

May 2024



ARDEN CLUB

Arden Matters Newsletter May 2024

Please send contributions for the newsletter to me by the 10th of the Month. You can send it earlier!!

Please send to dlpitt@btinternet.com

Great news, especially for me —Graham Robson has offered to be newsletter deputy editor. I will value his input and creativity.



Caption Competition!

Send me your captions and the winner, to be chosen by Graham, will be mentioned in the next newsletter. No prizes though....

This MGCGT was spotted by Graham at The Golden Cross last club night.



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Chairman Stephen's Chit Chat Report

Chairman's Chit Chat– May 2024

Welcome to May's Chairman's Chit Chat.

Firstly, I am pleased to report we have a Deputy Newsletter Editor.....Graham Robson has agreed to take up the challenge, and we look forward David and Graham's joint venture. Putting together the Newsletter is no mean feat and we wish David and Graham well on their future publications. Graham has also been working his magic on putting their photographs into short films, and I am sure we will see links to these in the newsletters.



Talking of the newsletter, you may have noticed we have named the newsletter....'Arden Matters'. I thought it would be good to give our excellent monthly publication a name just as the MG Car Club and MG Owners Club do (Safety Fast / Enjoying MG respectfully). Arden Matters has two

meanings, firstly Arden matters to us as it is our club, and secondly it contains articles that matter to our club.

Please can you ensure any articles you would like to be included in the newsletter are sent to David by the 10th of the month – or earlier if possible!

The Drive It Day run was well attended and thanks to John Burbeck & David Pitt for organising. The run was very enjoyable driving through some lovely villages, returning to the Apple Barn Restaurant in the Garden Centre at The Valley, Evesham for lunch. A good time was had by all.

Also this month was the start of the Asparagus Festival, and a good number of us met up at The Fleece in Bretforton to celebrate this event. Fortunately the weather was on our side and it was an enjoyable morning.

Please see the articles within the newsletter.

It's not long now till the next club event due is the Warners Adventure to the Isle of Wight. A BIG thank you to Alan, Liz, Richard and Fiona for organising. I can only imagine how much work has been put into this. As you may know, unfortunately Alan & Liz will be unable to join us. We all wish Alan well with his treatment and recovery. See Page 3 for a message from Alan.

Unfortunately, Alison Smith has advised us that she is unwell and there is a possibility that her and David will also be unable to join us at Bembridge. Our best wishes from everyone at Arden to Alison and we wish her well for the future. Please see Page 3 for a message from Alison.

Next club night; Tuesday 4th June, 7.30 pm for an 8pm start.

In the news; Registration plate 'V8' is now available to buy.....all those fans of the V8 read on.....the registration was issued in 1904 by Lanark County Council. Early registrations are rare and not many have survived. The price.....estimate of £450,000 !

And finally; 'When you can't find a parking spot, you turn down the volume to see better!'

That's it from me this month, wishing you all well.

Happy MGing.

Stephen

Special Messages from Friends

Hi All, Message from Alison + David Smith

Thank you for all your best wishes. We have had a medical setback and so there is a need to change my ongoing treatment. As of yet, we don't know the finer details ourselves - so we travel forwards with fingers tightly crossed for a reasonably smooth transition. It questions our ability to join you all in Bembridge - you can imagine our cursing at this! We will know a little more nearer the time.

In the meantime we wish you all well and remind you, please, to check your boobs - including the men (it can affect men too) and, while you're doing that, check out all your other bits and bobs too.

Very best wishes to one and all and looking forward to seeing you all soon.



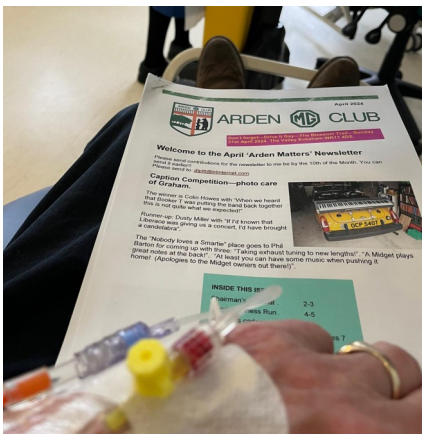
Photo taken at Drive it Day

Message from Alan Griffith:

Missing all my MG friends. Undergoing five weeks of treatment at the moment; the worst aspect is eating. Hoping I might be able to make June meetings before my operation.

