



**Morris
Garages**

ARDEN MG CLUB

Issue 4 - April 2023

Newsletter

Welcome to the April issue of AMGC monthly newsletter and we hope you have had a very Happy Easter.



Badelwyddan Castle Holiday

15th -19th May 2023

Latest Update

by Alan

May Trip to North Wales Information for those going to Badelwyddan Castle.

Just a brief update on what is proposed for our trip to Warner's in May.

Richard and myself have discussed the holiday and we are planning the following.

Journey to Badelwyddan Castle

We are mapping out a route from Stratford that will go cross country to Badelwyddan Castle.

We plan to leave on the A46 towards Alcester before cutting through to Kidderminster and Bridgnorth on our way to Shrewsbury where we can stop at Dobbie's for a coffee at circa 10.30 to 11.00. The garden centre is on the junction of the A458 and A5 on the ring road.

We will leave you to make your own way there or, alternatively, why don't you gang up with others?

After Shrewsbury we will head towards Oswestry and then onto Llangollen where we plan to meet up again at the Corn Mill pub overlooking the river, for a snack lunch, most likely at 12.00- 12.30.

From Llangollen it's then cross country to Warner's.

There is obviously, no need to take this route if you want a faster route or have a modern car more suitable to motorways etc.

Nearer the time we will be providing route maps to everyone.



Badelwyddan Castle

Once at the hotel you can register your card and start to use the facilities any time after 10.00am. On check out day, although you need to vacate by 10.00am, you can stay using your card until 3.00pm.

We are all dining together, breakfast at 8.30am, and dinner at 7,00pm. We will identify an area to meet prior to dinner for drinks, may be the bar by the entrance!

Continued

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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Trips whilst in North Wales.

We realise many members may wish to do their own exploring or just make the most of the fantastic facilities at the hotel.

For this reason, we are only planning 2 trips which will allow members to explore North Wales themselves on the third day. The alternative is to just relax at the Hotel.

The trips organised will be, one to Bodnant Gardens and the second to Llyn Brenig Reservoir Visitor Centre.

Both Trips, one way are approximately 20 mile through the scenic country side.

Bodnant Gardens

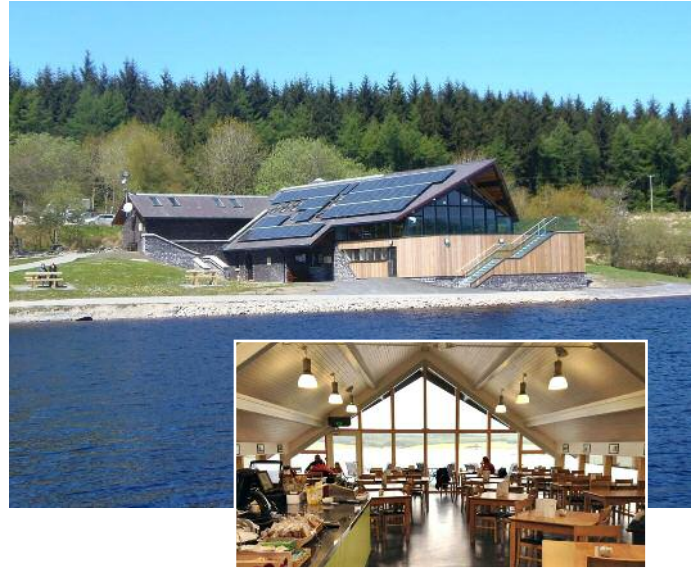
Those who go to Bodnant Gardens can have a coffee in the visitor centre without going into the gardens. From here Llandudno is 8 miles North if you wish to explore the coast or alternatively continue south before heading back to the hotel.

Obviously, many will explore the lovely gardens that are perfect to in May. Bring your National Trust cards with you if you want to explore the gardens. Don't worry if some of you are not a members, some funds are available to cover your entry for a few.



