



**Morris  
Garages**

**ARDEN MG CLUB**

Issue 5 - May 2022

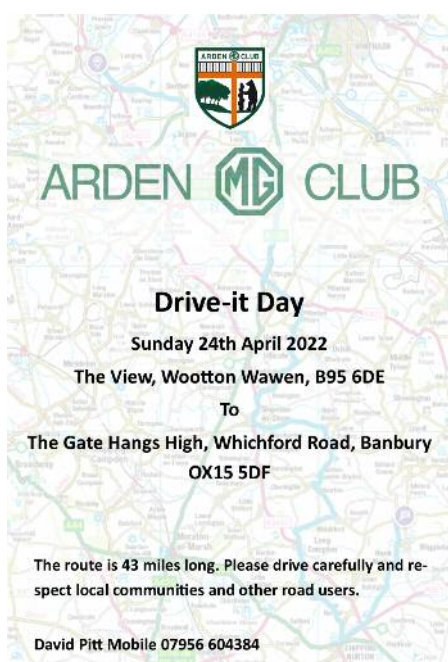
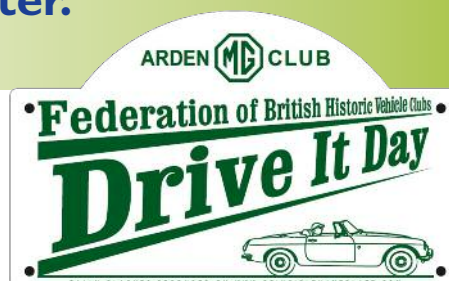
Newsletter

**Welcome to the May issue of AMGC  
monthly newsletter.**

# Drive-it-Day

## Planning/Preparation

by David & Sheila



This year's Drive it Day is the first run we have organised for Arden MG Club and so fingers were crossed that it all went well!!

The 43-mile route was created and plotted initially using OS Maps because I have a user license but equally Google Maps could be used. Street View in Google Maps was very useful to pick

up junction sign posts and general landmarks as part of the tulip diagram notes. Quite a lot of the route work was initially done 'virtually' and it gave a good set of point-to-point mileages that could be refined later.

The route was driven about 4 weeks before the event to check everything out for the tulips, notes, and distances. I also used a cheap dashcam which was useful to check timings and for other landmarks along the route but not an essential requirement.

We had previously contacted The View at Wootton Wawen and they were very happy for the run to start from there. The Hook Norton Brewery was originally planned to be the finish venue but as numbers for the run increased it was clear that they would not be able to cope and they suggested their Gate Hangs High pub/restaurant just north of Hook Norton would be better suited and we ended up booking all their restaurant tables.

A week before the run we did a final check of the route and start/finish venues. All went well until we got the Stourton to find the dreaded 'Road Closed' signs.



Having got out of the car to look at road signs for a 'Plan-B' a couple of local ladies who were walking on their way back from the Cotswold Distillery (just coffee, honestly!!) and said the road isn't really closed. That was a relief.....

Originally, we had thought of having a stop at the distillery as we were going past the entrance but when they said we were too large a group for them to cater for we were a bit relieved. Would we have ever got everybody safely back on the road to arrive at the finish on time?

So onward to The Gate Hangs High for a final check with them.

### Editor's comments:

*I am sure I speak for all those who attended in congratulating David and Sheila on an excellent Drive-it-Day experience.*

### Editorial Team:

Paul Dunster & Norman Large

Please let us know if you have any information (comments, stories of interest, photos, a club member's birthday, etc) that you would like to be considered for inclusion in this Newsletter. COPY DEADLINE is 10th of the Month.

[norman.large@btinternet.com](mailto:norman.large@btinternet.com)  
[ardenmgclub@talktalk.net](mailto:ardenmgclub@talktalk.net)



# Drive it Day

**The Event** by David & Sheila



27 cars started from The View and 27 cars finished. The route took us through Snitterfield, Hampton Lucy, Charlecote, Ettington, Idlicote, Honington, Brailes, Stourton, Long Compton, Chipping Norton, and Hook Norton. All the timings seemed to work well. Some lovely roads and views along the way.

There was a hold up at a T junction at one point where we had to wait for a group of classic Fiat 500s, also on Drive it Day, wheezing their way past. Their rear gunner was a newish Fiat Abarth 500, maybe armed with a towrope in case of problems!

