



**Morris  
Garages**

**ARDEN MG CLUB**

Issue 3 - March 2023

Newsletter

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



# After 12 Great Years under the Chairmanship of Paul we now have a New Interim Chairman - Mike Green

by Ed

It would be remiss of me not to record the appreciation of members for the work, dedication and endless hours of planning, preparation and effort that our previous Chairman Paul did for the club. It is his hard work and commitment that has made the club the success it is today.

So a huge **THANK YOU** to Paul for all you have done in steering our club in such a positive direction over the past twelve years. And, a huge Thank You too to Caroline for lending him to us. I'm sure I speak for all when saying this.

I know over this transitional period Paul will still be hard at work helping to ensure a smooth hand over to our new Chairman Mike Green. And, I guess too that we will still be seeing Paul involved with many of the clubs activities supporting Mike, and others, in his/their new role(s).

Mike we thank you for stepping in to the breach and wish you success as our new Chairman.

It would be remiss of me also not to say a huge thank you to Trevor for the events work that he undertook over the past three years. We have had some great times so a huge thank you to Trevor and Angela. And, a thank you too to Richard and Fiona Avery for taking up the reigns as our new Events coordinators.



*Paul making his final address as Chair to a packed house of 55+ members*



*Paul handing over the Chairmanship to Mike*

#### **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.

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# Retiring Chairman's Report - March 2023



## Breakfast Meeting

Only the Breakfast Meeting to report on again this month but all the news is good with an increasing number of people turning up for a quiet conversation on the Gallery outside the Junction 12 Cafe in the Museum. The number of MGs outside was also increasing and I'm sure this will grow through the summer. Why not give it a try and join us, 3rd Tuesday every month.



## Chairmans Comments

It was great to see so many of you at the AGM with 55 'signed in' on the register, thank you for your attendance.

The meeting went well with a new Chairman being elected, Mike Green was the lucky person to come forward to replace me, so this will be my last 'Chairman's Column' in the Newsletter.

Richard & Fiona Avery have stepped up to take over the Events Secretary role, with all the other offices remaining in place, the full minutes are published elsewhere in this Newsletter and on the Club Website.

Can I repeat what I said at the end of my report to the AGM, that it has been a pleasure and a privilege to have served as the Club Chairman for the last 12 years and to also say thanks to you all for making it so. Can I also say a big thank you for the card and presents (engraved Tankard & canvas photo) presented by Lech, the Tankard will get good usage with lots of Old Speckled Hen and the photo has already been put in a prominent position on the study wall.

I will still be involved with the Club, you don't get rid of me that easily, assisting Mike with a handover and continuing to run many events, so I will initially still operate the Arden MG Club Facebook page and moderate the WhatsApp Group. It has been suggested that people would like to be able to contact other individuals in the Club and the WhatsApp Group is an easy way to do this, so if you would like to be added to the group send me a message or email with your mobile number and I will add you to the Group.

I look forward to seeing you all out and about in our MG Cars.

**Other Events:** I have been asked to include the following events in our Newsletter by the respective event organisers.

### Cars at The Spa Returns in 2023 - Sunday 11th June

Hi there fellow car enthusiast,

We'd like to invite you and your club members at MG OC Arden to show your amazing vehicles in a wonderful setting... and you'll be benefitting those most in need at the same time.

Cars at the Spa will once again be held in Leamington Spa on Sunday 11th June and attracts thousands of local families and car enthusiasts from across the country.

You can help us provide a fantastic day out for visitors and raise much needed funds for local Rotary charities that we support.

The venue is the beautiful Pump Room Gardens right in the heart of Leamington's regency town centre. Its a bustling location, with an incredible catchment area for visitors as it is a retail hub and tourist destination.

With refreshments and food on site, live entertainment in and around the bandstand in the middle of the gardens, the event is established, well organised and has a buzz about it... and we'd love you to be part of it.

#### How to Get Involved

Reservations are now open via the Cars at the Spa website

<https://carsatthespa.co.uk/about/>

Reservations can be made by donating £10 to the Royal Leamington Spa Rotary Club. All details can be found here.

The show is open to any vehicle with an emphasis on vehicles over 25 years old or of 'special interest'.

We shall be limiting the number of entries to 250 vehicles so booking is essential. A vehicle plaque will be provided.

Please send any photos and information about your vehicle to us with your application as this will allow us (with your permission) to use the information and drive awareness of your club, your cars and the event via our marketing campaigns.

Entries close on 12th May 2023, or when the show is full, whichever is the soonest.

### Festival Of Transport - 3 September 2023

Three Counties Showground, Malvern, WR8 6NW

We are now able to release details of the date we had been holding for Sunday 3 September 2023 as the Festival of Transport taking place at Three Counties Showground, Malvern.

This event will replace our usual October event at the Three Counties Showground and will feature a full classic car and motorcycle show alongside a large autojumble.

For details about this event follow the link at: <https://classicshows.org/pages/events> email [info@classicshows.org](mailto:info@classicshows.org) or phone 01484 667776

### Warners MG Gathering 4th to 8th September 2023, Heythrop Park, Cotswolds.

From: Chris Shurlock Cambridge & District MGOC

My wife and I organise the above event each year, but at different hotels in the Warners group.

As you can see this year we are going to the Cotswolds. The cost is £498p/p dinner, bed and breakfast for 5 days and 4 nights, plus evening entertainment. There are two road runs, a car show and a possible visit to the MGCC in Abingdon.

If you, or any of your members are interested in joining us please let me know and I will send more details.

Regards Chris Shurlock - [cshurlock@aol.com](mailto:cshurlock@aol.com) Cambridge & District MGOC.





# Chairman's AGM Report - March 2023 - Part I



## Agenda – Arden MG Club AGM 7th March 2023 - 8.15pm

1. Apologies for absence:
2. Chairman's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Events Secretary Report
5. Database Report
6. Election of Officers: Chairman; Treasurer; Events Secretary; Database Secretary
7. Any Other Business
8. Proposal to change the date for the AGM to be the March Club Night for all future years.

The meeting opened at 8.17pm

### Apologies for absence:

Tony & Glenys Barr,  
Andy Summerfield,  
Graham & Fiona Robson,  
Roger Jackson,  
Peter & Julia Grice

### Chairman's Report:

As this will be my final report as Chairman - Trevor and David will be giving a rundown of the events and stats - I thought I would give a review of the last 12 years that I have been Chairman. Those who were at the AGM when I was elected will remember that I was elected by a secret ballot, the works!!

