



WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN- HOLT

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

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NEXT CLUB NIGHT

August 18th

Social Evening

Start Time 8:00pm
pm

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

The good weather continues giving us plenty of opportunity to get out to the many events that are going on, and I find it hard to believe that we are now at the end of August.

During the last month I have been to the annual George Inn Noggin and Natter at Longbridge Deverill, once again this attracted a large number of cars and it was good to meet fellow Wessex members there, also went to the open day at TI Developments in Westbury this was a very interesting visit, which I thought would take about an hour but ended up spending much longer there! and then on the next Sunday a journey to Sussex for the Bromley Pageant which is now held at Ardingly and is one of the largest one day shows in the South, the next weekend was the Gloucester Country and Vintage Extravaganza at South Cerney, this show is not just cars there is something for everyone with steam engines, historic commercial

vehicles, motor bikes, cycles, animals and crafts.

Saturday 9th August took me to the Dumbpost Revival a charity event for the British Heart Foundation and thanks to Chris McCormack for organising this fantastic event which was well attended raised a good amount for the charity and looks like becoming an annual event.

The following day was another charity event the MGB register MG and classic car picnic at Frilford, there were around 140 cars there of all makes including Riley, Hillman and 7 Morgans,

The last club night was a bring your car night with a member of the Tollgate team choosing the car they liked the best and the winner of the Wessex rosette was the MGB GT of Terry and Sue.

Our next club night is Monday 18th August at the usual time of 8.00pm at the Tollgate, a week earlier than usual because of the bank holiday,

Martyn

CLUB DIARY -

2025 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Start Time	Venue	Additional Information
18th August	Club Night - General Social Evening	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	
	MGs in Tom's Field	Cancelled	Tom & Nancy's Home address	
7th September	John Haynes Classic		Haynes Motor Museum Sparkford	Need to pre book £18 car /driver & £18/passenger
22nd September	Club night - Possible talk by Tom	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	Tom Strickland
27th September	Middlefield House Care Home	From 2:00pm	Middlefields House Chippenham SN14 6GA	Free tea and cakes
18th October	JPR Tuning Visit		YATE	Richard Turner
18th October	Club Skittles Match	7:00pm	The White Hart Atworth	
27th October	Club night - Quiz night	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	Mike Childs
TBA	COMMITTEE MEETING			Martyn Lucas
24th November	Club night - AGM	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	Club AGM
6th December	Christmas Party	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	

UP COMING EVENTS

Hi all, does anyone fancy a Sunday Pub Lunch run? I'm thinking any Sunday in October, so that's 5th, 12th, 19th or 26th. For me, I would prefer the 5th.

For anyone wishing to take part, let me know and advise me of your preferred date and we will go for the most popular.

The proposed venue is the Blue Bowl Inn at West Harptree. You can look on their website for a sample Sunday Menu. Once we know how many and which date I will get a confirmed menu and ask for pre-orders.

After you have sated the hunger pangs and exhausted the yarns, there are some pleasant drives around the lakes.

Proposed starting point Warminster Services.



Malcolm Taylor



RECENT EVENTS



T I Developments

Terry Warder

A few of us went to T I Developments open workshop day in Westbury. It was recommended by Chris Brunt, after the amazing paint job they did on his MGA . They were a very welcoming group , a snack van was outside but also they had drinks and cakes laid on inside . There were fully restored cars to projects just being started in the fabrication shop, even a tractor. We had a guided tour from Martin, a customer of theirs, he had his lovely MG midget having a head gasket being replaced and also his MGB having a full restoration with a 220bhp Honda engine being fitted. It also appears they don't mind you popping in to help , providing you don't hinder or get in the way. There were several Bristol models inside, and past customers returning on the day with their cars . As you can see from the photos they cover all makes and models and tasks and were a very pleasant welcoming group ,many thanks to all who put so much effort in. See pics below.





