



**Morris
Garages**

ARDEN MG CLUB

Issue 8 - Aug 2023

Newsletter

Welcome to the August issue of AMGC monthly newsletter and here's hoping you didn't get too wet during July



Heritage Run Re-Visited:

Sunday 23rd July by Paul

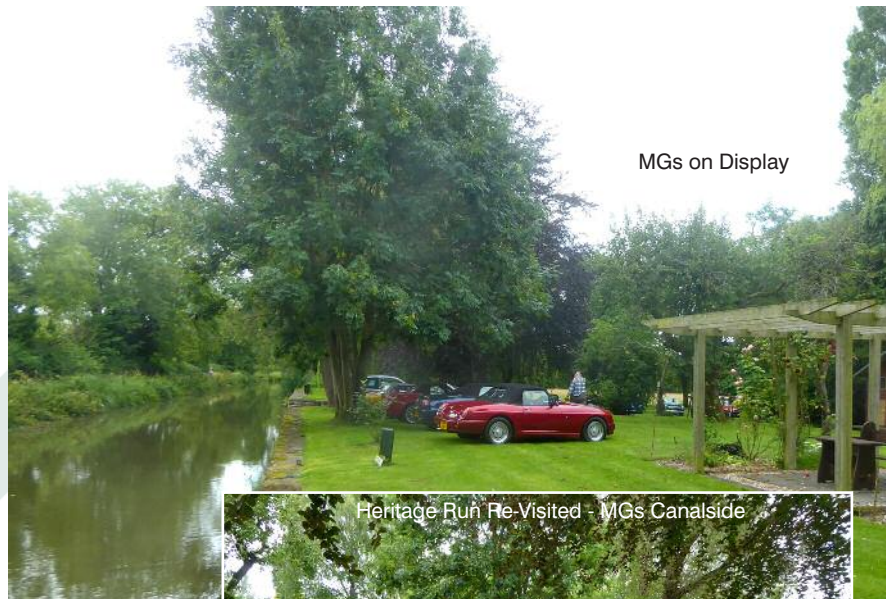
After checking the weather forecast for the previous week I was somewhat disappointed to see it change the day before to being inclement, however by the Saturday evening it was showing as dry in the morning and sunshine and showers in the afternoon and that was just how it played out.

As we turned into Featherbed Lane to go into Wilmcote it had started raining, enough that it was time to put the hood up, this is where the Modern (MG) 124 Spider by FIAT comes into it's own, taking 5 seconds whilst waiting for the oncoming traffic to clear to get us in the dry. The rain persisted when we arrived at Alan & Liz's house but they had kindly put up 2 gazebos and a Storm Shelter for us all, so picnics were quickly set out (after the quick trip to the loo, after a 58 mile drive!!) and long before we had finished even the clouds had cleared and the sun was shining down on us.

Alan had decided that we should park lined up next to the canal, which was a fine sight and a shame only a few barges went past to see the spectacle.

The Valley was as good as every for the start 'cup of tea' and toilet break before the off and 18 cars set off for the 58 mile run through the Warwickshire / West Midlands countryside.

Continued



MGs on Display



Heritage Run Re-Visited - MGs Canalside



Heritage Run Re-Visited - Old & New Rally Plates

AMGC Event Details are on pages 15 to 18 of this Month's Newsletter.
Make sure you don't miss out - **Book Today**

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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Heritage Run Re-Visited: Continuation

The run was changed in a few places from the original of 2007 but this was to improve the scenery and avoid some hold ups. There were a few lesser travelled roads which I hope made the route enjoyable for all (thanks to Lech for his support with the recce and his ideas, worked out whilst he was driving, for alternative routes). Many thanks also to Liz & Alan for hosting us in their lovely garden as well as providing Tea & Coffee to those in need. Richard & Fiona were also on hand to help putting the gazebos up ready for our arrival, thanks for that and your kindness in picking Chris up on route, although I believe his shoulder is improving after his operation, I hope you are back with us driving soon.

For those who were not there on the day this is the Introduction to the Route Instructions giving a potted History of the Heritage Run:

'The Heritage Run'; back in 1992

A short history of 'The Heritage Run'; back in 1992, two members of the Club (Lech & Richard Workman) thought it would be a good idea to organise a scenic run for all MG enthusiasts and around this time the Heritage Motor Centre (now called the British Motor Museum) was about to open.

The Centre was chosen as the venue for the first run and hence the name of 'The Heritage Run'. That first run started in the Maybird Centre in Stratford on the early May Bank Holiday Monday with approx 200 MGs assembling (I don't think it would be possible to find space at Maybird on a Bank Holiday today!).

The Heritage Motor Centre had opened it's doors for the first time on the Sunday and the Arden MG Club were the first Club to visit on a run and use the Arena area which was originally set aside for visiting Clubs.

The following year the end venue was to the site of the MG Factory in Abingdon, however the start from the Maybird Centre caused traffic chaos in Stratford, so subsequent runs started from the Golden Cross.

Future run destinations were selected to be transport related or of historical interest and included

- **trains** at the GWR Tuddington station & Severn Valley Railway at Kidderminster,
- **boats** with Saul Canal Festival & Crick Boat Show,
- **planes** at Baginton Air Museum & Abingdon Air Show,
- **steam** at the Bloxham Steam Rally & Bromyard Steam Fair,
- **motor racing** with 2 visits to Shelsley Walsh & Prescott Hill Climbs,
- **classic car shows** at Hartlebury Castle, Ragley Hall & Ashby Magna Vintage Festival,
- **museums** like Bourton-on-the-Water Car Museum & Claydon Bygones Museum,
- **stately houses** like Upton House and Stanway House
- and finally **a couple of places of interest** at The National Memorial Arboretum and Eastnor Castle.

It was great fun over the years, so well done to Lech & Richard for getting it started and being involved with all 25 runs.

Editor's comments (on behalf of club members).

...another great yet dampish day - a big thank you Paul, Alan all members for making so.



Heritage Run Re-Visited - Canalside Display



Heritage Run Re-Visited - Lunch Under Shelter



Heritage Run Re-Visited - Sheltering in Alan & Liz's Garden



Heritage Run Re-Visited - Picnics Were Enjoyed

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER -

Charity Matters



I had occasion to mail our fine and long serving Treasurer Roger Jackson recently and bring him up to speed on the direction of travel of the Club under my Chairmanship. In particular to explain that an unusual amount of cash is likely to be banked this month in connection with the Charity Picnic on Saturday 26 August at our home. For those that didn't come to the last Picnic, our address is The Hollow, Pennylands Bank, Broadway WR12 7HX and 07542 990690, just in case.

I wanted to explain that the cash was not another Money Laundering scam, but would be arising from the amazing efforts of "Walker Rayner Promotions" and the generosity of many to the forthcoming Raffle / Tombola. The prizes for which are varied and many are similarly generously gifted by our Members and many others unconnected with the Club, but joined by their Charitable goals.

the running and with input from other ladies, particularly Alison, the Charity Breast Cancer Now (BCN)was chosen, approved by the Membership and sent £500 recently - see a copy of the thank you letter.