When I took over I followed some advice I was given by the organiser of another Club I used to be a member of, which was: "Organise Events You Want to Do, then if No One Turns Up at Least You Will Enjoy it" and that is what I have done for the last 12 years with one exception, which I will come to.

I like to have reasons to use my MG so I have organised events that include our MGs. Therefore, I started by introducing the 'Drive-it-Day' run and the first one finished at the Fleece in Bretforton and I thought it was a success, so I organised more of them. The format was changed over the years to include booking lunch as most people preferred that. I also like going on visits so that first year also included going to the Patrick Collection one evening; a good thing we did as it is now closed. We also visited BMH a couple of times.

The exception was a 'Concourse' which the 'Vice-Chair' (Anne-Marie who was elected as my deputy but unfortunately she disappeared from the scene quite soon after) was keen to have. This became the 'Show Night' and still looks to be very popular.

The static Car Shows have not been ignored and we continue to attend a selection each year.

In 2012 Alan C joined the team as the Events Secretary and soon had the March Madness Run going. This became a staple of the calendar until he moved house and passed the

Event's Baton on to Trevor. Alan was instrumental in getting us back to Malvern with the bacon sandwiches on offer (sometimes twice a year) and with the help of Steve, The Badsey Flower Show has become a regular (great to see the BBMF Fly past each year).

I'm always interested to hear people's stories and knowledge, so once or twice a year we have had guest speakers to the Club Night. The first was Brian Moylan (ex-Abingdon employee) who gave us a history of MG and Roy Laycock who enthralled us with his round the world drive in Bridget the Midget, remarkable. Other guest speakers of note were: Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner, Horse Racing Jockey, Bentley History, Electric MGB, MGOC's Roger Parker and my favourite Stuart Turner.

With the funds we have generated over the years (from the now defunct Heritage Run and the monthly Raffle) we have purchased several pieces of equipment for the use of the Club, including 2 Storm Shelters, a new banner, Club Event Rally Plates and Club Clothing. We have also made a number of Charitable Donations and where possible I have tried to organise a presentation of the funds so the recipient can also try and receive some publicity. Recipients include Alcester Day Care Centre, Stratford Hospital, GWR Toddington (the 'Retreat' building, worth a visit), Stratford Hospice and the MS Therapy Centre in Coventry, all good worthwhile causes.

Another thing I have tried to improve on is the Newsletter which is sent out every month (and I have not missed many) and was issued twice a month during the 'Lockdowns'. Hopefully it has got better and bigger over the years with something of interest for everyone. I didn't have the skills or the software to improve the layout so was very pleased when Norman agreed to be the editor and he has done a great job.

Those in the MGOC may have noticed in Enjoying MG that they have an annual Newsletter competition and I have sent an entry several times but having asked for copies of the winners, I realised that we needed Norman on board to compete and I have sent an entry again for last year, fingers crossed.

*Continued*

# Chairman's AGM Report - March 2023 - Part 2

...Continuation

Each year I have tried to add in some new events or runs, so shows like the BMC & Leyland Show, Pershore Plum Festival, Churchill Classic Car Show, Brailes was resurrected and Broughton Castle was tried before the Lockdowns.

The runs featured the Chilly Willy (sometimes repeated), Heritage Run Re-visited, The Chairman's Picnic and a couple of my favourites, the Alscot Park to Henley Run in favour of the Air Ambulance and the 'Birthdays Run' to Nuffield Place.

There were even 2 trips to Stratford Races. A weekend Away was also introduced (not by me I hasten to add) and continues today organised by a small group of our members. The Events I'm proudest of are the Social Distance Runs, which took place during the COVID Pandemic when normal meetings were not an option. In all there were 4 of them and it kept us going during those difficult event free days. The latest addition to the Events list has been the Breakfast Meeting at BMM (thanks to Steve for the push to introduce it) and this is slowly gaining a regular following.

The good thing about the future is that more people are getting involved with the organising of runs and events like Trevor with the Aunt Sally & Happy Herefords, David last year, Alan the previous year & Nick this year with the Drive-it-Day Run and Alan & Richard with the Warner's Holiday. This bodes well for the future, we just need more of you to come forward and participate with the organisation.

To close I would like to say a big thank you to all of you for making the last 12 years so enjoyable. It has been a great pleasure and a privilege to be the Chairman of our wonderful Club, which of course is as good as it is because of you the people in it.

## Treasurer's Report

Roger was not able to attend, however copies of the accounts were circulated and Paul gave the report. The Club is in very good financial health with over £1,400 in funds. Most of the items are equal on the Receipts and Payments columns, I have always tried to run events to break-even, with the exception of the Show Night when the Club pays for the prizes and the Xmas Meal where the 'Free' raffle is partly covered by Club funds.

As ever the raffle provides more income than we currently spend, however we do need to keep an amount to cover any possible expenditure but there are sufficient funds to consider making a charitable donation, unless there is some equipment the Club needs to purchase.

## Events Secretary Report

There were 13 events during the year, excluding club nights and show night.

5 of these events included a picnic. Of which only 1 of these included a run.

5 events included a cooked meal. 3 of which also included a run. Excluding Xmas meal.

We had the long weekend away at Cricket St Thomas. Vital Spark was a visit only event. And, our Xmas meal Best supported event was Drive it Day with 26 cars and 49 people.

Least supported was Ragley Hall with 8 cars. The average number of cars for 10 events was 17 cars. Excluding Cricket St Thomas, skittles and Xmas meal. 5 different people, excluding Alan and Richard, organised regular events.

## Conclusions...

...which may help my successor and the club going forward. Events involving food and drink are the most popular. Interesting that the best attended, Drive it Day with a cooked meal was only 4 cars more than Badsey, which was a picnic.

Socialising and the ability for people to mingle easily, i.e., the picnic events, were the most popular. The weekend away and the upcoming week away also shows how well the social scene is supported. A bit disappointing that only 4 events included a run.

It is becoming more difficult to find venues that can supply cooked food to 30-40 people, in a timely way. Some of the more interesting venues we would like to do a run to, cannot. As we have a core membership of 30 – 40 people who attend events on a regular basis, this will be an ongoing problem, I feel.

