



# WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN- HOLT

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

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### NEXT CLUB NIGHT

23rd January

QUIZ Night

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

Wishing all members a happy and healthy New Year.

Following the recent committee meeting the events diary has quite a few events in it already some of which are old favourites and also some new ones and there will certainly be more added during the coming months, making 2023 another action packed year with hopefully good weather for the outside events.

At the meeting your committee selected a choice of 3 charities and we will be asking everyone to vote to select one of these to be the 2023 charity of the year which will receive the profits from the raffle takings.

Thanks to your enthusiasm in buying raffle tickets during 2022 the club were able to donate £350 to the Guide Dogs charity.

2023 marks the start of the MG Centenary year and there are many special events planned to mark this with the

first being at The British Motor Museum at Gaydon on May 27<sup>th</sup>,

If you have not already put your name on the list for the Club Spring Weekend Break don't delay as there are now only a few rooms left.

Also a last minute reminder that if you want to join your fellow members for The Sunday Lunch on January 29<sup>th</sup> the deadline for names and menu choices is Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

Our first club night of the year at The Tollgate on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January will feature a quiz and I look forward to seeing you then.,



**Martyn**

## Club Member Car of the Month - 2008 Morgan Plus 4

# Batty



**This month's featured car is owned by Peter Hine**

**F**irstly, why a Morgan? You read so often of Morgan owners how they first saw a Morgan when a young lad and hankered after one for years. For me, it was more practicality. Around 2005, with the help of a redundancy payment, we were in a position to enter the world of classic car ownership. I had no particular car in mind other than it had to have 4 seats (so it could be used for family days out), look 'classic'



but be reliable enough not to need hours and hours of tinkering and fettling (and not be stupid money). This narrowed the field down considerably and a Morgan +4 4 seater popped to the top of the list. Car found, Paul Adams kindly came with us (at this time I knew plenty about motorbikes but very little about classic car ownership) to look at the car pictured. The car had been prepared for hill climb with engine, suspension and exhaust upgrades (but never raced) and had a 2ltr Fiat engine

(apparently much loved by the race / rally world at the time). Instantly falling for the car, and getting the thumbs up from Paul, the deal was done and home came what

turned out to be a rare car in the Morgan world with only 39 of this model ever made by Morgan (more of that later). Great to drive, but as it turned out, a little embarrassing when driving down a quiet village high street setting off car alarms with its deep grumbling exhaust...

One of its regular trips was taking our daughter and her friends to the riding stables at a weekend where, because of its colour and shape, it got nicknamed the 'Noddy car'. Not the image I was originally aiming for!

After serving us well for 8 years, it got to the time where the car was of an age to need some serious body off restoration work (being of the pre galvanized / underseal years) to keep it going into the future, and as I didn't fancy taking this road, time to move it on. The first dealer I took it to told me there was somebody looking for this very model, kerching? Sadly it wasn't 250 GTO money, but once I did sell it, I made enough to give me 8 years completely free motoring, result 😊

So on to the current car, Batty. Why Batty? The car was down at a Morgan dealers in Exeter, so a drive down the A303, test drive and the deal was done, part exchanging my 4 seater - I found it interesting that when the dealer looked at my 4 seater he just walked around it once (no lifting the bonnet or test drive), asked how much I wanted and agreed. The car never reappeared for sale in the dealer network so there really was somebody looking for this particular car. So back to 'Batty'. At this time our daughter was at university, so I sent her a picture and she came back with 'wow Dad, looks like the Batmobile'. Well that's an improvement on the 'Noddy' car, so 'Batty' stuck.

The car is a 2008 +4 with a 2ltr Ford Duratec engine coupled to a Ford 5 speed gearbox, and this time an all aluminium body with a chassis fully galvanized and undersealed 😊 The car was very well spec'd by the original owner so there hasn't been much to do other than a little bit of personalization and enjoy driving it (and not set off car alarms as we pass...)