CLUB NIGHT - BRING YOUR CAR NIGHT



The July club night was a bring your car night with a member of the Tollgate team choosing the car they liked the best and the winner of the Wessex Rosette was the MGB Gt of Terry and Sue.



THE DUMB POST INN REVIVAL DAY



Several members of the club signed up early to a new event for this year, the Dumb Post Inn Revival day in support of the British Heart Foundation. In the end 34 cars signed up for the event held on Aug 9th. As one of the busiest and nicest pubs in Wiltshire we could only start to dress the venue on the Saturday morning, so it was all hands on deck early doors, putting up Gazebo's, flags, bunting and scattering hay bales to make it authentic (wish we could have had a hill climb) Kevin kindly came along early, as I was still hobbling on my new knee, with bunting and Union Jacks for the VIP pit lane parking slots. The pub set up the buttie / coffee stand and before we knew it it was 10am and the cars started to arrive, and what a mix, Classics old and new, from MG's, Fraser Nash, Jag's, Moggy's, Mini's. Escorts, Capri, and later in the day a "75" escort van complete with Cosworth engine, so a lot to talk about between driver and those attending. I had hoped to announce each car but the PA had not turned up. (best laid plans 😊) so each came through the VIP entrance to be met with a smile and information for the day. Each was parked by Kevin and the marshalls on the gravel at the front of the pub. The early arrivals set up camp, and enjoyed a bacon buttie and coffee. I was so happy to see that a number of the car's drivers and co drivers had embraced the "Goodwood Style" dress code which made for good ice breakers with everyone. We had military uniforms, gents outfits, hippy's,

set up mid morning and played from 11-14.30. The atmosphere created by the Dumb Post In Uke collective and Irish folk Americana band "Splat the Rat" was very laid back with many compliments. Lunchtime saw a classic BBQ and folks just chilled out by the cars or listening to music. We had two winners on the day both chosen by the Pub staff, Best car went to the little Austin Seven, and best "Style Icon" went to the couple in the classic American Jeep, in full military uniform. The day was everything I had hoped for.

The BHF had a stall highlighting the importance of CPR and Defib knowledge which attracted donations of over £223. The pre booked VIP Pit Lane display tickets raised £246 and the Pub donated £331 from their takings on the day so all in all £800 raised and a fabulous day to boot. Thank you to all who supported, and yes we will be doing it again next year, so keep an eye out for the date.



Macca







THE WAY IT WAS



As seen holidaying in Cornwall!



Science on the Airfield:

The Science and Innovation Park at Wroughton.

John Bishop

The Science and Innovation Park at Wroughton, a former RAF airfield, is far more than just a storage facility. It is the National Collections Centre for the Science Museum Group, a hub of research, innovation, and an unparalleled collection of our nation's scientific and technological heritage. The site offers a fascinating glimpse into the evolution of transport amongst other subjects, with a few surprises along the way.

The site's link to the Science Museum in London is its main purpose. Roughly 80% of the Science Museum Group's vast collection of 300,000 objects is housed here, in a state-of-the-art facility known as the Hawking Building. This massive, purpose-built structure, opened to the public for tours in late 2024, is an engineering marvel in its own right. Its design is focused on preserving these artifacts for future generations, with features like precise environmental controls and a "fabric first" approach to insulation that significantly reduces energy consumption. This commitment to sustainability is further enhanced by one of the UK's largest solar farms which is also located on the 545-acre site.

For those of us who appreciate the nuts and bolts of motoring history, the collection is a treasure trove. The Wroughton site is home to a spectacular assortment of vehicles, from the pioneering to the mundane, each telling a unique story of innovation. Of particular contemporary interest is the collection of electric cars which proves that the concept of an EV is far from a recent development. The museum holds a number of early battery-powered vehicles, showcasing that the technology has been around just as long as the internal combustion engine. Examples include a 1916 Detroit Electric Car, which is still in working order and steered by a tiller, and a 2012 Nemesis, based on a

Lotus Exige, which can do 150 mph. These vehicles offer a fascinating comparison to today's electric vehicles and highlight the enduring challenge of battery technology and range.

