



WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN- HOLT

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

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NEXT CLUB NIGHT

21st August at
theTollgate

Start time 8:00pm

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

The last month has been a busy one and although at times the weather has not been the best it has been good to get out and about.

Congratulations to Julian and Gemma on winning the annual club boules match, on this theme we will at the end of November have a Carpet Boules match at Edington Village Hall.

The Weather was kind to those who attended the Club picnic at the Dorset Sculpture Park and thanks to Gordon and Sandra for organising this well attended day.

This year there are so many events on each weekend and last week some members including myself went to the Gloucester Country Extravaganza at South Cerney, this is a really big show with not just cars and it is hard to see everything in one day, on the same day

other members were at Haynes Museum for the MG themed Breakfast Meet.

There is an MG100 event in Abingdon on Sunday September 10th and I am planning to be there, details are elsewhere in the newsletter for those who may also wish to go.

Our club Skittles Match should take place during October and I am awaiting confirmation of date from the venue.

Hope to see you on the 21st August at The Tollgate from 8.00pm, this is a general social natter evening.

Martyn





Sculptures by the Lakes

Paul Warn

In my experience the club's Summer picnic is one of the highlights of the season. This year Sandra and Gordon arranged for the club to motor down to Pallington Lakes just east of Dorchester to picnic amongst the sculptures in and around the lakes.

There is always an element of jeopardy when organising an outdoor event particularly given the unpredictability of our summers - and this year was, well, no exception. Up until the 11th hour you could feel there was a certain tension in the Newman household via the emails coming down the line - should we commit to the event or postpone until the following weekend...

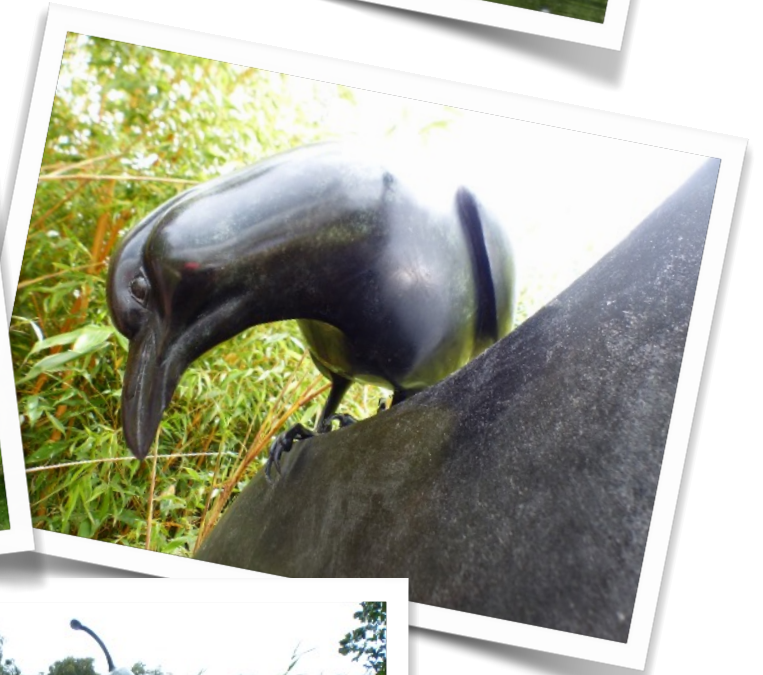
The consensus was to rally the troops and head south - good call!

The weather was none too optimistic on the way down through Wiltshire and North Dorset but as we neared our destination the clouds parted and the sun put its hat on for the duration of our visit.

Having gathered the flock together in our dedicated parking spot and attached a sticker to our clothing to show we were bona fide visitors Sandra and Gordon escorted us to our allocated picnic area and a good natter and catch-up. And then on to the Sculpture Park.

Simon and Monique Gudgeon are the creators of Sculpture by the Lakes. Simon is a world renowned sculptor and Monique an exceptional gardener. There was an indoor Gallery within the Makers Yard exhibiting pieces by both local and international artists, if you were brave enough you could take a peek at the prices of the art - affordable if you skip your summer holiday . And then onto a tranquil walk around the lake and the main attraction. Here the work was affordable if you were to sell your Ferrari...A wonderful day out and well worth another visit.







Talking of sculptures, most of you will be familiar with the themed sculptures in front of Goodwood House for the annual Festival of Speed. Usually there is a featured manufacturer - eg one with a big anniversary, last year it was BMW as seen above or the sculpture might represent a theme for that year's event.

Whatever the reason the cars on those stalks are real cars not mock-ups and often important historic cars telling a story. The artist is Gerry Judah and the fabrication of the sculpture is carried out by Littlehampton Welding Ltd.

Under the grass at the base are permanently installed concrete blocks weighing 30 tonnes and the base of the sculpture weighs in at 16-odd tonnes.