In looking on how we might actually present the £500 - in reality the hardest part, my review of their website revealed that August was nationally designated as their ladies' "Afternoon Tea Month",- a fund raising month.

number. Denise has since kindly organised "The Ladies Afternoon Cream Tea" in September, but without the need for any Club finance.



Marg, Alison and I initially worked up some ideas to kick start fundraising again and rather than piggyback the Cream Tea in some way, use a Chairman's Picnic Event (as then totally unplanned) as a Fundraiser and for simplicity and at minimal cost, Jane and I could host it. The idea was aired at the next Club Night and Marg's newly appointed Girls (Team MG, now Team MG&B - having recruited a few Boys!) sprung into action suggesting the date Saturday August 26, right in the middle of the Silverstone Classic, one of my favourite go to events. That's what you call Girl Power!

THE BACKSTORY

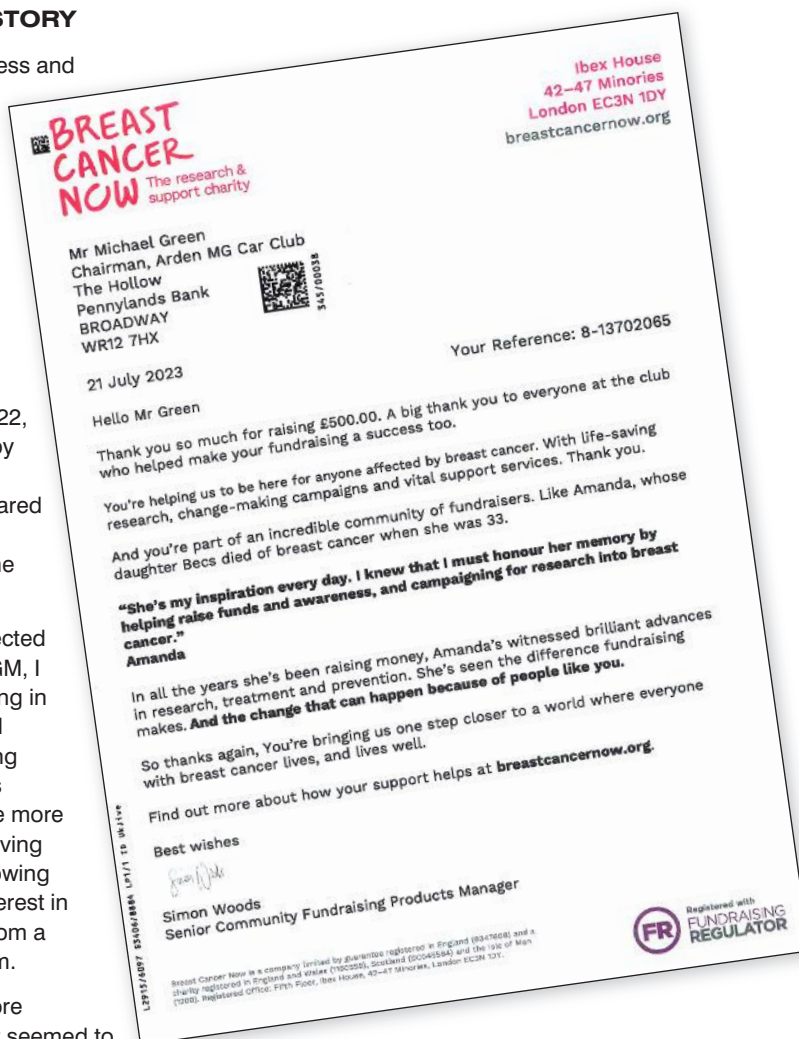
For completeness and by way of the backstory behind the Chairman's Charity Picnic, it all started when I realised that the Club had amassed some £1500 of uncommitted cash by 31.12.22, as evidenced by the Annual Accounts prepared by Roger and presented to the AGM in March.

When I was elected Chair at the AGM, I recall mentioning in particular, that I thought our long suffering ladies deserved some more recognition, having observed a growing sense of disinterest in Club Natters from a number of them.

To promote more engagement, it seemed to me to ask them how they might like a £500 Charitable Donation directed, particularly as some of them had / were still suffering from Breast Cancer.

Having then got to know Marg and Mick much better from the April Q&A session and what a session that was, Marg took up

From there, I mailed Marg and Alison to see whether they wished to embrace the idea and that perhaps the Club might donate £200 towards "a High Tea" for our ladies, as a thank you and celebration of the positive outcomes of those ladies whom had / were beating Breast Cancer - apparently 7 in



JUST AIM TO TURN UP AROUND 1.00 - 1.30PM

More is written about the Event elsewhere in the Newsletter and I would just add that no "Run" is planned beforehand, so just aim to turn up around 1.00 - 1.30pm and park in the signposted neighbour's orchard please. For those still awake and standing, Jane and I invite you to stay into the Evening, as our guests, - Burgers, Bangers, Badsey Bacon, Pizzas, Leftovers and Custard etc, Music, Singing and Swinging with the Jabba, Jabba, Arden MG Big Band, with the fire pit to keep us warm and the wolves away.

Continued...

Chairman's Report - August 2023 - continuation

WAR TIME SPIRIT

I also mentioned to Roger that quote "the Event was, all in all a bit crazy, but we lost time during COVID to continue fund raising. "Time waits for no man" as they say and in the process I sense a real degree of "War Time Spirit" togetherness amongst the membership about helping others, something I can't really remember seeing at that level before."

Whilst circa 50 people have booked the Event, for those unable to attend, I'm sure there will be photos / videos to share, rain or shine. Moreover raffle ticket purchases and auction bids can be accommodated by Team MG&B.

Let's do it and do it in MG style - the Marque of Friendship. Sincere thanks to MG&B for their enthusiasm and tenacity.

Back to the normal waffle - by the end of the month I will have served 6 of my 12 month reign- how time flies.

Prescott as an alternative to the Gaydon gathering

In terms of Events, on July 9 we chose Prescott as an alternative to the BMC & Leyland Show at Gaydon. We took a 7 year membership there a couple of years ago, when post COVID, their cash was tight and a limited number of such membership deals were offered.

We met a couple of Aussies there, Daryl and Andrew Coon a father and son act, whom were in the UK competing in the Brake Shoe Challenge.

To my delight Daryl races a ZR160 and owns an MGA, in which he drove Lewis Hamilton around the parade lap at the Melbourne Grand Prix on April 2.



We also met an Army Officer, whom with his father own 11 MGFs / TFs, at least one of which is usually working! He was about to retire as an Officer from the Royal Artillery; back in the day you may have seen him at the Royal Albert Hall, Military Tattoo, where he was part of the team dismantling the vintage horse drawn gun carriages - he looked a strong lad!

