



**Morris
Garages**

ARDEN  **CLUB**

Issue 11 - November 2022

Newsletter

Welcome to the November issue of AMGC Monthly Newsletter - hope you have had fun during this spooky sparkling time!



Hook Norton Brewery Classic Car Meeting

by Paul

As our daughter lives in Hook Norton we thought it was time we tried out the monthly Classic Car Meeting at the Brewery.

It turns out that October is the last one for this year but it was a good day out, no doubt helped by the sunny weather. We arrived part way through the morning and were parked on the tarmac outside the brewery - a bit steep but no problem - I think the handbrake works OK. Then they parked Graham Smith behind us in his MGA, so I looked around for a brick to chock the rear wheel, just in case!!

Over 295 cars in attendance

They filled all the tarmac areas and overflowed into the adjacent field (by the droppings, normally used by the Shire Horses), which was soon totally full and a panic call to move a Triumph Stag from the gate to open the entrance into the next field. I overheard one of the marshalls saying they had counted in 295 cars, no wonder it looked busy.

It was well organised with a stall for bacon rolls & drinks, the shop, bar and Museum were also open. Well worth the drive with a great selection of various cars on display. Our grandson walked over to see us (with Mum & Dad) and he soon identified Granddad's Red MG. He can now spot the 'MG' logo on the new cars when we walk through Morrisons Car Park!



I think the new season starts in March, the second Sunday from 9 'til 12.

Editorial Team:

Norman Large & Paul Dunster

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
ardenmgclub@talktalk.net

Arden MG Club Wall Calendar 2023

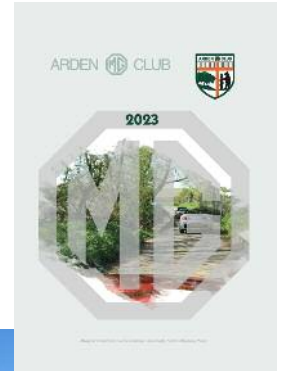


Club Night

Where were you all for the Club Night?

There was only 35 in attendance, which must be the lowest turnout this year, is this the sign the cold dark nights have arrived. A few couples did get there earlier to dine, with a thumbs up for the Beef Bourguignon and good value at 2 for £18.

We have orders for 25 Calendars but there is still time to place an order, however don't wait long, as soon as the Skittles Night is finished the Calendar will be finalised and will shortly after go to press. We will only print the required quantity to fulfill the orders we have. The cost this year will be £5.50 each.



Breakfast Meetings

The breakfast Meeting was back to the core group of 11 people, so you all missed out on an enjoyable morning, the sun was shining we were able to display our MGs on the grass outside of the main entrance to the museum.



After a quick chat outside with the cars, we all sat together on the gallery to enjoy our bacon rolls (which incidentally are very good) and conversed with each other in a pleasant, quiet environment. Why are there so few of us? Should we meet on a different day? Would afternoon be better? Would lunch be preferred?



Last Few Events to Round Off 2022 - see page 8 for full list of Future Events



Tuesday 15th November – Breakfast Meeting at BMM:

Come along to the Museum for our regular breakfast meeting and enjoy a trip out in your MG and a bacon roll with your MG Friends.

Friday 18th November – Skittles Evening at Binton Social Club:

We are FULLY BOOKED for this event, however if you are on the list the Club is open from 7pm. Will start skittling as soon as we are ready to go.

Tuesday 20th December – Breakfast Meeting at BMM

Tuesday 13th December – Christmas Meal at The Golden Cross:

To date I have 52 people booked for the Meal at the Golden Cross, which means there is still plenty of space if you would like to join in, although time is running out as bookings will close on 29th November to allow me to get the pre-order to them in good time.

A reminder that it is 2 courses for £27 and 3 courses for £30 (a bit more than last year but I'm sure it will still be good value and is comparable with the prices at other pubs). As usual there will be the free raffle with every couple going home with a prize. If you need to see a copy of the Menu, just let me know and I can email a booking form to you but don't leave it too long!!



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

Coffee & Chrome at Chateau Impney - by Paul

These events are organised by Footman James Insurance and need to be booked online but have the added incentive of a free bacon roll for all attendees. However this one was so well attended they had 'Sold Out' by the time I got to the stall (I declined to queue earlier!!).

Another good day out with hundreds of cars scattered all over the grounds of the Chateau, although I got my timing wrong as when I got there the queue to get in stretched back to the road!!

