



WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN- HOLT

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

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NEXT CLUB NIGHT

26th June - Mystery
Run

Start time 07:00pm
Morrison's

Supermarket Car
Park Devizes SN10
1LA

<http://>

www.wessexmgclub.org

It certainly has been a busy and warm month since the last club newsletter.

Firstly we had our annual club "Bring Your Classic" and Barbecue night at the Tollgate and it was good to meet Richard who came along as a guest on the evening and has subsequently decided to become a member, I hope that everyone enjoyed the evening.

The events started with the MG Centenary event at Gaydon, a group of around 10 Wessex cars met at Chippenham and then travelled together arriving mid morning at the Centenary event, at which there were in the region of 1200 MG cars and a time line featuring cars from all eras, after the show in late afternoon a few of us took the short drive to Gilks Garage Café for a food and drink.

The following Sunday a large number of club members attended the Chippenham Lions Cherished Vehicle Day.

Last weekend I was at Silverstone on two very hot

days for MG Triumph 100, which was a joint celebration of 100 years of both marques, it was good to see a timeline of 100 cars each from both brands, and to meet fellow Wessex members at Silverstone, this event attracts enthusiasts from all over the world with visitors including USA, Europe and Australia, who combine the event with a general visit to the UK.

At Silverstone there was also the first opportunity to get up close to the new MG Cyberster as it was on display to the public for the first time with the camouflage removed, I believe that it will also be at the forthcoming Goodwood Festival of Speed, it is good that 100 years on from launch it is still possible to buy a new car bearing the MG badge,

For our next club night we have a run starting in Devizes and finishing at a mystery pub so we will not be meeting at The Tollgate in June

Martyn





MGs on the Track

Steve Todd

Myself and Graham Risdon took ourselves off to Castle Combe on 5th June to join the MGs On Track. The morning started off a little bit chillsome, but by the afternoon I was certainly glad to be one of the cars without a roof!

Apparently the track record speed is 153mph, set by a McLaren 650S Spider. Following on from our visit I can confirm that this record just about stands still. Regretfully myself and Graham could not crack the 152mph barrier - although I'm pleased to report that I did make it into the three figure territory approaching Quarry before I decided that some liberal application of the middle pedal would be required in order to continue my existence on this Earth.

Graham was suffering a misfiring problem early on, something that his doctor had been unable to sort. Fortunately the MG camaraderie which we are blessed to experience with these cars came to the rescue in the shape of another driver who was following Graham on the track. He came over to see if everything was ok, before proceeding to pull out a spare set of plugs, spare leads, and a few other odds and ends from his car. Turns out that his profession was Classic Car Mechanic - how handy was that! Unfortunately he is booked up for 6 months and came from West Wales. The first people I chatted to had come all the way from Suffolk, and another couple had come from a road two cul-de-sacs away from my house!

We thoroughly recommend these days to you all. You get plenty of track time, I recorded 100 miles of circuit driving. You can also pay for additional instruction which I certainly benefited from. It is very laid back and respectful, all of the drivers are there to see what they can do with their own car and there is no racing. Slower drivers will move to let you past and faster drivers will hold back until you are comfortable to move over. The



maximum number on the track at any one time is 12 cars so plenty of space across a 1.85mile circuit.

The next Castle Combe session is in September, but they travel across the country if you wish to travel further afield. Graham has tried a few other circuits.

One of which was a wet and slippery Silverstone earlier this year. You can watch how he coped with the conditions on YouTube or to make life simpler I have included a link to Graham's very professional film below. [ED](#) 





The Prescott Historique

Paul Warn

Whilst the club was motoring up to the British Motor Museum at Gaydon as part of the MG Centenary Celebrations on the 27th May, I took myself off on a wonderfully sunny day to Prescott for the Prescott Historique. The event was a celebration of 90 years of hill climbing at Prescott, with a magnificent selection of cars representing that period.

In addition to the 120 competing cars, BRM brought along their famous V16 BRM which took to the hill either side of the lunch break. Also as a nod to Raymond Mays who established the BRM project after the war, there were a number of ERAs representing the company he also set up in the early thirties and successfully competed against the continental factories of the likes of Maserati and Gordini.

Part of the joy of going to Prescott is being able to park in the orchard alongside what amounts to a history of the motor car. To be able to walk amongst great cars from the past and talk to other like minded enthusiasts is a joy. Once you have dragged yourself away from the magnificent selection of cars, its a short walk over the bridge and onto the circuit- and yet more fabulous machinery. As I've said 120 competing cars representing amongst others Alfa Romeo, Jaguar, Elva, Alpine, Lotus, Ginetta, Riley, Frazer Nash, Morgan, Austin Healey, ERA the list is endless and of course at the home of the Bugatti Owners Club parked on the Bugatti Terrace a dozen or so competing pre-war Bugattis.

