

ARDEN MG CLUB



Newsletter November 2021

Hello All

There was the usual good crowd at the Golden Cross and David tells me there were 38 signed in, so we are recovering from the ravages of the last year and a half, I hope you are all enjoying the chance to meet up again. I'm sorry Graham but there were no events to report on, to put in the Enjoying MG Regional Report, although the events for the future keep growing.

Future Events:



Friday 19th November – Skittles Night: Snitterfield Sports Club, Wolverton Road. A bit late to join this now as we were fully booked within 24 hours. I have had some cancellations, so a few people from the reserve list have been able to join us. Open from 7pm to start at 7.30pm, I'm looking forward to an enjoyable evening.

Tuesday 7th December - Club Night: Social evening at the Golden Cross



Tuesday 14th December – Xmas Meal: Golden Cross. From 7pm to sit down at 7.30pm. The numbers are up to 56 now but there will still be space if anyone else wants to join in.

Saturday 1st January 2022 – Chilly Willy Run: I'm still awaiting confirmation of our start point but the finish will be at the Golden Cross, where lunch will be available at the cost of £10 for a single course or £12 for 2 courses. I will be sending a menu out for a pre-order but I'm happy to accept bookings from now. The run will be no more than 30 miles and will include gritted roads. Your MG is preferred but Moderns are welcome for this run.

Tuesday 4th January 2022 – AGM: We missed this last year due to the 'LockDown' and this meeting will be important to decide the future of the Club for the next year, would you like me to carry on as Chairman or is there someone who would like to have a go at running the Club, this is the time to decide, so far no one has come forward, there is still time. I hope to see a lot of you at this important Club Night.

Sunday 24th April – Drive- it-Day Run: David Pitt will be our organiser for this event, more details next year.

Friday 6th to Monday 9th May 2022 –

Weekend Away: I sent an email out with the information about this event but to summarise, we will be going to the Warner's Hotel in Cricket St Thomas in Somerset, the cost for dinner, bed and breakfast starts from £265 per person for the 3 nights and also includes the evening entertainment. Alan needs to make a booking very soon, so please register your interest with him (alan.griffith@hotmail.co.uk) as soon as you can also please note there is only limited availability, so first come first served.



Other Events:

Sunday 5th December – Classic Car Meeting: Kineton Sports and Social Club from 10am. Just turn up, there should be a wide variety of classic cars to view.

Sunday 12th December – Holly Run: Organised by the Morgan Three Wheeler Cub and involves a run and quiz about 20 miles finishing at a pub.

Saturday 1st January – Chilly Willy Run: This year the MGCC Midland Centre are running their own CW Run, which is a repeat of the Road Run used at the Triumph & MG Weekend last August. This will be 65 miles and start & finish at the Bluebells Inn, Barnards Green, Malvern where lunch will be available when pre-booked. Cost is £4 for MGCC members and £5 for other MGs.

Other Matters:



1. Alan's Mystery Run 2. Dorridge Day 3. CARS at the SPA

MGing For Pleasure, For Fun, For Friendship - Keep Happy, Keep Healthy, Keep MGing

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Club Night				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Club Wall Calendar: Norman has worked up the design of the 2022 calendar, which should be ready for collection at the Xmas Meal. It is in the same format as previous years although there are some months where events did not happen but no problem we have a whole selection of Cartoons from Graham which will make you smile during those months. They are A4 size with a Month to View. The cost will be the same as last year at £5.00 each but we need a few more orders to secure this price, so if you have not let me know you want one yet, please do so soon, as they will be going to the printers early next week. To whet your appetite, here is a sample page.

What Have You Done in your MG:



There are not many events to get the MGB out for this time of year but I could have gone to The Black Boy in Knowle or Kineton on a dry Sunday early in November. I chose The Black Boy, not as many cars but a good selection none the less and a pleasant drive across country. What have you been doing?

Trevor is nearing the end of his mamouth project to install a Ford (Mazda) Duratec engine into an MGB Roadster, so could this be the penultimate update!

Restoration and Installation of a Ford 2 litre Duratec into Our MGB – Part 6 Stormy Days, Chilly Cold Fronts, Despair, and then Brilliant sunshine Continued.

Chilly Cold Fronts

My first session at the rolling road had ended badly, engine running poorly and an oil filter adaptor component failure, which was my fault. Not to mention the high cost of getting no further forward. I broke out into a cold sweat at the thought of how much I had just spent and how would I tell Angie.

This project was already overspent, and I had been walking on eggshells on many occasions to pacify my running out of patience spouse. Little did I know that this day was going to get even more stressful.

Once home, I decided to drive the car into the garage, big mistake. What looked like a medium oil leak on the rolling road turned into a big oil slick on the road and for the full length of my drive, reminiscent of the Torrey Canyon oil spill in 1967. This brought on the first "Chilly Cold Front" rated at minus 10 degrees Celsius.