Again the sun was shining, although a bit on the cold side. It was interesting to see that the Chateau is still closed, however the businesses at the back are trading normally. I was told they are going to knock most of it down to build houses with the Chateau as a focal point, a sign of the times! When I got home there was an email invite for the



same event in January but as it was a limited entry, they had already sold out! It was good to see and chat to a few other AMGC folk who also were wondering around the event.

Chateau Impney seen in the background.

Paul's MGB in the foreground

TD No Show - and other "What Have You Done" topics - by Dusty

The TD let us down on its way to the Brailes Show.

We had been having misfiring problems and replaced the points and condenser, although after this it refused to start and the old condenser was replaced which seemed to cure the trouble which put a question mark on the quality of some new parts. The decision was made to convert to electronic ignition which so far.....!

Unfortunately, the TD has stood idle since September as we've been fully occupied fabricating a log cabin so the other half of the garage can be cleared to make way for it. The other half has been filled by a cheeky bid on a Porsche 944!

TF60

The TF160 has had a few sunny day runs and is now waiting it's hard top for the winter.

ZR

The main activity has been with Fays ZR where during the last few years I have been paying attention to some rust around the wheel arches where stone chips had started corrosion. This time we thought it would be best to have it



professionally done instead. A trip to Gary at Long Compton who had made such a good job of the TD and previously a Boxster conversion to a 911 GT3 kit.

New front wings, new steel around the rear wheel arches and properly repairing the rear of the sills where I had previously used some P38. All finished off with respraying where necessary and rust proofing. So hopefully it'll be good for another 19 years – should see us out!

2022 Travels with Maggie and a Tourer

by David Harrison

Concluding Part - 3

Continued from October's AMGC News

The next day it is executive decision time. Contact Stena and change the booking for Monday night. No problem. We drive back into Germany, find a hotel not too far from the car and sit it out until Monday morning. The Dorint Hotel in Duren is about as bland as they come, but it will do! Duren is not a natural tourist destination, but it will do!

Three not great days!

Time passes and Monday dawns. Our German friend has got the shipping details for the tyres: Hurrah! They will arrive between 10 and 12 this morning. At 1100 the van delivers them to ATU and they fit them. The tube that had come from the spare looked perfect and was the correct size, but appeared to have given way where it had rubbed on the tyre. The new tyres and tubes are Excelsior 4.75/5.00 x17...strictly they are for a Rover 10 as the 12 uses 5.00/5.25x17, but they are fine and are put onto the front axle. The price was similar to UK. We are on our way by 12.30 and, having negotiated the terrifying Rotterdam Ring road, are at the ferry by 5.30pm. Loading took time, but we were on board and in our cabin by 7.30.

Some interesting cars coming over...a couple of Dutch Vintage Bentleys and a gentleman from Scotland with an historic front engine Formula Junior single seater on his way home from racing in Holland. No-one seemed to have any "post-Brexit" problems with customs. As ever the paperwork has to be right. The Scotsman had done several trips and said "As long as the Carnets are ok, you are fine." A Very Good Day!

Arrival in Harwich was on time and without delays – Stena are pretty good in my experience - and we were home by 1100am on Tuesday. Now all I have to do is a promised "Prom graduation" delivery in the Rover with the hood down...only a 110 mile round trip on top of the 155 miles from Harwich! Rover is perfect!

Another Good Day

Three days late and unexpectedly poorer by several hundreds of Euros, we are home. We will soon see how effective travel insurance is.... The Rover used no water, about half a litre of 20/60 (yes, really!) and did about 29 mpg (I have not got around to using the Freewheel yet. Now this trip is done I will try it!

Conclusions

Carry at least one spare tube! Don't take chances with tubes of unknown provenance. They may look ok, but if you don't know the history, bin them. I naively thought that as I had done a good number of miles and had the tyres & tubes off and checked that they would be ok. They were not! Check the fine print of the Breakdown cover. We were covered for recovery from the Autobahn, but any tyre related on-costs like delays, hotels etc were excluded!