On the subject of enjoying driving, as you read this, plans are underway for our longest trip so far down to Sorrento in Italy. Cruising the Amalfi coast and the Stelvio pass here we come 😊



**Peter Hine**

# Spring Weekend Away

Don't miss out on this fun weekend away in the South Downs  
National Park in West Sussex.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April to Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023



The Roundabout Hotel

staying at

The Roundabout Hotel

West Chilington

Pulborough

RH20 2PF

Attractions include:

- Nearby NT Properties
- Scenic ride in your MG
- Chichester with its Cathedral and harbour
- Arundel Castle
- Boat rides from Littlehampton to Arundel on the River Arun



Chichester Harbour

Hotel costs and booking details:

Double room with 2 course dinner & BB is £487 for 3 nights

Single room with 2 course dinner & BB is £337 for 3 nights

Make your own booking by speaking to Andy or Sue Purkis on 01798 817336

<mailto:roundabout@southcoastinns.co.uk> Please inform <mailto:gornew@yahoo.co.uk>

**IMPORTANT** Full payment is required on booking. Cancellation for full refund to be made no later than 48 hours before the date of arrival (21 April 2023).

## Wessex MG Events update

Bookings are now open for the following shows and I have booked club stands for us.

If you are interested in attending booking details are below-

Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup> – Chippenham Lions Cherished Vehicle Show, Langley Burrell, Chippenham – Pre booked entries are free , to book go to [Cherished Vehicle & Family Fun Day | Chippenham Lions - Welcome \(cvs.rocks\)](#) and book as Wessex MG Club

Sunday September 3<sup>rd</sup> – White Horse Classic & Vintage Car Show, Westbury - Pre booked entries are free, to book go to -[Exhibitor Registration & Terms of Entry – White Horse Vehicle Show](#) and from the dropdown menu select Wessex MG Club

**Martyn**



Tom Strickland has included these "Spy" pics of the new MG sports car...





I've recently been looking back over my files of cuttings from numerous motor sport magazines I used to have stretching back to the mid fifties...I won't bore you with what I found, however, what I did come across were a number of adverts British Leyland were including in the motoring press in the late 60s and early 70s.

So I thought it would be a bit of fun to include one in the newsletter over the next few months. Here is the first of the series. **ED**



## Henry Ford's MGB



Another one of those clippings I was referring to on the previous page included this pic. Henry Ford II on the left is congratulated by Graham Whitehead Managing Director of British Leyland's North American operation on his acquisition of the last MGB built to US specification. That's Detroit's Renaissance Centre in the background.

It seems Henry Ford bought the first MG imported into the USA - an M-Type Midget - which is displayed in the Ford Museum at Dearborn - not a lot of people know that...**ED**





## Channel Hopping

Paul Warn

**I**n Peter Hines' piece on his car in "Member's Car of the Month" he concludes by saying that he will be taking his car down to Italy later this year and of course he will be arranging to take his car on one of the ferry crossings - all very convenient and routine.

Not so in the late 1940s and 1950s in fact it was quite a palaver. There were no roll-on/roll-off ferries, much less a Channel Tunnel. Worse still, once Peter had driven down through rural Kent in his treasured Morgan, it would have to be craned onto a boat and craned off again in Calais. Never mind the dented mud guard! - it was expensive and took forever.

Then Air Commodore Griffith "Taffy" Powell recently retired from the RAF had a wizard idea. He realised the Bristol 170 Freighter aeroplane, with its great clamshell doors fronting its huge freight bay, could easily take cars. Bristol thought it sounded like a good idea, lent him a freighter and on July 7 1948 it rattled along the grass airstrip at Lympne Airport, near Ashford in Kent and headed for Le Touquet - the world's only air ferry was up and running.

It operated under the banner of the Silver City Airways. The airline proved very popular and in 1954 transferred to Lydd airport, which had a tarmac runway. Soon afterwards an uprated fleet of Bristol Super freighters came into service which were able to swallow three cars and 20 passengers. The flight to Le Touquet took about 20 minutes and the noisy prop-driven planes never rose above 3000 feet. The cost was £25 per car and £4 for each passenger. At its peak there were five or six planes in the fleet and during the high season they'd be leaving every ten minutes, from 6am until midnight. That is until October 3rd 1970 when it stopped operating. Different times...





