

July 2024



# ARDEN CLUB

## Arden Matters Newsletter July 2024

Please send contributions, 500 words maximum, for the newsletter to me by the 10th of the Month. You can send it earlier!! Please send to [dlpitt@btinternet.com](mailto:dlpitt@btinternet.com)

### Message received from Alan Griffith:

Thanks to very good friends

Liz and I have been overwhelmed by the fantastic support from you all, I feel guilty that I have been trying to attract sympathy for my little health hiccup.

Even on your trip to Isle of Wight you all, without exception contacted me and it made us feel part of the experience.

It's even worse as we know so many of you have gone through similar health problems and in some cases are still having treatment. We must all support each other.

Was hoping to catch up with you all at show night, Coventry Hospital had a different agenda. !!! Thanks again from both of us and we look forward to participating fully in our great club in a few months.



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## Chairman Stephen's Chit Chat Report

Welcome to July's Chairman's Chit Chat.

Finally it looks as though Summer is making an appearance. Fingers crossed it stays dry for our forthcoming events.

Firstly turning to events held, on Saturday the 15th June, a number of us attended the Shakespeare Hospice Summer Fete, coinciding with their 25th anniversary. Thanks to Paul for organising.

On Friday the 28th June, the summer skittles social event took place at the Welford Bowls Club. A great evening was had by all and thanks to Caroline and Roger for organising a really fun evening.

Last club night – Tuesday 2nd July, our Annual 'show night' took place in the Orchard Car Park at the Golden Cross. As ever a great turn out and good to see so many of our MG's looking pristine. Congratulations to all the winners, and our thanks to Paul, Caroline, Pam and Graham for their hard work and making sure our show evening was again successful.

On Thursday 4th July – was a mid week Cotswold Run from the Cotswold Barn at Longborough, to the Classic Car Motor Hub in Bibury. A very enjoyable run through beautiful countryside, followed by Classic Cars – heaven! Thanks to Fred for organising.

Looking forward for events in July,

Sunday 14th July – BMC & Leyland show at the BMM Gaydon. Thanks to Paul for organising.

Saturday 27th July –Badsey Flower Show. Thanks to Steve and Gaynor for organising.

As you may know, the club has two 'WhatsApp' groups currently running. The main one being 'Arden MG Club' and the second being 'Arden MG North Wales' which was set up for communication to see what is happening and being organised on the Warner breaks.

I like some of you, may be unsure which group to use when contacting others, and I think it is better having just one open for general club matters, and a second for any holiday break we take.

I am proposing therefore, that we should have one group open to all at all times, that being the 'Arden MG Club' and the second group for our breaks away is only open for the duration of any future

holiday. Going forward the current 'Arden MG North Wales' group is to be closed, and I would ask you not to use that group from now on. If you are not on the main 'Arden MG Club' WhatsApp, please contact Paul Dunster with your mobile number and he will arrange to have you added.

Should we as a group enjoy another holiday break in the future, a new 'WhatsApp' group will be opened for the duration of the holiday and then closed.

Generally..

Balance payments are due for the Ladies Afternoon Tea on Sunday the 22nd September. If you have not already done so, please can you arrange to pay into the club account the balance monies of £15.95 per person asap. Thank you.

**Those of you that are booked into 'The Cheltenham Fryer' on Saturday the 28th September, and have not yet paid your balance payment of £23 per person, can you please do so now please. I would be grateful if you would pay your monies into the club account asap. Thank you.**

Obviously as a Fish & Chip supper, Fish & Chips will be available for everyone, however they appreciate that there may be some people who will prefer not to eat fish. Therefore I am advised by GWSR that the meal choices are as follows;

- Fish & Chips
- Sausage & Chips
- Halloumi & Chips

Therefore can I please ask, anyone who does NOT wish to have Fish & Chips advise me as soon as possible, stating your preference.

I am advised no other choices will be available. If I do not hear from you Fish & Chips will be ordered.

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

Next club night; Tuesday 6th August, 7.30 pm for an 8pm start. Denise and I will be away so Richard will be looking after proceedings. Thanks to him.

## Chairman Stephen's Chit Chat Report

In the News;

The world's most expensive classic car is a 1955 Mercedes Benz 300 SLR Uhlenhaut Coupe which went under the hammer in 2022 for \$135M. Only two examples were ever made. The most valuable MG, is a 1934 MG K-Type K1/K3 Magnette Conversion which sold for \$264,000 in 2022.