Mechanically we had no problems. Good oil pressures and comfortable water

temperatures. The new radiator core was very reassuring in the Rover! The 3.9 (from an MGA) axle allows comfortable 70-75 mph cruising in the Magette

The Rover is quite hard work to do much more than 3 – 4 hours a day with one driver. 200 miles is possible, but motorways at 55-65mph are not much fun. Lower category roads in France are fine because they are mostly speed restricted anyway, so it takes a long time to get anywhere! German minor roads are excellent, but again 30-35 miles in the hour is the norm. Holland has many ruthless speed limits and impatient drivers. Luxembourg is unexpectedly lovely with well-engineered roads. Mind you the car and two passengers had a combined age of 241 years so that might be an influence on these comments! Don't be nervous about touring in Europe...be prepared and just do it!

Arrival in Harwich



Editor's comments...

... thank you David for a very interesting and informative article.

If any other member has an article or story to share please get in touch.

THE TON UP KID

(Mike Green) -

AGED 70

Episode 9

By Mike Green

By the 30th September and the 3/4 milestone, we had hit a score of 82.5 and the momentum carried into October as follows

- **October 2:** Prescott - Members weekend gathering - always interesting and I'm hopeful of some tuition in the Spring and a meander up the hill in Ed.



- **October 4:** MG Club night - we overflowed!
- **October 8:** Jaguar breakfast - a proper English, natter near Tetbury (no sign of King Charles down the road at Highgrove).
- **October 16:** A double shuffle - Coffee and Chrome gathering of hundreds of cars, at the Château Impney, well recommended and FOC, followed by a dash in the Jag to the Classic Show at Malvern - (sadly probably our last time at Malvern for this particular event.)

2 events claimed.



- **October 18:** Gaydon MG gathering with friends - I was the first to arrive at 10 but left at 11.30, for a meeting at noon with my Solicitors.

Score of 1/2 claimed - for effort!

- **October 20:** An evening at Brooklands with Tony Jardine - a most interesting and entertaining presentation and insights into Motor Sport. Tony started as a Truck Driver for a tyre company supporting motor racing and has done just about everything else since, including Co-Driving a "friends" A30 and I think his Jowett (Gerald Palmer designed) too, at Goodwood.

As you would expect, Tony has a few cars himself which he still rallies, including a Hillman Avenger and Mini Cooper S. - the rare 970 version.

- **October 21:** A visit to Beaulieu Motor Museum - it's changed somewhat since I was last there some 60 years ago. It's absolutely worth every penny of the entrance fee, which lasts for 12 months and we'll certainly return. It the home of many of Top Gear's former "project cars".

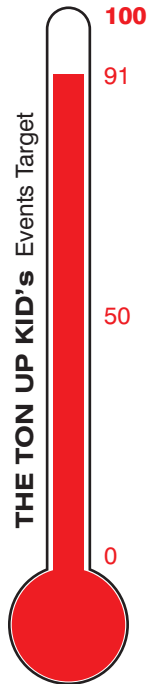


- **October 25:** Whilst working nearby, I dropped by at Oulton Park, but obviously couldn't blag my way in, despite being in "race prepared" Ed, - still with no hub caps and the MGs on Track decal on the rear window!

No point claimed.



The last score was 82.5



- **October 27:** A run around the Shires with a few old local car enthusiasts, on what we thought would be a quiet meander. Far from it, our leader had booked us all lunch and we ran 3rd in the convoy in the fully valeted TF. With time ticking by and lunch booked for 1pm, the pace quickened and thankfully we all arrived undamaged but the cars absolutely muddy - in fact the dirtiest the TF has ever been! In hindsight, given all the rain last month, we should have gone in the old Disco!

"I reckon this adds another 8.5 bringing the total to 91 with 2 months to go."

It'll then be a big double de-clutch (anyone remember those) down 2 gears to third and foot to the floor for November to cross the 30th on the limiter in search of the goal 100 / 105 by December 31.

Yo Ho Ho - Happy Christmas all!

Speaking of which, if anyone is looking for a "stocking filler" for Xmas, I can thoroughly recommend a choice of two awesome £15.99 books from Amazon - I referred to the first last month - "Concorde by its Chief Pilot Mike Bannister", (who became an Expert Witness in French crash and finally after 10 years established the truth about its cause - an apparent disgraceful series of fatal mistakes and cover ups by the French).

Continued

THE TON UP KID (Mike Green) - AGED 70



Episode 9 - Continuation

By Mike Green

The Napier Lion Engine Backstory

The other book is "Typhoon" by Wing Commander Mike Sutton - the inside story of an RAF Fighter Squadron at War. A former Royal Navy veteran friend lent it to me.

