



# WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN- HOLT

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

### CONTENTS

PAGE 1

**CHAIRMAN'S CHAT**

PAGE 3

**2026 DIARY**

PAGE 6

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

PAGE 8

**ADVANCE NOTICE**

PAGE 10

**FERRARI 250GTO**

Paul Warn

Page 13

**SECRETARY'S**

**SCRIBBLES**

Tom Strickland

**NEXT CLUB NIGHT**

**MYSTERY RUN**

18th May

**SEE EVENTS DIARY**



Here we are in May, and I can't be alone in thinking where is this year going?!

On the plus side, it means we've rapidly approached my favourite time of the year - when we get to go out and about in our cars.

The other thing I'm thinking, why is it so bloody cold! It's my fault for playing golf in Portugal for a week too I guess!

May is always I feel the first real "proper" month of events - it's when I notice on Facebook & Instagram lots of events and people out and about with their cars in general. I hope you've all had the chance to go out for a run.

Was good to see a good turn out at the last club night, with the prod and poke being as popular as ever.

Continued...



Coming up on the 18th is the club Mystery Run, which is always a favourite of mine... looking forward to it....Which I'm sure we all are.

On a personal note, Margot is back!

I'm really happy with the work done, with the inner & outer sills plus the castle sections replaced on both sides - you'd not know it had been done - and she feels so solid now.

Not surprising really when you think just how structurally important those sections are.

My plan of "that's it" for spending money on her lasted all of a day or two - next on the list (and sat in my dining room ready) are uprated front and rear lever arms and poly bushes. 🤔

Looking ahead in the club calendar we have some events coming up, as well as the club night/mystery run I already mentioned.

Wednesday 20th May is the Attwell Wilson evening gathering... a free one, & a just turn up type event.

Always interesting as there will be a variety of cars and bikes there, which I always love.

Then we head into June where it gets super busy!

Keep an eye on the newsletter.

Well, thanks for reading - I hope to chat to you all soon, hopefully on the mystery run night.

See you soon



**David**

## CLUB DIARY -

**Note:** In the date column, where the **DATE** of an event has been highlighted in **RED** the sponsor has included additional promotional details in the newsletter also highlighted in **RED**

2026 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Start Time	Venue	Additional Information
<b>18th May (Details March Edition)</b>	<b>Club Night - Mystery Run</b>	<b>6:00 for 6:30pm Wickes in Trowbridge</b>		<b>Terry &amp; Sue Warder</b>
<b>20th May (Details February Edition)</b>	<b>Atwell Wilson Gathering</b>	<b>4pm - 9pm</b>	<b>Atwell Wilson Museum</b>	<b>Chris McCormack</b>
<b>6th June</b>	<b>Middlewick Open House (Pre-Book required)</b>	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>Middlewick House</b>	<b>Chris McCormack</b>
7th June	MGs in the Park			
7th June	Chippenham Lions			
20th June	Planks Farm Classic Car Meet			
27/8th June	Bath Rotary Festival of Motoring and Music			
<b>29th June</b>	<b>Club Night - Boules</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>		<b>David Collier</b>



2026 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Start Time	Venue	Additional Information
<b>11th July</b> <b>(Details</b> <b>February</b> <b>Edition)</b>	<b>Wings and Wheels (Pre Book - Book as MG Car Club)</b>		<b>Middle Wallop Flying Station</b>	<b>Fully Booked</b> <b>Martyn Lucas</b>
<b>12th July</b>	<b>Atwell Wilson Annual Show</b>			<b>Martyn Lucas</b>
<b>19th July</b> <b>(Details</b> <b>February</b> <b>Edition)</b>	<b>Wessex MG Summer Picnic</b>	<b>11:30am</b>	<b>East Somerset Railway</b>	<b>Chris McCormack</b>
<b>27th July</b>	<b>Club Night - BBQ</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>		<b>David Collier</b>
<b>2nd August</b> <b>(Details</b> <b>February</b> <b>Edition)</b>	<b>Gloucestershire Vintage &amp; Country Show</b>		<b>South Cerney</b>	
<b>16th August</b>	<b>MG Festival Brands Hatch</b>			<b>Martyn Lucas</b>
<b>24th August</b>	<b>Club Night - Social Evening</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>	<b>David Collier</b>
<b>30th August</b> <b>(Details May edition)</b>	<b>Club Autotest</b>		<b>Tom &amp;</b>	
<b>4th September</b>	<b>Planks Farm Classic Car Meet</b>		<b>Lydney</b>	