And finally; I know a guy that is addicted to brake fluid....he says he can stop anytime!

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

Happy MGing.

*Stephen*

## Show Night Report

### Show Night Report - Tuesday 2nd July

The weather turned out better than forecast, although it was starting to get cold towards 9 o'clock but despite this there was a good turn out for our annual Show Night at the Golden Cross. As usual the Cross had cordoned off the Orchard Car Park for our sole use and it was soon filling up with the early arrivals and diners. There was a 'Special' on the Menu just for the Club but they were a bit late letting us know about it to promote properly, maybe next year. In all 36 MGs were on display and voting slips in hand everyone was studying the exhibits.

The 'Girls' did a great job counting the votes under the time pressure to get the results to Graham to inscribe the Certificates. The voting categories were slightly different to last year with 4 categories to look at and vote for, so lots of winners. To try and be more inclusive giving everyone a chance to win, I did use a 'Handicap' system based on the results of the last 3 years, so there were some new winners. There was also the rule that only people who had attended at least 2 Club Nights in the past 12 months would be eligible for prizes and this is because the Club finances the prizes which are funded by the Club Night raffle, so that is only fair.

And the winners were:

### Favourite MGB/C

Winner - Martin Pleasance



Runner-up - Gary Sleath



2nd Runner-up - Diane Rayner



### Favourite MGF/MGTF

Winner - Bea Williams



Runner-up - Steve Entwistle



2nd Runner-up - Caroline Phipp - MGA



2nd Runner-up - Roland Hancock



**Favourite MG (Miscellaneous)**

Winner - Chairman Stephen - MG RV8



**Favourite Early MG**

Winner - Lech - MG L1 Magna



Runner-up - John Hale - MG RV8



2nd Runner-up - Phil Barton - MG ZT 260

Runner-up - Helen Lobb-Jones - MG TC



**Pot Luck (Winners drawn from all MGs that received a vote)**

Winner - Alan Cleobury - MGTF



Runner-up - Nick Godfrey - MGC Tourer



A well done to all the winners and thank you from our Chairman.



Thanks to Caroline & Pam for their vote counting, Graham for the Certificates and to The Golden Cross for the 'Pot Luck' prize of a bottle of wine.

I have got a few ideas for how to change things for the 'Show Night' for next year, trying to make the winning more fair, however it would be very helpful to have some feedback about the event (what is good, what could be better...). For instance, should we stop the Show Night, rest it for a few years, make it different or are you happy to carry on as it is?

Is July the best month to hold the event, should it be a different night to the Club Night? Do you like having prizes given out? Please let me know what you all think (good & bad).

See you all next year?

## Breakfast Meeting Report Tuesday 18th June

I was not able to attend the meeting this month as we were sunning ourselves on the Island of Zakynthos in Greece and very hot it was too, around 38 degC every day, much hotter than usual for that time of year! Never mind I have been updated with the day and there was still 15 of you at the Museum and the Gallery was available for your use, so I hope you all enjoyed the breakfast and conversations. I will be there at the July Meeting (Tuesday 16th), so look forward to seeing lots of you at the British Motor Museum whose doors are open from 10am and we are usually in the Junction 12 Cafe around 10.30, see you there. With thanks to Lech for the photo.



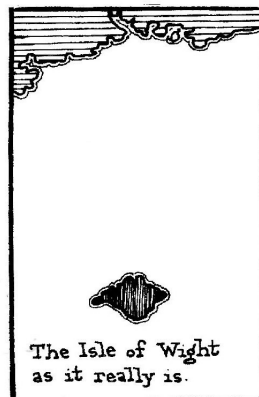
## Enjoying MG Caption Competition

AMGCC member Andy Cyrkunowicz received an honourable mention in 'Enjoying MG Caption Competition' in the July magazine.



*That's it son, both feet are through now, that will give us additional acceleration and stopping power.*  
**Andy Cyrkunowicz**

## Cartoon from the Isle of Wight Vectis MG group



## Summer Skittles Event - Welford Bowls Club Friday 28th June

Due to the venue size and ample parking we were able to accommodate up to about 40 people for the skittles and managed to have 38 booked. Great support from the Arden MG Club members.

Graham did a fabulous job as photographer and a few of the photos are shown here.

There were a few no shows, so we had slightly less than the full complement (we hope they are all getting better) but everyone had a good time.