Currently sitting in Chemo room catching up on back copies of Enjoying MG and reading the Newsletter.

Love to all - Alan



Drive-it-Day—The Blossom Trail Sunday 21st April 2024 Report John Burbeck



The weather gods were shining on the Arden Motor Club MG crews again on Sunday 21st April this year when nearly fifty of them met for the Drive it Day. 23 cars ranging from a TC, three Midgets, two Midgets, various models of MGB and TF and a few moderns.



At the meeting point in The Valley Centre on the Evesham by-pass there was a cold wind blowing so everyone re-located to the Apple Barn restaurant for coffee.



It took a bit of effort to persuade them all to end their lively conversation, put on their thick coats and return to their cars which were all smartly lined up in the car park. However by now the sun was breaking through and there was a noticeable

degree of optimism that they would be having a enjoyable, sunny and dry drive.

Named The Blossom Trail, the drive passed through 40 miles of east Worcestershire. Attractive villages, windy lanes, more open roads to enable cars to stretch their legs, and the opportunity to see blossom and some excellent views gave crews a variety of interesting driving experience and sights. The best navigators complemented the organisers, particularly David Pitt, on the excellent quality of the tulip diagrams. One or two others decided to investigate other roads in the area all of which were apparently equally attractive.

The local wildlife was also appreciated, the deer, perhaps, more by the crews who saw it appear than by those who were directly in line. Luckily it saw the need to avoid unnecessarily damaging any MGs.

All returned to The Valley at the end of the route, and seated in a set aside area enjoyed the



conversation, good food and friendly service of the staff. Altogether an enjoyable day for all.

Finally, Graham has put together a video with a compilation of photos from Drive-it-Day.

See <https://youtu.be/LgvIKHOI14c>

Warning—"Bluegrass Alert!" If you don't happen to like Bluegrass banjo and violin music then you may need to listen with the volume off!!

Asparagus Festival Report - Tuesday 23rd April 2024

Paul Dunster

We missed the Festival last year as it is always on St George's Day (23rd April), so it fell on the Sunday which was also Drive-it-Day but it was back to a weekday this year, so a few of us braved the cold to help celebrate the start of the Asparagus season in Worcestershire. This celebration has started off at The Fleece in Bretforton for the last 20 years, so a well established event. The Arden MG Club have only been involved for a few of those years but it is great to join the other Classic Cars in the Orchard at the pub and this year we shared the space with Triumph TRs & Morgans.



S was blocked from getting into the Orchard by the Land Rover Discovery in the drive way and Bob W raced over on his bike but declined to chase us over to Broadway Station. I hope you enjoyed the Asparagus.



The morning started early with tea & coffee on offer in the barn soon followed by Bacon and (of course Asparagus) rolls. The entertainment was provided by a couple of local guitarists and The Pebworth Morrismen and very good they all were, with a special mention to the children from the local school who gave us a wonderful rendition of 'God Save the King' before parading back to the school.

Shortly after 10.30 the Morgans took pole position to transport the 'First Cut' Asparagus to Broadway ready to climb aboard the GWSR 'Asparagus Express' Special to Cheltenham. This was all recorded by ITV's Central News Programme and shown on the 6pm slot that evening (with some of us being spotted in the background at The Fleece!!). The revellers from the run joined them in a reserved carriage. A lovely day to ride the steam train.

There were 9 MGs in attendance, although David

Forthcoming Event—Heritage Run Re-Visited, Sunday 2nd June. Stratford-upon-Avon to Abingdon

As advertised in the Newsletter last month the Heritage Run Re-Visited will be based on the second Heritage Run, which started at the Maybird Centre in Stratford (and we clogged the Town up mixing with the May Bank Holiday Traffic! Mind you it is like that all the time in Stratford now!!) and travelled to the site of the MG Factory in Abingdon. I did try and hold the run in 2022 but the date

Heritage Run 1994 – Ascending Larkstoke Hill



coincided with the passing of Her Majesty The Queen and all the venues were closed to us, so let's try again this year. I'm going to change the finish venue as the Boundary House was not ideal for lunch, even with the connection to Kimber.

The plan this year is to start near Stratford at the Stratford Garden Centre in Clifford Chambers (situated on the B4632 Campden Road). A parking area should be reserved for us and a section also reserved in the Lime Tree Restaurant for those wanting to enjoy a breakfast before we set off (it will be a longer run than we usually do at approx. 65 miles). We will meet from 10am when the Lime Tree Restaurant opens and aim to leave around 10.45am.



