



# WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN- HOLT

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

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**NEXT CLUB NIGHT**

**January 26th**

**Start Time 8:00pm**



Firstly, Happy New Year to all the Wessex MG Car Club group - I hope you all had a great Christmas with plenty of time to relax and spend with loved ones.

I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2026! This is my first time writing the chairmans chat, having been promoted up to Chairman at our AGM in December.

A huge honour, and a challenge I am looking forward to.

Continued....

What was exciting was that we did this time manage to have the AGM as planned, without the roads around Holt making the Tollgate inaccessible!

It was fantastic to see such a good turnout for the AGM, and as Peter Hine mentioned in his report, our group continues to grow in numbers - which is great to see.

I've a lot to learn about being a chairman - so I hope you all take it easy on me while I learn the ropes. I hope to continue to bring as much success and enjoyment to our group, as Martyn did before me - and it would be remiss of me not to thank him again for his time in the chair.

Your club committee will meet shortly, and review our list of events for 2026, and the planned club nights for the year. (My fault, I didn't realise I needed to set that up - I promise you i'll get better!) I would also be interested to hear from our members ideas for events throughout the year, after all it's all our club - and the more we are all involved the better it will be. Feel free to reach out to me on WhatsApp, text, call or even the old fashioned way and just come up and speak to me about your ideas.

With a bumper amount of events each year to choose from (the list just seems to get longer and longer every year) we will have a full calendar of events shortly.

Always the eternal optimist, let's not forget the days now get longer again, and the weather (hopefully!) shall start to get better every week - I am sure we will be out in the MG's (and other makes! ;-)) before too long.

As I type this chat, I noticed that a few of our members went along to the Rowdey Cow in Rowde (nr, Devizes) for their first Breakfast meet of the year, organised by the South West Centre of the MGCC. Looked a great event, and the weather (although cold) was sunny and dry. I've always enjoyed these kind of events - and I hope we can add more of these to our diary throughout the year.

It's also worth noting that the International MG & Triumph Spares Day at Stoneleigh (Near Warwick) - is rapidly approaching.

This year it will be on Sunday 8th February.

I went last year for the first time, and it was an interesting day out - mainly indoors, where you could see some cars plus an array of spares and suppliers all in one place.

It's seen as a bit of a season opener I suppose, and is well worth the visit if you've not been before ([www.mgandtriumphsparesday.co.uk](http://www.mgandtriumphsparesday.co.uk))

I'm really looking forward to seeing you all throughout the year at our club nights, as well as at weekend events.

I hope we can continue to enjoy our cars and each others company, as that's what has made this club great - and for me is the biggest plus of being a member of the Wessex MG Club - the camaraderie and of course the cars!



See you all soon,

**David**

## NOTES ON 2025 AGM

### ELECTION OF 2026 COMMITTEE

Position	Appointee	Proposed	Seconded
<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>David Collier</b>	Roger Binney	Graham Bennett
<b>Vice Chairperson</b>	<b>Martyn Lucas</b>	Terry Warder	Steve Todd
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Tom Strickland</b>	Peter Hine	John Bishop
<b>Membership Secretary and Treasurer and Data Protection Officer</b>	<b>Peter Hine</b>	Graham Risdon	Martyn Lucas
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Paul Warn</b>	Roger Binney	Terry Warder
<b>General Committee Members</b>	<b>Chris McCormack</b>	Roger Binney	Dave Collier
	<b>Graham Risdon</b>		
	<b>Steve Todd</b>		
	<b>Kevin Meakin</b>		
	<b>Graham Bennett</b>		
	<b>Terry Warder</b>		
	<b>Mike Childs</b>		

### Presentation of Awards

**Photo Competition:** Mr Bishop x2 ('Langford Lakes Bird' and 'Car')

**The Vic Wright Memorial Trophy was not awarded** – We didn't hold an Autotest this year.

**Boules Trophy:** David Collier and Kevin Meakin (Awarded at Event)

**Skittles Trophy:** Mike Childs (Awarded at Event)

**Bottles of Wine for Members who have given Presentations:**  
Tom Strickland for Strick Talk

- **Graham Risdon led a Proposal of thanks to Martyn Lucas as the outgoing Chairperson. Martyn had a rowdy round of applause.**

## Blood Bikes - the Wessex MG Club's 2025 Chosen Charity



Blood Bikes are volunteer-run charities in the UK and Ireland that provide free, rapid transport for urgent medical supplies (like blood, plasma, samples, medication, and donor milk) between hospitals and healthcare facilities.

I have this month made a payment on behalf of the club of £448 to Blood Bikes, our chosen charity for last year. I was able to gift aid the donation, so they will actually receive £512.

My thanks go to all those buying raffle tickets at the club nights, Paul (Woloschuk) and Roger who kindly put a couple of overpayments to the club into the pot, and to Graham & Nicola who donated the savings they made by using e-cards Christmas '24, all of which added another £33 to the donation.