2026 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Start Time	Venue	Additional Information
<b>12th September</b> (Details February Edition)	<b>Dumb Post Revival</b> (Pre-Book)	<b>11:30am</b>	<b>The Dumb Post Inn</b>	<b>Chris McCormack</b>
<b>28th September</b>	<b>Club Night - Talk by Tom</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>	<b>Tom Strickland</b>
<b>26th October</b>	<b>Club Night - Quiz</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>	
<b>13/14th November</b>	<b>NEC Classic Motor Show</b>			
<b>23rd November</b>	<b>Club Night - AGM</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>	<b>David Collier</b>
<b>5th December</b>	<b>Christmas Party</b>		<b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>	

## UP COMING EVENTS

### Middlewick House open house – Sat June 6<sup>th</sup>

#### Event Information

#### Middlewick House open house - Sat June 6<sup>th</sup> 2026

**Location** : Middlewick House

**Address** : Middlewick Lane, Corsham, Wiltshire, SN130PX

**Parking Information** : Arrive as a club at 08:30 in order to park together.

**Arrival time**: 08:30am

**Notes**: This family friendly weekend includes a display of Nicks cars, plenty of stall to browse, with lots of items for sale, including jewellery, plants, candles and art.

**Costs**: pre booked tickets only this year. Entry cost £20. Club Parking pass £5

**Tickets via** : [Middlewick House Open Garden](#)

**Travel arrangements** : Meet in Sainsburys car park, Chippenham at 07:45am, look to leave for the venue at 8am.

**Venue information** : [Middlewick House Open Garden](#)

#### **Macca**

07974 429153

[cdropstix@btinternet.com](mailto:cdropstix@btinternet.com)



CLUB DAY OUT TO  
MIDDLEWICK HOUSE OPEN GARDEN  
SAT JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> 2026  
10am - 4pm

HOME OF THE NICK MASON CAR  
COLLECTION

**OPEN GARDEN**

Meet in Sainsbury car park, chippenham 7:45  
Leave for venue 8am

PRE BOOKED TICKETS ONLY VIA  
[HTTPS://MIDDLEWICKHOUSEOPENGARDEN.COM/](https://middlewickhouseopengarden.com/)  
ENTRY £20 / CLASSIC CAR PARK £5

MIDDLEWICK HOUSE, MIDDLEWICK LANE, CORSHAM, WILTS, SN13 OPX

## UP COMING EVENTS

### CHIPPENHAM LIONS Cherished Vehicle & Family Day - Sunday 7th June



Club members Jo and Adrian Dodd's Band **"The Gentle Crows"** will be playing again at this event they will be playing at 10:25 and 12:50.



## UP COMING EVENTS

### AUTOTEST IN TOM'S FIELD Sunday 30th August



**WESSEX MG CLUB**  
**AUTOTEST**  
Sunday 30th August

*Come and test your driving skills!*

- Friendly competition • All welcome

The poster features a black MG convertible car parked on a grassy field with a person leaning on the driver's side and an orange traffic cone in front. The background shows a line of trees. The Wessex MG Club logo is in the bottom left corner.

One event missing in the event calendar so far this year is the promised MG's in Tom's Field.. so, please add **Sunday 30th August** to your diaries (I got AI to make my ad for the event - I am not sure about it - what has happened to Martyn?). The proposal is for some straightforward autotests and a picnic lunch - all done in our field in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.



**TOM**

## ADVANCE NOTICE - Stilton Cheese Classic Car Run



## WESSEX MG SPRING BREAK 2027

A few people have asked about and shown interest in the STILTON CHEESE RUN 2027. I have managed to get a date which is 25 April. I don't believe we can enter before January.