Llyn Brenig Reservoir

We are going to the Visitor centre and café at Llyn Brenig, that over looks the water from a new purpose made centre. From here you can rent mountain bikes to explore the cycleways around the reservoir and through the woodland, alternatively hire a boat. May be best to book.



Maps and directions will be handed out prior to each run. You are expected to find your own way home!

Richard and myself will be in touch with those going on the holiday nearer the date to confirm further details.

Any questions, just ring, Alan 07774 416536 or Richard 07767 307408

Cartoon Corner - Thank you Graham

Cartoon Corner



Mrs Dunster? I'm the architect your husband called about converting your front room into another garage



Mildly suspicious behaviour in the airport car park



CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

The April Natter meeting was my first time behind the wheel and trying to drive the bus so to speak - that's a lot different from being in a 2 seat MG, particularly when the passenger seat is empty.

In that regard I can share with you, that in a recent trip north for a Board Meeting, I took the XKR and by returning home in good time, I was able to take the 12 mile "Cat & Fiddle" route across the Peak District, from Macclesfield to Buxton and home via Ashbourne, Derby etc - much more fun than the M6! It was what we, the Jag and I, both needed. I stopped half way over the C & F for a bacon sandwich and by luck, Bread and Butter pudding northern style - I was in heaven!



Charity Donation

With some £1,500 in the Club Bank Account at 31.12.2022, Paul mentioned at the AGM that a Charity donation was probably now due. To that end and with 5 of our ladies having experienced various types of Cancer in recent years, I asked Marg to liaise with them and suggest recipient Charities of say a total of £500. I'll update you at the May meeting and get the cheque book out.

Vice Chair

The role is vacant, should any member get the urge...

The Ladies

Should our Ladies wish to have a greater say in the Club, just get together and say so please.

Whilst a "Calendar" might not be quite appropriate, something else might?

Club History

I'm keen to understand the beginnings of the Club and I'm sure others are too. Perhaps at the May meeting I'll have a walk about amongst some of the founder Members and nudge them to share some of the history later in the year.

Warners In May

Some of you will recall that Mick mentioned he was very competitive in his rallying days over the Long Mynd, which is sort of en route to Warners. I wonder if he still has his Pace Notes to hand...

Petrol Engines

At a recent Bentley Track Day at Goodwood, one of the sponsors gave us a presentation that their synthetic fuel was being successfully used by both the German and Belgian Governments' official cars. The German Government, whose economy employs hundreds of thousands people in the automotive internal combustion sector, has apparently let it be known to the EU, that it will not be abiding by the 2035 deadline for the end internal combustion engines as we currently know them.

By the way, the experimental fuel is being made from straw and the like and its performance apparently equivalent to petrol.

All that said by 2035, at best, I'll be well into my 80's...



Just taken the lead



On the grid with No 10

Mick & Marg Walker - The Million Milers

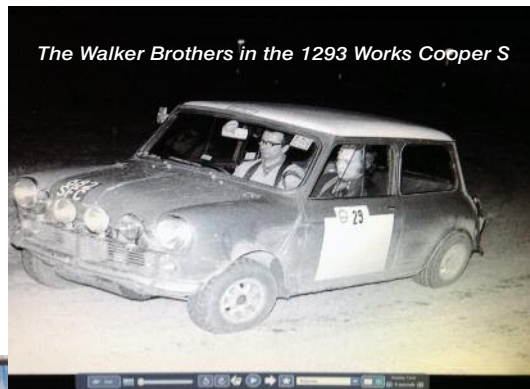
Speaking of wondering around in the hills, Mick and Marg or Margy, (certainly not addressed as "Madge" anymore please,) gave us a thrilling account of their times on 1,2,3 and 4 wheels and no doubt many more in the various lorries in which they traversed Europe and beyond into the wilderness.

Their talk of 30 minutes, as most of you know, took the form of a Q&A, with me just simply asking the questions. When Mick and Marg shared some of their antics with me towards the end of last year, I felt that a Q&A was a must.