At the end it was also good to see a long line of MGs in a queue waiting to pull into the pub car park, luckily all coming from the same direction!!



The Gate Hangs High did us proud with meals and service and I did email them the following day to thank them on behalf of Arden MG Club. They have posted a few photos of our cars on their Facebook page so it is worth having a look.

We had the dash cam running to record our view of the route and currently stitching together the files to make a

video. If anyone is interested in seeing it let me know. The file will be way too large to email though.

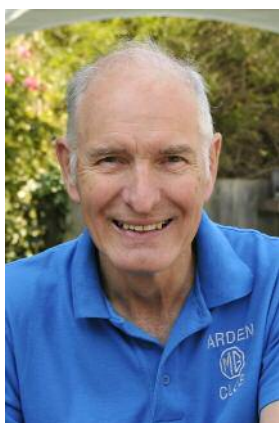
We were pleased everything worked out well and a good day out for those that took part.

Photos:  
<http://normanlarge.com/AMGCDitDApr22/>





# Club Night - well attended...



**... considering the short notice the May Club Night was very well attended with 48 turning up on the day and that included 17 of us taking advantage of the dining facilities.**

I hope no one went to the Golden Cross, they would have found the doors closed, Matt & Claire had vacated by the 27th April. Not to worry the Stratford Golf Club looked after us very well, even though Alan & Liz were not able to join us for the evening, as Alan was not well and wanted to do all he could to be fit for the Weekend Away. The good news is he did recover enough to make the

journey South and even drove the 'B' down to Cricket St Thomas. The food at the Golf Club was enjoyed by all who partook. It was a great setting with the restaurant over looking the 18th Hole, it was very tempting to have a go at 'Doughnuts' around the 'Flag Pole' on that 18th Hole but I'm pleased to say everyone resisted (so we will still be welcome to go back again!!).

I'm not sure about everyone else but I got soaked on the way home, which was less than 2 miles but of course I'm not going to put the hood up!!



**I have had some communication with the new owner's at the Golden Cross** (their ownership started on the 9th May) and they *"would love to continue the relationship you have had in the past with the pub"*. I'm told they will be reopening on the 14th May, so it is looking good for a return to the 'Cross' for our next meeting in June, however I will confirm this by email when I have finalised the arrangements with them.

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## Drive-it-Day

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We had an excellent day out on the Drive-it-Day Run and congratulations & thanks to David & Sheila for organising the run (there is a report on the two front pages of this Newsletter). A very good choice of starting point and although the finish was changed at short notice they looked after us very well.

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# April Breakfast Meeting

**The April Breakfast Meeting at the British Motor Museum was slightly better attended with 12 of us sitting down for bacon or sausage rolls and enjoying the good company in good surroundings.**



The next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th May, usual start time around 10.30am. There is no need to book, however Mike would like to have the option of the 'Full English' breakfast but we need to have a minimum of 10 diners for

this, so if you would like the full breakfast let me know and maybe we can reach the magic 10. If you are coming for the first time remember to book your ticket on line,

in advance (it is a discounted price) and be sure to book the annual ticket (called Gift Aid but this is not obligatory). A few years ago I did give a tour at the Museum "The History of MG Through the MG Cars in the Museum" and I will resurrect this if there is enough interest, hope to see you there.



## Asparagus Festival. The day before Drive-it-Day.

The day before Drive-it-Day was the Asparagus Festival launch at the Fleece in Bretforeton and although this was only confirmed to Trevor a few days before we still managed to get 6 MGs in the Orchard (as well as a few who came in their modern cars).