We have even tried to arrange picnics in interesting places, where we would pay a reasonable parking fee. Dumbleton Hall, National trust, but they were quite expensive. With inflation and what seems to be the cost of everything rising, is it worth looking at the club subsidising future events at the sort of quality places we may want to visit. With the number of club members that we have, where only 5 organised events last year, I would encourage all members to think about organising events. With the high number of ladies in the club their input to new events would be welcomed. Turn it into a fact-finding mission with food and a pint along the way. And finally, good luck to my successor and all members for supporting the events. Thanks too to all of our helpers, who've helped us at our events.



...Continuation

## Database Report

For those that remember and used to smoke Senior Service cigarettes umpteen years ago, WHO remembers them? There was the trick, where you asked someone to hold a cigarette packet to their ear and you would say "...1..2..3..4", and then tell them to look at the side of the box, where it says. It's the tobacco that counts. Well it is a little amusing - in our case with the Arden MG Club it's the members that count. Did you like the link? A strong and active membership is important for the club and long may it continue.



It was nice that in 2022 that it opened up after Covid-19, and we could get out a lot more. And with 22 events, we were a lot more active than in the previous 2 years.

As regards membership, we currently have 88 names on the list, of these 13 are honorary members. We have lost 15 members and we have gained 14 new members. However, of all the members on the list 13 members only attended one meeting in the last 15 months, which gives us an active membership of 57 members. But not being biased, these 57 are the best.

One other very interesting fact is: we have 12 Davids in the club.

As I said earlier, it was good that we had many more events to attend and for those that have been members for some time you will recall that I usually give a bottle of Champagne to the person who has attended the most events! Well last year there was quite fierce competition but we do have an outright winner. And I'm pleased to say that this year the bottle of Champagne goes to.....PAUL

## Election of Officers:

**Chairman:** Mike Green  
*Proposed by: Norman Large Secoded by: David Rayner*  
Elected by Acclamation

**Treasurer:** Roger Jackson  
*Proposed by: Paul Dunster Secoded by: Fred Bury*  
Elected by Acclamation

**Events Secretary:** Richard & Fiona Avery  
*Proposed by: Steve Entwistle Secoded by: Lech*  
Elected by Acclamation

**Database Secretary:** David Rayner  
*Proposed by: Alan Cleobury Secoded by: Trevor Smith*  
Elected by Acclamation

## Any Other Business

**Proposal to change the date for the AGM** to be the March Club Night for all future years. The attendance at this AGM is the highest for any in the past which must be a good enough reason to change the date but the retain the fiscal year to be the calendar year.

*Proposed by: Paul Dunster Secoded by: David Rayner*  
Proposal carried unanimously

**Club Website:** Caroline Phipp raised the situation with the Club Website, which is now looked after by Mike Jones, however Mike is just the editor and he needs input from the members for items to be included in the website, so let's give Mike some support and send details of future events, event reports etc for him to up-load.

The meeting closed at 20.52

*Paul Dunster*  
10th March 2023



*A hearty round of applause for retiring Club Chair Paul*



*A hearty round of applause for retiring Events Secretary Trevor*



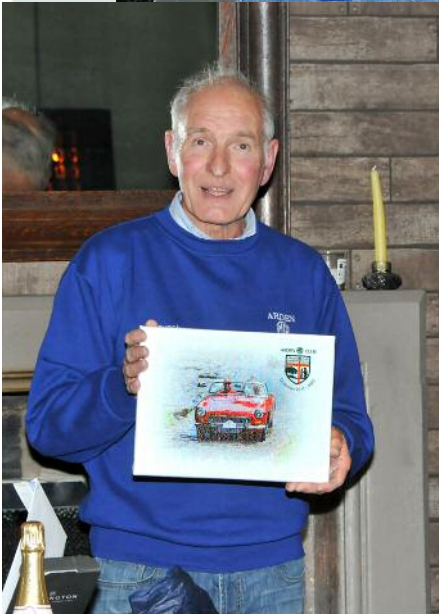
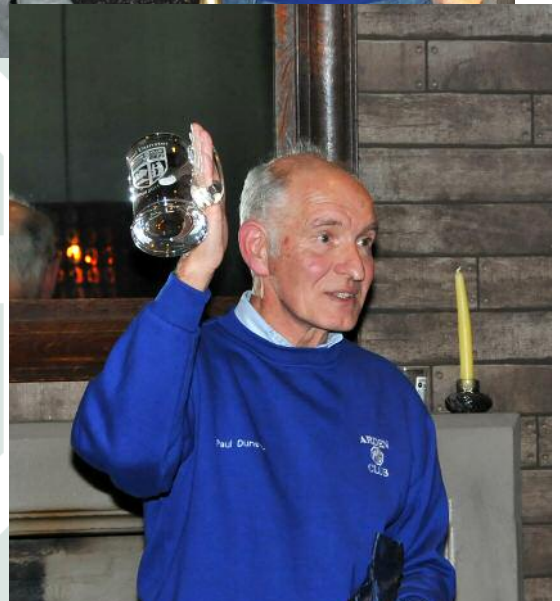
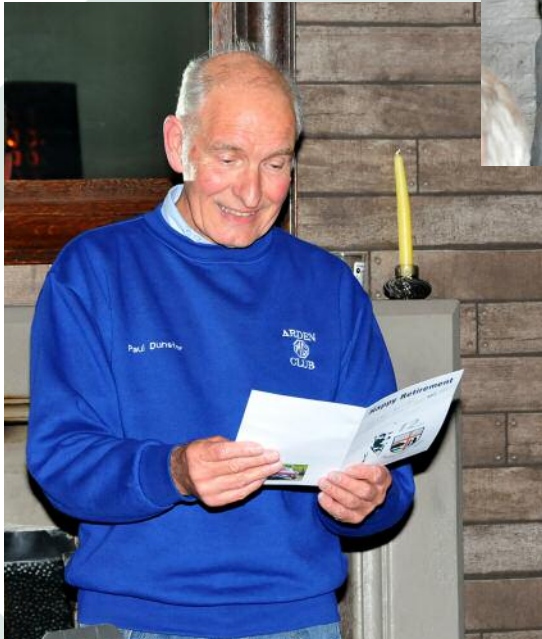
# March Meeting & AGM Photo Highlights



*Left: The person who attended the most events winner - Paul. Presented with a bottle of Champagne by David*



*Below: Retiring Chairman Paul presented with a thank you card and gifts (Lead Crystal glass tankard & canvass print) by Lech on behalf of members.*



*New Chairman Mike and his good lady wife contemplating just what they had let themselves in for!*



# An Introduction From Chairman Mike

During the AGM earlier this month, it took less than one minute to find myself appointed as the new Club Chair.