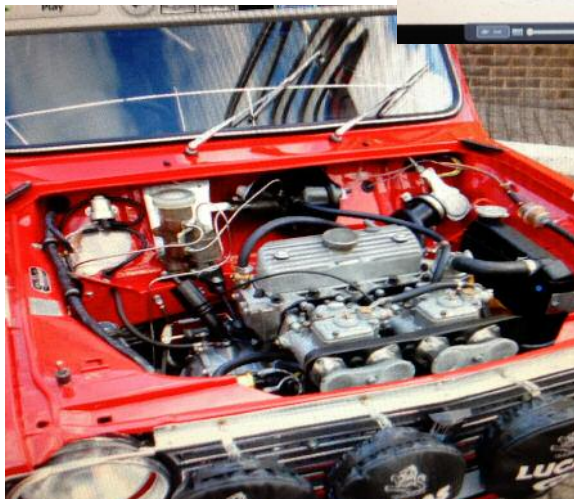


The 8 Port in fine shape - before the "Big off"

Without repeating too much, back in the day, Mick enjoyed rallying, initially spanning, then navigating and then driving Minis. Not just any Minis - a 1293cc "Full Works" Cooper S and then an 8 port head Mini, over 100bhp, the ultimate Rally version. To add to the ordeal he entered as Privateer, with his friend John Walker navigating - known as The Walker Brothers.



The Walker Brothers in the 1293 Works Cooper S



The 8 Port - a real beast!

So competitive and successful was Mick and against some big names too, that the cars invariably took their toll and not long after the 8 port suffered a big "off," Marg wrote off their Triumph 2500 P1 tow car on the ice and simultaneously became pregnant.

Family life clearly curtailed the rallying days, but certainly not the driving. Mick, a Coventry lad, had worked in the car industry for some years and was then living in Aston Cantlow.

He later worked in Stratford for Precision Antennas, where his spanning abilities again came to the fore and he "enjoyed" installing the Antennas at extreme heights at many destinations around Europe and beyond. Such role also involved delivering the Antennas in trucks of all shapes and sizes, sometimes with Marg riding shotgun.

For anyone who missed their talk, just ask them sometime about how Marg learned how to ride a motorbike and them both being arrested in Casablanca en route to a Saudi Prince's Palace.

On retiring over 10 years ago, Marg encouraged Mick to get a TF, but just a stock road going version.....



Somewhere in Morocco - looking for a Palace - overloaded - not really Officer.

Mick has now been driving for over 60 years and at a quick count, has easily driven over a million miles. Perhaps some of you have achieved the



Delivered & installed

same goal and have a story to share with us please - perhaps your most interesting 1,000 miles?

Later in the evening, Mick became the centre of attention, with some club members sharing the old times with him - a perfect ending for a great sport in recalling his otherwise unknown achievements and with Marg in endless support.

For anyone with 50 years driving that's clearly an average 20k per annum to achieve the million. I reckon I might just have made the million and will try to log the highlights.

I'm hopeful other Club Members will offer to share some of their life stories in a similar way, or perhaps just a 5-10 minute interesting snippet or two.

Heavy Engineering!

Part 3 *by Colin Howes*

The past month has been very much a tale of two halves. We trailed the car back home mid-March having had the engine bay repainted, so good progress has been made on that front. Thankfully the journey down to south London was without incident and the weather held.



Now the fun starts – getting the car off the trailer and into the garage, without engine power!

The body-shop have made an excellent job of painting the engine bay but why is it grey I can hear you ask? Well, the story behind the University Motors Specials is that customers could specify their choice of colour but this was always limited to the outer paintwork. The original colour of the car was Grampian Grey when built at Abingdon but in the early 70's this was very unfashionable (how times have changed) hence the car remained on the shelf figuratively speaking. This was until it was singled out for the 'Specials' treatment. It is paramount for me to have the car as authentic as possible so Grampian Grey it had to be.



Back from the body-shop in all its glory

Refitting of major components continued if nothing else than to free up some space in garage. It's quite extraordinary how much room is needed to store parts from a stripped-down car with me even encroaching into the conservatory much to Lindsay's disdain.