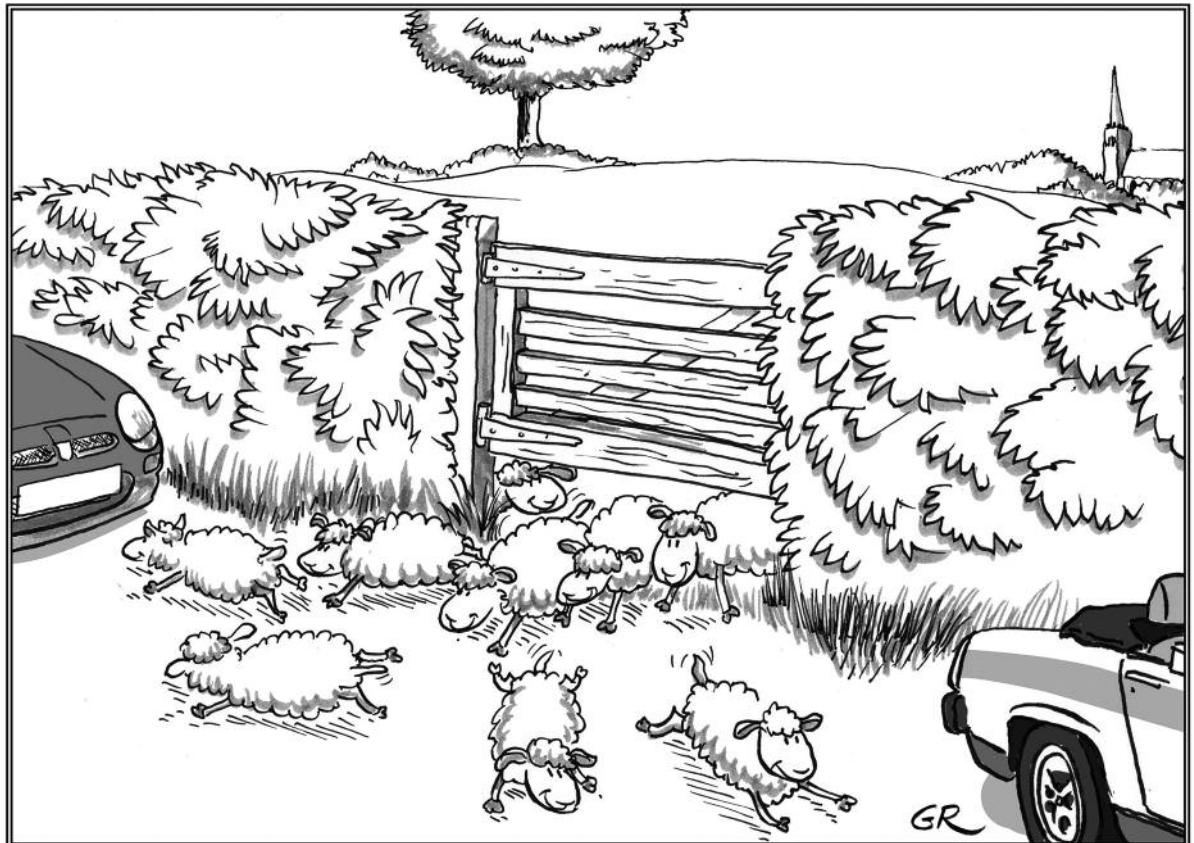
We enjoyed watching the Morris Dancers whilst we drank our coffee (all the biscuits had gone by the time we got there!) and very colourful they were too, it's great to see these old traditions being kept alive. As participants in the display we were able to enjoy the complimentary bacon and asparagus baps and then purchase some fine ales from the bar before setting off on the 'Run'. This run was based on three locations with something of interest at each stop,



we did cut out part of the drive and only visited the 'Wayside Farm Shop & Tearoom' in Wickhamford, where we enjoyed a pot of tea and an Asparagus Scone, very yum. Let's hope the CoronaVirus situation is such that next year there will be more notice the event will be running, definitely worth the trip out.

## Cartoon Corner - Thank you Graham

### Cartoon Corner



The "Gate Hangs High" . . . . is this a design fault?



# THE TON UP KID

(Mike Green) -

## AGED 70

### Episode 3

By Mike Green

**Having had a spluttering start off the line, I held second gear into the red and clocked up another 14 since the last report as follows:**

- April 9 Jaguar XK folk monthly breakfast at Tetbury.
- April 14 Evening natter at Prescott, which is a new regular event for all comers for £5, but no charge to us as members - recommended. Perhaps our last run in the V8?



Prescott Evening Meet - MGB V8

- April 15 just for info and not in the score, bought a MG ZR160 from Bradford, now christened "Ed the Zed" - more to follow later on this old hot hatch and bundle of fun (Ed will be available for wedding duties shortly).



ED The Z - MG ZR 160

- April 16 Gathering with various MG friends for afternoon tea, actually with Graham and Fiona drumming up business for their next performance!

- April 19 Gaydon brunch with the oldies.