Heritage Run 1994 –
Arriving at the Old
Factory in Abingdon,
Passing the Admin-
istration Building



Heritage Run `1994 - View Out of the
Window of Cecil Kimber's Office

The run will take us up Larkstoke Hill and through several Counties before going over the Swinford Toll Bridge (please bring a 5p piece, although I will have some with me on the day) crossing the River Thames. Then enter Abingdon from the North, aiming for the Boundary House (Cecil Kimber's former home). From there we will continue through the Town passing many points of MG interest before crossing the A34 on the Marcham Road along one of the 'Factory Test Routes', where every MG produced at this factory was road tested until 1975 when a Rolling Road was installed at the factory.

The finish will be at Millets Farm Centre in Frilford, where we can try and park together, however part of their parking area will be in use for the travelling Circus (although not performing that day). Lunch can be taken in the on site restaurants, however they do not accept bookings for tables, so it will be a case of finding a table (they have told me the turnover rate is quick on a Sunday) or there are plenty of grassed areas where we can have a picnic. There is plenty to do at the Centre with the Farm Shop, Webbs Garden Centre and other shops (please make the most of them). A dog walking area is also provided as well as some walks.

At the last count I have only got 9 cars booked, however this should be a good day out with something for everyone, so please drop me an email, paul.dunster@talktalk.net (with a copy to Richard: rich.avery186@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

April Breakfast Meeting Report

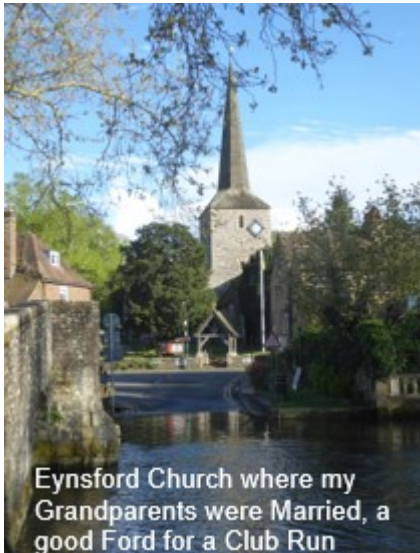
I'm sorry I was not at the Museum for the April Meeting but we had gone away for a few days down South, following in the footsteps of my Paternal Grandparents. We found and had lunch in the pub my Grandfather had stayed in and worked behind the bar and it looked just the same today.