The one proviso to qualify for this elevated status is that all fluids must be drained and the engine removed. I mentioned the cost of the exhibits at Pallington Lakes, here apart from the value of the cars included on the sculpture you will need to find circa £1M.

Paul Warn



FOR SALE

I have received an email from former member John Thomas from Rode, he is looking to sell his TF due to mobility issues.

Could you please put this in the newsletter and
If anyone is interested I will forward their contact details to John.

Regards

Martyn

Email from John Thomas

Former Wessex member John Thomas is looking to sell his MG TF, asking £3.500 given it's low mileage and excellent condition but I am open to negotiation. and was wondering if anyone in the club would be interested.

The car has been properly maintained under his ownership and regularly serviced and kept in his garage when not in use.

The mileage is approx. 22500 and I have the MOT history from new.



FREE
ENTRY FOR PEDESTRIANS
public car parks nearby

MG 100
NOT OUT! **CHARITY EVENT**

1923 CENTENARY 2023

Sunday 10th September 2023
In Abingdon - the spiritual home of MG

Abingdon Vale CC, Hales Meadows, Culham Road, Abingdon OX14 3HP
10am to 4pm • Licensed bar, BBQ, trade stands & special MGs
For preregistration and further details contact: editor@oxfordshiremgoc.co.uk

Abingdon Works Centre together with Oxfordshire MG Owners Club

  **Tickets on the day £5**
Commemorative rally
plaques £10 (cash only)
Profits to TV AIR AMBULANCE
and ABINGDON FOODBANK

MG100 Not Out- Abingdon Sunday September 10th.

A very special event for your diaries. As we all know, MG is 100 years old this year and to mark this occasion, the two Area Clubs of MGOc & MGCC (Oxfordshire MG Owners Club & Abingdon Works Centre) have got together to put on MG100 Not Out.

10th September 10.00am-4.00pm.

It's a clever play on words as it is taking place at Abingdon Vale Cricket Club in the heart of the Town that is the spiritual home of MG.

Situated next to the River Thames, the site will offer a perfect backdrop for an enjoyable day. We have trade stands, stalls of interest, a BBQ and Bar courtesy of our hosts and a Tombola to help us raise as much money as possible for our two chosen charities, Thames Valley Air Ambulance and Abingdon Foodbank.

Tickets are £5.00 with a limited edition rally plaque at £10.00, again, profits go to the charities mentioned above.

You can pay on the day or prebook by emailing editor@oxfordshiremgoc.co.uk



Wessex MG Club

Great War Battlefield Trip 2024

Dear All,

I am proposing the opportunity for a Great War Battlefield Trip in the first week of my Easter Holidays (1st April – 7th April 2024).

The Key Features would probably be:

- **Three Day tour** (in the date window above)
- The Battlefields of the Somme, Arras and Ypres
- Professionally guided and led by Tom Strickland
- Self-Drive in your car – But we keep together on a set route
- Tour pack with maps and details provided by Tom
- Two nights' accommodation with evening meals and maybe packed lunches TBC (The first night probably on the Somme and the second in Ypres)
- Insurance included
- Eurotunnel included
- Museum entrance included

So, this would be a proper organised tour on a set route and itinerary. There would of course be some extras you would need such as European Breakdown cover and getting yourselves kitted out for European motoring, which I would support you with. You may also wish to get a cheap hotel the night before we go – I am trying to maximise the time we are touring on the Battlefields.

My First thoughts to an itinerary are:

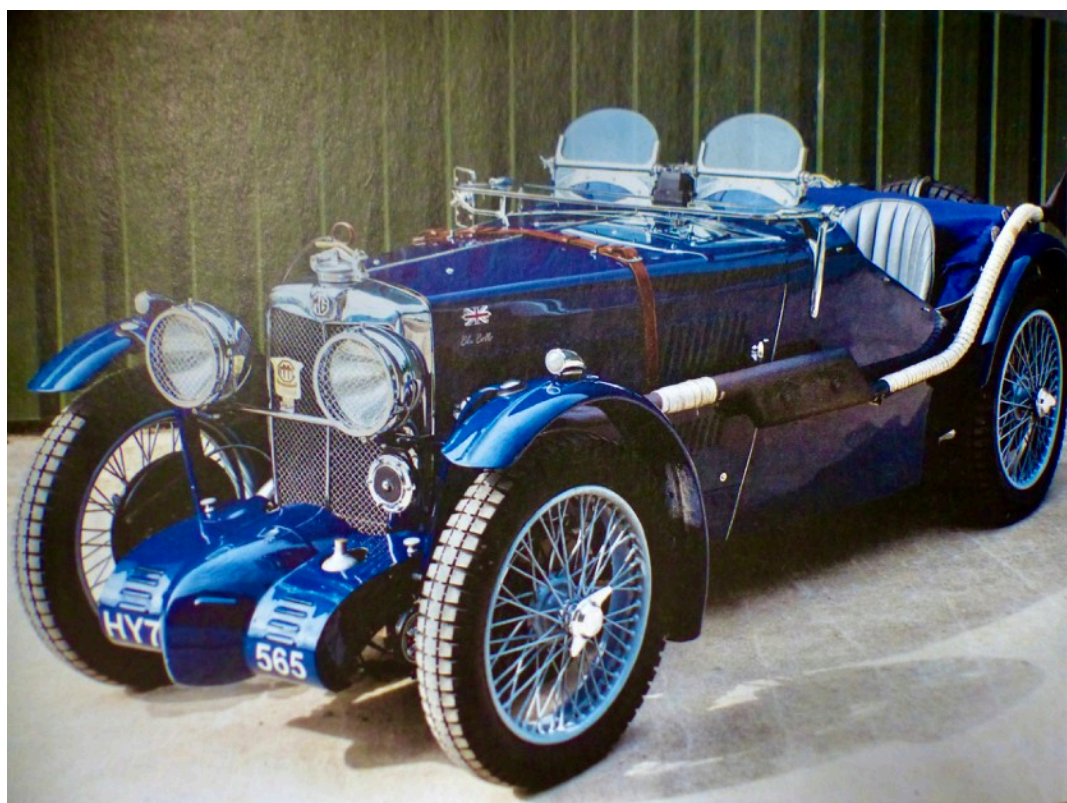
Day 1 (Somme)	Day 2 (Somme- Arras- Ypres)	Day 3 (Ypres)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very Early Eurotunnel• Lochnagar Crater• Devonshires Trench• Thiepval Memorial to the Missing• New Foundland Park• The Sunken Lane• Sheffield Park??	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arras Wellington Quarry (Tunnels under Arras)• Vimy Ridge??• Essex Farm (The Start of the poppy story)• Langermarck German Cemetery• Menin Gate Ceremony	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Menin Gate in the Daylight• Tyne Cot Cemetery• Passchendaele Museum• Late PM Eurotunnel

The sites would be given context and stories by Tom on the ground. We would in a few places use Media to watch original footage filmed at the locations during the battle.

If you have family links to any sites or cemeteries, these can possibly be included (and I am keen to do this) if you let me know in advance and they do not affect the timings too much.

THE COST IS TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON NUMBERS so to start with I am looking for expression of interest – this will then move to deposits in a few weeks time.

This Month - mainly because I couldn't find another contemporary advert of a MG - I thought I'd include my favourite MG...



You may recall in the June edition I included a couple of photographs from my visit to the Prescott Historique of a MG J2. I mentioned that the racing version of that model was the J4.

Well here it is a "1932 MG J4 Exacting Replica" for sale at £77,500

"Supercharged - nut and bolt restoration - beautifully built"



Secretary's Scribbles

I still haven't sold the Magnette BUT I have had a lot more interest in the last few weeks and have a man coming to see her soon. The Big news though is the story of my 'romantic' trip to Mons and the Great Retreat in the TF. I had fettled the car ready for the trip, I had added USB charging and some better cup holders and generally made sure she was totally ready to go. Nancy and I set off at 2:30am, heading for the Eurotunnel and when we were just joining the A329(M) the battery light came on...

We carried on and then the ABS light came on and I decided to pull into a BP garage to try a 'reboot' (turn everything off and back on again). Unfortunately, the car was dead, and we had to phone the RAC and wait 4 hours for the man to start his shift at 7am. He declared it was the alternator and gave us a loan battery to get us home - he followed us all the way to make sure we got home and to reclaim his battery. We then swapped everything to the Modern ZS and tried again, with me making the calls to

Eurotunnel and the European Breakdown people to adjust everything from the passenger seat. Luckily all then went fine - we had to pay a little more for a larger vehicle on the Eurotunnel and a different time slot and we also managed a refund for a younger vehicle on the breakdown which nearly evened everything out financially.

We had three great days touring Belgium and France looking at the famous sites associated with the Battle of Mons and the Great Retreat of August 1914. We even jumped on a train at Compiègne to have a day in Paris too. The ZS was actually a near perfect touring car with plenty of space and cruise control for the French Autoroutes (However we did miss the aircon, which is currently not working..) The unexpected big bonus was that we could fit more beer and wine in on the way home

It won't be long before it is MGs in Tom and Nancy's field so get practising your reversing.



TOM



CLUB DIARY

2023 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
21st August	Club Night - Casual Social Night	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	
28th August	MGs in Tom's Field		Tom & Nancy's House	Tom and Nancy
3rd September	White Horse Car Show	Yes	Westbury	
10th September	MG 100 NOT OUT!		Abingdon	See details in the August Newsletter
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	
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	

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.