- April 23 The Bretforton Asparagus gathering and run
- April 24 Drive it Day.
- April 26 Invitation to the BRM pre-season Shakedown Day at Blyton Airfield near Scunthorpe - noisy what!



Blyton Airfield 2022 BRM Day - V16 BRM

- April 30 Donington Classic - in Ed the Zed.

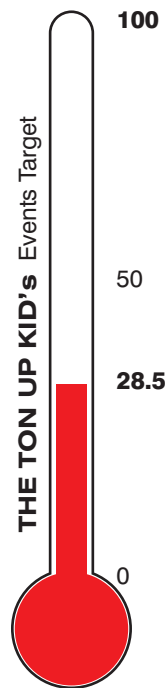


The Donnington Classic - A very special B

- May 1 Gaydon - 1970 World Cup Rally event - awesome, just awesome.
- May 3 Our natter at the 19th hole
- May 6 The Cricket St Thomas extravaganza, including 2 organised runs - counted as 3 events
- May 9 Visit to Haynes Museum en route home and a quick recce at Castle Coombe in preparation for next year's challenge - 1 event counted.



The last score was 14.5 and now 28.5 - and passed the first quarter at a pace. With Ed now on the Team, we've got some momentum - rain or shine!



The last score was 14.5



Haynes - The Red Room & Informous Ford Mexico



On a final note, we're hopeful the B will have been sold when I next report. It's been photographed and awaiting us agreeing the final description before going on to the on line Collecting Cars Auction Site in the next few days. Collecting Cars is run by Dick Lovett's grandson Edward, with his father Peter ( a useful former racer ) and with Top Gear Chris Harries, adding more profile."

*Please let us know YOUR NEWS - (comments, stories of interest, photos, a club member's birthday, special celebration, etc) - that you would like to be considered for inclusion in this Newsletter. COPY DEADLINE is 10th of the Month.*



## What Have You Done In or With Your (or someone else's) MG?

# Some lovely photos of Helen's TC taken the night before the Drive-it-Day run.

by Helen

I was taking her (TC) to be filled up ready for the event and it was such a lovely evening that I couldn't resist a stop off at the top of Shipston (Campden Road looking towards the Fosseway) for a photo shoot! I am not great at taking photos but I was rather pleased how these came out on my mobile. I must admit I cheated and had the car professionally cleaned and polished back in March and it was the first time she had been out of the garage since it had been done.

Also I just realised that on 8th March 2023 the TC will have been in the ownership of my family for 50 years, so I feel another celebration event is in order.....



# Off-roading in an MG - Not Recommended

by Andy Bournes

A Message from Andy received by Paul after the club night at the Golf Club

Hi Paul - good meeting last night, as you are struggling for material for the magazine - I took my MG off road last night!! (Headlights packed up on a bend!). Thankfully I was not going fast but bottomed out on large piece of concrete rubble! Miraculously no damage to the bodywork, just front valance and anti roll bar I think! Alderminster road to A 422 near Caffeine and Machine! Awaiting Insurers inspection now!

*All the best Andy"*





## What Have You Done In or With Your (or someone else's) MG?

### “Woe there”

by Graham

Happy to be travelling again in Bumble after the “Clunk Saga”, which was cured by having new road springs on the back. A further “clunk” developed in the same area, but this was speedily corrected by the noble Tanworth Garage. At no extra cost. Which makes you wonder if it means they found the lost spanner.

However, it never pays to get complacent. Evidence of this being a casual glance at the gauges in Bumble. There are several of these, courtesy of an ambitious previous owner who installed extra ones. They seem to have some relevance, although not sure if one of them might actually be showing the barometric pressure somewhere in Bulawayo. Anyway, it's a little routine . . . a quick scan of the gauges and . . .

The temperature gauge is reading 100psi. See picture.



Basic Boy Scout knowledge kicks in: this is not a good thing.

Pull onto grass verge (mercifully close to home) and Fiona is the Heroine of the Hour as she offers to walk back home and get Some

Water. The expression “mercifully close to home” is not perhaps quite so relevant when you have to walk it, but anyway, off she went.

