports car company by Invest industrial, an Italian private equity firm that is also a major shareholder in Aston Martin.

Developments include the opening in a few weeks of a modern and extremely spacious engineering and development centre (dubbed M-DEC, for Morgan Design and Engineering Centre) on a new site close to its Pickersleigh Road base.

"We need space to work on new projects," said chief designer Jon Wells. "It has to be away from the suppliers and visitors who visit us nearly every day," added Morris. "So we've made it close, but separate."

Work is also about to begin on a major refurbishment of the Pickersleigh Road visitors' centre, which annually greets 30,000 people, each of whom pays £24 for an expertly guided two-hour



tour. Tours will recommence in March, and the new, improved centre will be back in action by spring next year.

For now, Morgan is extremely secretive about the exact specification of its forthcoming new models, though it is believed most will maintain Morgan's classic look. More details are likely to be available in March at the Geneva motor show, which the company traditionally attends.

This year's offerings are understood to include a model priced below the Plus Six's £77,995, powered by a four-cylinder turbocharged engine - whose supplier is still secret - and mated to a manual gearbox. Company insiders confirm that the new car will be launched later this year, though they won't yet specify date, name or price range.

The performance and all-round capability of the Plus Six has proved so good that Morgan bosses regard it as a spiritual successor for the potent Plus 8 of former times, rather than the V6 Roadster.



Coincident with the demise of the Plus 4, 2020 marks the 70th anniversary of the Plus 4. The Plus 4 at its introduction in 1950, was fitted with a 2088cc Standard Vanguard engine installed on a strengthened 4/4 chassis with a wheelbase lengthened by 4 in (102 mm). Hydraulic brakes, at first all drum, were fitted for the first time on a Morgan.



Seventy years later, Morgan will mark the cessation of the production of the Plus 4 by building a batch of 20 commemorative models, based on the current architecture. The 70th Anniversary Edition gains a more powerful engine in addition to a long list of specific visual tweaks inside and out. All 20 commemorative models were sold before the build was publicly announced.





## Out and About with "Toddster"

Steve Todd

Paul asked if any of us had pressed our old cars into action recently, here's the Toddster collecting our Christmas tree earlier on in December. She's averaging 100 miles a month since October - rain has stopped play far too many times - but now if I need to travel anywhere locally, if the weather isn't atrocious, and just the two seats suffice, Toddster is my chosen weapon.

This is my car for getting to the swimming pool, popping to Chippenham or Devizes, and taking the dog for a walk usually off towards Avebury. During my fortnight off at Christmas my 'normal' car only moved to get out of the way of the garage door to let the MG out, aside from a trip with my nervous passenger Father who wasn't feeling like he wanted to take a trip down memory lane.

Toddster was 47 years old on the 7th December, so I made sure she got an outing for her birthday, I even have a video produced by a 7 year old passenger camera operative who was singing "Happy Birthday to the MG" whilst filming on the Calne bypass.

## A Question Posed by Roger Binney

We have such a lot of knowledge within the group, I wonder if we have a view on why our car industry has been lost whilst other European countries have thrived. VW, Mercedes, BMW, Volvo, Fiat, Peugeot, Renault, Citroen etc.

We as a nation are supposed to be good at business, trading, engineering, innovation.. so why have we failed? In the light of "all the new opportunities which will arise out of Brexit " there could be some valuable insights.

I suggest the question is posed this month and summarise responses into a future article.?

## A Response from Malcolm Taylor

Why limit it to the demise of the car industry? What about the demise of all industry? Two major factors are involved, 'Bad Management' and 'Control by Accountants.'

Basically management is responsible for everything. If the unions gain the upper hand (1970's) Management has failed. Our industrial relations are generally confrontational. Management is generally middle or upper class, doing battle with the workers, seen as left wing reactionary. In Germany for instance there is a lot more cooperation between management and the unions. A successful company means more for the workers to share in.

If outside influences are the cause of problems, Management has failed to foresee and react quickly and effectively.

It's too easy to blame the workers. Nissan and Honda produce in this country at as good or better rates than in Japan. Although Honda are soon to leave.

On the accountancy front, it is shortsightedness. Don't look any further than the end of your nose. If you can't get a return on your capital tomorrow, forget it. Or they take control of something that is in trouble and re-organise it to fit a particular financial mould and flick it on for a profit.

The Japanese are the past masters at the long term view. They go into a market and subsidise and undercut the opposition till they go out of business. Then they reap the reward of their long term view.

A story that springs to mind is Count Agusta. He controlled practically all of the motorcycle industry in Italy. He told the Italian government to keep the Japanese out. They said they couldn't because of EU rules. He said, if they come in they will gradually put all of my workers out of a job. Find a way to keep them out or I will shut all my factories and put the workers out of a job now. Italy still has a motorcycle industry.