**Peter Hine**



## CLUB DIARY -

2026 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Start Time	Venue	Additional Information
26th January	Club Night - Social Evening	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	David Collier
8th February	Stoneleigh International MG Spares Day			Order your own tickets
23rd February	Club Night - Talk Institute of Advance Motorists	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	Graham Bennett
21/22nd March	Restoration Show NEC		Ironbridge	Order your own tickets
March TBA	Dunkerton's Cider Cheltenham Tour and Lunch	TBA	TBA	Chris McCormack
23rd March	Club Night - Talk Antartica	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	John Bishop
4th April	Planks Farm Classic Car Meet		Lydeway	Graham Risdon
7/9th April	Wessex MG Dunkirk Trip			Tom Strickland
17/21st April	Wessex MG Spring Break to Cornwall			Graham Bennett
26th April	Drive It Day		Details TBA	David Collier
27th April	Club Night - Prod & Poke	7:30pm	The Toll Gate Inn	David Collier
9th May	Clevedon Cars and Coffee: MG Focus			Martyn Lucas



2026 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Start Time	Venue	Additional Information
18th May	Club Night - Mystery Run	TBA	TBA	Terry & Sue Warder
20th May	Atwell Wilson Gathering			Chris McCormack
7th June	MGs in the Park			
7th June	Chippenham Lions			
20th June	Planks Farm Classic Car Meet			
26th June	Middlewick Open House (Pre-Book required)			Chris McCormack
29th June	Club Night - Boules	8:00pm		David Collier
11th July	Wings and Wheels (Pre Book - Book as MG Car Club)		Middle Wallop Flying Station	Martyn Lucas
12th July	Atwell Wilson Annual Show			Martyn Lucas
19th July	Wessex MG Summer Picnic	TBA	TBA	Chris McCormack
27th July	Club Night - BBQ	8:00pm		David Collier
1/2nd August	Gloucestershire Vintage & Country Show		South Cerney	
16th August	MG Festival Brands Hatch			Martyn Lucas



2026 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Start Time	Venue	Additional Information
24th August	Club Night - Social Evening	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	David Collier
4th September	Planks Farm Classic Car Meet		Lydneyway	
26th September	Dumb Post Revival (Pre-Book)			Chris McCormack
28th September	Club Night - Talk by Tom	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	Tom Strickland
26th October	Club Night - Quiz	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	
13/14th November	NEC Classic Motor Show			
23rd November	Club Night - AGM	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	David Collier
TBA	Christmas Party		The Toll Gate Inn	



The birth certificate of the automobile: patent certificate for the 1886 motor car from Carl Benz.

## The Birth of the Motor Car

Paul Warn

**T**he motor car is 140 years old this very month. The original patent or birth certificate - see title photo above - is dated 29 January 1886.

Now its not usual to celebrate an anniversary other than say 25, 50 and 100 years however I've decided, given that the internal combustion engined automobile as we know it is an endangered species, to make this exception. Come its 150th anniversary in 2036 it may no longer exist as a new build...

The Benz Patent-Motorwagen was the world's first automobile with an internal combustion engine. It was built by Carl Benz in 1885, and patent number 37435 was received for the car in 1886. This is the vehicle from which the DNA for all subsequent cars developed including your beloved MG and of course Morgan.

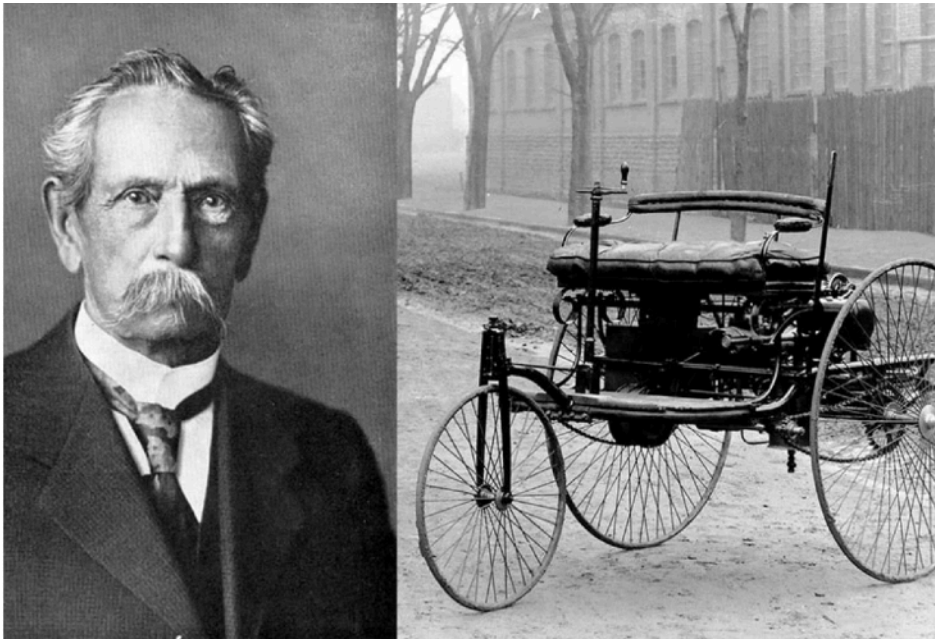
The patented vehicle had a 4 stroke petrol engine, electric ignition, carburettor, cooling system, transmission and brakes. The chassis was made of steel pipes, the rear wheels were mounted on a rigid axle with elliptical springs. The decision to equip the car with three wheels was caused by the peculiarities of the steering, as a result its steering handle was located in the centre.