Now, one of the highlights for me was a couple of MG J2s - see the title photo. I included the J2 and its racing version the famous J4 in my talk to the club pre COVID. As you probably know Cecil Kimber the genius behind MG was a great believer in "racing improves the breed". Despite the post Great Depression period and the economically

gloomy outlook for 1932 MG launched the J2. A complete departure from the successful M-type Midget although the lessons learnt from racing the Midget in the hands of Freddie March - Goodwood's current Duke of Richmond's grandfather - was carried over onto the J2. A new era of great MGs - long bonnet, cut-away door sides, cycle wings and a large slab fuel tank with spare wheel strapped behind had arrived. All copied by Singer, Wolseley, HRG and Aston Martin. I could go on, but I should stop there!



Other cars drooled over on the day include





V16 BRM



ERA



Healey Silverstone Jaguar



Riley

And in the Orchard...



Delage





Sixth in my series of contemporary advertisements for MG Sports Cars





Did the Romans
get this Problem?

Terry Warder

All set for the MG100 at Gaydon. Campsite booked for the weekend and route mapped along the Fosseway.

Me in the MG with Sue following in the Motorhome.

Lovely weather, not too much traffic and looking good for the weekend until DISASTER struck. Almost halfway there, just before the junction with the A40 I heard a massive BANG which I realised came from hitting a large pothole, next I noticed a sudden drop in oil pressure and pulled over in the entrance to a field.

Sue said she saw smoke coming from the back of the car, I then noticed a trail of oil on the road behind me and a large puddle appearing under the car.

My first thought was a hole in the sump and possibly a wrecked engine.

Soon after a Land rover pulled up alongside me and offered to tow me down the road to a local classic car garage but I said not to bother as I would phone the AA. He gave me his name and number to give him a ring if we were still stuck. So we called the AA and were given a wait of about an hour. Luckily we had the motorhome with somewhere to sit and have lunch.

Next a white van pulled in asking if we needed any help. The guy was an NHS nurse who also had V8 MGB, we said we were waiting for the AA and he also gave his name and number.

The AA kept us up to date by text and they arrived in just over an hour.

He was a youngish chap but luckily had an interest in Classics as he owned a Fiesta XR2.

He soon noticed a hairline crack on the oil pump and tried a temporary repair with JB weld which he thought might get us to Gaydon but we then couldn't be relayed home if it failed again.

The engine started with no knocks or rattles but the oil was still leaking and so he said we would need a home recovery. Luckily he couldn't put us on the dolly as the car has been lowered and his "computer said NO". We then had to wait for a total lift recovery which he said could be anything up to four hours.

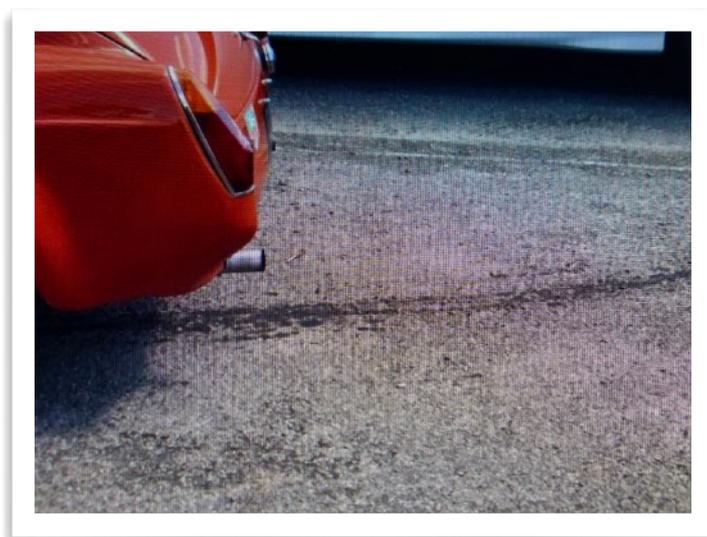
In the event, the truck arrived within two hours, loaded the MG and set off for home. Interesting chat on the way, as the AA driver owned 6 classics including army trucks and a rare Australian "ute". What an eventful and disappointing day, but the biggest let down was that not a single MG stopped to see if we were OK and there were plenty on their way to Gaydon!!!!

We eventually made it there the next day -powered by Ford- via the Motorway .

This week, I had an email from the AA saying in April alone; they had more than 52000 callouts for cars damaged by potholes!!!