Mike's father had expected him to become a Solicitor, thankfully Mike enjoyed a much more fulfilling career. He became Wing Commander of 1 Squadron (the oldest Squadron in the world, and led it into the war against ISIS on a 6 month tour of duty - without loss of people and assets). In terms of pure Leadership, it's the best book I've ever read.

Both books reminded me, just how proud I am to be British and helped me through a tough old time on a couple of issues that are testing me, let alone the challenging times in which we live.

"The Napier Lion Engine Backstory"

- From our Beaulieu visit

Napier Lion Golden Arrow

The Land Speed Record of 231mph was achieved in a Napier Lion Golden Arrow in 1929 by Sir Henry Segrave. See photo of it and the red 1000 hp (only c900hp in reality) Sunbeam, which Segrave achieved 204 mph in 1927.

The Napier Lion engine was the brainchild of their chief design engineer Arthur Rowledge, whom left to join Rolls Royce in 1924. There he took up the same role, working directly with Henry Royce and is personally credited with many successful aero engines, including the renowned Merlin.

His grandson was a fellow Chartered Accountant, and we Practiced together at Andersons for some 20 years.

Napier Lion Engine	1920s/30s Great Britain
First seen in 1917, and in production up to the early 1930s, the Napier Lion engine was designed for use in RAF aircraft. From the mid-1920s, more powerful versions were developed for racing applications in aircraft, boats and cars. The 900bhp Lion VIIA was used in the Supermarine S5 Schneider Trophy seaplane, Malcolm Campbell's 1927 Blue Bird and Henry Segrave's 1929 Golden Arrow.	
Following government directives, D. Napier and Sons turned from motor manufacture to aero engine production during the First World War. The result was the incredibly successful Lion series of engines developed by Chairman Montague Napier and Chief Designer Arthur Rowledge. The compact, 12 cylinder, engine was arranged in a 'W' or 'broad arrow' formation (Napier used the term Triple-Four). Later versions were used in Malcolm Campbell's 1931 Blue Bird and John Cobb's Ralston Special. The final development, the Sea Lion, saw use in RAF air-sea rescue launches during the Second World War.	
Engine: 23,900cc, W12, double overhead camshaft, 450 – 1,300bhp depending on version (Lion VIIA as fitted in Golden Arrow 925 bhp at 3,300rpm)	
Manufacturer: D Napier & Sons, Acton	



Badelwyddan Castle Holiday Update

Hurry, hurry --- Only one Place Remaining

Badelwyddan Castle- Trip- 15-19th May 2023 I booked 20 rooms and as most will know 19 rooms have been taken.

The 4 night stay looks to be a great opportunity to mix with other members in great surroundings and enjoy the wonderful scenery of North Wales as we drive to Badelwyddan Castle and on the planned trips whilst there.