12 years earlier when Geoff Edge stood down, Paul won in a closely fought ballot. Sensing in fact that no-one was readily coming forward to succeed Paul, I thought perhaps I should "take one for the Team" as they say and to facilitate the process, I stated such in the February meeting. At the age of 71, I'm therefore probably the oldest Chair ever. Coincidentally until recent times, one could not be a Director of a Public Company on becoming 70 - there's a clear message here about old age.

Those at the well attended AGM, will recall that the current "Officers" have offered to continue for another year, other than Trevor. You'll remember Trevor took on the role some 3 years ago, just weeks before COVID. It soon proved obviously very tough and with Angela's relentless support, he/they retire, leaving us in fine shape for 2023. Sincere thanks from all of us for battling through those tougher times. Richard & Fiona Avery have accepted the role of Events Co-Ordinator (see post) with Trevor in the wings, to both help in the transition and run the odd event.

In terms of the next 12 months, with the Club being in very good order and normally "bulging" with folk, there's little to change.

### I've got 3 thoughts

That said, having listened to the odd comment, I've got 3 thoughts, 2 of which I mentioned at the AGM being:

**Firstly**, during our 13 year membership, we have noticed a progressive number of lady members attending, most I expect, to organise and support us men, whilst adding a greater social dimension to the Club. With most of us chaps more interested in car stuff. I would like to think that our ladies could get more from their friendship somehow. How that is done is food for thought - perhaps starting in April?

**Secondly**, it's clear that we have a wealth of members those lives have been most interesting, both in the field of motoring and moreover other fascinating activities. At our monthly "Natters," it's sometimes the sort of stuff we chat about when huddled in our small groups.

Most memorably for me, a few years ago, member David Harrison gave us an insight into his participation of the 1968 London to Sydney Rally. He finished a creditable 30th

in a Lotus Cortina, whilst averaging a thousand miles a day. He was a serving Army Captain at the time, what a legend I say! At the age of c80, he still attends Club nights from time to time and you'll recall wrote a series for the newsletter last year, about his European tour in a 70 year old Rover.

I mentioned at the AGM, that at our April meeting, Mick and Madge Walker have offered to share some of their exploits behind the wheels of various vehicles from back in the 60's and 70's. Some of you may know a few of them, but to hear them all in a 30 minute Q&A format, be there in April. I feel personally honoured that Mick and Madge have offered to tell their story - hopefully perhaps others may follow.....

News Flash - Fiona and Graham Robson were unable to attend the AGM and with a view of keeping fun at the centre of our cause, I later formally invited Graham to become our "Head of Humour", a role in which he excels and thankfully, he accepted.

**As for the third** thought, assuming I get through the April meeting, I'll mention it towards the end.

### A few personal facts

With a flurry of new members of late and for those whom Jane and I don't really know well I'll share a few personal facts:

- Became members in 2009
- Owned 7 MGs from 1975, including 2 V8s and we currently have a 2002 TF160 and 2003 ZR 160, both of which have been remapped and have done just over 30k - fun and fast!
- Owned and loved Land Rover Discoverys for 30 years and similarly Jaguar XKs ( new style ) for 15.
- A few Driving achievements: Tour of the Alps including the Stelvio - 9,000' and 47 hairpins - awesome. Isle of Man TT circuit, both anti-clockwise and correctly clockwise, Millbrook Proving Centre, including the Alpine circuit and 150mph IN the Oval Bowl. Various Track days. A few DVLA Driver Awareness Courses - desktop!
- In terms of a career, I qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1974 and have since held various related roles. Jane qualified as a teacher in 1977 and weeks later we were married.
- I'm a proud Brummie and Jane is from Liverpool via Sheffield. We lived in Solihull until 2018, when we moved to Broadway.

We're hopeful of more fun times in the years ahead and with an MG always around to fly the flag.

Finally and back to business, Trevor's AGM event report gave some interesting and revealing data, reminding us all that driving events had reduced in number - going forward that surely can't be right for an MG car club can it?

Some 20 years ago, whilst studying Entrepreneurialism and as an example of Teamwork, I was taught how Geese fly (and in the right conditions up to 1500 miles per day). Not only do they fly in a V shape to help those behind through vortexes etc, but by rotation of leader - because being at the front with the demand of all the hard work, is neither fair, sensible nor sustainable. This led to Empowerment and that TEAM means:

Together  
Everyone  
Achieves  
More

Clever things those Geese.

More latterly Paul spoke of more Members organising more events. Our forthcoming trip to Warners, has its very roots from an unprompted initiative Nigel Hook bravely took a few years ago - thank you Nigel, now a Triumph man.

I therefore propose to liaise with Richard and Trevor, before the April meeting, to assess the current look of the Events calendar for the next 12 months. I'll share the results in April, with a view to discussing how the gaps are best fulfilled with your help for your Club.

As Chair, I'll organise the Christmas Bash and one other, but not really any more.

I firmly believe that greater member involvement, will create more comradery within our Club and no doubt a queue of folk fighting for the role of Chair next March.

A special diary date - Saturday 27 May - Prescott Historique, including a BRM gathering and the newly constructed V16 (600bhp from 1500cc over 70 years ago - all British engineering). But if you can't make it and are within 25 miles, you'll probably hear it. I have bought one - but 1/18 size!

Last but not least - a sincere thanks to Paul and Caroline for the last 12 years of fine work. It'll be a hard act to follow, but with your help, I will do my best.

I'll sort out a Club email address shortly and in the meantime please try 07542 990690 if you want to speak.

*Spring is here - prepare to start your engines.....*



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

## Heavy Engineering!

### Part 2 *by Colin Howes*

Well, progress is being made, all be it slower than I would have really liked.

The block has been through the engineering company and is now re-bored, the crank re-ground and cylinder head has had new valve guides and seats replaced for un-leaded fuel.