We also had a quick tour of the Bugatti Museum Trust too and met the Company Secretary Sue Barnes. What a place and what a man Bugatti was! Private Club visits are welcome and one to consider. I've bought the Bugatti DVD to learn more for starters and I definitely want to return for a guided tour.

A bunch of MGs resting.



Daryl Coon having fun down under!

Another from Daryl - Hamilton



Daryl Coon having fun down under!



Continued...

Chairman's Report - August 2023 - continuation

Club Events

We also attended the 2007 Heritage Re-Run to which Paul refers and later enjoyed a waterside treat in Wilmcote again, courtesy of Liz and Alan - thank you

Fairford Air Show

Whilst not car related, we were invited to the Fairford Air Show - Royal International Air Tattoo -RIAT and what an event that



The B52 - holy smoke!

was. It's a story in itself, but in terms of pollution, nothing beats the US B52 Bomber and it's 8 old jet engines - an absolute disgrace to the planet. By contrast we witnessed a Chinook Helicopter take off - backwards - what a machine. For those interested, there's no doubt plenty on U Tube about the other 100 or so military aircraft.

Disco 2 out Disco 4 In

With Disco 4 now firmly in residence, Disco 2 needed adoption and rehoming. With the decision finally made, departure needed to be quick and quick it was. The first responder to the Autotrader Ad, loved it, didn't even drive it, paid in full, V5, taxed, insured, all on line and gone in less than 2 hours. It was special in many ways (one lady owner said the Ad - and true) and he knew such - a proper Land Rover man.

In a moment of quiet rest, I spotted another ZR160 for sale at Trophy Cars. Jane and I had a run north for a quiet look - deal done and it should be ready by the end of the month. Ed the Zed's new younger brother is to be christened Ted the Zed. Jeff the F remains as the older brother.

The data suggests there are c125 ZR160s taxed, the rest have either rotted away or been written off, about 200 are SORND. Whilst hardly investments, they are tipped as future classics by some strange folk - quick but not too thirsty. Ted is a 2005 facelift model and less Boy Racer in looks than Ed - low key - wolf and sheep stuff.

Madness I hear and I almost agree. At age 71, I look at MGing differently now and have mentally returned to the 70's, when

Finally

Finally I had a worrying time for 3 weeks with Ed. On Show Night he had developed an expensive sound coming from the top of the engine - the VVC mechanism (VERY VERY COMPLICATED / COSTLY) and the specialist tools need to dismantle them are now rare. In fact when the MGTF was re-released in 2008, the 160 engine was no longer an option. Furthermore Mark Stacey - K Maps, who supports the MG racers, says the 190bhp racers are for good reason, modified 135 engines.

I visited a former MG specialist, whom confirmed it was a top end issue, but hadn't the tools to fix it. When described, the Trophy Cars lads mentioned all VVCs are noisy by virtue of their design and they would have a listen when we collected Ted. Just Autos - Witney, who now look after both Ed and Jeff, had a quick look. Unknown to me, the VVC is a twin spark and one of the No3 plugs had come somewhat loose (probably when the head gasket etc was replaced by the vendor). Enter 8 new plugs and bingo - at least £1,000 saved!



The one I always wanted but.....

my MGBGT NAM 77M and NOV 555M (works V8) were daily drivers. I simply get a much bigger thrill from driving, rather than pampering them - with all 3 being remapped VVC 160s, that's quite a few thrills on tap. I just need to be sure to keep exercising the Jag and the Disco too - as for the Madness - well just who cares...
....

Never a dull moment at this mad house - coming next month, my account of the Silverstone Auctions "Dawn of Motoring Sale 2023 on 4th August at the Lygon Arms.

Autumn Nights, the garage is cold and the log fires burning..... what you go'nna do ?

by John Hale

We visited Sonia's favourite cousin last autumn and as we were about to leave he insisted on loading two boxes of his old motoring books into the boot of my car, he just wanted to make space in his study having moved on from his MG passion to Japanese Clocks and Bonsai trees. Yes, I'm sure we'll all do it sometime, just not yet!

Having taken time to dig through his collection some of them are indeed very worthy for technical, historic and collectable value. I have been back to him and suggested that as our club is having a charitable fund raising initiative we could accept appropriate donations in exchange for each book. He was delighted that they would go to interested enthusiasts and at the same time help our charities.

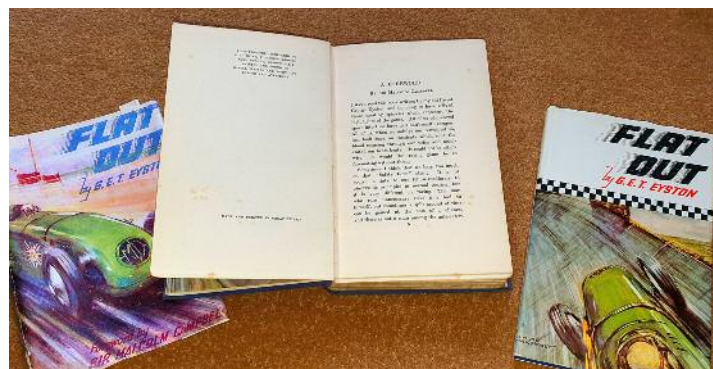
Eighteen volumes have been catalogued so far which should be of interest to anyone following the MG story, Motor Sport or the technical details of the pre war and just post war production cars. Many of the books are collectors items and have value due to their current scarcity and condition. With Christmas approaching (sorry!) and possibly birthdays as well I'm sure our wives and partners would be pleased to receive any of them.

A couple of examples:

Flat out, by George Eyston.

The original first edition (1933) of this autobiography became quite rare as the publishers London office along with stocks of same were destroyed during the blitz. This 1st edition copy is showing its age with a worn and faded hard cover and a replacement ill fitting photocopy dust jacket. However, open the book and skip through the heavy layered antiquarian pages reading the forward by Sir Malcolm Campbell and the author's tales of record breaking and wins driving the cars of the day in their contemporary writing style and you are right back there. It's an absolute bargain, there are two copies of this where the second is a later more pristine 1976 2nd edition, there's no kindle version of this real life experience.

With each of the 18 books researched on eBay and ABE Books (the second hand and rare book listing site) the highest and lowest selling price for the nearest condition/edition book was established and then the median or "split the difference" price was noted - not the highest. In this case the 1st edition indicative value was £20, more about this later.



Maintaining the Breed, by John Thornley

(who rose to be Director and General Manager of MG Car Company 1956-1969).

This is an immaculate leather bound, boxed, author signed Limited 4th Edition (No 223/251) which was re-published in 1990 to raise funds for the MGCC diamond jubilee and celebrate its return to Abingdon. The underlying book, first published in 1951 (then 1956 and 1971) is the saga of MG racing cars written by a man always near the top of events at the factory telling us what they achieved and lots about how they did it, a real collectors item and fantastic present for your loved one. The indicative value is £100.