Time passed and the temperature gauge had dropped a goodly bit, so I took the top off the expansion tank. And it was full of water. I was just debating sticking my finger in to see if it was hot when a voice hailed me. Man in great big 4 x 4 thought I was his mate Terry, who has a similar coloured MG; smothering his disappointment that I was, indeed, NOT his mate Terry he offered me the lone of his phone such that I could alert Fiona that rushing back with a quantities of water would be to no avail. Kind of the man to help.

Sadly, Fiona had not spotted the answerphone message in her rush to be of help. She'd filled a couple of containers and was in her car rushing back. Sadly, the handy four-pint plastic bottle was the one we water plants with, courtesy of its perforated cap. When going round a corner the bottle fell over and a large amount of the contents soaked the carpet. Imagine her joy when she arrived and I had to admit that her rescue mission was to little avail.

Stuck around for a time and limped home.

We did our best to dry her carpet, but a warm night resulted in her car having a lovely rainbow in it in the morning.

Following day - limped to a point near Welford Garage who later came out and picked the car up.

New water Pump. Apparently it had seized solid and was full of “stuff”.

I'm keen to know if it's possible to fit a Brita filter under the bonnet?

## MGF Progress

by Paul

Where did I get to last month, everything stripped off and head removed, since then I have made some good progress, although I ended up doing another small job. Having spoken to Peter Grice about his experience replacing the gasket on his TF, we finished the conversation by him saying “have you changed the thermostat? It's a real pain with the manifold in place”, so of course I had to order one and fit it. It was a real pain even with the engine partly in pieces, with most of the bolts being difficult to get at.

Getting the housing back really needed 3 hands but I finally managed it. The only surprise was getting the lower nuts fitted to the inlet manifold was much easier than I expected, I used a 1/4” drive extension with a small magnet in the socket, to hold the nut in place, and I

was able to just see enough to manoeuvre them into place.

Lech came over to help putting the head back and we did a quarter of a turn each on the 10 stretch bolts (to make the 180



degree turn) with a seamless transition between each quarter turn.

I also fitted the new strengthened lower rail, which is required when using the MLS gasket, so I hope this replacement will not be required again. Next was the new water pump, which allowed me to get to the new cambelt, this was a big struggle until I thought it through and used the crankshaft pulley to tighten the

belt on the right hand side which allowed enough slack to slide the belt into place. A few turns of the crankshaft to check the alignment of the cams and is well.

There are a few covers for the cambelt still to fit, the heat shield and the header tank and I'm nearly there, however I couldn't resist the special offer from the MGOC Spares and I have purchased a new set of coolant pipes that run front to



back, so need to fit those before I can fill with coolant but everyone tells me it is impossible to bleed the system, another challenge ahead.

## What's On - AMGC

### Proposed Club Events - 2022

**May Sunday 15th - Ragley Hall** - We are to have a club stand (stand no.15 - Bottom row/lake side) at this event and 13 cars have booked in to date.

We need to be on the stand between 8am and 10am, staying on stand until 4pm. **Please enter the grounds of Ragley Hall through the main entrance gate (B49 5NJ) and drive along the main drive, past the house on your right. Once you get to the show field, you will see SIGNS FOR CLUB STANDS.** All clubs should enter the show field using this club stand entrance only.

**June Sat/Sunday 25th & 26th - Bloxham Steam Rally - Bloxham** - £12.50 per day per car for driver and passenger. Camping is also available at £55 for the weekend, ask Trevor for details of this.

Again, we are to have a stand at this event. There will also be a run, to arrive in convoy, and drive through the show to our stand. From the 14 cars booked in to date, Sunday is the most popular choice. This will be the day for the run, details of run to follow. Some of us will be there all weekend, so those that would like to come both days, the stand will be open. If you come on the Saturday, you will need to be on our stand by 10am. Leaving time both days is 5pm, but as there is so much to see, you will probably run out of time. The cut-off date to book and pay for this event is 20th May 2022.

If you have not already booked for this event, please contact Trevor at [ardenmgclubevents3@gmail.com](mailto:ardenmgclubevents3@gmail.com) stating number of people, MG model, year, and registration number. Please also add if you may attend both days.

#### **July Saturday 23rd - Badsey Flower Show**

Cars have to be in position before 12pm.