It took a bag of cement and 2 hours of scrubbing/sweeping to make oil slick half decent. It had been a long day and all I had to do was return the trailer and park the motorhome.

We keep Angies pride and joy, MG TD in a heated inflated bubble on our drive next to where I park the motorhome. In my disappointed, distressed state, I managed to catch the bubble and tore a hole in it, well more of a gash 6 inches long. Should I tell Angie or just emigrate! I thought 'Honesty is the best policy' and this brought on the second "Chilly Cold Front" minus 20. Then the realisation that I may have damaged the TD, so I made the gash even bigger to have a look, we are now at minus 40. To my horror I had damaged the rear wing, it's only a scratch I said, but I could not see the full extent of what I had done. As I left Angie stitching the inner and outer layers of the bubble so that we could inflate it again, the temperature was at minus 100. No tea and the spare bedroom seemed to be beckoning. It was a few weeks later when we took the TD out for a run that the full extent of the damage was seen. The rear wing was deformed and a bill of £250 had to be paid to fix it. I was well and truly in the doghouse and a "Chilly Cold Front" of minus 250 hit me. I can assure you there was no Global Warming in Tysoe. In Angie's defence, it was all deserved.

Despair

So, I am back to square one, except that I have lost some fingers and toes due to frost bite.

I sorted the oil leak and carried out every mechanical test I could think of to show a fault with cylinders 1 and 3. I could find no mechanical reason why there should be a fault with these cylinders. The Mazda Duratec engine has variable valve timing on the inlet cam, changing it by as much as 40 degrees. I decided I needed to use the free software to see what the MBE ECU was doing. The software is free but the special cable/dongle to connect to a laptop requires a mortgage to purchase. Whilst waiting for the cable to arrive, I considered all of the variables that could be to blame for my unresponsive engine. Fault diagnosis is usually a case of checking/eliminating the obvious and then changing components, one at a time hoping/praying that you will get lucky. Unfortunately, my suspect components are very costly to change. In my simple mind it came down to – the special wiring loom, ECU, the ECU map, coil pack, injectors, timing, voltage drops, (we did later

discover that if the voltage drops below 11.5 volts, the ECU won't start the engine, the computer says nooo!!) fuel pressure, faulty sensor and at one point, I even suspected witchcraft.

The cable arrived and we connected my laptop to the car, well the screen lit up like the Starship Enterprise, and I hadn't a clue what any of it meant. Luckily my son was present and took control, just as well because I would probably have blown up half of Tysoe. Long story short, by adjusting the cold start and playing with the timing and checking what seemed like endless screens of numbers, it was running a bit better. So, time to book the rolling road again. Rolling road booked for 24th November 2020, two months from my last visit. I took the car on a trailer and was very excited that this would be the day I would drive my creation. Hours passed and Troy was still unhappy with the way the engine was running, he was convinced the problem was with the engine itself. Once again, my session had come to an end and still the food challenged lady was not singing. I decided to leave the car there for them to try a different ECU, map, wiring loom and anything else, including an exorcism and a blessing, I was that desperate.

Once again, a cold sweat, how would I tell Angie that more money being spent had resulted in no progress, and that I was leaving the car there at even more expense. When I telephoned Angie, through the shouting, I could just make out, "if the cars not coming home, you don't need to bother either", or something like that. Every time the phone rang, I thought it was Troy phoning me to say that my MG B-Tec was all fixed and ready to pick up. After 4 days my nerves were in tatters, and Angie was fed up with me running to the telephone like Linford Christie, I phoned Troy. The news was not good, the engine refused all of their efforts to run as intended, They begged me to come and pick it up, because they were becoming as suicidal as I was. What was to be done? My first thought was to turn to drink, but this project had put me on two bottles of whisky a day already. How was I ever going to climb out of this pit of despair, which I must do, to save my sanity, marriage, bank balance, the universe.

I am afraid that will have to wait until next time because Angie has booked me into rehab where I am not allowed laptops or sharp objects.

Stay Safe

Trevor and Angie

Over to Graham for our monthly smile, this one is titled "Classic Electric"



Electric's 'ere to stay. Thought I'd buy a Classic one before the prices rocket.

Stay safe, stay well

Paul

Proposed Events 2022

Date	Event	Organiser
01/01/22	Chilly Willy Run	Paul
24/04/22	Drive it Day	David Pitt
6/05/22 to 9/05/22	Weekend Away to Warner's Cricket St Thomas, Somerset	alan.griffith@hotmail.co.uk
July	BMC & Leyland Show BMM	Paul
05/07/22	Show Night	Paul
Summer	Chairman's Picnic	Paul
Summer	Heritage Run Revisited	Paul
13/12/22	Xmas Meal	Paul