The full list is available to anyone who would like to browse it, please email me on: john@ehale.co.uk to follow up. As all of the books have been donated to us 100% of what you give goes into the charity collection, the previous owner would like them to go to enthusiasts as he was, so that is part of the deal but also please recognise what we are collecting for when considering your donation. Feel free to extend this opportunity to other MG enthusiasts such as the vintage group or even those following lesser brands who may be interested, priority will of course go to our Arden MG group!

When its gone, its gone.

Thanks for looking JH.

September Speaker - Hazel Carter

Our Speaker for the September Meeting is: Hazel Carter

Morris the MG out for a summer spin - July 2013



Former AMGC member, Alan Carter, owned an MGB until motor neurone paralysed him.

His wife, Hazel, has written a book about how she and Alan dealt with the diagnosis in a positive way and how they managed the ups and downs during the 18 months of his illness.



100% of sale proceeds go to the 3 charities that supported the couple.

Hazel will be speaking at our 5th September meeting, and signing any books purchased on the night.

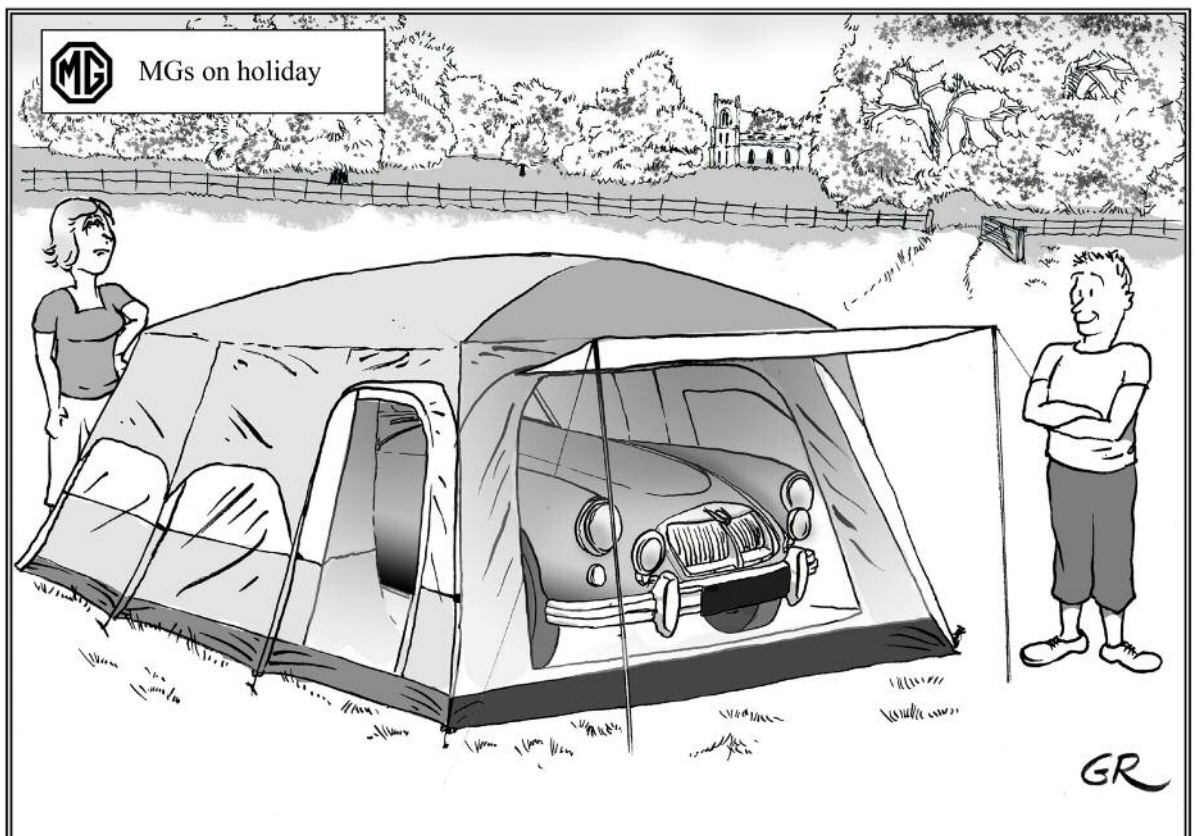
TOP: Hazel Carter with book

RIGHT: Ready for drugs trial assessment Sheffield Hospital - March 2018



Cartoon Corner - Thank you Graham

Cartoon Corner



Principal rule of Camping: ensure you have selected the right size of tent.

BMC & Leyland Show at British Motor Museum, Gaydon

9th July By Paul

When I set off for Gaydon on Sunday morning in the rain, I would not have believed what a fine day it turned out to be.



AMGC on Display in Front of the BMM Collections Centre



Meeting Up Time for AMGC



Lots of Socialising

Elsewhere on the site was an interesting selection of Classics, I especially enjoyed the large selection of Wolseley Cars, including some early cars and the great selection of Jowett Cars (not BMC but an asset to the Show).

It was a good turn-out for Arden MG Club with 17 cars filling the display area in prime position between the 2 Museum Buildings, a very enjoyable day.

Editor's comments - and a fine day it turned out to be!

By the time the Show was 'Open' the clouds had started to roll back and it got warmer & warmer, maybe we should have put the Storm Shelter up to hide from the sun. The forecast was still showing a chance of rain in the mid-afternoon, so as soon as a few spots fell, our display area was depleted very quickly with just Fred and myself chatting but the rain came to nothing and by the time I left there was just a few spots on the screen and back to dry!

What a great Show it turned out to be, although in front of the Museum next to us it looked more like the 'Maestro Show', there must have been a hundred of them.



Lunch Time for AMGC

Badsey Flower SHOW

29th July by Paul

The 120th Badsey Flower Show...

It was not looking good for us for the Show this year when I opened the email from Gaynor a few days before saying that Steve had got COVID and that it had knocked him for six. This of course meant she would not be able to attend, as it happened Steve was kind enough give her the COVID as well!! No problem the reserves had been called up and Alan & Julia were back on the case ably assisted by Mr & Mrs Chairman, so everyone turned up, over 20 of our MGs plus a few from the Village along with a few more of their cars. Stephen decided to show his Morris Mini Minor and left the RV8 at home, it was good that he did as there was an issue when he was ready to leave but not a problem, open the bonnet and there was soon plenty of knowledgeable assistance to solve the problem and home they went.



AMGC display - Photo Courtesy: Paul



AMGC display - Photo Courtesy: Colin

It must have been a good day for us as lots of MGs were very slow to leave but it was time to break down the shelters and head for home.

Thanks to Steve & Gaynor for setting the day up and the 'Reserves' (Alan, Julia, Mike & Jane) for organising us on the day, I think Julia was over moon to get the dayglow arrows out again.



Richard & Mike brought both the storm shelters and a good thing too as we were soon sheltering under them from another of this summer's showers but it soon passed to allow the sun to shine on us, so back under the shelter to stay in the shade.