As always I need early indication of interest to be able to book accommodation.



**Graham Bennett**



## Nick Mason's Ferrari 250 GTO

Paul Warn

**T**he context of this piece is Nick Mason's charity open day in June at his home Middlewick House. See promo on page 6.

Last month I included a piece on last year's top ten most expensive cars sold at auction. In January of this year this white Ferrari 250 GTO was sold at



the Mecum Auctions in the USA for \$38.5 million which would have placed second in last year's list.

The reason I mention this is that all 250 GTOs are historically important. There were only thirty six 250 GTOs built in period between 1962 and 1964 and Nick Mason has one of them - which presumably he will

show on the 6th June. We were at what must have been one of the very early events in 2014 when I took the title pic of his 250 GTO. There is no more sought after car in the car collecting world than a Ferrari 250 GTO. The white car is chassis 3279 GT and Nick Mason's chassis 3757 GT.

Now \$38.5 is not an insignificant amount (fifth most expensive car sold at auction) however there is a view that the result was disappointing falling short of its estimate of \$47.85 million - reasons...

- A. The only chassis finished in white
- B. Raced exclusively in the UK - bought by John Coombs raced by Graham Hill and Roy Salvadori - provenance is everything
- C. Not the original engine
- D. Right hand drive
- E. Relative lack of restoration - originality to my mind is good but the



Americans like trailer queens...the car was crashed at Silverstone in 1963 and had to be significantly repaired at the time - although bearing in mind that these cars originally were built to race - many GTOs also suffered racing damage.

The most expensive Ferrari ever sold was a 250 GTO bought by David MacNeil for an undisclosed amount but

rumoured to be well in excess of \$70 million dollars. Importantly its provenance is well documented in a book dedicated to chassis 4153 GT.

This pic was at the first Goodwood Revival we attended in 1998.

So if you are going with the club to visit to Nick Mason's charity open day on the 6th June and his GTO is there then this in outline is its story...

### CHASIS 3757 GT

- The car was originally supplied new to Jacques Swaters/Ecurie Francorchamps in 1962 and made its debut at the 1962 Le Mans 24 Hours where it finished an exceptional third overall driven by León Dernier and Jean Blaton.



The pic shows Jean Blaton with 3757 GT where they finished 3rd overall at Le Mans in 1962. Note that Nick Mason has retained the number 22 to commemorate that success.

- It had nine owners until it was bought by Nick Mason in 1978
- Since 1978 the car has had regular outings in historic motorsport including the Goodwood Revival.
- The car was raced extensively in 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965 and 1966. Both at home and abroad.
- By 1967 the GTO was an out of date racing car and effectively worthless. In 1967 its then owner Peter Clarke sold it to Avalon Garage near Margate in Kent for £2000.

All of Nick Mason's cars are of historic importance. I've included a few pics of cars I took at the 2014 charity event.





## Secretary's Scribbles

We had a great night at the annual Prod and Poke Evening last club night - thank you for turning out - we totally filled the car park.

This month I have been car shopping for my daughter and although I considered an MG3 I went for a 2010 Toyota IQ with a manual gear box - important to be manual despite the trend moving to auto because otherwise how would she drive old MGs in the future. It is a smart little city car with a 3-cylinder engine but, absolutely no boot at all (that will stop her hiding boys there!) It is one of those cars which hides in the parking space and you think you have found an empty one..

I drove the TF up to Gloucester today to see my friend in hospital and I enjoyed the mixture of windy

country roads and dual carriageway sections that his drive gives me and the MG.

One event missing in the event calendar so far this year is the promised MG's in Tom's Field.. so, please add **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August** to your diaries (I got AI to make my ad for the event - I am not sure about it - what has happened to Martyn?). The proposal is for some straightforward autotests and a picnic lunch - all done in our field in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

Next up for us is Terry and Sue's Mystery Run an event that I always look forward to - see you all there.

**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	Kevin Meakin	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	Kevin Meakin	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.