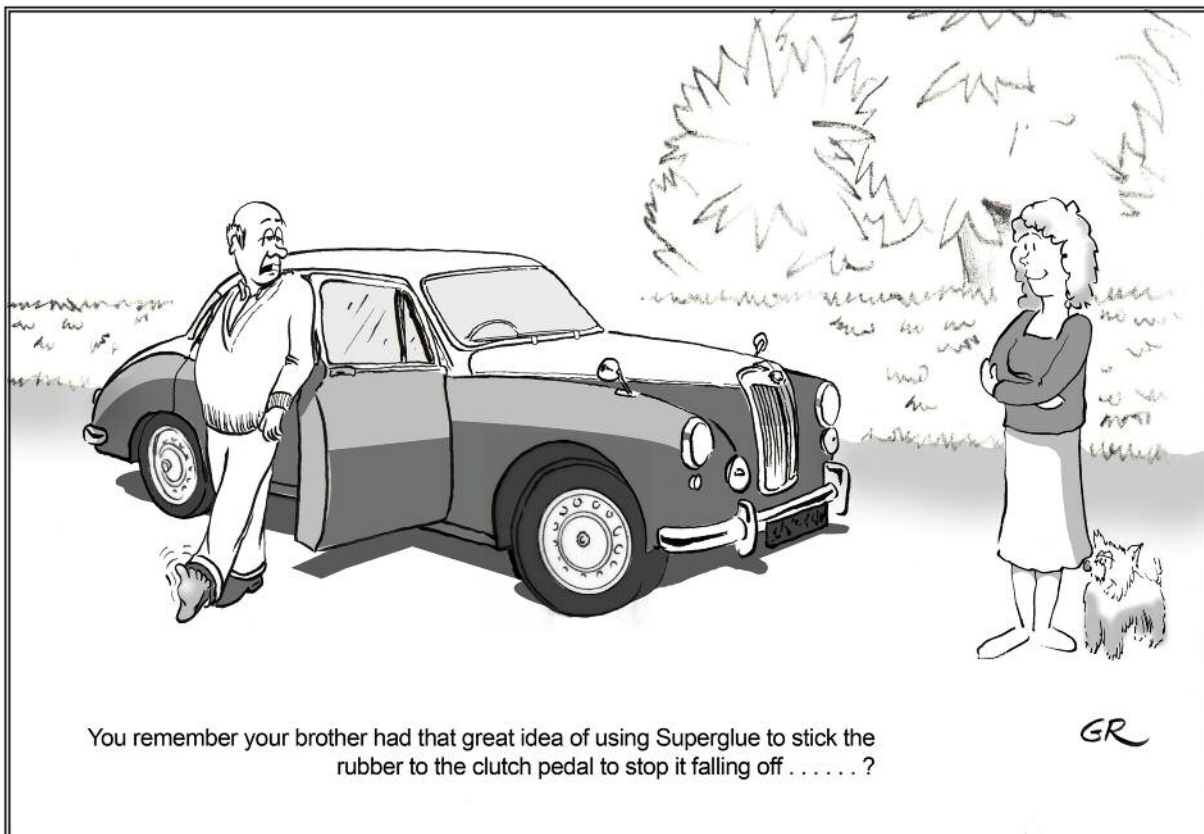
The Garden Lodge Rooms have already been taken. However, we still have one standard room available at a cost of £289.00 per person. There is NO supplement for single occupancy. Already have one single occupancy room.

This is Dinner Bed and Breakfast and the use of all the leisure and sporting facilities. As many of you will remember some members at Cricket St Thomas stayed at the hotel and made the most of the leisure facilities during their stay. The facilities are equal or better in North Wales.

If you are interested or have a question, please contact me on 07774 416536 or alan.griffith@hotmail.co.uk

Alan





Christmas Special



BOOK NOW TO ENSURE A SEAT

Book now to ensure a seat.

A 'giggle' before Christmas featuring our club members and talented thespians Fiona and Graham.



Tickets:
m: 07795 474047
e: info@uftraining.co.uk

Sat 17th & Sun 18th December 7.30pm

Tiddington Community Centre
39 Main St,
Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 7AT

The Phoenix Players are doing a concert for Christmas:

"A CHRISTMAS CRACKER"

We will be at
The Tiddington Community Centre
on Saturday December 17th & Sunday December 18th
at 7:30pm

Tickets are £10 and £5 for under 16s
Ticket line:
07795 474074 or
info@uftraining.co.uk

Come and join us for Comedy, songs and Christmas cheer . . .
. . . and join us in singing some Carols!

BOOK NOW TO ENSURE A SEAT

What's On - AMGC

Proposed Club Events - 2022

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Tuesday 20th December – Breakfast Meeting at BMM.

Proposed Club Events - 2023

January 1st 2023 Sunday – Chilly Willy Run.

This is now confirmed and we will be starting from the Valley in Evesham (same as this year) where the Applebarn Restaurant will be open for breakfast or just drinks. The ~25 mile run will be through the lanes but if necessary will use gritted roads.

The Golden Cross will have a simple menu for us to choose from but they do want a pre-order, so as soon as they let me have the Menu I will email to everyone, in the mean time you can book with me as usual.

The plan is to meet in the Applebarn Restaurant around 11am and be ready to leave around 11.30/45.

Tuesday 3rd January 2023 – Club Annual General Meeting.

As you all must know by now I will be stepping down from the role of Chairman at this AGM, so we do need someone to come forward to take over the reins of running the Club. Please don't leave it until the meeting to volunteer.

Sunday 23rd April – Drive-it-Day Run.

Nick Godfrey has come forward and offered to organise this run for us, so keep the day free, more details next year.

Monday 1st May – British Motor Museum 30th Anniversary Run:

To keep the tradition going of celebrating the opening of the Museum I will be organising a run to there, so again keep this day free. Note it will be the Bank Holiday.