There was the usual mix of stalls and tombola (there looked to be lots of prizes coming our way), as well as the Marque with all the competition winners, although none of us agreed with the Judges verdict on the Ginger Biscuits and Scones but what do we know!!



AMGC undercover squad - Socialising Under the Shade of the Storm Shelters

Photos Courtesy: Colin & Paul

Editor's comments - best wishes Steve & Gaynor, we all hope you are on the road to full recovery

Aunt Sally

6th August by Trevor

The game of "Aunt Sally" is a game best played in the summer on balmy nights or weekends. In the two previous years we have enjoyed the best that the British summer can offer. But it was with some trepidation that we decided not to cancel this event for the 6th, because we did have a reserve date of the 13th of August.

In the days leading up the 6th Angie and I became full time weather watchers, gleaning any information available to predict Sunday's weather. All was looking pretty good up until Thursday, when the timings and percentage chance of rain were changing by the hour. Still, we held our nerve. I had even invested in a half ton of seaweed and draped it all round the house to check if it was wet or dry, but Angie made me throw it away due to the smell and infestation of crabs.

Weather Watching

We had kidded ourselves, as it turned out, that the forecast had not always been as bad as predicted, after 40 hours of weather watching and deliberations, we took the scientific route and tossed a coin, not once but best of three just to be sure. That was a waste of time and 40 hours of our life we will never get back.



Sunday dawned with the sun shining, and 34 people arrived, not one cancellation, which I thought was impressive considering the uncertainty of the forecast for our venue, the Butchers Arms at Balscote.

Outside seating was taken up by all, in anticipation of our basket meal and the thrill of competition. Lunch was scheduled for 12:30 to 1pm so there was time for a bit of practice, much needed as it turned out. Also, during this time, we worked on forming teams. This is always a bit difficult making the numbers work out into an equal number for all teams, especially as everyone wanted last year's star, Roland on their team. Had just cracked this when Steve and Gaynor unselfishly said that they would not be throwing sticks, as they did not want to risk passing on the bout of Covid that they were just getting over. More advanced mathematics were needed that I somehow cocked up.

Then there was a drizzle in the air, that was shrugged off in defiance, but this was followed by the heavens opening and a dash for inside cover within the pub. The Butchers Arms is not a big pub, and we filled every corner of it and utilized every seat. My apologies to Colin and Lindsey, who arrived just as the food arrived, and try as we might, no more chairs could be found. A cosey but I think an enjoyable lunch was had.

The Competition

Now down to the business end of this event, the battle between the 5 teams of 6 to decide this year's "Arden MG Club Champions of Aunt Sally" and to crown an overall "Person of the Match" based on superior scoring. Last year's "Person of the Match" was Roland, keen to defend his title, but alas this was scuppered when his first throw missed everything and went into next door's garden, Roland never recovered from this and faded away.

Each team member throws 6 "sticks", (batons) of wood at a turned ornamental white post top, called a "Sally", placed on a metal pole. Each time you knock the "Sally" off cleanly you score a point. Serious players can score as many as 4/5 hits from 6 throws. There were so many zeros on our score board it looked more like a game of noughts and crosses. Normally each team will do this 2 or 3 times. Just as we had finished the first round of each team having a throw (very wayward at times), the heavens opened once again. Another dash to the sanctuary of the pub. The forecast for this shower to pass quickly was not good, and even some seaweed I had saved, was soaking wet. After a quick consensus from all of those dry, warm, with drink in hand, dedicated competitors we should not venture outside into the wet-on grounds of health & safety. Because all teams had completed one "end" (round) it was decided to call the match ended. Remember that I had said good players can score 4/5 hits from 6 throws, well 4 teams had 2 hits from all six players, but one team had three hits from a combined 30 throws. That winning team, and in no particular order of wayward throwing was Diane & David Rayner, Sarah & David Tilly and Caroline & Paul Dunster.

The Person of the Match

But who was "Person of the Match", no one person stood out from the crowd, there were 10 people who had all scored one hit. Because time was getting on it was decided to have a throw off, once the rain had passed



over. It did not take long for the sun to be shining again and 10 very serious players gathered on the hockey to take the coveted title of "Person of the Match". Each contestant only had 3 "sticks" to enable their name to be emblazoned in history for ever, things got very serious, but in the end only one person out of the 10 managed one clean hit of the "Sally". That person was David Tilly, who was duly crowned supreme champion.

Good Friends - Good Company

Our thanks to everyone who attended for their patience, staying upbeat, and good humour in an event which was not so much a contest of skill at Aunt Sally, but more an afternoon down the pub with good company.



Editor's comments - Well done Trevor - never let the rain stop play!

Breakfast Meeting at BMM - August

Breakfast Meeting - July

I was looking after my Grandson Benjamin again, so sorry I was not as sociable as usual, I will be on my own again at the August Meeting. A slight dip in attendance to 13 (and 3 x ½) but still plenty of good conversations going on. As I was not at the Museum no one was wanting to be the first to park on the grass in front of the Museum and I turned up in the FIAT Spider again, the Roadster is in the bodyshop having the front wing repaired and the GT sprung a leak from one of the float chambers and the replacement part had not arrived. I will check if we can use the grass for the August meeting, I hope to see you at the Museum, anytime after 10am but we usually sit down around 10.30.



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

What somebody else did with my MG by Graham

There may be those of you who spotted that all was not well with Bumble. It's a bit like owning a Patek Philippe – you don't actually get to own it, you're just looking after it for now.

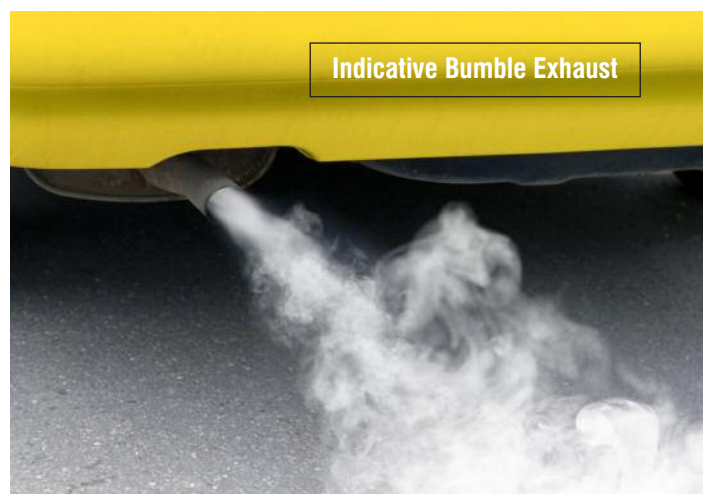
Anyway, after much misfiring and black smoke (sorry to mention black smoke after Trevor's unfortunate issue with the ex-Durexatomic engine creating enough smoke to be a hazard to low-flying aircraft) it was time to send it To The Hospital at Tamworth Garage. After not a particularly enormous bill they said: "You know that new Condenser and Set of Points that was fitted for you . . . well, they weren't new."