#### **September Sat/Sun 10th & 11th - Road, Rail & Ale Festival.**

This is a two-day event held at the Statfold Narrow Gauge Museum Ltd, Tamworth, Staffs, B79 0BU. This is a weekend of classic, vintage and steam themes. If one goes in one's classic car, entry is £5 per day which includes entry for two people. They also have a campsite for those who may wish to stay for the weekend, £20 non-electric and £25 with electric per night. Trevor has made enquiries for a club stand, so please let him know if this is an event, you would like to attend. More info at [www.statfold.com](http://www.statfold.com)

#### **September Sat/Sun 24th & 25th - Sywell Classic Piston & Props.**

Another two-day event held at Sywell Aerodrome, Sywell, Northamptonshire NN6 0BN. An extravaganza of all thing's cars and planes. Take your classic car (pre-1992) and its £5 per day which includes entry for two people. There is also camping available at £40 for three nights. We can have a club stand at this event, and Trevor has sent off an application form, numbers attending will be required 4 weeks before the show. More info at [www.sywellclassic.co.uk](http://www.sywellclassic.co.uk)

N.B The **Happy Herefords Run** and **Aunt Sally** events will be on a date to best suit other events taking place in the summer. To help future planning please let Trevor know if you are likely to book in for these events.

*If you know of any other events that you feel are worth a mention in the Newsletter, or there is an event that you would like to organise, please let Trevor know.*

## What's On - Elsewhere

### Other Events - 2022

#### **May 29th - Classic Wings & Wheels Event -**

Bidford Airfield - dedicated areas for Classic Cars and Tractors. Free entry for all - doors open at 10.00.

Honeybourne Rd, Bidford on Avon Warks B50 4PD

[www.bidfordglidingandflyingclub.co.uk](http://www.bidfordglidingandflyingclub.co.uk) 01789 778807

#### **June 4th - Summer Classics -**

Three Counties Showground, Malvern

#### **June 12th - The 24th Ratae Road Run**

£28.00 Per car includes driver and one passenger.

Full Details: <https://www.mgleicester.org>

<https://www.mgleicester.org/event/ratae-run-2022/>

Email Paul or Norman for a pdf flyer if you are interested

#### **June 18th and 19th - Ashby Magna Vintage Rally**

#### **June 19th - MG Owners Club MGs in the Park -**

Cotswold Wildlife Park, Burford

Take your MG, no booking needed, driver has free entry, passengers have a discounted rate.

#### **June 24th and 25th - Stratford Beer Festival -**

Stratford Racecourse

#### **June 25th - Long Compton Community Fete 2-5pm -**

Classic car display. Tickets Family £10 - Child over 5yrs £2 - Child under 5 & Concessions FREE

#### **July Saturday 2nd - Hampton-in- Arden Festival 2022 -**

This event appears to be free entry. Cars in place 8:30 to 10:30, leaving at 3:30pm. Further information [Andy Redfren 07773 816701](mailto:Andy.Redfren@bt.com)

#### **July Sunday 10th - Bards Drive Classic & Vintage Car Rally -**

starting at the magnificent Maxstoke Castle B46 2RD. £30 per car including all passengers, proceeds to Warwickshire & Coventry Historic Churches Trust. More information at

[www.bardsdrive.co.uk](http://www.bardsdrive.co.uk)

#### **July 15th & 16th - Coast to Coast**

Starting in Morecambe on Friday 15th July 2022 with a banquet and setting off on Saturday 16th July 2022 from the Midland Hotel, Morecambe the run crosses the Forest of Bowland, Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors ending in Scarborough with gala banquet at the Crown Spa Hotel.

Full details and prices negotiated with the hotels and pubs (tea and lunch stops are arranged) this will be the fourth coast to coast run organised my Norman Verona and is a re-run of the 2018 run.

See <http://www.frenchblat.com/c2c.htm> for further details and how to register.

#### **July 16th & 17th - Classic Nostalgia - Shelsley Walsh -**

Tickets are £15 per person if you arrive in a classic (pre-1985)

#### **September 11th - Dorridge Day Classic Car Show**

Dorridge Day, is a fun family day which attracts families from Dorridge, Knowle and the surrounding villages and is organised by Knowle and Dorridge Round Table annually.

