



WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN- HOLT

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

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Tom Strickland

NEXT CLUB NIGHT

24th August
Social Evening
Start Time
8:00pm



What a summer we are having, July and August have been gorgeous, and have given us lots of opportunities to go out in our cars.

Its probably a little too warm for most of us, and even a little for me also, although I think I am either solar powered or was a gecko in a previous life I think. But even I am starting to wish for a little rain, my lawn is looking terrible.

August has been good for car events - with our club BBQ at Whitley Golf Club at the end of July seeming to have been a great success. Hopefully you all enjoyed it, and this will be our new home for BBQ's going forwards.

Continued...

We've had the South Gloucestershire Steam Fair, and coming up (this weekend as I write this) is the MG Festival at Brands Hatch.

This I am sure will be an amazing event, unfortunately for me work has got in the way (again!) and I'll be unfortunately winging it across to the other side of the pond while you are all watching some great action around the track.

We also had our first attendance (as it was the first one!) at the Bath Soft Cheese Companys car show. (Photos later in the newsletter)

We had a tour of the dairy where they make and store the cheese, as well as a bit of a tasting of the very good cheese (The Merry Wyfe of Bath has long been a favourite of mine!) and fine wine from Dunleavy wines also on site.

Some interesting cars too, and a fantastic cafe/restaurant on site also made this location great - surrounded by fields and cattle.

I will keep you all informed if this is repeated again in the future, I for one will go again.

I will be back in Blighty in time for our club night on 24th August, which is a social gathering - I am looking forward to catching up with you all, and hopefully a run out in my B as well.

Some things I'd like to bring to everyones attention include the following:

1) 2027 Spring Break

Graham Bennett has suggested the stilton run for next years spring break, if people could respond as to whether they are wanting to attend or not ASAP that would be most appreciated.

Likewise, if you have other ideas for the spring break, and fancy organising it - I am sure Graham would not mind - please let us know your ideas.

2) Newsletter Editor

Despite my protests, Paul Warn has decided to hang up his quill at the end of the year. I firstly want to say thank you to Paul on behalf of the club for all he has done, and continues to do with regards to putting this newsletter together each month, no mean feat.

If you feel you could add something to this going forwards, please come forward.

On that note, can I ask all members to consider contributing to the newsletter as much as possible, no subject is really off limits - its a great way to get across your views and passions.

And I for one enjoy reading this each month.



3) Upcoming events

Coming up is the annual auto test in Toms field on the 30th August, Planks Farm Meet on 4th September and then the Dumbpost Revival on the 12th September.

Are we really heading into September shortly?! Where is this year going!
Better get the sprouts on soon!

Look forward to seeing you over the rest of this summer at events, and at our next club meet.

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
24th August	Club Night - Social Evening	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	David Collier
30th August (Details May edition)	Club Autotest		Tom & Nancy's house	Tom Strickland
4th September	Planks Farm Classic Car Meet		Lydeaway	
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
24th October (Details August Edition)	Skittles Evening	7:00pm	The White Hart Atworth	Martyn Lucas
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

The Dumb Post Revival September 12th

Event Information

The Dumb Post Revival - Sept 12th

Location: The Dumb Post Inn

Address: Dumb Post Hill, Bremhill, Wiltshire, SN119JZ

Parking Information: Pit Lane Parking display ticket required

Notes: Amazing day, celebrating the best of all things Goodwood, Cars, vintage dress, live music, outstanding food, all in support of the British Heart Foundation. There will be a full afternoon of planned activities including best car, best dressed driver and co-driver, raffle, BBQ, live band "Splat the Rat"

Cost: £5 for a Pit Lane Display Pass

Tickets : <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/select/gweznpjlmcdw>

Travel arrangements: Pre booked Cars should plan to arrive for around 11:30am and will be shown to your display space.

Venue information: [Home - The Dumb Post, Bremhill, Wiltshire](#)

Macca

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DETAILS OF UP COMING EVENTS

Skittles Evening 24th October



The poster is for the Wessex MG Club Skittles Evening. It features a red and white color scheme. At the top, there's a logo for the Wessex MG Club. Below it, the text 'WESSEX MG CLUB SKITTLES EVENING' is prominently displayed. The poster includes details about the date (Saturday 24th October 2026), time (from 7:00 PM), and location (The White Hart, Bath Road, Atworth, Melksham, SN12 8JR). It also lists activities: Traditional Skittles, Friendly Competition, Drinks & Refreshments Available, and Great Company and MG Chat. A section for RSVP is included, asking for confirmation by Saturday 17th October 2026. There's also a 'EVERYONE WELCOME' section encouraging both seasoned players and beginners to join. The bottom of the poster features a red MG convertible car and the text 'Wessex MG Club KEEPING THE MG SPIRIT ALIVE ON AND OFF THE ROAD'.

WESSEX MG CLUB
SKITTLES EVENING

*An enjoyable social evening for
Wessex MG Club members and friends*

SATURDAY
24TH OCTOBER 2026

FROM 7:00 PM

THE WHITE HART
Bath Road, Atworth
Melksham
SN12 8JR

JOIN US FOR:

- Traditional Skittles
- Friendly Competition
- Drinks & Refreshments Available
- Great Company and MG Chat

★ PLEASE RSVP ★
To help us confirm numbers with the venue,
please let us know if you'll be attending.
RSVP BY SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2026

EVERYONE WELCOME
Whether you're a seasoned
skittles player or a complete
beginner, come along for a
fun social evening with fellow
Wessex MG Club
members and friends.