Bumble is now bumbling along well with replacement errant bits. All praise to those at the Club whose volunteered diagnoses were proved correct.

But . . . the question is: did the original garage knowingly put in an old part and charge me for a replacement . . . or was the replacement itself at fault?

How will I ever prove the point?

(Long story for a very simple gag, really)



DOES YOUR TORQUE NEED TAMING?

by Peter Grice

For some time now there has been an irritating knock and squeak on our TF. It usually occurs on take-off but can be provoked on the move by harsh acceleration. Despite investigating the exhaust and engine mountings I could find nothing wrong. I suspected the two bushes in the tie-bar (aka the 'torque tamer') connecting the sump to the subframe but all seemed fine there until I sprayed some WD40 on them and the squeaking temporarily disappeared.

I ordered new polyurethane bushes from Moto-build and set about replacement. On strip down it was apparent the larger bush was absolutely shot.



Photograph 1 - The before shot showing the tie-bar. It is in two pieces. An angled part (smaller bush) fitted to the sump with 4 bolts and a straight part (larger bush) connected to the subframe. All bolts have 15mm heads. The bolt running through the subframe, and larger bush, is a struggle to extract because of its

length and proximity to the exhaust. I had to undo the exhaust/manifold nuts to lower the exhaust to re-fit.

Photograph 2 - The straight part with the larger bush in the vice. I drilled, cut and pressed the rubber centre out. The outer steel part of the bush was cut through with a hacksaw and persuaded out with a hammer and chisel. The smaller bush was much easier and was extracted using a length of all thread and a largish socket with washers and nuts each end.



Photograph 3 - All cleaned up.



Photograph 4 - The new bushes, 'crush tubes' and lubricant.



Photographs 5 and 6 - Back to the vice to press in the large bush and then the crush tube.



Photograph 7 - The smaller bush being pressed in using a socket to accommodate the bush passing through the angle piece.



Photograph 8 - Job done.

The new bushes have solved the knocking and squeaking problems and made the car more responsive to drive



Black Horse trip abroad would be to Honfleur

By Dave Smith

So, it was decided. The next Black Horse trip abroad would be to Honfleur. During the intervening 12 months I got to know the Black Horse crowd much better; including the always hospitable Margaret and Martin (whose family have owned and run the Black Horse for several generations) and the wonderful Alex Burns (father of the rally legend Richard Burns). I also got to know my MGB GT, Pippa, better and spent time (and money) preparing her for the forthcoming challenge.

Over the course of several months I found the driving position getting lower and lower – and the interior getting deeper and deeper in 40 year old bits of foam. I'm sure that at one point it resembled a scene from Narnia – covered in snowlike foam and with the gear lever standing out like the iconic lamppost.

With Pippa MOTd, serviced and with my stock of spare parts (including a set of wiper arms – lesson learned from my previous year's trip) I headed to Dover; dropping off in Checkendon to pick up Hannah, my daughter and navigator, on the way. From Checkendon to Dover we travelled in convoy, spent the night at a Premier Inn and then, early morning, boarded the ferry for Calais. Mechanically the journey through France was uneventful and, despite some heavy rain, we were able to enjoy our drive through the French countryside. The rain did cause a problem for two of our number who were travelling in a Frogeye Sprite.



Water was coming through their hood, at almost eye level, and I did have to delve into my extensive collection of bits and pieces to donate a roll of duct tape – problem solved.

We continued our journey and arrived at the very comfortable Hotel Antares, in Honfleur, in good time for our evening meal. Anyone who has visited Honfleur



can't fail to be impressed by its ambiance, abundance of eateries and quaint harbour.

The following day the weather was much improved and we travelled along the coast. Those who were able to, put their roofs down and enjoyed the full open-top experience. Everyone, that is, except our two Frogeye friends. Having been soaked on the outward trip they were now experiencing the full effect of the sun and, being lacking in the hair department, were finding it

increasingly uncomfortable. We pulled up at a motorway service area for a coffee stop and to allow our Frogeyed friends to acquire sunscreen. At this point, having mistaken my odd word of schoolboy French for fluency, they approached me with a bubble pack decorated with a picture of an attractive bikini-clad lady posing with a beach ball. The pack contained two tubes and they wanted to know if the content of the tubes had to be applied in any particular order.

Between us Hannah and I managed to deduce that (to our amusement and their embarrassment) they had bought bikini line hair remover. At this point our Frogeyed friends reminded us of the old adage that:

'what happens on tour stays on tour' - consequently it's a mystery as to why, within minutes, they were being texted with a predictable range of humorous comments from back in Oxfordshire!

We have made many more trips abroad but I won't bore you with those. I will, however, finish with a brief anecdote from one of those trips – to Ypres and the WW1 Battlefields. As we returned home we approached Calais at a time of heightened security. The occupants of the refugee camp, known as The Jungle, were being moved on and French Police had set up a no-stopping zone. Two of our number, Bob and Rose, were experiencing issues with an overheating engine. I shadowed them as they made their way to the ferry port. Once inside the port we found ourselves inside another heavily policed area – this is when the boot of Bob's Rover attracted the attention of a sniffer dog. This, in turn, attracted the attention of armed police which, in turn, attracted the attention of



armed military personnel. Given the circumstances I admit to briefly toying with the idea of disowning Bob and Rose and denying any knowledge of them but, friends are friends and we stick with them whatever. It transpired that Bob, a former Sergeant in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) kept his tools and spare parts in an old ammunition box and that, most impressively, the sniffer dog had picked up on the ancient scent. Fortunately the French authorities were understanding, Bob fixed the issue with his Rover (a broken fan belt) and we boarded the ferry in time to sail home with the rest of our gang.

I would like to finish by telling of some of the amusing and embarrassing incidents involving myself but, as 'what happens on tour stays on tour', my lips remain sealed!!!!

Editor's comments - Nice one Dave. Do YOU have a story to tell?

AMGC Branded Clothing - by Richard

Club Clothing

The prices quoted below include our club logo and vat at 20% but do not include carriage costs, the cost of carriage will be shared between the number of items ordered, so final costs will be advised once I know the size of the order.

Paul previously sent out an email with a pdf, which included a link to the suppliers relevant pages where available colour options and size / measurement charts can be found. The link is: <https://www.uniformsandworkwear.com/>
Just type or copy in the product code for details.

There is also some choice in the colour of the logo stitching, eg Black, White, Blue, Green, Red.

I aim to place an order shortly and would like those who want garments, to email me the details of the items, colour, sizes and logo stitching colour wanted as soon as possible. I will then advise the small additional carriage charges prior to the order being placed.

Please email me at. rich.avery186@gmail.com.

Payment will be to the Club's Account, which I will advise when have your order requirements.