*Cylinder head with new guides and seats*

One mistake I made was to take the block for re-bore before I had cleaned off all the old paint and removed the core plugs so another visit was needed to the engineering company to have it hot washed again.



*Block returned now ready for a coat of primer*

Over the years I have continually been on the look out for original parts as often anything being re-manufactured has come from distant foreign shores and is not always to the quality that one would expect. Ebay, with all its pitfalls, often comes up trumps with odd, random bits and finding a set of new oversize Hepolite pistons was a particular coup. Reading reports on various MG forums there is quite a variation in the quality of pistons from other sources so it quite a relief to have found those.

One particular job which I was dreading was the fitting of the of piston rings. The last thing I wanted was to break one (£££!!). So, I bought a pair of simple piston ring pliers and it made the task so easy.



*Pistons all loaded up, ready to go.*

As the crankshaft had been re-ground I took the opportunity to have it balanced along with the flywheel and clutch cover.

When working on my cars I always try to keep things as standard as possible, however I have made one exception this time and that was to have the flywheel lightened. From early production of the 'C' engine one criticism has been its reluctance to pick up revs which was due to the excessive weight of the flywheel. Weighing in at a smidge under 15kg it really is a monster and so it was put under an extreme weight loss regime.

So, re-assembly now begins in earnest but finding the best way to manipulate the engine was not without its concerns. I have an engine hoist but this doesn't really allow me to turn the block over and work on the underside and trying to turn the block over whilst it was being supported by the hoist and slings was erring on the point of being very dangerous. I had often seen engine stands being used when rebuilding engines but these always seemed to be smaller 4 cylinder or alloy blocks. Would one of these stands really be up to the job of supporting a 'C' engine?

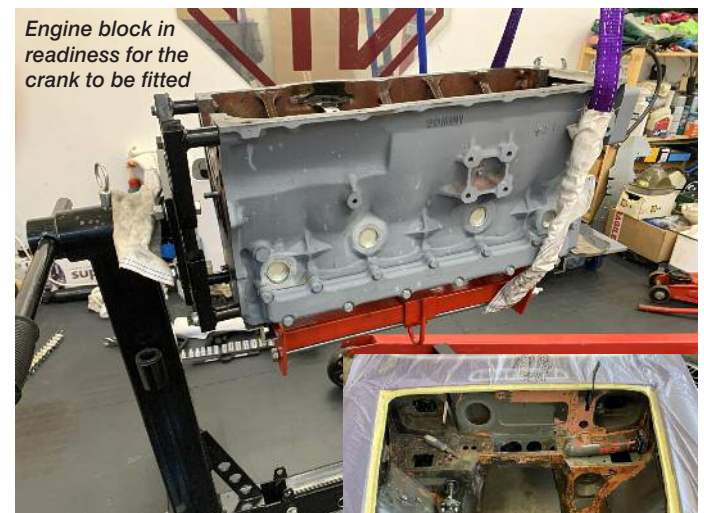
Well there was only one way to find out. Luckily I was able to find a stand being advertised on Facebook which was rated at 630kg which in theory should give me a 100% margin. I took the plunge and hey presto it worked like a charm. Just to be safe however I did support the engine with the hoist and sling at the other end.



*Don't try 'throwing the crank' challenge with this one!*



*MGC flywheel after its diet, weighs in at 11kg now!*



*Engine block in readiness for the crank to be fitted*

The amount of cleaning and refurbishment work on parts still continues and seems never ending but we've definitely turned the corner and now on the way back up.



*Open heart surgery on the engine bay*

*To be continued*



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

### Well not a lot!

by Dusty

**What have I done with my MG? Well not a lot having been away seeing my daughter and family in Oz for two months. But I did spend my time MG spotting.**

One beautifully kept MGB I spied at a little town/village called Montville, inland in the hills about 100km north of Brisbane. But apart from a couple of other B's classic MG were few and far between.

The number of modern Chinese cars has grown considerably since I was last out there in 2019 BC (before covid). They would now seem to outnumber Ford and Holden most being the HS followed by ZS and bright yellow 3's. I would think that probably one in fifty cars wore the octagon.

Since returning home the HS had its service and first MOT, three years old already. One advisory, the rear discs had some corrosion probably having been standing for eight weeks. Jay Bee Autos at Banbury were no longer MG dealers so it was a trip to Paul Rigby in Redditch - excellent service.

Then it was the turn of the TF160 to be serviced and MOTed at Thorpes of Alderminster. Derry the engineer there originally worked at Edwards in Stratford and was MG Rover factory trained. He has looked after my car since new 20 years ago. Passed for another year so bring on the sunshine and off with the hardtop!



One beautifully kept MGB

### Two big anniversaries for the TC in 2023!

by Helen

My father purchased the TC in Johannesburg on 8th March 1973. The TC passed to my mum in 1990 after my father passed away. Mike Jones and I took over the TC in 2009 and then I inherited her when mum passed away in 2010.



Helen's late father and late grandfather with the TC.



Helen with her specially made cup cakes

We finally joined the MG Car Club (thanks to Fred Bury) and soon after that

we also joined the MG Octagon Club and MG Owners Club. We have made many new friends since joining these clubs and taken part in many fantastic events over the years. The event we are most proud of was taking part in was the The Royal Windsor MG Heritage Festival in 2009 and driving through the private grounds of Windsor Castle.

To celebrate the TC's 75th birthday which was on 12th February and 50 years of ownership in our family, we arranged for some beautiful cup cakes to be made especially for the TC's big anniversaries to share with our car club members at our meeting on Tuesday 7th March for club night, any excuse to stuff our faces with cake!



I also celebrated 15 years of service at my current job on the same date as the TC's 75th birthday so lots of big anniversaries this year!



# 'An MGB Dampers start to the year'

Continuation from January

by Paul

## I'm finally making progress with the suspension rebuild on the MGB.

You may recall I was waiting for the Brand New Lever Arm Dampers to come into stock but have now given up on that. The next option was to get the existing dampers refurbished and I was given a recommendation of an engineering company in Bala that do a 'proper' job, so it was worth giving them a try. The service was good, they were ready within the week. It will be interesting to see how long they go before leaking again! I did give them an extra coat of paint.

I have also had the lower wishbones shotblasted and have painted them as well, with the new king pin/stub axle assemblies and the new rear springs,



Shotblasted

I'm all ready to go, I just need a bit of time in the garage

(and for it to warm up a bit!!).



