



# WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN- HOLT

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

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### NEXT CLUB NIGHT

Social Evening

Monday 19th August

Start Time 8:00 pm

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

It has been another busy month since the last newsletter and the weather has been kind to us at all the events.

The first event was the club summer picnic at Bucklers Hard which is a very picturesque location on the Beaulieu River and this was well attended and include a boat trip on the river, many thanks to Gordon and Sandra for their efforts in organising this fantastic day.

The next day was our monthly club night and the annual burger feast it was good to see many members on this night which was a good evening despite the delay in food service.

Other events in the month I and other members have attended are the annual Atwell Wilson Museum Car show and the Post Abingdon weekend at the Gloucester and Warwickshire Railway .

I have a provisional booking for our annual club skittles match on Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>, to make this a successful and entertaining evening we need a reasonable number of players, if you are interested in coming along please let me know so that I can confirm the booking.

The main and eagerly awaited event of the month is the annual fun driving day in Toms field on Monday August 26<sup>th</sup>, for those who have not attended before this is a non damaging relaxed driving skill test day

Our next club night is on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday as the following week is a bank holiday, at The Tollgate from 8.00pm and this will be a general social evening, I look forward to seeing everyone.

**Martyn**



## The Way It Was

There was a time when no lay-by, hard shoulder or country hedgerow remained undecorated by a fluttering tangle of string-like bunting. Yes you've got it the disembowelled remains of an audio cassette! Wrenched out of its player after jamming - the player buried deep in the dashboard of the car with the tape coming into the car rather than continuing around within the cassette. A nightmare.

I remember well copying music from the radio probably presented by Tony Blackburn, onto blank cassettes ready to play in the car on a planned journey. The problem was I could never find a particular piece of music on the tape without fast forwarding back and forth with the inevitable result that the tape would start spewing out into the car!

It was a lucky coincidence that the spool hole was the exact size of the humble pencil and a minute of patient twiddling was usually enough to retract the expelled tape...





## The Old Girl's Sold

Roger Binney

So after much deliberation and 24 years our lovely MGA has gone on to a better home.

I bought her on a whim after calling in for petrol at a garage near Taunton and seeing her, just restored, alongside a Healey and a Morgan. The A won.

She was just beautiful, restored to ex factory original condition and as a consequence relatively highly priced at £13,500. A couple had travelled specifically to look at the car and had gone off to lunch to "discuss". I asked the garage if I could take a short test drive, did so, and gave the salesman a cheque before we returned to a slightly miffed, but replete couple! An interesting start!

Two weeks later I took the car back to be wax-oiled and approaching the garage, the hydraulics failed completely when applying the brakes.. nothing..... time to learn how to use the handbrake! Less promising next step!

Then joined the Wessex MG Club, probably the main benefit derived from buying the car. A young chap called Strickland lusted after the car and a helpful guy named Vic subsequently helped many times with the odd gremlin or two. We have had many many good times with the Club and delighted in the friendships we have formed.

The A, she never had a name, took us far and wide, France, Belgium, Wales, Norfolk, some trips dry and many not so dry, but always in good company.

Wherever we have taken the A, we never failed to get smiles and waves from people we passed. "Oooo look at that car dad", "I had one of those when I was..." , "Best car I ever had". "Just lovely".

Nevertheless there is a time for everything and I decided the time had come to move her on. So many asked "why" and there was no clear why, other than with so many demands on our retired time, France, distant grandkids, I wanted to simplify life and with the car starting to show small but noticeable age-related paint blisters, I knew that down the line there would be significant unrecoverable cost to keep her looking right.

So the decision was made, but how best to sell?



I discussed with Martyn various options, but since I did not want the trouble of phone calls, having to be available, entertaining tyre kickers, issues of getting paid etc etc, I ruled out ads and a private sale.

Determining price was also difficult as the market has apparently been very slow and advertised prices all over the shop. How do you judge the condition of your car, very difficult.

Selling to a dealer results in a big gap between what they will pay and what they will sell at, so although easy, you get a heavily discounted value.

Auctions, well yes a relatively easy option, but highly unpredictable and could cost you. Auctions have apparently been very slow and prices at a discount lately. You just need to be lucky and get two people interested to get a good price.

So finally I decided to sell through a dealer on commission, Marlborough Classics.

Very professional process, advertising through Car and Classics. I took the car, they reviewed her critically (uncomfortable experience), and we agreed a target price with them taking 7.5%.

Into the showroom and sold within two weeks to someone they had on a prospective buyer list. Another white A they had however, has been there for six months unsold, so you do need a little luck in everything and the price I got was at the higher end of my realistic aspirations.

So a fond farewell to the old girl, she has brought us a lot of pleasure and a few heartaches. But such is life. And if you will allow us, we will continue to be MG Club members.

Postscript. Another 1966 classic is soon to be delivered to my garage, but this time with only two wheels.. looks like another club I need to join! And I found this one en route to my mother in law's funeral!





## The Club's Summer Picnic

Buckler's Hard

Paul Warn

**A**rguably the two main/popular events in the club's diary is the annual Spring Weekend Break and the Summer Picnic - I reported on the Spring Break in the June edition.

Fortunately as with the Spring Break the weather gods were smiling on us. We were greeted by Gordon and Sandra who had arranged for the club to park the cars alongside the cottages that line the pathway down to the river - see title photo. The cars created a lot of interest to the many visitors to the site.