For those of you who have visited the Haynes Motor Museum, you would have no doubt seen the film recreating the inventors' wife Bertha, together with her sons making the first road trip on the newly patented Benz automobile of about 104 km. This trip received wide publicity at the time and successfully promoted the birth of the automobile.

I've put together a few pics illustrating how far the automobile has come in 140 years







Carl Benz pictured  
with the original  
Benz

The 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300SLR with its creator chief engineer Rudolf Uhlenhaut. The car was sold at auction for a record 135 million EUR in 2022.



The 2025 season  
Mercedes Formula one  
car



## Intangible Cultural Heritage

Paul Warn

**G**iven the inevitable extinction intimated in my last piece the Federation of Historic Vehicles Clubs (FBHVC) is shining a light for the classic car movement.

For those not familiar with the FBVHC I've taken this from their web site.:

**Established at a public meeting held at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall on 23 July 1988, its roots go back to the time more than 30 years earlier. The Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs exists to maintain our freedom to use Yesterday's Vehicles on Tomorrow's Roads. Additionally we encourage the preservation and promotion of all types of vehicle within the broader context of our national heritage.**

The FBHVC works closely with the UK Parliament, primarily through the All-Party Parliamentary Historic Vehicles Group, to influence legislation and policy, advocating for historic vehicle owners' rights by engaging with MPs, submitting evidence on topics like self driving cars, and publishing manifestoes to ensure vehicle standards don't disadvantage classic cars with the aim of preserving the freedom to use historic vehicles on public roads and support the movement's cultural and economic value.

It was the FBHVC who "invented" Drive-It Day.

The FBHVC also provide key facts and data, like the National Historic Vehicle Survey to demonstrate the movement's economic and cultural heritage and value. Perhaps more on this next month...

The FBHVC has received initial approval from UNESCO to proceed with its application to have the UK's historic vehicle movement recognised as an official example of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The approval permits the Federation to submit a full application under the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage - legislation the UK formally supported in 2024. Recognition would place Britain's classic vehicle culture alongside bellringing, pantomime, dry-stone walling and other enduring social practices within the UK's official living heritage inventory.

Described by FBHVC chairman David Whale as 'an exciting prospect indeed', the move reflects decades of work by clubs and enthusiasts who preserve, share and actively use historic vehicles on British roads. The Federation estimates that 4.3 million people attend events hosted by its 534 member clubs annually, underlining the scale and community importance of the sector.





## Secretary's Scribbles

Last time I wrote it was November so you may expect lots of MG news from me... but, maybe realistically with all things Christmas indoors and the cold and wet outdoors not that much has happened. I think my hardtop has settled a bit and I am happier with it now - note that I am not totally happy with the fit to the top of the windscreen still. I did pop out for my normal 'winter route' a few times - this is probably something that you do too - you spot that the roads are dry and there seems little salt about so you jump in for a quick spin along a familiar route. For me my route takes me straight on to the A4, through Calne then I open her up for the run past the White horse and down to the Avebury roundabout - here I see how fast I can slingshot the roundabout before heading back the same way. Of course, this is always accompanied (once I am sure I have no new rattles, bangs, vibrations) to loud yobbo music - you

know stuff like Elvis or Topgun. Over Christmas Nancy I did a 'one night' raid across the channel to recce our upcoming Dunkirk 1940 trip - this all went well and we found lots of good carparks, restaurants and toilets but, we did get caught up in the Eurotunnel mayhem that was in the news - we actually got stuck there for 10 hours which was unpleasant as it was rammed and the lack of communication meant you were obsessed with the boards so it was like you could go off for a nap etc. anyway, we made it home albeit with Nancy's back being aggravated by the standing and trying to sleep in the car seat.

Anyway, a warm welcome to David as our new Chairman and once again many thanks to Martyn for many years of positive leadership.



**Tom**

## 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	01380 727151	<a href="mailto:kevinmg1@live.com">kevinmg1@live.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	01380 727151	<a href="mailto:kevinmg1@live.com">kevinmg1@live.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.