Polo Shirt - RX101

Colour: Various
Style: Ribbed collar. Taped neck. Three self colour button placket. Twin needle stitching. 220 gsm. 50% cotton/50% polyester 60°C wash

Size: SMALL – 7 X LARGE
Left Chest Embroidered Logo

£13.02 inc vat



Polo Shirt - RX101F

Colour: Various
Style: Ribbed collar. Taped neck. Two self colour button placket. Twin needle stitching 220 gsm. 50% cotton/50% polyester. 60°C wash

Size: X SMALL – 4 X LARGE
Left Chest Embroidered Logo

£11.94 inc vat



Pro Sweatshirt - RX301

Colour: Various
Style: 50% cotton/50% polyester. Modern, comfortable fit. Drop shoulder style. Taped neck. Ribbed collar, cuffs and hem. Twin needle stitching

Size: SMALL – 5 X LARGE
Left Chest Embroidered Logo

£15.90 inc vat



Micro Fleece Jacket- RX401

Colour: Various
Style: 100% polyester. Unlined. Modern unisex fit. Full length zip. Self fabric side panels. Two front zip pockets. Bound cuffs and hem.

Size: X SMALL – 5 X LARGE
Left Chest Embroidered Logo

£19.20 inc vat



Wicking Shirt - H595

Colour: Various
Style: Permanent wicking yarn. Anti-bacterial, keeps the wearer fresh and dry. Easy care/minimal iron. Anti UV UVPF>50. Classic collar. Left chest pocket. Self colour buttons. Plain back yoke. Double folded seams. Curved hem. Easy cut out neck label. 100% polyester PUFY®

Size: SMALL – 4 X LARGE Left Chest Embroidered Logo

£26.20 inc vat



Woolly Ski Hat - RC033

Colour: Various
Style: 100% soft- feel acrylic. 3M Thinsulate™ insulation. 3M label sewn to seam. Scotchguard™ rainproof coated yarns.

Size: One
Embroidered Logo

£8.70 inc vat



Cotton Cap - RC005

Colour: Various
Style: 100% cotton twill. 5 panel. Pre-curved peak. No centre seam. Stitched eyelets. Easy tear release size adjuster

Size: One Embroidered Logo

£7.32 inc vat



Ladies Octagon II Soft Shell Jacket -RG192

Colour: Various
Style: Three layer woven soft shell XPT has a 96% polyester/4% elastane outer.

Size: SMALL – 2 X LARGE
Left Chest Embroidered Logo

£39.82 inc vat



Mens Octagon II Soft Shell Jacket - RG191

Colour: Various
Style: Three layer woven soft shell XPT has a 96% polyester/4% elastane outer.

Size: SMALL – 4 X LARGE
Left Chest Embroidered Logo

£39.82 inc vat

NOTE: For October's meeting Richard is going to get some size samples in these ranges so people can decide which sizes they want (we'll be away for September's meeting, hence for October's)

Next Year 2024

49 members signed up for the 4 night stay

by Alan

Warners Holiday - 20th to 24th May 2024 Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight

I am pleased to let you all know that we now have 49 members signed up for the 4 night stay at Warner's on the Isle of Wight between 20th to 24th May 2024.

As you all know, I reserved 20 rooms and these were taken very quickly.

Fortunately, I was able to obtain other rooms at the same rate and in nearly all cases secured the preferred room type.

What fun working out types of rooms and then adding on extras for sea views, patios and balconies on the various types!!

We will be crossing from Lymington to Yarmouth which will allow us to have a lovely run to Cirencester, onto Salisbury before driving through the New Forest to Lymington. I will shortly be sending out an email for car details so I have the paperwork in place for booking the ferry. (Cost £25 return).

If any other members wish to join us, please email me and I will send you booking details, ie type of room, rates etc.

Standard room is £322.00 DBB per person including sports and entertainment facilities. We still have 2 single room allowances at no cost for single occupancy.

Obviously, I haven't any spare rooms and I cannot guarantee the rate but happy to make enquiries. The extra rooms I recently added were at the same rates.

Email, alan.griffith@hotmail.co.uk

Alan



Bembridge Coast Hotel on the Isle of Wight

British Motor Museum 30th Anniversary Celebration Week - Monday 14th to Sunday 20th August.

There are things going on all week at the Museum to celebrate their 30th Anniversary, of particular interest are:

- Thursday 17th & Saturday 19th - I will be giving my History of MG Tour (twice each day; 11am and 2pm)
- Car Rides Raffle - Win a chance to ride in one of the famous Museum Cars.
- Cars on the Move - Each weekday one of the Museum cars will be driven around the site, be there to watch (Breakfast Meeting Tuesday is the 1927 Leyland Straight Eight).
- Bonnets up, doors open each day - Some cars will be opened up between 10.30/11.30am & 2.30/3.30pm.
- Car Rides - 3 of the Museum cars will be giving passenger rides around the site (Monday, Wednesday & Friday).
- History Talks - Each weekday.



This Year 2023

<https://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk/whats-on/30th-anniversary-celebration>

Picnic Fund Raiser For Prostate Cancer Charity - Sat 26th August

Commence 1.00pm *Diane & Marg*

On Saturday 26th August by kind permission of our Chairman and his good lady, Mike and Jane Green, the Arden MG Club will be holding a fund raising event primarily for a Prostate Cancer Charity. However, other Cancer charities could benefit if we exceed £500. Arden MG club has already donated £500 for a breast cancer charity

The event will take the form of a Chairman's Picnic in Mike and Jane's garden. As in past years we will be asking you to bring a plate of food for everyone to share, bring your own chairs and tables, plates/bowls, glasses and whatever you want to drink. Tea and coffee will be available.

Cancer can affect anyone at any time - this is where we need your help:



On the day there will be a raffle and a tombola so we need your help with getting prizes please. In your list of contacts is there anyone you know who would donate a prize for the raffle/tombola? We are after as many prizes as possible and all will be greatly appreciated. If, however, you are unsuccessful with your contacts maybe you could donate something yourself - it would be most appreciated.

If you are unable to attend the event you will be able to purchase raffle tickets beforehand.

Our aim is to raise as much money as we can. **The Arden MG Club Needs You!**



Sunday 3rd September – Happy Herefords Three Counties Run.

Trevor

Your chance to experience a run through three counties on roads some will never have seen before (and may not want to again) I quote Norman's comments from last year "it was like a helter shelter/roller coaster ride", or something like that (memory is not what it was).

The run will be 40 miles and end in the village of Tysoe for a different sort of lunchtime venue and eating experience, where you can take your own drinks or buy and take from the pub next door. You can choose your meal and pay on the day, circa £10 to £12. So, there is no restriction on numbers or cut off date to book in for this event, but please book in, so that we have an idea of numbers, even if it is at the last minute. Currently 28 people have booked in. Dogs are welcome at this venue.

The run will **start at The National Herb Centre, Banbury Road, Warmington nr. Banbury OX17 1 DF**. It is on the B4100, just out of Banbury, or you can cut across from the A422 Stratford upon Avon Road via Edge Hill. Café will be open from 10am for coffees/teas and breakfast if required. We will aim to leave at 11am. Hopefully all arriving before lunch at 12:30 to 1pm.