All the Parts Ready to Go

Cricket-St-Thomas may recall the screeching noise my car was making, this was down to the rubber grommets failing (they were new less than 2 years ago), so at the suggestion of Richard I have changed the fan to the later plastic version. Richard said you can do the job without removing the radiator but I was very concerned about damaging it, so I undid all the bolts and those on the mounting plate and was just able to undo the fan bolts (they do have a lock tab!) and then install the new fan. There are lots more blades, so should help with cooling.

Whilst I was there I have done another small job that has been outstanding for some time. Those of you who went on the Weekend away to

The next day I went to the Classic Car Meet at the Black Boy pub (1st Sunday of the Month through the summer 10 till 12.30). It was even colder than the day before but there was a good turn out for this early in the year, better than to organiser expected, they ran out of cups for the tea/coffee, good thing I took my own. There was a very eclectic mix of cars with half a dozen pre-war examples including a lovely Rolls Royce. Inevitably MGs of all types were



Black Boy Classic Car Meet

## A Future Chairman!

The MGF has been on SORN over the winter but I have put it back on the road and the test run gave me the chance to take my 3 year old Grandson for an MG ride with the roof down (yes it was cold but he was well wrapped up!), well you do have to get them interested from an early age.



MGF & Grandson

represented with the highest number around 10 of us. I would guess (I didn't count them) there were about 50 cars in total. Well worth the drive.



ARDEN CLUB



# The Aliens have landed

By Graham

Over the road from our house on the estate where we live the couple there have bought a Tesla.

Therefore they have a charging point outside their house and they choose to park their car facing outwards.

This necessitates them reversing up the drive.

Our first experience of this manoeuvre was at about 2:30 in the morning. The Tesla has Warp Factor 8 headlamp strength and the driver left them on whilst reversing up the drive. These lights blast our upstairs bedroom with an eerie light . . . .

Well, have you ever heard a Tesla reversing? It plays a sound effect they clearly must have used in "The Twilight Zone" . . . . an eerie "Woooo . . . Woooo . . ."

Accompanied by the glaring headlights and having just been woken up by it all we were convinced They Had Landed. In Lower Quinton of all places.

Now we're used to it, and regularly hear that mystical sound and realise:

"The Aliens are reversing . . . . the aliens are reversing"



# MGF Brake Upgrade

by Steve

**Following my recent MOT on the MGF although it passed we had two advisories:**

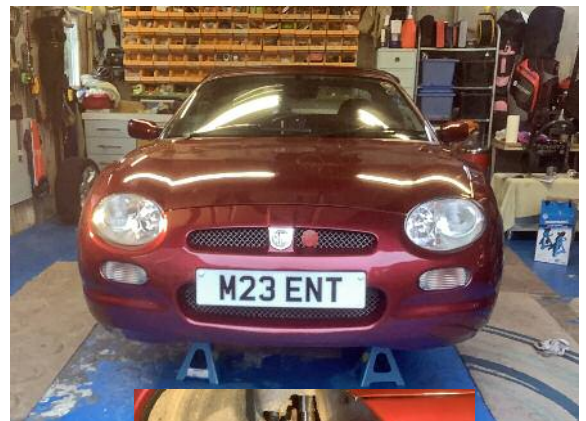
First was pitted front discs and second was slightly worn rear wheel bearings. Considering I had not replaced either of these over the last 15 years of ownership I decided to replace the wheel bearings and try to upgrade the braking system all round the car.

Reading recommendations on the MGF forums I decided to replace all four brake discs around the car with drilled and grooved style units which I am informed offer improved braking. The company who manufactured and supplied the discs along with Mintex brake pads was MTech based in Birmingham but also available on line.

Approximate cost of the refurb was £150 for the parts. I also replaced the brake fluid in the system at the same time.

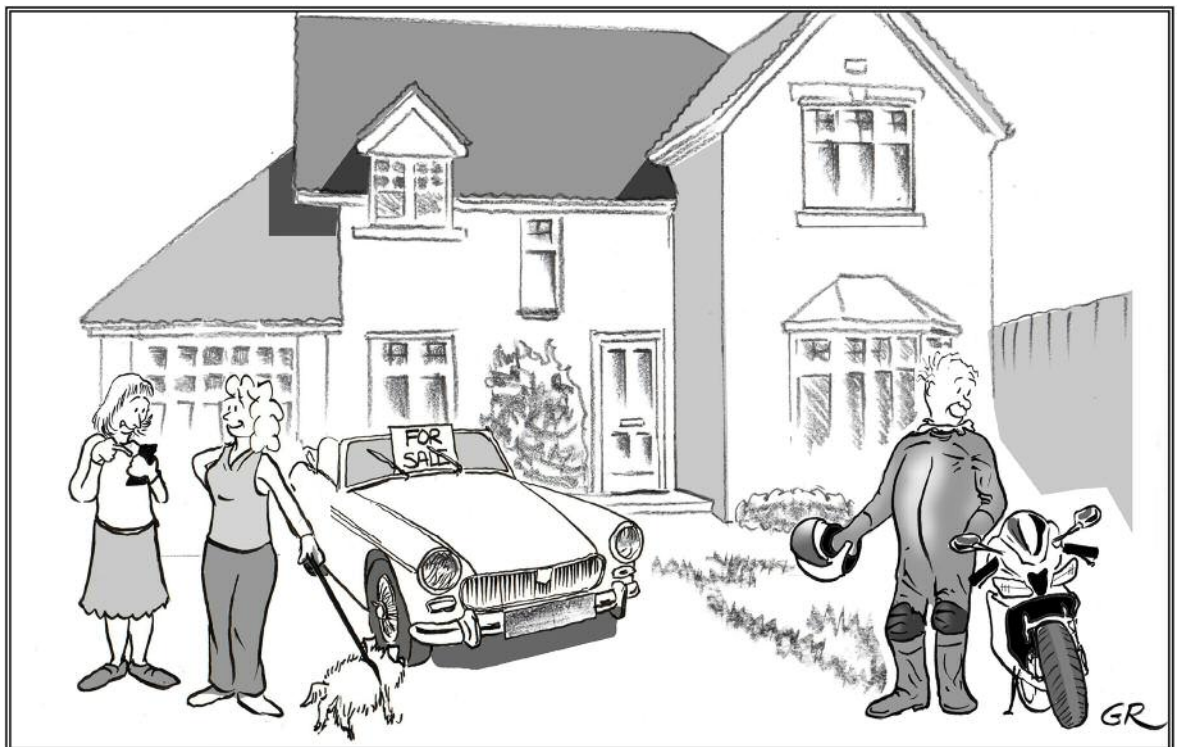
The bearings I purchased from a company called RTG based in Lancashire available on line cost approximately £20 per bearing. All the parts arrived in a couple of days and a friend who is a retired motor engineer ensured all the work was completed correctly.