Monday 15th May to Friday 19th May – Club Holiday to Warner's Badelwyddan Castle:

Alan still has a room available at the 'Castle' so if anyone finds they can now join in talk to Alan. The deal is still the same (but future bookings after this will be at a different cost) and there is no supplement for single occupancy.

What's On - Elsewhere

Other Events - 2022/23

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.

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

Date	Event	Organiser
December 13th	Christmas Meal	Paul
January 1st	Chilly Willy Run	Paul
April 23rd	Drive-it-Day Run	Nick Godfrey
May 1st	BMM 30th Anniversary Run	Paul
May 5th to 19th	Warner's Badelwyddan Castle	Alan

Snippets

Tech' Tips



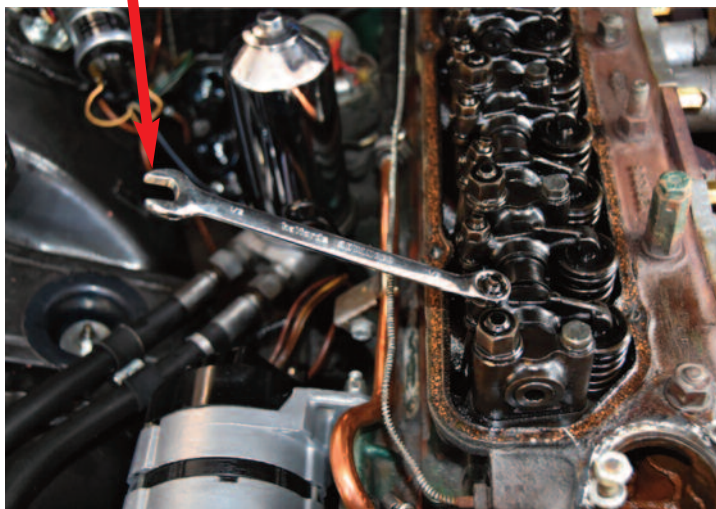
Setting Tappets

When setting the tappet clearance on 'B' and 'C' series engines I always used to struggle to find the maximum opening point on the corresponding tappet. I accidentally stumbled upon this trick to make it much easier to determine the position of the related valve. All you need is a spare 1/2" AF combination spanner.

Position the spanner onto the adjusting nut of the opening valve as per the photo below. When the valve opens monitor the other end of the spanner and the movement of the rocker arm is amplified making it so much easier to find the point where the valve is fully open.

Adjust the clearance of the corresponding tappet as required. Job done!

Monitor spanner here to determine when the valve is fully open.



Snippets

Humour!



As much as I love my MG, it's taking up a great deal of my time.

Sadly, I am falling behind with my domestic duties.

So regrettably, and I'm open to sensible offers, I must list the following for sale:

- Lawnmower ● Rake ● Leaf Blower
- Vacuum Cleaner ● Mop & Bucket ● Dustpan & Broom

Club Raffle



Thanks for your support of the club raffle.

Here is a little note from Helen & Mike:

We receive a few donations from club members which are always gratefully received but, for health & safety reasons, we would ask and remind club members to kindly check the 'best before' or 'use by dates' on food & drink items to ensure that they are in date before they are donated .

Many thanks from Helen & Mike (The Raffleers)

For Sale



Device for lifting & rotating the body shell of an MGB

A while back I restored a MG Roadster and constructed a device for lifting & rotating the body shell, I no longer have any use for this and are looking to sell it.

A brief description is below and if anyone in your club is interested I will take photo's and send them to you.

- Two Triangular frames from 50mm RHS approx (1 at front & 1 at rear)
- Pick up points on MG are from the front & rear bumper mounting points/tow bar.
- Body Lift is carried out by large diameter threaded bar in both triangular frames.
- Will raise body shell off floor and will allow complete 360 Deg rotation.

Looking for £50, collection would be from Kidderminster

If anyone is interested please let Paul know and he will forward to David Morris.

MG Mart



WANTED - MG TD Mark 2

Please contact David Harrison on email: harrisonsbearley@gmail.com

A Special Day



None this Month - Please let us have some of your news and views. Send to: norman.large@btinternet.com

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/AMGCBadseyJuly22/>

<http://normanlarge.com/AMGCShowJuly22/>

<http://normanlarge.com/AMGCBloxhamJun22/>

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

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

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

<http://normanlarge.com/AMGCHappyHAug22/>



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 normally 10th of the Month.

Editorial Team:

Norman Large & Paul Dunster

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