The competition this year was The Sharks (people ordering Fish n Chips) v The Velociraptors ( the Meat Eaters). After 2 rounds The Velociraptors were conclusive winners. We had a break and we were served some excellent meals by Donna the club caterer. The quality of the food was excellent and everyone enjoyed it.

After supper we started our game of 'Killer' which was great fun as always.

The winner of the main game with the highest score of 16 across the 2 rounds was Paul Dunster . The Wooden Spoon was awarded to Tracey Naylor for achieving a shockingly bad score in the game, however she fought back with an impressive performance in Killer but unfortunately was not the ultimate winner. Our 'Killer' champion was Caroline Dunster who fought hard to defeat Graham in the final rounds.

As the venue is primarily a Bowls club it is possible to have an Indoor Bowls evening sometime in the future if there is any Interest.

Caroline & Roger Phipp



## Cotswold Run - Thursday 4th July

Well done Fred (with help from Lech & Jane) for a beautiful run last Thursday through the Cotswolds. The start was excellent at the Cotswold Barn with plenty of space for us to display our cars. It will be well worth a visit to their Monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of the month.



There were some wonderful roads on the route, some of which I doubt we had ever travelled down before. I had given the credit for the route to Lech but this was not true, Fred is a regular cyclist around the Cotswolds and knows all these roads, so there is another good reason to be a cyclist!



The finish venue is a very interesting place to visit, with lots of very nice cars to see and they are all For Sale (if you can afford them!!) at the Classic Motor Hub in Bibury. I think we all had a favourite to take home with us and Fiona was going to have a good search down the back of the sofa when she got home to see if she could find enough loose change!!



The food at the 'Hub' was good, despite the long wait we had. What a great day and you arranged the sunshine, thanks Fred.

## Our 7 MG Glory Years—Mike Green

My highlight of Club Show Night was being reunited with my first real dream car -MGBGT V8 - NOV 555M ( the V8 ) and its owner Stuart.



The V8 followed MGBGT - NAM 77M ( the B ) my daily driver from 1975 to 1979. Together they were my /our MG Glory Years - and over 100,000 miles in 7 years.

MG's MGs why? In the beginning and by chance, I was christened Michael Christopher Green - MG. In my early teens, one of the many "boys" magazines I really enjoyed was "Car and Car Conversions"( C&CC ). It focused on outrageous Fords, particularly Anglias and Cortinas, Minis and MGs. I recently had a good natter with the Editor, Richard Hudson-Evans and sincerely thanked him for setting me off in the right direction.

Conditioned by C&CC, my first car was a 997 Anglia 976 FOC, followed by a 998 Mini MOX 402F ( black and white almost Cooper look ) and by 1974, a 1275 Mini GT GOF 288L. Spot the trend and guess what's next? Correct, by the summer of 1975, the B arrived, chrome of course, low mileage, teal blue, fully chromed Rostyles and that iconic exhaust sound.

Life was good and the B seemed to enjoy being driven in a spirited way - it needed to be at times, to defend its heritage against those fancy boy racer Ford folk and the like.

On 30 July 1977 Jane and I married and on 1 August 1977, I was made a Partner with the Firm with whom I had earlier qualified as Chartered Accountant. Within 48 hours life had dramatically changed, for the better of course. That said, those pesky Fords buzzing around were progressively annoying.

Whilst we remain together, sadly the B was sold in 1979. Incidentally my first MGTF 160 wore the registration M77 BRG ( now on Ted the Zed ). In the B's memory, I had unsuccessfully tried to get M77 MAN from DVLA, as a reversal of NAM 77M. Thankfully the sale of the B, was not the major blow it might otherwise have been.....

In 1978 I had the V8 in my sights. It was the pride and joy of Steve, a Consulting Engineer, whom operated in the same office block and we parked closely together. By the following spring, he had become a father and for £2,400, the V8 changed hands. It was pure delight, my dream car. The stock set up was the lower compression "Range Rover" V8 version and 137bhp, that was enough for me.

Registered on 1 August 1973, it was one of the very first. Its spec had overdrive on both 3rd and 4th, but the factory soon withdrew o/d on 3rd, to reduce the torque through the gearbox. The gearbox was fine for me and indeed, it was said that just about 100mph was possible in o/d 3rd - and it was!

Our son David arrived in July 1981 and for a while his basket fitted on the rear seat. Shortly after we bought a caravan and pulled it behind the V8 - exciting but not ideal.

