



WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN- HOLT

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

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**NEXT CLUB
NIGHT
BOULES EVENING
29th June
START TIME 8:00**



Hello everyone!

It's certainly warmed up now, maybe a little too warm for most of us?!

I have been working over in France last week, at a defence exhibition which was hot work indeed - I was certainly glad of the beer(s) and great food in the evenings... hydration is very important I'm told.

Unfortunately, as I write this I have come down with the Shingles - which I thoroughly do not recommend. So this month's Chairmans Chat is a little shorter, some of you will be disappointed, others no doubt equally glad!

I hope I will be recovered well enough to be at the clubs boules night, which is on Monday 29th June - at the tollgate.

Continued...

A quick Margot update - while I was in Paris I had the suspension rebuild completed, with new uprated lever arm dampers front and back plus new poly bushes and fasteners all around - all courtesy of MGB Hive.

I quickly took her for a run on Friday, and she handles like a totally different car - I guess the new sills plus the replaced and uprated suspension and bushes have to help give some rigidity to the old girl!

I'm looking forward to taking her on longer drives now over the summer.

Advance Notice - July Club Night - Club BBQ on Monday 27th July

Just to let you know, I have managed to find and arrange an alternative venue for our club BBQ this year - as a number of people weren't so happy with the offering at the tollgate last time around.

So, we will have a 'proper' outdoor BBQ instead, at my golf club @ Whitley (near Melksham).

I'm not on a kick back/retainer!

(I was trying to find a place that can accommodate us and do a real BBQ not just cook us a burger in a kitchen)

Address: Whitley Golf Club, Corsham Road, Whitley, Melksham SN12 8EQ.

I have managed to get this sorted with the club, and they will give us like I say a proper BBQ and we will have use of the patio, and if the weather is suspect then we can use the club house.

So fingers crossed for the weather, and hopefully it will be a good evening with good food and chat amongst friends. **For more details see Page 7**

Lastly, the committee will come together in July to discuss the 2nd half of the year - so if anybody has things they would like us to discuss, whether that's events for this year/next or other things for the club committee to muse over, then please reach out to me - by phone, email or WhatsApp... or even speak to me in person, the old school way!

Right, I am off to take my anti virals and cover myself in calamine lotion!
Hope to see you all soon, maybe at boules night if I'm recovered in time.



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
27/28th June	Bath Rotary Festival of Motoring and Music			
29th June	Club Night - Boules	8:00pm		David Collier
11th July (Details February Edition)	Wings and Wheels (Pre Book - Book as MG Car Club)		Middle Wallop Flying Station	Fully Booked Martyn Lucas
12th July	Atwell Wilson Annual Show			Martyn Lucas
19th July (Details February Edition)	Wessex MG Summer Picnic	11:30am	East Somerset Railway	David Collier
27th July (Details June Edition)	Club Night - BBQ	8:00pm	Whitley Golf Club SN12 8EQ.	David Collier
2nd August (Details February Edition)	Gloucestershire Vintage & Country Show		South Cerney	
16th August	MG Festival Brands Hatch			Martyn Lucas
24th August	Club Night - Social Evening	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	David Collier
30th August (Details May edition)	Club Autotest		Tom &	
4th September	Planks Farm Classic Car Meet		Lydneyway	



2026 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Start Time	Venue	Additional Information
12th September (Details February Edition)	Dumb Post Revival (Pre-Book)	11:30am	The Dumb Post Inn	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
5th December	Christmas Party		The Toll Gate Inn	

DETAILS OF UP COMING EVENTS

Wheels and Wings Middle Wallop Saturday 11th July

Unfortunately the Army Flying Museum have announced that car display spaces are now **sold out, if you have not already booked a car display space it is still possible to book a spectator ticket and park in the public car park.**

Martyn

DETAILS OF UP COMING EVENTS

Annual Picnic Sunday July 19th

Event Information

Annual Picnic Sunday July 19th 2026

Location : East Somerset Railway

Address: Cranmore Railway Station, Cranmore, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 4QP

Parking Information: Tarmac Strip adjacent to the Grass area at the top of the car park. There are tea/coffee/cake facilities on site within the museum

Arrival time: 11:30am

Notes: Picnic / Chat 12 - 1.30. 2pm Train ride arranged for the club.