For those that didn't make the picnic perhaps a little background to our destination. The name Buckler's Hard is derived from the Buckle family who appear in the Beaulieu Parish Registers c 1668-1705 and 'Hard' is a term used to mean a natural landing place at the water's edge rather than one that has been artificially created. Buckler's Hard and the Beaulieu River on which it sits lie in the heart of the Beaulieu Estate.

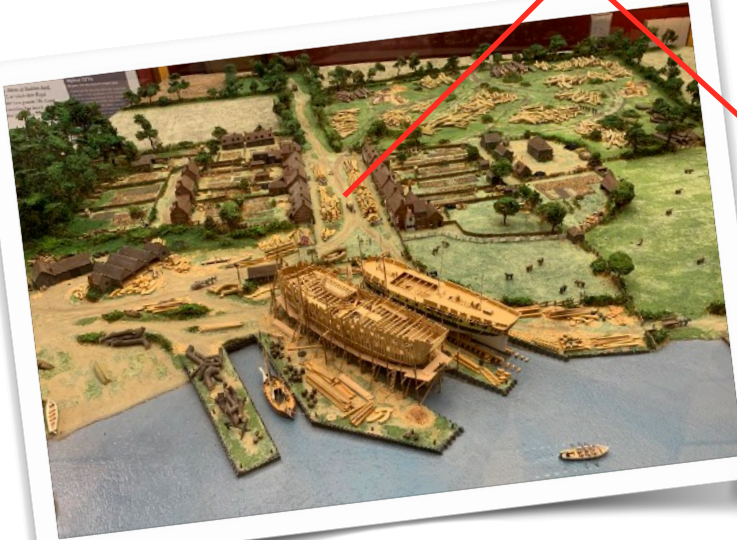
Buckler's Hard became a successful naval shipbuilding centre from the 1740s building ships - with wood taken from the Beaulieu Estate - that fought at the Battle of Trafalgar for example. After a century of ship building the village became a sleepy backwater until its charms were discovered by Victorian tourists and since WW2 tourism has given Buckler's Hard a new lease of life. - and here we are!

After mooching around the site including a very good museum we gathered in groups to have our picnics. Gordon and Sandra had also arranged that we take a boat trip on the river with a very informative narrative from the crew. A really good day out ably assisted by the weather and in particular Gordon and Sandra's organising skills - Thank you both very much indeed.

PS you will notice that some members were looking puzzled trying to assemble their picnic table for the first time this year...







THEN



NOW



I'm sure it goes this way...



Up the lazy river



18th Century equivalent to the Wessex MG Committee meeting. Click image to play.



### **Potential Club Skittles Match**

**I have made a provisional booking for the club skittles match on Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**To make this a successful evening we need a reasonable number of players,**

**If you are interested in playing for the opportunity to win the coveted Wessex MG Skittles trophy please let me know by email before September 15<sup>th</sup> and then I can confirm the booking.**

**Martyn**

## Secretary's Scribbles

The TF developed an occasional warning lamp flicker this month and it puzzled me. The light was for the boot being open which is quite a well-known fault having done some research, with most answers pointing towards issues with the wiring going through to the boot by the hinge. I had a look at the wiring and it looked fine - no signs of pinching, rubbing etc. I did notice though that the lamp lit completely when the passenger door was opened but, not when the boot or the drivers door was opened.. I then realised that the courtesy lights on the mirror and in the footwells were not working so I checked the fuse box and hey presto I had a blown fuse and all now works as you would expect. Bit strange though!

I have also 'bit the bullet' and gone for a Kmap new ECU (<https://www.kmaps.co.uk/ready-mapped-ecus>) All I had to do was order one wait for the postman and ambush him before Nancy saw..

Actually, this was one of the easiest jobs I have done on the TF - I could access it from the boot and just needed to unplug the old one and switch the ECUs over via 4 screws and job done. Kmaps is run by former MGRover Engineers and Mark at Kmaps was responsible for testing and development of Longbridge factory K series products, which involved prototype track and road development testing throughout the world. He campaigned a VHPD 190 TF in the MG Car Club for several years and is now the official tune supplier to most race cars in action today. Having spoken to Mark he was offering 10% power gain, 3-4mpg improvement, much better throttle response and better exhaust note. I am really happy with it - the car feels more sprightly and sportier but the exhaust note is not that different - may be because of the actual exhaust system I have?



**Tom**





## CLUB DIARY

2024 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
17th-18th August	Post-Abingdon MG Weekend Show		<b>Location (TBC)</b>	
<b>19th August</b>	<b>Club Night - Social Evening</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>	
26th August	MGs in Tom's Field	YES	Tom & Nancy's House	Tom Strickland
1st September	Haynes Breakfast Club	For Info		
<b>23-Sep</b>	<b>Club Night - TBA</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>	
28&29 Sept	Somerset Festival of Transport	For Info	West Woodlands Showground	Martyn Lucas
28-Sep	Carpet Bowls		Eddington Village Hall	Roger Binney
<b>Oct ?</b>	Club Skittles Evening		White Hart Atworth	Peter Hine
<b>28th October</b>	<b>Club Night - Tom Strickland Remembrance Talk</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>	
23rd November	Scalextric Challenge		Eddington Village Hall	Roger Binney
<b>25th November</b>	<b>Club Night - AGM</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>	
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Christmas Party</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>	



## 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.