We caravanned to Brittany in 1982, but by then BMW powered - my V8 days were numbered. I kept the V8 a little longer, mileage then over 80,000, hoping that we could fund it, but Jane wasn't teaching, was also expecting Anna and we were planning to move house - family first.

The V8 was sold for £1,600 to an enthusiast. He adored the car and spent a while tinkering with it, but sadly became ill and never really experienced the joy I had. It was then that Stuart, from Moseley, bought it. I saw the car very occasionally on the road, but never long enough to connect with Stuart, that is until 2012.

Many of you will recall that my BRG 2005 TF160 was a complete "bag of bolts." The only upside to that entire disaster came in the spring of 2012, when I bought HUU 500K, Fred Bury's tastefully recommissioned red V8 B Roadster. I was MG V8 powered again, but now at 163bhp.

Consequently we qualified to attend the 50th MGB Anniversary event at Blenheim in 2012. In the pouring rain, there was Stuart in the V8 and still sporting its tow bar. When I met Stuart again a couple of weeks later, he was armed with a lever arch file, his first record was my receipt for the sale at £1,600. By that time the V8 had had 2 resprays, Minilites and 4 spotlights and moreover oodles of pure love. I recall the mileage was then around 120,000 and still powered by the original engine.

By Club Night and over 10 years later, the mileage was approaching 145,000 ( original engine ) and it had new wheels and a louvred bonnet. I voted for it.

If asked would I buy the V8 back - too right I would - but would Stuart ever sell it - hopefully never say never.

The story gets even better - both the B and V8 were owned by the Firm in which I became a Partner - fully expensed too and we were always eager and delighted to go the extra mile or few hundred. More miles - more fun!

Jane and I were so fortunate to have enjoyed those 7 MG Glory Years and over 100,000 miles of pure fun - to be treasured forever. Our joy was rekindled, thanks to Paul, at Show Night!

Finally, the combined V8 engine and exhaust sound is awesome, therapeutic in fact, please enjoy it whilst you still can.

## Club Events—What's on 2024

The table below shows Arden MG Club events that have an organiser plus other local events which may be of interest but have no specific AMG C 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](mailto:rich.avery186@gmail.com)

Date	Event	AMG C	Organiser
Tue 16 July	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up
Sat 27 July	Badsey Flower Show	Yes	Steve Entwistle
Sun 28 July	Summer Classic Car Event – Bidford Flying Club (no details)	No	
Wed 31 July	Mid-week run to Wythall Transport /Bus Museum	Yes	Paul Dunster
Mon 5 Aug	Kineton Classic Gathering 18:00 – 20:00	No	Just turn up
Sat 10 Aug	Brailes Show	Yes	Fred Bury
Tue 20 Aug	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up
Sun 25 Aug	Lincoln MGOC 15 <sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Imp Run (Ask Richard Avery for booking details)	No	£25/car (Book by 31 Jul)
Sun 26 Aug	Pershore Plum Festival	No	
Sun 1 Sept	Malvern Autumn Show & Auto Jumble	No	
Sat 7 Sept	Wellesbourne Lions	No	
Sun 8 Sept	Dorridge Fun Day 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	No	
Tue 17 Sept	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up
Sun 22 Sept	Ladies Tea Party – Wood Norton Hotel	Yes	Denise Bailey
Sat 28 Sept	Fish & Chip Supper – GWSR	Yes	Stephen Bailey
Sun 6 Oct	Oktoberfest Run & Sunday Lunch at Wheat-sheaf Badsey	Yes	Steve Entwistle

## Graham's Cartoon Time



## Club Events—What's on 2024

### Club Nights:

Tuesday 6th August 2024

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Tuesday 1st October 2024

Tuesday 5th November 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.

Tuesday 16th July 2024

Tuesday 20th August 2024

Tuesday 17th September 2024

Tuesday 15th October 2024

### Other Event Details:

#### Saturday 27th July - Badsey Flower Show

Book with Steve Entwistle ([enty7@btinternet.com](mailto:enty7@btinternet.com)) to join in the car display at this popular show.

#### Wednesday 31st July - Run to Wythall Bus Museum

The plan for this run is now finalised, we will be starting at The Piston Club at The Stag, Red Hill (which is where we started the 'March Madness Run' earlier this year. It is situated on the A46 between Alcester & Stratford at the top of Red Hill). Arrive from 10am when tea/coffee & breakfasts will be available to purchase and will aim to depart around 11am. There we be a scenic route to the Wythall Bus Museum hopefully along some roads not driven before. At the Museum we will have a special entry price of £8 for passengers and car & drive free of charge. On this day they will be offering rides on a 'vintage' bus which I think are free. We should also have a dedicated parking area to display our cars.