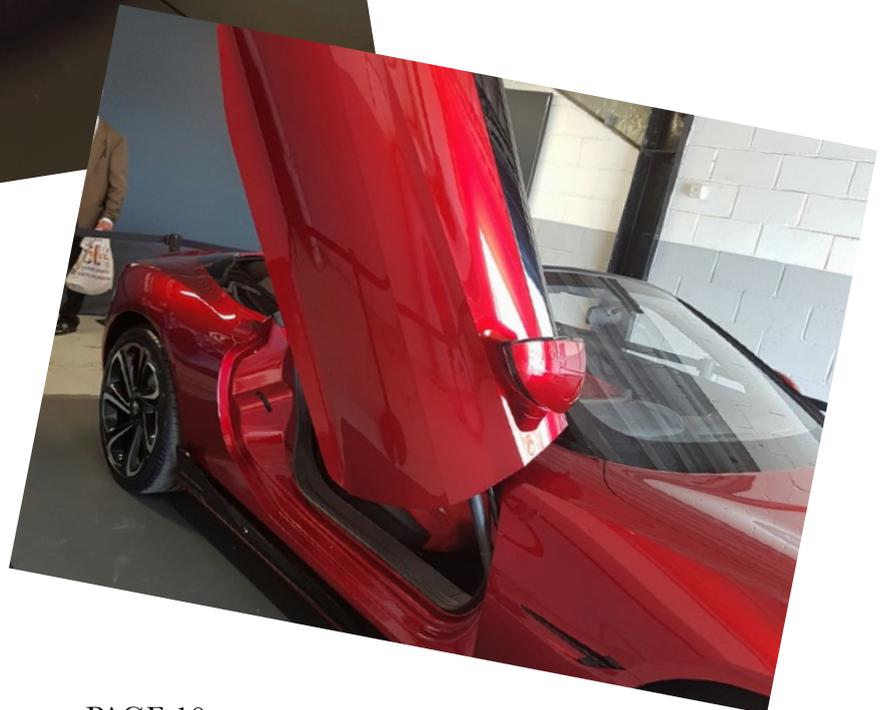


Sue's thinking of going all electric with this MG4 - no oil pumps!
Then on second thoughts, this one matched her dress better and it was gorgeous





Martyn took these pics of the new MG Cyberster at Silverstone



DIARY UPDATE

A short reminder of Steve Todd's Mystery run. The full content can be found in his email dated 31/05/2023



"Our next club meeting is on Monday 26th June, and is our mystery run. The run is approx 25 miles long (50 minutes ish) and will take in some lovely and largely peaceful countryside roads ideally suited to our cars. At the time of writing we already have 15 cars confirmed for the run.

We will have a slightly earlier start time and a different meeting location to the usual one.

MEETING TIME: BY 19:00 (I'll aim to arrive earlier than this to hand out the route)

MEETING LOCATION: Morrisons Supermarket Car Park, Devizes , SN10 1LA (I would suggest we head to the back of the car park where it will be quieter so we can all be together). There is a cafe and toilets on site here for comfort before you leave.

Steve Todd



While you wait

Selection of sourdough & focaccia bread, English butter & olive oil v £4.45

Provençal olives vg £3.00

Chorizo and Manchego skewers £5.75

Frickles, mustard mayo v £5.70

Starters

Soup of the day, warm sourdough v £6.25

Hot smoked salmon salad, chilli & lemon dressing £7.95

Buttermilk fried chicken, aioli £7.25

Thai style calamari, yellow pepper & ginger dipping sauce £7.75

Breaded halloumi fries, sweet chilli sauce v £6.25

Chargrilled Mediterranean vegetable antipasti bruschetta, lemon oil and rocket vg £7.50

Sharers

Italian flatbread, prosciutto, burrata, rocket £16.50

Nachos with salsa, sour cream, guacamole & cheese £12.25

Add beef brisket £2.00

Pub classics

Beer battered haddock with chunky chips, mushy peas, tartare sauce, lemon £15.95

Add curry sauce £1.00

Honey glazed ham, free range eggs, slow roasted tomato, chips £14.50

Beef & ale pie, seasonal greens, gravy and creamy mash or chips £15.95

The beef burger, our signature beef burger, mature Cheddar cheese, baby gem, tomato, IPA relish, burger sauce, coleslaw and fries £15.95

Add smoked streaky bacon £1.50/extra burger £2.50/BBQ beef brisket £2.50

Mains

Homemade Thai fishcake, Asian slaw, crispy duck egg £13.75

Portuguese slow cooked pork in Horizon golden ale, paprika & garlic fries, tomato & oregano salad £16.50