Cost: Group discount £14 entry charge payable on the day, directly to the venue, gives full access to the museum and steam train rides

Travel arrangements: 9.45am Meeting Point, The Milk Churn, Commerce Way, Melksham SN12 6AD, look to leave by 10am for the venue.

Venue Information: [East Somerset Railway | Family Attraction in Somerset](#)

Macca

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DETAILS OF UP COMING EVENTS

Annual Club BBQ Monday 27th July



VENUE: **Whitley Golf Club, Corsham Road, Whitley, Melksham SN12 8EQ.**

COST: £15/head subsidised by the club to the tune of £5/head

ACTUAL COST: **£10/head! Great Value!!!**

START TIME: **8:00pm**

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.

Further to last month's announcement - above - next years spring break possibly to Rutland for the STILTON CHEESE RUN. Its an annual event with about 250 cars taking part. This is only a suggestion. Please google it and you will see what it is about from this years event.

If anyone can come up with any other suggestions that will be great but we need to start looking now as if there are a lot of us intending to go we really need to start planning now for accommodation and parking spaces. I have no problems whatsoever if somebody else wants to plan an alternative trip.



Graham



4/5th's of a Century

Malcolm Taylor

I recently received my OBE. OK, OK, I've already used that one, I'll give it a miss.

To celebrate my 80th, my brother commissioned the generating of the picture of me in my TF. The only error is that it is an 05 car not 04. The significance of Reading on the signpost is that it is our hometown.

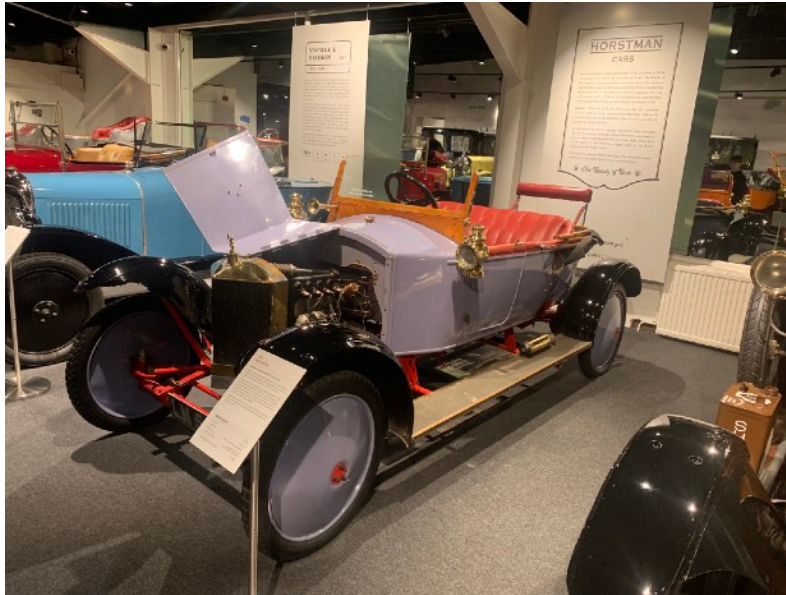
To celebrate, Pat and I went off for a week in Derbyshire on the edge of the Peak District.

Pat treated me to my birthday meal in the Vista Restaurant at the top of The Heights of Abraham. Access is by the first cable car system in the UK. See pic. The cable cars set off from Matlock Bath. The restaurant has views along the Derwent Valley, and is well worth a visit.

Also on the transport theme was a visit to the National Tramway Museum at Criche for some rides on the trams. See pic. Again well worth a visit.







A Long Way From The Bath Of Today...