With a few exceptions, we do not have the equivalent to the German Mittelstand. Which is middle ranking, usually family owned companies with a long term view. Mittelstand are generally seen to encompass the following:-



Family ownership or family-like corporate culture

- Generational continuity
- Long-term focus
- Independence
- Nimbleness
- Emotional attachment
- Investment into the workforce
- Flexibility
- Lean hierarchies
- Innovativeness
- Customer focus
- Social responsibility
- Strong regional ties

The exceptions here that spring to mind are, Morgan, JCB, Triumph, Dyson.

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Triumph is a good example of a long term passion beats the accountants. Bloor made his money building houses. He had a dream of resurrecting Triumph. No accountant would have countenanced the idea. He bought the rights to the name and logo and then started spending his own money. He spent £6 million before he saw a penny back. That's not profit, that's the first sale. And that was a good while ago. I don't know what that would be at today's rates.

Added to which we are a very open business nation. We will let anyone in and sell our businesses to anyone. Witness foreign ownership of our utilities. They are a licence to print money and the profit goes out of the country.

Foreign state owned businesses running our transport firms.

I warned you not to get me started.



**Malcolm**

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

### Bowood Classic Vehicle Show - Sunday May 10th - Martyn Lucas

I have booked a club stand at this show, and managed to get a **limited allocation of passes**.

There will only be the one show at Bowood this year, so there should be quite a few other clubs attending.

If you would like to attend this show with your club please either email me or let me know at the January club night as I have to give the organisers registration numbers of our cars by **February 1st**.

### SVTEC Vintage and Country Extravaganza, South Cerney Sunday August 2<sup>nd</sup>

I have managed to book us a club stand at this popular show, which we have attended before.

**I have been allocated 16 passes and have forms which need to be filled in and returned by the end of January to secure our space.**

This year each member needs to fill in a separate form and then let me have them to send back in one batch to the organisers.

If you wish to join us at this show I will have the forms with me at the January club night or if you cannot get to the club night I will email one to you to fill and return to me.

Please email me if you want to join us at the show as passes will have to be on a **first come first served basis**.

**Email: [martyn.lucas2@btinternet.com](mailto:martyn.lucas2@btinternet.com)**

### Wessex MG Spring Tour - April 24<sup>th</sup>-April 27<sup>th</sup>

This year our Spring Tour takes us to Llanelli on the Gower Coast.

There are still 2 rooms available for those who have not already booked:

The Stradey Park Hotel  
Llanelli SA15 4HA

[www.stradeyparkhotel.com](http://www.stradeyparkhotel.com)

The costs are per room- Friday 24<sup>th</sup>, £140 for double room or £130 single room, this includes a welcome dinner on the Friday evening, the next 2 nights are £130 for a double room and £110 for a single, all include breakfast.

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### Presentation of cheque and Tour of Wiltshire Air Ambulance

The date for the tour of the Air Ambulance facility is confirmed as **February 5<sup>th</sup>**. The tour will take about 45 minutes.

It is **most important** that those bringing cars must let Vic know the registration of their car asap, as he has to lodge this information with the organiser of our visit.

In the November edition, Steve Todd included these pictures taken at the NEC Classic Car Show. And asked can anyone spot what is unusual and why is it like this?



As no one provided an answer, Steve has provided the following information.

It was the arrangement of the instruments in front of the driver. The speedometer was out of the way with the rev counter taking prime position. The rev counter was also orientated in such a way as to make the red line appear at the 12 o'clock position. The reason? This MG is used for hill climbs, and the most important information for the driver is when the engine is at it's limit. There is even a red light directly above it which illuminates if you haven't spotted the needle creeping too high. I found that quite interesting!

**Steve**

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## CAPTION COMPETITION

Coincident with the subject of Tom's scribbles this month, Peter Hine copied this photograph from a magazine advertising Cherished Vehicle Insurance Services. He has included it in this month's newsletter in the form of a caption competition. Furthermore, to encourage entries Peter has generously said that he will buy a drink for the person who, in his opinion, has entered the best caption.

So send your captions to me, I will publish them in the February newsletter and Peter will choose the winner!



## POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS OF THE CLUB



Peter Hine has received covert enquires seeking details of membership of our club. In response to providing a membership pack, Peter received this photo for inclusion in the members' directory! Mums the word....

With thanks to Malcolm Taylor for sending in the photo.

PS - I'm sure the car has dual controls!!