Chicken and bacon Caesar salad, shaved parmesan, anchovies & croutons £13.25

Halloumi and olives Caesar salad, shaved parmesan, anchovies & croutons £13.25

Chicken Milanese, prosciutto, mozzarella, fries, dressed leaves £16.25

Roasted cauliflower steak, caponata, fried basil gnocchi vg £13.95

Truffle cream tagliatelle, Parmesan, rocket salad v £15.00

Steaks

Steak frites with roasted garlic & herb butter £13.25

8oz 28 day aged Sirloin, slow cooked plum tomato, flat mushroom, beer battered onion rings & chips £28.00

Choose from Peppercorn, Blue Cheese sauce

Annual Picnic



Sunday 23rd July 2023

at

Sculptures by the Lakes

Pallington Lakes, Dorchester, DT2 8QU



This tranquil area of Dorset countryside mingles with spectacular lakeside sculptures with the River Frome running alongside is an ideal spot for picnicking. We have secured an exclusive parking area for the Club and can choose to picnic adjacent to the cars or move into the park area next to the lakes.

Entry to the park and gardens is £14.50 less 10% (£13.05) for a group booking. Well behaved dogs are welcome except in the ornamental and kitchen gardens. www.sculpturesbythelakes.co.uk

Route details will be provided nearer the time.

Bring your own picnic. Toilet and café facilities on site. Please let us know if you wish to join in with this "highlight of the summer" by emailing gornew@yahoo.co.uk no later than **Wed. 31 June**

Payment To: Wessex MG Club 00392302
30-91-99

Please inform Peter Hind of any payments on peter_hine@btinternet.com



Sandra & Gordon



Secretary's Scribbles

I really enjoyed going up to MG100 at Gaydon, most of us seemed to feel the event was a little smaller than expected and that many were maybe waiting for the Silverstone event to really gather en-masse. Having said that, there was a really good line up of the 100 Years of MG with some really special cars.

It was good to hear the firing up of the huge beast that is the MGZTT Land Speed car that reached 226MPH at Bonneville in 2003, which was fired up three times during the day. We also got to see the new Cybster Roadster, although it was still in its dazzle camouflage stickers and a hi-viz man stopping any photos - strange really considering it has already been seen all over the web. Speaking of the Cybster, it was big - Jaguar F Type sized and this did

surprise me. They seem to have gone out after the big boys of the sportscar world rather than say compete with MX5s etc.

Great day out that was a rare chance for Nancy and I to be out without the children. Thank you to Martyn for sorting us out with dinner afterwards at a retro garage place (I can't remember what it is called Martyn).

I haven't sold the Magnette yet, but I have been doing some jobs after a member of the club came and had a look at her - I have for example replaced both of the front seatbelts as they had started to not want to unreel, which was a real pain and although I have had to go for 'bog standard' black ones, it is a good job to have sorted out.

Tom





CLUB DIARY

2023 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
26th June	Club night - Mystery Run	Yes		Steve Todd
9th July	Atwell Wilson Museum Open Day			
15th - 16th July	Post-Abingdon MG Show			
23rd July	Club Annual Picnic	Yes	Dorchester Sculpture Lakes	Gordon and Sandra Newman
24th July	Club night - Boules	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	Martyn & Terry
6th August	Gloucester Country & Vintage Extravaganza	Yes	South Cerney	Martyn Lucas
6th August	Haynes MG100 Breakfast Meeting			Martyn Lucas
21st August	Club Night - Casual Social Night	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	
3rd September	White Horse Car Show	Yes	Westbury	
23rd September	Castle Combe Classic			
25th September	Club night - Quiz Night	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	
30th September	Beaulieu MG Event	For Info		
22nd October	Visit to REME Museum		Lyneham	Martyn Lucas
23rd October	Club night - Theme Would I lie to You	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	



2023 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
TBA	COMMITTEE MEETING			Martyn Lucas
25th November	Carpet Bowls		Eddington Village Hall	Lynne and Roger Binney
27th November	Club night - AGM	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	
9th December	Christmas Party	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	

OTHER POTENTIAL EVENTS

RMA Sandhurst – Would be Weekday? (Peter)



Club Asset List

CLUB ASSET LIST			
ASSET	CURRENT HOLDER	CONTACT DETAILS	
Engine Hoist	Tom Strickland	012489 447125	stricklandto@hotmail.com
Club Sail Banner	Kevin Meakin	01380 727151	kevinmg1@live.com
Event Shelter + Sides	Kevin Meakin	01380 727151	kevinmg1@live.com
Projector	Paul Warn	01225 768676	paul.william.warn@gmail.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
Set of Boules	Terry Warder	01225 766068	suewarder60@gmail.com

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.