I am currently running the brakes in but there appears to be an improvement in the brake system and quieter running on the road. If anyone wants any further information let me know.



## Cartoon Corner - Thank you Graham

Cartoon Corner



I'm trying to find the number for "Call the Midlife"

## What's On - AMGC

### Club Events - 2023

- **Tuesday 21st March – Breakfast Meeting at the British Motor Museum.** They open from 10am and we usually sit down on the Gallery outside the Junction 12 Cafe around 10.30. Make sure you convert your entry into a 12 month ticket.
- **Tuesday 4th April – Club Night at the Golden Cross.**
- **Tuesday 18th April – Breakfast Meeting at the British Motor Museum.**
- **Sunday 23rd April – Drive-it-Day Run.**  
The plan is to meet at The Valley Evesham, and register and pick up a copy of the directions in the Applebarn Restaurant from 10am. The restaurant is open from 10 am for coffee/breakfast. We plan to leave the car park at 11 am.

The route then follows a north westerly direction, finishing in the Bromsgrove/ Kidderminster area. The first route draft is around 27 miles and we should arrive at the venue in time for lunch at 12.30.

We have selected the Dodford Inn for lunch, which is in a pretty setting and has a lovely restaurant where we can have a 2 or 3 course lunch for £26 or £32 respectively. Alternatively, the pub can offer plated pork baps, stuffing, apple sauce and dripping roast potatoes for £10 per head, seated in the bar area (which accommodates 20 people) and outside. There is plenty of outdoor seating, and the pub will provide gazebos if wet. If the weather is good, we can park on their grass which would give great photo opportunities or if it's raining they have a tarmac car park and overflow area. We will arrange a marshal to park the cars.

Please email Nick and Philippa Godfrey by Friday 31st March at: [philippagodfrey@hotmail.com](mailto:philippagodfrey@hotmail.com) to book your place and your preferred choice of:

- a) No meal option - Run only
- b) Pork bap in the bar area/outside £10 head
- c) Two or three course meal £ 26/£ 32 per head seated in the restaurant
- d) How many will be in their car.

**Note:** a deposit will be required for those who wish to eat (probably £10 per person), Philippa will let you have the details.

- **Monday 1st May – British Motor Museum 30th Anniversary Run:**  
This Monday will be 30th Birthday of the Museum (and therefore the 30th Anniversary of the First Heritage Run) and to celebrate there will be a run to finish at the Museum where we will have a private room for us to have lunch, having parked our cars in a display outside the Museum Entrance.  
More details later but put the date into your calendar.
- **Tuesday 2nd May – Club Night at the Golden Cross.**
- **Monday 15th May to Friday 19th May – Club Holiday to Warner's Badelwyddan Castle:**  
The allocation Alan had booked is now fully taken, however it may still be possible to add additional rooms. Talk to Alan or Richard if you are now interested in joining our 'Week Away'.
- **Tuesday 23rd May – Breakfast Meeting at the BMM.**
- **Sat-Sunday 24th-25th June – Bloxham Steam Rally Run**  
Further details to follow.
- **Tuesday 6th June – Club Night at the Golden Cross.**
- **Tuesday 20th June – Breakfast Meeting at the BMM.**

- **Sat-Sunday 24th-25th June – Bloxham Steam Rally Run**  
Further details to follow.
- **Tuesday 4th July – Club Night & Show Night at the Golden Cross.**
- **Sunday 9th July – BMC & Leyland Show at BMM.**

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

| Date               | Event                       | Organiser    |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| April 23rd         | Drive-it-Day Run            | Nick Godfrey |
| May 1st            | BMM 30th Anniversary Run    | Paul         |
| May 15th to 19th   | Warner's Badelwyddan Castle | Alan         |
| June 24th and 25th | Bloxham Steam Rally Run     | Trevor       |
| July 9th           | BMC & Leyland Show at BMM   | Paul         |

## What's On - Elsewhere

### Other Events - 2023

- **Sunday, May 21st 2023 - Northants MG Owners' Club Rose of the Shires 2023 Charity Run...**  
...in aid of The Air Ambulance Service

Following the unavoidable hiatus caused by the global pandemic, Northants MG Owners' Club is delighted to announce the return of our annual Rose of the Shires Charity Road Run, once again in aid of The Air Ambulance Service, incorporating the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance, The Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance and The Children's Air Ambulance.

This year, the Rose of the Shires will take place on Sunday, 21st May 2023, starting from the Wellingborough Old Grammarians Sports & Social Club, Sywell Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 6BS. The route will take entrants on a run of approximately 70 miles around central, south and west Northants and finish at Whilton Locks Garden Village, Whilton, Daventry NN11 2NH.

The entry fee has once again been set at £25 per car, which includes the driver and one passenger (2 occupants in total). Each additional passenger incurs a surcharge of £5.

As in previous years, the fee includes a Rally Plaque, Route Book and a hot drink and a bacon roll at the start to help you on your way.

Entries can be made either online at our website: [www.mgnorthants.org](http://www.mgnorthants.org) where you can also download an entry form to print out and complete or by contacting the organising team.

- **Sunday 11th June 2023 - Cars at The Spa Returns in 2023**  
Full details on page two of this Newsletter
- **Saturday 22nd July – The Bards Drive**  
Starting at Honington Hall for a drive around Warwickshire countryside & Churches. [info@bardsdrive.co.uk](mailto:info@bardsdrive.co.uk)
- **Sunday 3rd September 2023 - Festival of Transport**  
Three Counties Showground, Malvern, WR8 6NW  
Full details on page two of this Newsletter
- **Monday 4th to Friday 8th September 2023 - Warners MG Gathering Heythrop Park, Cotswolds.**  
Full details on page two of this Newsletter



## Snippets

### Humour! by 'n' large



#### Don't mess with old people with classic MG cars...!

An elderly MG owner handed their bankcard to a bank teller and said. "I would like to withdraw £500."