Beyond the four-wheeled marvels, the Wroughton collection also includes a diverse array of two-wheeled transport. The collection contains numerous bicycles and motorbikes, alongside other modes of transport like a double-decker bus and a Sno-cat, the first vehicle to complete a motorised crossing of Antarctica. This is a store and items are not laid out as you would expect in an ordinary museum - I particularly enjoyed the Dalek and Cyberman next to a horse-drawn carriage!

At the moment visits are only possible through pre-booked guided tours. You cannot buy tickets in person at the park. A guided tour costs £27.50 per person which might put some people off, but if group tours become available, which I'm told are being planned, then the cost might come down. It is certainly a hidden gem for





Fifth Column Business -

The Morgan Supersport

Paul Warn

The Morgan Motor Company Limited remains a British motor car manufacturer although now majority-owned by the Italian investment firm Investindustrial. While Investindustrial holds the majority stake, the Morgan family retains a minority shareholding and acts as "stewards" of the brand, ensuring the continuation of its legacy. The Morgan family, including Jill Price, granddaughter of the founder, will continue to be involved in the company's direction.

Investindustrial has been the catalyst that has allowed the Morgan design team to bring the Morgan range into the 21st century while - to my mind - retaining the attraction that Morgan cars have to the motoring public, hence the continued popularity of the tours around the Morgan works and being able to compete with contemporary sports cars.

Evolving the Morgan range under Investindustrial began with the Plus Six in 2019 and later the Plus Four - see my piece in the January 2025 edition of the newsletter where I described Peter Hine's Plus Six and my Plus Four.

Manufacture of the Plus Six has now ceased and in its place is the new Supersport see title pic. The engine is still the BMW 335-horsepower B58 straight-six turbo, with the ZF eight-speed transmission as fitted to the Plus Six but confusingly they have updated the chassis from the CX to the CXV, I know, the nomenclature relates to the launch date of the chassis in the car....see again my few words in the January issue.

The term Supersport was first used in 1927 on a three-wheeler and has been used occasionally to signify a model with a particular performance capability, for example the Morgan Le Mans class winning car in 1962 was a Plus Four Supersport. But this will be the first time a model has been allocated Supersport as a solo name.

There's a myriad of changes within the design of the chassis and the electronics of the car which I won't bore you with here other than to state the obvious differences, that is to say it has a hardtop and a boot - of sorts - but the bonnet louvres have gone! And you may notice the lack of auxiliary lights, the fronts are integrated into the headlights and the brake, tail stop and indicators are all combined into single units and very small fog and reverse lights.

And just incase you are wondering, yes there is still a fair amount of carpentry involved in the build!



Secretary's Scribbles

This month I can report that the hardtop was removed intime for the Wessex Picnic - an action I initially thought had put a curse on the day as I woke up to torrential 'stairod' downpours here in Chippenham - It got so bad I was wondering about not taking the MG at all! I appealed for support on the Whatsapp group which strengthened my resolve, and we went for it - this was the right decision as the day steadily improved and by the afternoon it was a lovely British sunny day. Speaking of the Picnic event I would like to thank Roger, Terry and Sue for the organisation as it was a great day - we started up overlooking Longleat house and then enjoyed a scenic run into the Langford Lakes venue. The food and company was great at the lakes and we had a good walk

afterwards to balance the feasting. Since the picnic we have been off to France for our annual holiday and have just returned yesterday - didn't see many MGs this year but, we did have a lovely relaxing day meeting up with Roger and seeing the sites around his cottage.

If you are interested in joining the Dunkirk 1940 tour in April and haven't let me know then please do so ASAP. The trip is fully guided by myself, we will stay in Ypres which was part of the outer perimeter and there is the option for an extra day which I am suggesting as a 'Bruges Day'. There are more details on the email I sent out recently.

Tom



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.