My Grandfather in 1957 at the Bull



The Bar in the Bull today not changed much



Eynsford Church where my Grandparents were Married, a good Ford for a Club Run

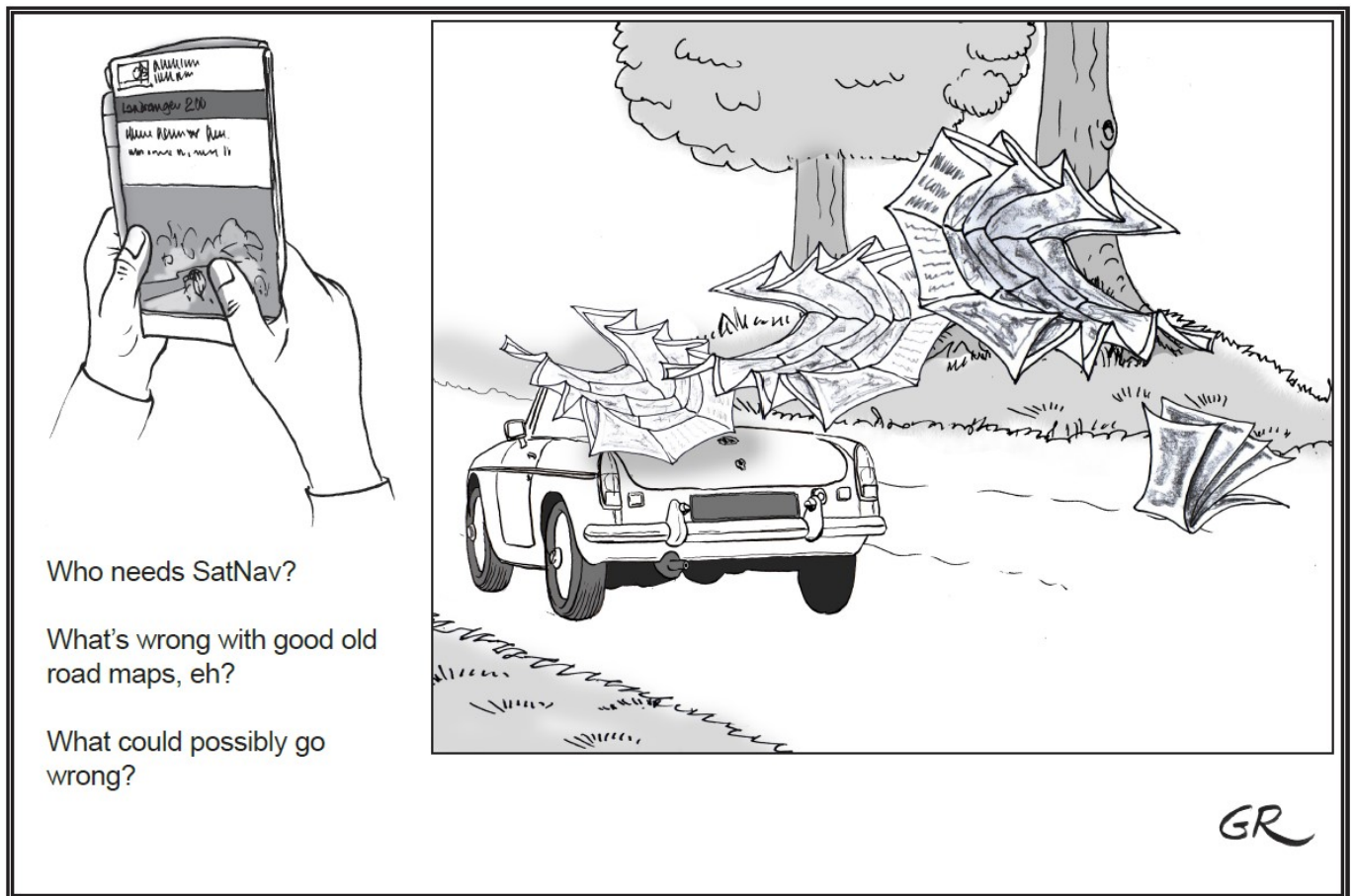
We found the house he had lived in and the church where my grandparents were married. The next day we went to Orpington and found their grave in the local Church, the house my Father was probably born in and then the (remains of) the signal box my Grandfather had worked in, so a bit like 'Who Do You Think You Are' on BBC TV.

My reporters tell me 17 of you turned up for an enjoyable morning and that despite my information an area had been reserved on the Gallery outside the Cafe. The next meeting on 21st May will be sparsely attended as a lot of us will be in the Isle of Wight on the Club Holiday.

Please let Paul know if you are thinking of attending at the Museum, so he can let them know the number of people they can expect for breakfast.



Graham's Cartoon Time!!



Who needs SatNav?

What's wrong with good old road maps, eh?

What could possibly go wrong?

GR

Party Reminder from Trevor Smith.

On Saturday June 22nd in the village of Tysoe, you are all invited to help me celebrate 70 years on this planet.

There will be live music, hot food provided, and it kicks off at 7:30pm till late.

The venue is the home of the Happy Herefords, a barn which we have visited after some runs.

You can bring your own drink or carry out a pint from the pub next door.

Please let us know if you will be attending so that we can know numbers for the catering. Please email t.smith58@btinternet.com If you would like more information, please just contact us.

The address is -

Herberts Farm
Saddleton Street
Tysoe
CV35 0SH



Club Events—What's on 2024

2024 Events -What's On Overview

The table below shows Arden MG Club events plus other local events which may be of interest but have no specific AMGC Organiser.

If anyone wishes to take responsibility any of those other events listed for the Club, or have any other events they wish to organise, please contact me – Richard Avery