Wessex MG Club
KEEPING THE MG SPIRIT ALIVE ON AND OFF THE ROAD

The annual Club Skittles Evening will be held at the White Hart, Atworth, Melksham SN12 8JR from 7.00pm

Basket Meals will be available the menu will be available at the beginning of October.

This is a fun evening and no previous skittles playing experience is needed

If you wish to join us please email me at martyn.lucas2@btinternet.com before Saturday 17th October.

Martyn

RECENT EVENTS - Bath Soft Cheese Company Car Show

Pics Courtesy Of David Collier







The Phone Book

Paul Warn

Recently the family got together - not as often these days now our three grandchildren have careers and lives of their own - and for whatever reason the chat turned to the topic of telephones. It amused them that we still had a landline with a phone on the end, and at their age we used a telephone box down the road and when we eventually had a telephone we were all issued with enormous telephone books. So it got me thinking...

"I'm in the book" has long ceased to be a stock response to "What's your number" or even "I'm ex-directory" Now that the telephone directory is no longer printed those responses are now consigned to antiquity and only heard perhaps in old films.

Britain's first telephone directory, barely more than a couple of pages was printed in 1880 and as a contradiction didn't have any telephone numbers! Only names and addresses. Owning a telephone was so rare - 248 in 1880 - you would ask the telephone operator for your contact by name and duly connected. The newfangled phone rapidly caught on however, by the outbreak of WW1 the directory accounted for the UK's largest print-run, with 1.4 million copies.

In 1926 it was decided to replace all-figure telephone numbers by combining the number and giving each exchange a name generally related to the areas they served. The first three letters of which would be printed in bold capitals in the phone book

followed by four numbers. Subscribers became very attached to their phone numbers, with a quiet satisfaction to be enjoyed when reeling off say a **BEL**gravia or **MAY**fair and the number. Of course conversely there were examples of residents objecting to their exchange names on the basis that they were too downmarket... The name-number system ended in 1966.

One number that became familiar to all due to the influence of films and television dramas was **WHI**thall 1212, the number for Scotland Yard.

If you were not posh you had to make do with the telephone box down the road - see - pic some folk thought it was their own property hogging the box until their call came through!! And of course staying on the line while others waited outside. When Anne's pregnancy contractions became critical in the middle of a cold December night I went out in the snow down to "our" illuminated telephone box to summon an ambulance - yes an ambulance came to pick her up!

When we moved into our first house in 1972 - it was a new build - with it came a telephone line, very exciting, albeit a so called "party line" a line you shared with a nearby neighbour. ie when you wanted to use the telephone you would hope it was not being used by your "party". It was a good idea to find out who this was and to be on good terms with them...Also it was fascinating and hard to resist searching under your name in your copy of the telephone directory to find out who else shared your name and perhaps where they lived. I wonder how that would work with today's Data Protection Act.

Then one day a new directory would land on the doorstep - oh no what to do with the old one! A common theme on competitive television programmes was trying to tear them in half with your bear hands or use them as a booster seat in the car or as a convenient step in the kitchen to get to the overhead cupboards. What fun.

And of course there was the "Ban The Phone Book" movement, which for decades campaigned against the tomb. By this millennium the BT phone directory print run had reached 22 million consuming a massive 22,000 tons of paper albeit now recyclable.

Now if you are reading this you may be wondering why Peter Sellers is featured in the title picture? Well he famously stated in a 1980 interview that he held director Stanley Kubrick in such high regard that he would have done anything Kubrick asked—including an offer to "film the phone book, anything"





A vanishing breed - the mobile phone has put paid to the red box.

Architect Sir Giles Gilbert-Scott won a competition to design a replacement telephone box in 1923 on the left of picture.

As the 1935 Silver Jubilee of King George V approached Gilbert Scott was asked to update his design. The resulting "Jubilee Kiosk" on the right is the design we are all familiar, with the famous "A" and "B" buttons.





Secretary's Scribbles

It is still scorching..... I write from the sunny Loire valley this month and it has been above 30 every day! Having two teenagers with us doesn't help the 'get up early to beat the heat' style plans. There are a lot of modern MGs out her this year but, unusually I haven't spotted any MGBs yet. I would like to thank Macca and David for the picnic at the steam railway - it was a cracking day and good to catch up with everyone and feel nostalgic chugging through the Somerset countryside. It looks like you had a good time at the BBQ and I haven't heard of any MGs parking on greens or fairways so it looks like David will keep his membership intact. You also look to have

had a good time at the Bath cheese place - isn't it great that we have such a variety of events across the year. Nancy and I are going to go away for a few days in the MG later in the month so will probably have more stories coming your way next month. In the meantime don't forget that it is MGs in Tom and Nancy's Field on Sunday 30th - very low key set of auto tests that are perfect for everyone including beginners. I will put something on WhatsApp nearer the time about timings etc.

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.