Email: [dorridgeday.classics@gmail.com](mailto:dorridgeday.classics@gmail.com)

SMS: 07775 647 914



**To reserve your place or for more information on any of the AMGC events please contact the appropriate organiser:**

Date	Event	Organiser
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Ragley Hall	Trevor
June 25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	Bloxham Steam Rally	Trevor
July	BMC & Leyland Show BMM	Paul
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Show Night	Paul
July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Badsey Flower Show	Steve
August (tba)	Brailles show	Fred
September 10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup>	Road, Rail & Ale Festival	Trevor
September 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	Sywell Classic Piston & Props	Trevor
Summer (tba)	Aunt Sally	Trevor
Summer (tba)	Happy Hereford's Run	Trevor
Summer (tba)	Chairman's Picnic	Paul
Summer (tba)	Heritage Run Revisited	Paul
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Meal	Paul

## Snippets

### AMGC photo links



A look back at some of the good times. Copy or click on the link to your browser to view the photos.

#### 2022

<http://normanlarge.com/AMGCDitDApr22/>  
<http://normanlarge.com/AMGCVitalSparksMar22/>  
<http://normanlarge.com/ArdenMGCWRunJan22/>

#### 2021

<http://normanlarge.com/ArdenMGCXmas21/>  
<http://normanlarge.com/ArdenMGAlanRun/>  
<http://normanlarge.com/ArdenMGCChairPicAug21/>  
<http://normanlarge.com/DriveitApr21/>  
<http://normanlarge.com/CWRunApril21/>

### Humour!



#### Mid Life Crisis

My husband phoned me the other day and proceeded to tell me he had purchased a new car for me. I was not thrilled as I wanted the new 4 door SUV. What kind is it? I asked..... a MG TF, a traditional BRITISH classic car.... I've always wanted one he exclaimed! Well I knew nothing of these cars but my family told me to be grateful as he only bought it because he's going through a MID LIFE CRISIS. "They either buy sports cars or trade the wife in for a slimmer model." He got BOTH. We've had the car for just 4 days now and I'm slimmer already... ..I've had to push it home every time we go out!

*Please let us know YOUR NEWS - (comments, stories of interest, photos, a club member's birthday, special celebration, etc) - that you would like to be considered for inclusion in this Newsletter. COPY DEADLINE is 10th of the Month.*



### Tech' Tips



#### A Spring Story - From Bob Williams

This happened a couple of years ago but worth the retelling in case others have the same problem. The MG in question is my 'B' Roadster built August 1967; ie a late Mk1 with tube axle.

When bought the car had recently been fitted with new standard rear springs from a major supplier. Soon after purchase I replaced the poor condition painted wire wheels with nice shiny chrome ones which came with wider 185mm tyres as part of a deal. All was fine until I was feeling sociable and carried a passenger when I found the left rear tyre rubbed the wheel arch on bends as the clearance on that side was only a few mm. The gap on the right side between tyre and wheel arch was considerably more. Also, the ride height was lower than ideal necessitating passengers to disembark at sleeping policemen to avoid grounding the exhaust which was no lower than it should be.

It was obvious the car had to be raised and if possible, the axle shunted towards the right, but how? In 'Barrie's Notes' by Barrie Jones, published by the 'B' Register of the MG Car Club, it is said that the axle on all MGBs is offset towards the nearside by about 6mm, owing to the (dis)placement of the mounting brackets on the axle. Obviously that was not going to help.

Standard width tyres would also solve the tyre rubbing problem but I didn't fancy just fitting more new springs in the vain hope that they would solve the ride height problem. British Motor Heritage kindly offered me a pair of UK manufactured new springs on a sale or return basis. These I duly fitted but not before measuring them against the old 'new' ones. These were flatter than the BMH ones so the replacements would certainly improve the ride height.

Now here's the interesting thing...I measured the geometry of the old springs by standing them on the bench resting on their ends (think Sydney harbour bridge), drew a line between the two ends then used a set square to determine any offset of the 'arch'. Lo and behold each spring was about 6mm out of square which had resulted in the axle being positioned 6mm further towards the nearside of the car.

The new springs were fitted using poly bushes – result, no fouling of the wheel arch and no grounding.

I don't know if this is a common problem but worth measuring any new springs you buy, particularly if you run wider than standard tyres.

*Let's make this a regular feature but we need YOUR contributions, so please send your Tips about anything, but especially keeping our MGs going, to Norman (norman.large@btinternet.com) anytime - whenever you think of them.*

#### Editorial Team:

Paul Dunster & Norman Large  
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