Paul Warn

If during the winter months we are looking to give the Morgan a run we often choose the Haynes Motor Museum - apart from the cars their pasties are not too bad either! There is a nice country run via Bruton and the A303 dual carriage way provides a good high speed return journey via Stourhead.

As many of you will know there are many interesting cars to see but of particular local interest is a 1915 Horstmann see title picture - designed and manufactured by Sidney Horstmann - the second 'n' was dropped after WW1 to make it less Germanic. Sidney's father, Gustav Horstmann was of Prussian descent, and moved to Britain in 1853. He established himself as a watch maker in Bath. He had a very nimble brain, forever visualising new approaches to everyday problems, it was a mindset inherited by his son Sidney born in 1881 which he applied to the emerging car industry.

By 1900 Sidney had designed and built a single cylinder combustion engine for cyclecars and by 1903 he'd helped set up the Bath Garage and Motor Company and then in 1906 his own business the Horstmann Car Company in Monmouth Place.

Sidney's first four-wheeled car the Horstmann 8.9hp was launched at the 1913 Motor Show in Olympia costing £145. By the outbreak of WW1 the company was offering a three-car range - presumably including "our" car in the title pic.

Like many motor manufacturers, Sidney Horstmann thrived during the war years supplanting production of cars with that of screw-thread gauges for which he was awarded an MBE for services to the nation.

Sidney's first car had a number of siblings including the Super Sports model. Despite being painfully under resourced, motorsport was seen as crucial to survival in a market place that respected not only sporting success but the

durability necessary to succeed in competition. Having built a car for a customer to race at Le Mans in 1921 - the car retired with rear axle failure - the potential was there and it was decided to launch a more serious assault on what was to be Britain's first circuit based long distance fixture - the Junior Car Club 200 Mile Race at Brooklands. The factory built and entered three Super Sports cars - see pic below.

The opposition was formidable in the largest 1.5 litre class with the likes of Henry Segrave, Malcolm Campbell and Kenelm Lee Guinness driving the best cars of the period. It was a momentous event, ordinary motorists were given the opportunity of seeing racing cars lapping at twice the speed their own cars could achieve flat-out. In the race two Super Sports retired, however the third finished fifth averaging an impressive 82.37 mph - just under 7mph less than that of Segrave's winning car. It was enough for Horstman to claim it could now offer customers "the fastest British light car" by way of a factory replica.

Like so many car makers of its time, in the inter war years Horstman's innovation and ambition exceeded its ability to generate the funds needed for either. Despite laudable attempts to be at the cutting edge of technology with its products - Horstman was one of the first manufacturers to productionise a hydraulically operated four-wheel braking system. By 1924 a second gloomy period of receivership had gripped the company. In March the following year year Horstman Cars Limited was put into compulsory liquidation.

A long way from the Bath of today...



Secretary's Scribbles

Hopefully everyone has now put the 30th August in your diaries for the Autotest day here at the Stricklands in Pewsham. Half-term back in May involved lots of travelling with the family - we went up to York for a few days so, not much opportunity to drive the MG although on my birthday Nancy and I went down to Mudeford for a cheeky night away and we went hood down in the MG and in fact we didn't put the hood up at all the whole time- I just put a cover across when we parked up. Mudeford unexpectedly had a food festival down the high street so we enjoyed ourselves in the British sun

before heading back up home. I am really looking forward to the upcoming Boules Night where Nancy traditionally goes into full PE Teacher mode to get us all marshalled through a championship whilst half of us are just trying to have chat and catch up - it is always a great event. It also won't be long before we have our annual Wessex Picnic - this is traditionally one of the main events of the season for the club so please do try and get involved. Hopefully the summer has settled down by the time you read this as the swapping nature of wet, cold and windy then baking hot is bizarre.

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	Kevin Meakin	01380 727151	kevinmg1@live.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	Kevin Meakin	01380 727151	kevinmg1@live.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.