The young teller told the MG owner. "For withdrawals less than £5,000, please use the ATM."

The MG owner then asked. "Why?"

The teller irritably said. "These are the rules, so please leave if there is no other matter. There is a queue waiting behind you."

The teller then returned the card to the MG owner - who remained silent ...then the MG owner returned the card to the teller and said. "Please help me withdraw all the money I have."

The teller was astonished when the account balance was checked.

The teller nodded, leaned down and said to the MG owner, "My apologies, you have £2.5 million in your account and our bank does not have that much cash on-hand. Could you make an appointment for tomorrow?"

The MG owner then asked. "How much am I able to withdraw now?"

"The teller said. "Any amount over £5,000 up to £300,000."

The MG owner then told the teller to withdraw £300,000 from the account.

The teller did so and politely handed it to the MG owner.

The MG owner put £500 in their wallet, then asked the teller to deposit the balance of £299,500, back into the original account.

#### Don't mess with old people with classic MGs!

### A Special Day



Helen celebrates two big anniversaries for her TC this Month - see page 9 for full details.

### MG Mart



**None this Month** - Please let us have some of your news and views. Send to: [norman.large@btinternet.com](mailto:norman.large@btinternet.com)

### Tech' Tips



**None this Month** - Please let us have some of your news and views. Send to: [norman.large@btinternet.com](mailto:norman.large@btinternet.com)



## For Sale



### MGF Stepspeed 'W' Reg (2000)

CVT Auto with Sport Manual Override.

Mileage: 74,500

Contact Paul Dunster  
for full details

MoT: August 2023

**£750.00**

Head gasket replaced May 2022 with MLS gasket, new through bolts and strengthened lower rail.

New Cam belt, water pump, thermostat, drive belt, spark plugs, oil and filters at 73,500 miles. New stainless steel front to rear cooling pipes fitted at the same time.



All tyres have good tread and are in date.

2 Keys and remote fobs.

Crusty around the edges but appears to be sound underneath.

### 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. **2022/23**

<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/>

<http://normanlarge.com/AMGCSkittlesNov22/>

<http://normanlarge.com/AMGCXmas22/>

<http://normanlarge.com/AMGCCWRunJan23/>

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

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)



**1923 2023  
CENTENARY**

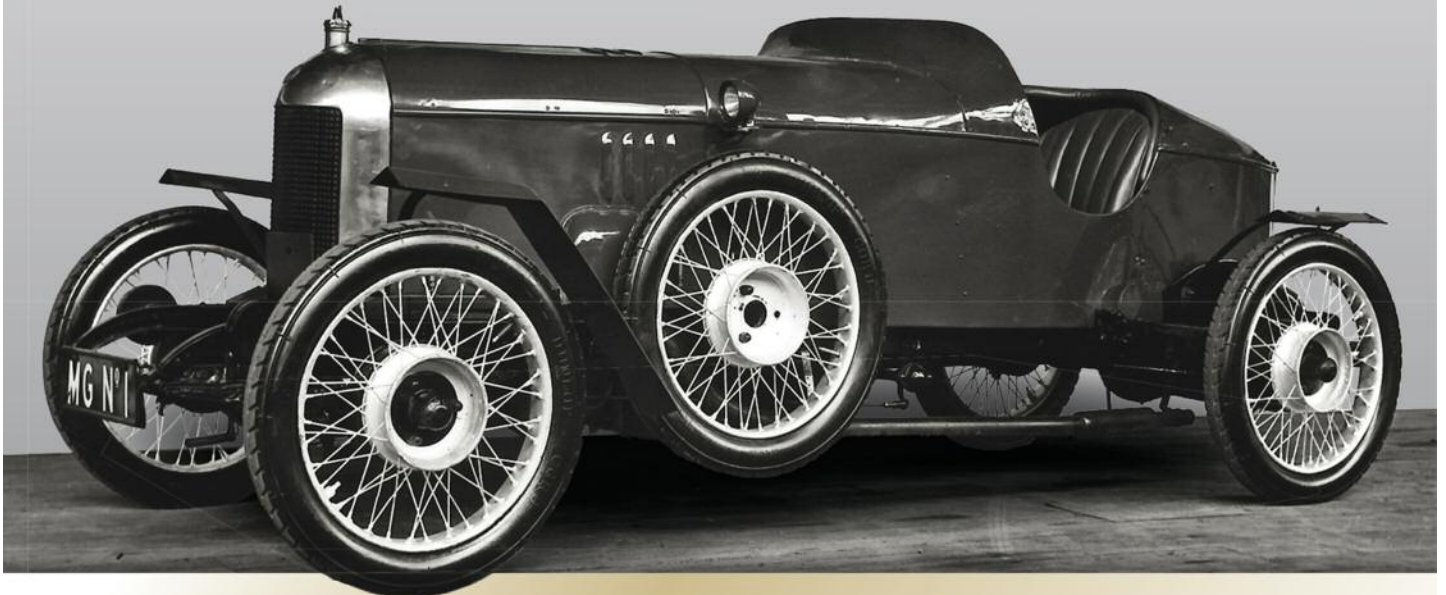


**In support of Air Ambulance UK,  
Prostate Cancer UK and  
Sporting Bears Motor Club**



# An event celebrating 100 years of MG

**British Motor  
Museum**  
Saturday 27th May 2023



- Timeline of 100 MGs
- Centenary dinner with guest speaker
- Car boot sale
- Old Number One
- Club marquees
- MG archive films in the film theatre
- Works cars display
- MG specialist traders
- Children's entertainment
- MGs of special interest
- MG Motor UK
- Souvenir merchandise
- Sporting Bears dream rides
- Pride of ownership competition
- The Barn-ettes – girl singing group
- Multi start point scenic runs converging on Gaydon
- Private MG sales

**Full details and merchandise from our website: [www.mgcentenary.co.uk](http://www.mgcentenary.co.uk)**

**Tickets on sale from British Motor Museum: [www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk](http://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk)**



Jointly organised by The MG Octagon Car Club, The MG Car Club, The Early MG Society, The MG Owners' Club and The MG T Society