## The Club's Charity

Further to Martyn's Chairman's chat.

Every year the club supports a charity. It has in the past for example supported the Wiltshire Air Ambulance and indeed we were shown around their facility on the outskirts of Melksham.

Last year it was Guide Dogs for the Blind and you will note from this year's diary that we are arranging for someone from the charity to talk to us hopefully next month.

Your committee this month discussed which charity should be supported in 2023.

A number were short listed 3 I think and sometime this month a Survey will be sent out to establish which of the 3 will be supported. **ED**

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## Secretary's Scribbles

Hi all, I feel like I haven't done much with my MGs since last time I wrote. I intended to get a quote for the damage on the ZS and also I wanted to have another go fitting a remote boot servo in the TF.. BUT, I ended being one of the many people who were poorly over Christmas with flu leading to an ear infection - then because I couldn't see a doctor the infection travelled down my glands and was affecting my jaw and face - it all swelled up.

I watched too much TV, mostly at night, and so nothing practical was achieved at all. Except for my hearing, which is still bunged up, I recovered in time to go back to school at the start of January of course. Today there looked like a dry day so I got the TF out for going to work and back - I do love driving it so

much, but the rear plastic screen is dreadful, and I need to have another go cleaning it. I have used chrome polish previously to good effect. My Midgets and the MGB I had all had good plastic windows - the quality must have declined! I would love to upgrade to a glass window but they are expensive so I will have to keep an eye out for a second hand one.

Before you all tell me to put my hood down - I do normally on the way home, but going to work in the dark normally means I don't on the way in...what do you fellow soft top owners do to keep your vision nice and clear?

Take Care Everyone

Tom





# CLUB DIARY

| 2023 EVENTS DIARY |  |            |                       |                                    |
|-------------------|--|------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Date              | Event  | Club Event | Venue                 | Contact Details & Start Point/Time |
| 23rd Jan          | <b>Club Night - Quiz Night</b>                     | Yes        | The Toll Gate Inn     |                                    |
| 29th Jan          | Sunday Lunch Run                                   | Yes        | <b>TBA</b>            | Martyn Lucas                       |
| 12th Feb          | MG Spares Day                                      | For Info   | Stoneleigh            |                                    |
| 18th Feb          | Scalextric Evening                                 | Yes        | Edington Village Hall | <b>Roger Binney</b>                |
| 27th Feb          | <b>Club Night - Talk Guide Dogs for the Blind</b>  | Yes        | The Toll Gate Inn     | <b>Peter Hine</b>                  |
| 24-26th March     | NEC Restoration Show                               | For Info   |                       |                                    |
| 27th March        | <b>Club Night - Talk Grand Prix Racing</b>         | Yes        | The Toll Gate Inn     | <b>Paul Warn</b>                   |
| 7th - 10th April  | Easter Bank Holiday                                |            |                       |                                    |
| 15th April        | Pride of Longbridge                                | No         |                       |                                    |
| 21-24th April     | <b>Club Spring Break</b>                           | Yes        |                       |                                    |
| 24th April        | <b>Club night - History Talk</b>                   | Yes        | The Toll Gate Inn     | <b>Tom Strickland</b>              |
| 22nd May          | <b>Club night - BBQ Prod &amp; Poke</b>            | Yes        | The Toll Gate Inn     | <b>Martyn and Peter</b>            |
| 27th May          | MG 100   |            | Gaydon                |                                    |
| 1st June          | MG100 Celebration at the original Garage in Oxford |            | Oxford                |                                    |