### Committee Members:

#### Chairman

Martyn Lucas - 01373 859583  
[martyn.lucas2@btinternet.com](mailto:martyn.lucas2@btinternet.com)

#### Vice Chairman

Terry Warder - 01225 766068  
[suewarder60@gmail.com](mailto:suewarder60@gmail.com)

#### Secretary

Tom Strickland  
01249 447125  
[stricklandto@hotmail.com](mailto:stricklandto@hotmail.com)

#### Treasurer/Members Secretary

Peter Hine  
01672 512847  
[peter\\_hine@btinternet.com](mailto:peter_hine@btinternet.com)

#### Newsletter Editor

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Malcolm Taylor - 07922 119400  
[mtvantaylor2@gmail.com](mailto:mtvantaylor2@gmail.com)

Steve Todd - 07469 928982  
[s\\_toddy@hotmail.com](mailto:s_toddy@hotmail.com)

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

## Secretary's Scribbles

You must do this over a family Christmas..... You have a few drinks, the kids are playing and you find yourself unusually doing nothing sat on the sofa. This is a dangerous state to be in as, if you are anything like me, this is the time when you start to browse online. It could be Amazon or it could be Ebay....

Unusually I didn't start searching for WW1 bargains and instead typed MGTF into the Ebay search. I was amazed at the credit card money availability of what looked like nice cars. I of course would never have gone through with it (Nancy would have killed me and it would have taken me years to pay off), but I started clicking 'watch' on a few. I was so tempted in my slightly alcoholic Xmas state, nice colours and interiors to choose from those on offers.

Some had hardtops and the ones I liked best had replaced the MG badges when they had delaminated - a sure sign of a good MG Owner. Later in the evening in 'blokes corner' I admitted my thoughts and we chatted about the cars and then my sister-in-law's new

boyfriend introduced me to the online MOT and advisory list check available from the DVLA with just the registration. <https://www.gov.uk/check-mot-history>

This service tells you what a car has failed on over previous years and what the advisories were - you get to see the minor issues develop into serious ones - normally involving subframe corrosion for MGTFs. As soon as I did this for the cars on Ebay my whole attitude changed - these shiny cars were not the bargain they looked like..... money pits all! Unless you fluke it basically you won't get a decent MGTF for under £3000. Don't even bother looking at the ones around the £1000 mark! This DVLA service though is amazing and I strongly suggest you all try it if you are buying a second hand car -it is quick and easy and would give you a good bargaining edge if you still wanted the car after checking.

Good luck you car buyers! I am not in the market as I am now sober....

Tom



## Club Diary

2020 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
27th Jan	Club Night - Mystery object in a Bag	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	Sue Warder
5th Feb	Presentation of cheque and Tour of Wiltshire Air Ambulance	Yes	Trowbridge	Vic Wright
9th Feb	MG Stoneleigh (For Info)			
15th Feb	Valentines Supper		The Toll Gate	Sue Warder and Peter Hine
24th Feb	Club Night - Talk Wiltshire Search and Rescue	For Info	The Toll Gate Inn	Martyn Lucas
7th March	Social and Scalextric Evening	Yes	Eddington Village Hall	Roger Binney - 5:00 pm start
TBA	Skittles Night	Yes	White Hart Atworth	
23rd March	Club Night - "Name that Tune"	For Info	The Toll Gate Inn	Tony
10th - 13th April	EASTER BANK HOLIDAY			
TBA	Skittles Return Match with Gloucester (Thursday)			
TBA	Committee Meeting		The Toll Gate Inn	
April 24th - 27th	Club Spring Break - South Wales			
27th April	Club Night - Social Evening and Gardening Quiz	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	Sue Warder
10th May	Bowood Classic Car Show	Yes	Bowood Estate	Martyn Lucas
18th May	Club Night - Prod & Poke and BBQ	Yes		Martyn Lucas



2020 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
7th June	Chippenham Lions Club	Yes	<b>TBA</b>	
7th June	MGs in the Park	Yes	Cotswold Wildlife Park	Martyn Lucas
13th - 14th June	MG Live Silverstone		Silverstone	
20th - 21st June	Bristol Classic Car Show	For Info	Shepton Mallet	
<b>22nd June</b>	<b>Club Night - Boules</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>	
12th July	Summer Picnic	Yes	Newark Park	
25th - 26th July	MGF 25th Anniversary		Gaydon	
<b>27th July</b>	<b>Club night - Mystery Run</b>	<b>Yes</b>		<b>TBA</b>
1st - 2nd Aug	Gloucester Steam Fayre		South Cerney	
<b>24th Aug</b>	<b>Club Night - Social Evening</b>	<b>No</b>		
30th August	Tom's Action Day	Yes	Tom's House	
6th Sept	Westbury White Horse Classic Car Show	For Info	Westbury	
<b>28th Sept</b>	<b>Club night - Talk TBA</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>	<b>Talk by Tom Strickland</b>
<b>26th Oct</b>	<b>Club night - Talk TBA</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>	<b>Talk by Paul Warn</b>
<b>23rd November</b>	<b>Club night - AGM</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>	<b>Club AGM</b>
12th December	Christmas Party	Yes	<b>TBA</b>	

## 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	<a href="mailto:stricklandto@hotmail.com">stricklandto@hotmail.com</a>
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.