One of the worst tasks was trying to reconnect the heater linkage from the air flow control. Access is via the fresh-air flap deep in the drivers footwell so not the easiest location to kick off with. You need to be triple jointed and have three hands with

fingers 8" long that can bend both forwards and backwards to accomplish this task. How they coped with this on the production line at Abingdon heaven only knows. The swear box had multiple contributions that day!

Work on the engine continues in parallel but this has to be confined to fair weather days as there is insufficient space in the garage to store the car and have room to work. With March being one of the wettest months we've had for a long time this has restricted progress somewhat. Early April also seems to be living up to its name at the moment with frequent showers.

The engine stand has been worth its weight in gold allowing me to easily manipulate the block to work on installing the crank and bottom end bearings.

One of the most laborious tasks has been to strip and remove all the old paint from the gearbox and bell-housing. This took almost a whole day to achieve with copious amounts of Nitromors, scrapers and a wire brush. Finally, I reached the stage of de-greasing and applying a first coat of etch primer.



Something very satisfying about applying a first coat of paint



I definitely needed a glass of wine to celebrate after this job!



Major components now being put back in situ



Sump finally in place – hope this doesn't have to come off again in a hurry

To be continued

Sold & Bought !

by Paul

Firstly - I have sold one and bought another!!

As you will know the MGF came to me by an unusual means but I was interested to give it a try, however it has not really fulfilled my requirements for another MG bearing in mind I have 2 other soft top cars (MGB Roadster & Fiat 124 Spider) and the Spider is used for those runs where a modern car is preferred.

What I really needed is an MG with a 'roof', I considered several options like an MG 1300 and even an MG Metro but they are like 'Hen's Teeth and thought an MGB GT would be a much better bet for me anyway. Which one to choose? Everyone wants the chrome bumper version but I have an earlier car and are the 'Rubber Bumper' cars that bad? They have their place, however there are lots of them about but there were 2 'Limited Editions' produced during the production run, Jubilee Model in 1975 and the final Limited Edition in 1980 (the last cars built), I much prefer the colour of the later cars and had been looking for one of them.

Checking Former Glory, they had just got one into stock, that would make life easier if they would accept the 'F' in a part-ex, so Lech and I went down for a look. The LE was not perfect but looked to be solid, so a few days later a deal was done and hello to 'Ellie', she needs some TLC which should keep me busy with all this new 'Free Time' that I have!!!

Secondly - I have found some time to get the front suspension rebuild done on the Roadster, all the new parts in place and tightened up, ready to go. I just need to find some time to get on with the rear suspension rebuilds.



Breakfast Meeting - March

by Paul

The break in the weather brought more people out to the Breakfast Meeting at the Museum with a record 22 of us enjoying the excellent bacon/sausage rolls, washed down with tea or coffee. The MGs were out in force as well, it's a great excuse to drive the MG in the sunshine, with a selection of old and modern (MG ZS - 2023) making up the 10 cars lined up on display outside the Museum Entrance. The next meeting will be Tuesday 18th April, the Museum opens at 10am.



What's On - AMGC

Club Events - 2023

- **Tuesday 18th April – Breakfast Meeting at the British Motor Museum.** Opens from 10am and we usually sit down on the Gallery outside the Junction 12 Cafe around 10.30. If buying new, be sure to convert your entry into a 12 month ticket.
- **Sunday 23rd April – Drive-it-Day Run.**
Organiser Nick and Philippa Godfrey philippagodfrey@hotmail.com
Leaves from The Valley Evesham to pick up a copy of directions in the Applebarn Restaurant from 10am. Plan to leave carpark at 11.00. Booking for the event is now closed.
- **Monday 1st May – British Motor Museum 30th Anniversary Run:**
Organiser Paul Dunster. Limited to 30 Cars. Booking will be opened up to other clubs if 30 Arden Club cars not reached by 14th April – Book Early with Paul.