# CLUB DIARY

| 2023 EVENTS DIARY  |   |            |                            |                                    |
|--------------------|---|------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Date               | Event                                   | Club Event | Venue                      | Contact Details & Start Point/Time |
| 4th June           | Chippenham Lions Cherished Vehicle Show |            | Chippenham                 |                                    |
| 4th June           | MGs in the Park                         |            | Cotswold Wildlife Park     |                                    |
| 10th - 11th June   | MG Live Silverstone                     | For Info   | Silverstone                |                                    |
| 11th June          | Lions on the Green                      |            |                            | Devizes Lions Club                 |
| 17th - 18th June   | Thruyton Classic                        | For Info   |                            |                                    |
| 18th June          | Bowood 'Masters in Motoring'            | For Info   |                            |                                    |
| <b>26th June</b>   | <b>Club night - Mystery Run</b>         | <b>Yes</b> |                            | <b>Steve Todd</b>                  |
| 9th July           | Atwell Wilson Museum Open Day           |            |                            |                                    |
| 15th - 16th July   | Post-Abingdon MG Show                   |            |                            |                                    |
| <b>TBA</b>         | Club Annual Picnic                      |            | Dorchester Sculpture Lakes | Gordon and Sandra Newman           |
| <b>24th July</b>   | <b>Club night - Boules</b>              | <b>Yes</b> | <b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>   | <b>Martyn &amp; Terry</b>          |
| 6th August         | Haynes MG100 Breakfast Meeting          |            |                            | Martyn Lucas                       |
| <b>21st August</b> | <b>Club Night - Theme TBA</b>           | <b>Yes</b> | <b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>   |                                    |
| 3rd September      | White Horse Car Show                    | <b>Yes</b> | Westbury                   |                                    |



# CLUB DIARY

| 2023 EVENTS DIARY |                                  |            |                   |                                    |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Date              | Event                            | Club Event | Venue             | Contact Details & Start Point/Time |
| 3rd September     | White Horse Car Show             | Yes        | Westbury          |                                    |
| 25th September    | Club night - Theme<br><b>TBA</b> | Yes        | The Toll Gate Inn |                                    |
| 23rd October      | Club night - Theme<br><b>TBA</b> | Yes        | The Toll Gate Inn |                                    |
| <b>TBA</b>        | <b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>         |            |                   | <b>Martyn Lucas</b>                |
| <b>TBA</b>        | Club night - AGM                 | Yes        | The Toll Gate Inn | <b>Club AGM</b>                    |
| <b>TBA</b>        | Christmas Party                  | Yes        | The Toll Gate Inn |                                    |

## OTHER POTENTIAL EVENTS

Boat Trip on the Thames? (Martyn)

REME Museum at Lyneham? (Martyn)

Abingdon and Nuffield Place? (Martyn)

RMA Sandhurst – Would be Weekday? (Peter)



## Club Asset List

| CLUB ASSET LIST          |                |                 |  |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--|
| ASSET                    | CURRENT HOLDER | CONTACT DETAILS |  |
| Engine Hoist             | Tom Strickland | 012489 447125   | <a href="mailto:stricklandto@hotmail.com">stricklandto@hotmail.com</a>       |
| Club Sail Banner         | Kevin Meakin   | 01380 727151    | <a href="mailto:kevinmg1@live.com">kevinmg1@live.com</a>                     |
| Event Shelter + Sides    | Kevin Meakin   | 01380 727151    | <a href="mailto:kevinmg1@live.com">kevinmg1@live.com</a>                     |
| Projector                | Paul Warn      | 01225 768676    | <a href="mailto:paul.william.warn@gmail.com">paul.william.warn@gmail.com</a> |
| Speakers                 | Paul Warn      | 01225 768676    | <a href="mailto:paul.william.warn@gmail.com">paul.william.warn@gmail.com</a> |
| Projector Stand          | Paul Warn      | 01225 768676    | <a href="mailto:paul.william.warn@gmail.com">paul.william.warn@gmail.com</a> |
| Projector Screen & Cover | Paul Warn      | 01225 768676    | <a href="mailto:paul.william.warn@gmail.com">paul.william.warn@gmail.com</a> |
| Set of Boules            | Terry Warder   | 01225 766068    | <a href="mailto:suewarder60@gmail.com">suewarder60@gmail.com</a>             |
|                          |                |                 |  |

**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.