Sunday 24th September – Wood Norton Hotel, Worcester Rd Evesham - 3:00pm

Denise

Proposed: Ladies Afternoon/Cream Tea and Posh Frocks!
On Sunday 24th September 2023 at Wood Norton Hotel Worcester Road, Evesham at 3:00pm.

Cream tea: scone jam cream and tea £11.50pp

Afternoon tea: the above plus sandwiches and cakes. £24.95pp

If you are interested in attending, please email Denise.crossman@hotmail.co.uk indicating which tea you would like.

Please be advised this event will have to be paid for in advance.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

What's On - AMGC

Club Events - 2023

- **Saturday 12th August - Brailes Show**
To Book Contact Richard: rich.avery186@gmail.com
Number of Cars Booked to date: 19 cars
- **Tuesday 15th August - Breakfast Meeting at BMM**
Opens at 10am and we usually sit down on the Gallery outside the Junction 12 Café around 10.30.
If buying new, be sure to convert your entry into a 12 month ticket
- **Saturday 26th August - Chairman's Charity Picnic**
Details on page 14 of this Newsletter
To Book Contact Mike Green: mg@oakwoodgreen.co.uk
Number of Cars Booked to date: 23 cars
- **Sunday 3rd September – Happy Herefords Three Counties Run**
The run will start at **The National Herb Centre, Banbury Road, Warmington nr. Banbury OX17 1 DF**. It is on the B4100, just out of Banbury, or you can cut across from the A422 Stratford upon Avon Road via Edge Hill. Café will be open from 10am for coffees/teas and breakfast if required. We will aim to leave at 11am. Hopefully all arriving before lunch at 12:30 to 1pm
Further details on page 16 of this Newsletter
Contact Trevor & Ange Smith at: ardenmgclubevents3@gmail.com
Number of People Booked to date: 28
- **Tuesday 5th September - Club Night at the Golden Cross**
Former member, Alan Carter, owned an MGB until motor neurone paralysed him. His wife, Hazel, has written a book about how she and Alan dealt with the diagnosis in a positive way and how they managed the ups and downs during the 18 months of his illness.
Hazel will be speaking at the meeting, and signing any books purchased on the night. 100% of sale proceeds go to the 3 charities.
- **Sunday 24th September – Wood Norton Hotel, Worcester Rd Evesham - 3:00pm**
Ladies Afternoon/Cream Tea and Posh Frocks!
Further details on page 14 of this Newsletter
Number of People Booked - Fully Booked
- **Sunday 1st October – Oktoberfest**
Gaynor & Steve are organising a run on Sunday 1st October ending up at the Wheatsheaf in Badsey for Sunday lunch. On page 19 is the menu and we would like pre-orders before 17th September if possible, two courses £15 and three courses £20 including tea/coffee.

Several people have already booked but if you wish to join us please email us on enty7@btinternet.com and also let Richard Avery know.

Payment should be made into the club account with the reference your name/October. If you have any queries please give us a call on [07766 441713](tel:07766441713).

Look forward to seeing you there.



What's On - Elsewhere

Other Events - 2023

- **Monday 14th to 20th August - British Motor Museum 30th Anniversary Celebration Week**
To Book:
<https://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk/whats-on/30th-anniversary-celebration>
- **Sunday 20th August 2023 - North Warwickshire Classic Car Show 10am to 4pm**
Blyth Hall Farm, Blythe Rd, Coleshill, B46 2AF.
See advert on page 18 for details
- **Sunday 3rd September 2023 - Festival of Transport**
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 or phone 01484 667776
- **Monday 4th to Friday 8th September 2023 - Warners MG Gathering 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
Cambridge & District MGOC.
- **Sunday 10th September 2023 - Dorridge Day Classic Car Show**
Email: dorridgeday.classics@gmail.com
for details or see advert on Snippets page 18.
- **Sunday 10th September 2023 - MG 100 Not Out**
in Abingdon. See advert on page 18

To reserve your place or for more information on any of the AMGC events please contact the appropriate organiser and please copy in Richard Avery for completeness.

If in doubt please get in touch with Richard Avery, Events Secretary at rich.avery186@gmail.com

Date	Event	Organiser
Aug 12th	Brailes Show	Richard
Aug 26th	Chairman's Charity Picnic	Mike
Sept 3rd	Happy Herefords 3 Counties Run	Trevor
Sept 3rd	Happy Herefords 3 Counties Run	Trevor
Oct 1st	Oktoberfest	Gaynor & Steve

Snippets

Humour! by 'n' large



At a recent AMGC meeting (well last winter that is) members finally reached a compromise on the **lights-on vs lights-off** question.

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.

Advertisements are FOC and will be repeated for three issues but if no longer required during that time please let me know.

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



Keep Happy Keep Healthy Keep MGing

Event Adverts



Dorridge Day Classic Car Show

The Dorridge Day Classic Car Show is back again, so we are inviting owners with classic cars, lorries and bikes to display their vehicles.

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

10th September 2023

Sunday, @ Dorridge Park

Therefore if you have a **25 year old classic vehicle** or older (pre-1999) and are prepared to show it at Dorridge Day, register your interest by sending us an email.

Name, Make, Model, Year

Email: dorridgeday.classics@gmail.com

SMS: 07775 647 914



Sunday 20th August 2023

10:00 - 16:00 hrs

Blyth Hall Farm

Blythe Rd, Coleshill, B46 2AF

Entrance: Adults £5 Children under 16 free

Classic Vehicle Displays
Autojumble - Refreshments available

For more information contact nwcvshow@gmail.com
07719 347189



MG 100 NOT OUT! CHARITY EVENT

Sunday 10th September 2023
In Abingdon - the spiritual home of MG

Abingdon Vale CC, Hales Meadows, Culham Road, Abingdon OX14 3HP
10am to 4pm • Licensed bar, BBQ, trade stands & special MGs
For preregistration and further details contact: editor@oxfordshiremgoc.co.uk

Abingdon Works Centre together with Oxfordshire MG Owners Club



Tickets on the day £5
Commemorative rally plaques £10 (cash only)
Profits to TV AIR AMBULANCE and ABINGDON FOODBANK



Oktoberfest



**D
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Sunday Lunch Menu

Sunday 1st October

Starters

Potato Crème of Mushroom & Dill Soup.
Pork Terrine Red Onion Chutney & Toast.
Asian Fish Cakes with Chilli Lime Mayonnaise.

Mains

Roast Beef or Pork with all the trimmings.
Korean Chicken, Rice & Asian Salad.
Pan Fried Hake, New Potatoes, Peas & Parsley Butter.

Desserts

Apple Crumble Pie & Custard.
New York Cheesecake with berries.
Small Cheese & Biscuits.

Tea or Coffee included

Two Courses £15 –or Three Courses £20

Pre order before 17 September

Payment into Arden MG Account – (reference October)



Oktoberfest