Museum Opens at 10am and a 30 mile run will leave at 11.00 and be returning back to the BMM.
Parking will be on the grass outside the museum entrance.
A valid entry ticket for the museum will be required for this event.
If buying new, be sure to convert your entry into a 12 month ticket.
- **Tuesday 2nd May – Club Night at the Golden Cross.**
- **Monday 15th May to Friday 19th May – Club Holiday to Warner's Badelwyddan Castle:**
Alan Griffith and Richard Avery organising – See separate article on the front page this Newsletter.
- **Tuesday 23rd May – Breakfast Meeting at the British Motor Museum.** Opens from 10am and we usually sit down on the Gallery outside the Junction 12 Cafe around 10.30. If buying new, be sure to convert your entry into a 12 month ticket.
- **Sunday 28th May – Bidford Wings and Wheels**
Book on-line at bidfordglidingandflyingclub.co.uk scroll down to 'Classic Car Owners Only' and click the link 'Book Classic Car'. £5 donation required.
- **Sat-Sunday 24th-25th June – Bloxham Steam Rally Run**
Further details to follow – Trevor and Ange Smith organising.
- **Tuesday 6th June – Club Night at the Golden Cross.**
- **Tuesday 20th June – Breakfast Meeting at the 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
May 28th	Bidford Wings & Wheels	Organisers
June 24th and 25th	Bloxham Steam Rally Run	Trevor
July 9th	BMC & Leyland Show at BMM	Paul

What's On - Elsewhere

Other Events - 2023

- **Monday 1st May – Classic Gathering – Kinton 16:00-18:00**
Need to register car in advance at kintonclassics.evenbrite.co.uk.
Registration opens 15th April and is FREE
- **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 where you can also download an entry form to print out and complete or by contacting the organising team.
- **Saturday 27th May – MG Centenary Events – BMM**
The combined MG Clubs are organising Road Runs to Gaydon. There are 4 runs starting from either, Abingdon, Leicester, Longbridge or Swindon.
Entry / car is £20 (for up to 2 people), additional people are £10 each.
Details and Entry can be booked at mgcentenary.co.uk
Entry includes a hot drink and a hot batch at the start points.
A valid entry ticket for the BMM will be required for entry to the museum. If buying new, be sure to convert your entry into a 12 month ticket.
- **Sunday 11th June 2023 - Cars at The Spa Returns in 2023**
Full details on page two of the March Newsletter
- **Saturday 22nd July – The Bards Drive**
Starting at Honington Hall for a drive around Warwickshire countryside & Churches. info@bardsdrive.co.uk
- **Sunday 3rd September 2023 - Festival of Transport**
Three Counties Showground, Malvern, WR8 6NW
Full details on page two of the March Newsletter
- **Monday 4th to Friday 8th September 2023 - Warners MG Gathering Heythrop Park, Cotswolds.**
Full details on page two of the March Newsletter

Snippets

Humour! by 'n' large



Five surgeons are taking a coffee break...

- 1st surgeon: "Accountants are the best to operate on because when you open them up, everything inside is numbered."
- 2nd surgeon: "Nah, librarians are the best. Everything inside them is in alphabetical order."
- 3rd surgeon: "Try electricians! Everything inside THEM is colour coded."
- 4th surgeon: "I prefer politicians. They're heartless, spineless, gutless and their heads and their butts are interchangeable."
- 5th surgeon... ...who has been quietly listening to the conversation: "I like British MG classic car restorers... they always understand when you have a few parts left over at the end."

A Special Day



None this Month - Please let us have some of your news and views. Send to: 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



MG Mart



WANTED

Original spec **Lucas HA12 ignition coil** wanted. Needs to be cosmetically tidy, i.e. no dents or deep scratches and have **HA12 stamped on the base**.

Contact:

Colin Howes 07970 852164

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

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

Full details and merchandise from our website: www.mgcentenary.co.uk

Tickets on sale from British Motor Museum: 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