rich.avery186@gmail.com

Date	Event	AMGC	Organiser
20-24 May	Isle of Wight holiday (Warners)	Yes	Alan Griffith / Rich Avery
1 June	Ambleside Care Home Display	Yes	David Rayner
2 June	Heritage Run Revisited – Abingdon	Yes	Paul Dunster
9 June	MG's in the Park – Cotswold Wildlife Park	No	
9 June	RATAE Run to Statfold £35 entry driver +1	No	
TBD	Stratford Festival of Motoring	No	<i>(Paul Dunster)</i>
16 June	Cars at the Spa – Leamington £15 entry	No	
28 June	Skittles Evening	Yes	Roger & Caroline Phipp
2 July	Arden MG Club Show Night @ The Golden Cross	Yes	
4 July	Mid-week Cotswold Run Cotswold Barn Morton-in Marsh to Classic Car Motor Hub Bibury	Yes	Fred Bury
14 July	BMC & Leyland Show – BMM Gaydon	Yes	Paul Dunster
27 July	Badsey Flower Show	Yes	Steve Entwistle
31 July	Mid-week run to Wythall Transport /Bus Museum	Yes	Paul Dunster
10 August	Brailes Show	Yes	Fred Bury
26 August	Pershore Plum Festival	No	
3 Sept	Malvern Autumn Show	No	
7 Sept	Wellesbourne Lions	No	
8 Sept	Dorridge Fun Day 50 th Anniversary	No	
22 Sept	Ladies Tea Party	Yes	Denise Bailey
28 Sept	Fish & Chip Supper – GWSR	Yes	Stephen Bailey

Club Events—What's on 2024

Club Nights:

Tuesday 4th June 2024

Tuesday 2nd July 2024—Show Night

Tuesday 6th August 2024

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Breakfast Meetings at BMM, Gaydon:

All meetings at the British Motor Museum in Gaydon, on the third Tuesday of the Month. The Museum opens at 10am and we aim to sit down, usually in the Gallery, otherwise in the Junction 12 Cafe. If you have not got a 12 month ticket be sure to tick the box to convert your booking to an Annual Membership. It is lower cost and quicker at the entrance if you pre-book online.

Tuesday 21st May 2024

Tuesday 18th June 2024

Tuesday 20th August 2024

Tuesday 17th September 2024

Other Event Details:

Saturday 1st June - David Rayner has been approached by Ambleside Care Home (on the main road between Stratford and Bidford) to put on a static car show for their residents. It will be on Saturday 1st June, from 2.00 to 4.00 pm, arrival for cars would be at 1.30.

Richard Avery has listed it on the event sheet, for you to add your name if you would like to attend, or you can email me at ddrayner@bidford.net

Saturday 15th June - Shakespeare Hospice Summer Fete.

Last year a small group of attended the Hospice Summer Fete and we have been invited back to display some cars as part of their event. The Hospice run the Fete each year as part of their fund raising activities and this year is their 25th Anniversary, so it would be good to help them celebrate and hopefully raise lots of funds for the good cause. This year we will be able to use all of the space which is situated between the main car park on the Hospice Gardens, so all the visitors will pass by our display. It would be good to have at least 10 cars to put on a good show.

The Fete opens at 12.30pm and closes at 3.00pm, so we need to be in place on site before 12.00 Noon and will not be able to leave before the Fete closes. There will be lots going on with stalls, tombola etc and the building will be open for tea/coffee. It may also be possible to have a tour of their facilities.



The Hospice is situated on Church Lane, Shottery (CV37 9UL) just off Alcester Road going into Stratford, before you get to Morrisons.

If you are able to bring your MG along on the 15th and support the good work the Hospice does, then please let Paul know as soon as possible (via paul.dunster@talktalk.net with a copy to Richard rich.avery186@gmail.com).

Friday 28th June—Summer Skittles

See email sent by Caroline Phipp on 9th March and poster.

Still some places left I believe.

Thursday 4th July—Mid-Week Cotswold Run

Cotswold Barn Moreton-in Marsh to Classic Car Motor Hub Bibury.

Contact Fred Bury tbury04@aol.com

Sunday 14th July - BMC & Leyland Show at the British Motor Museum

This will be the same as last year and we should get our usual prime spot next to the Museum entrance. The 'Mirror Hangers' will get you into the Show, the Museum and the Collections Centre. Please book with Paul via paul.dunster@talktalk.net with a copy to Richard (rich.avery186@gmail.com).



Club Events—What's on 2024

Wenesday 31st July - Run to Wythall Bus Museum

Start point still to be decided but there will be a scenic run to get to the Museum in Wythall and we will have a special rate for entry of 'Car & Driver' free and £8 each for passengers.

Please book with Paul via

paul.dunster@talktalk.net with a copy to Richard (rich.avery186@gmail.com).

Sunday 8th September—Dorridge Day

This is Dorridge Day's 50th Anniversary year and the organisers are planning a very special family day out.

Saturday 28th September— Cheltenham Fryer.

GWR Steam Railway with fish & chips supper.