To date I have only got 12 cars booked, so plenty of scope to add more, so please book with Paul, as soon as you like at [paul.dunster@talktalk.net](mailto:paul.dunster@talktalk.net) (with a copy to Richard at [rich.avery186@gmail.com](mailto: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. Note deadline for payment in Stephen's report.

### Sunday 6th October Oktoberfest 24

Following the successful run last year we have decided to hold the event again on Sunday 6th October.

Meeting at The Valley for coffee followed by a leisurely run around the Cotswolds and then Sunday lunch at the Wheatsheaf in Badsey.

Put the date in your diary. Menu is below.

Gaynor & Steve [enty7@btinternet.com](mailto:enty7@btinternet.com)

### Mains

Roast Beef with all the trimmings

Roast Pork with all the trimmings

Korean Chicken, Rice & Asian Salad

Pan Fried Hake, New Potatoes, Broccoli & Vermouth sauce

### Desserts

Apple Crumble Pie & Custard

Passion Fruit Cheesecake with Mango compote

Mini Cheese & Biscuits

Tea or Coffee included

### Two Courses £19

Pre order before 17 September

Payment into Arden MG Account Ref Oct24/Your Name

Arden MG Club – Sort Code 30-98-26 Account 00194752

## Newsletter Information

### Car for Sale—Caroline & Roger Phipp

For sale is our MGA 1600 Mk 1, 1960, in Orient Red with a black leather interior with red piping, carpets to match.

UK car, original engine & gearbox.

We have owned this car since 2014 and have carried out a full nut & bolt interior, body & engine restoration to a very high standard. Lead free cylinder head, new bearings, re ground crank shaft, new rocker shaft. Uprated shock absorbers, new springs front & rear to name a few.

There is a full photographic history and extensive receipt file of the restoration.

It has been driven approximately 500 faultless miles since completion.

Hood, Tonneau and side screen storage bag are in great condition.

Viewing welcomed.

Speak to Roger on 07749 298811



### Note from Lech

Last weekend, my gliding club held their annual gliding competition. The end of the competition bash was a fancy dress party themed "1930's Speed". A number of vintage aircraft flew in, and together with my Magna they shared the main hangar with the partygoers and disco.

I took a couple of photos of the Magna with a Percival Proctor (1939) and Mew Gull. The Mew Gull was originally built in 1934 for the Kings Cup Air Races, it's 1938 class-record still stands. In 1939 it gained the out-and-home Cape class-record (Gravesend UK to Wingfield, South Africa and back) which stood until 2009. This particular plane is a flying replica, the originals still flies at part of the Shuttleworth Collection.



## Newsletter Information

### Note from Nick and Philippa Godfrey

We were lucky enough to win a 2 night break at Island Meadow Caravan Park in Aston Cantlow, at Mike and Jane Green's Chairman's BBQ last September. The park is shut during the winter and opens in the Spring, so we booked ahead a weekend in April. We had the choice between static caravans and luxury pods. We chose a static caravan as it suited our requirements with our teenage daughter and boyfriend.



On the Saturday morning, we had a coffee and pastry at the site café before heading off to Stratford for the day.

We'd asked Mick and Margy if they like to meet us



for a coffee on the Sunday morning, which they did and we had a pleasant time chatting whilst sitting outside eating bacon and sausage sandwiches.

It was lovely to know we only had a 30 minute drive home on the Sunday afternoon, rather than 4 hours up the M5 like a usual weekend away. So Nick couldn't resist a visit to the Piston Club at Redhill on the way home, claiming that our daughter's boyfriend hadn't been before!

We would highly recommend this holiday park for a weekend break or a longer holiday, and many thanks to the Walkers for arranging the raffle prize.

[islandmeadowcaravanpark.co.uk](http://islandmeadowcaravanpark.co.uk)

We were extremely fortunate with the weekend we chose as the weather was dry and warm for the time of year. The park had been late opening this year due to flooding.

The park is in a lovely location, on an island in the river Alne, with lots of free roaming ducks, chickens and geese.

Following a warm greeting from the hostess, we unpacked and took the short walk to the village pub, the Kings Head, for a delicious meal. Afterwards we crossed the road to the Social Club to play the teenagers at pool and darts.

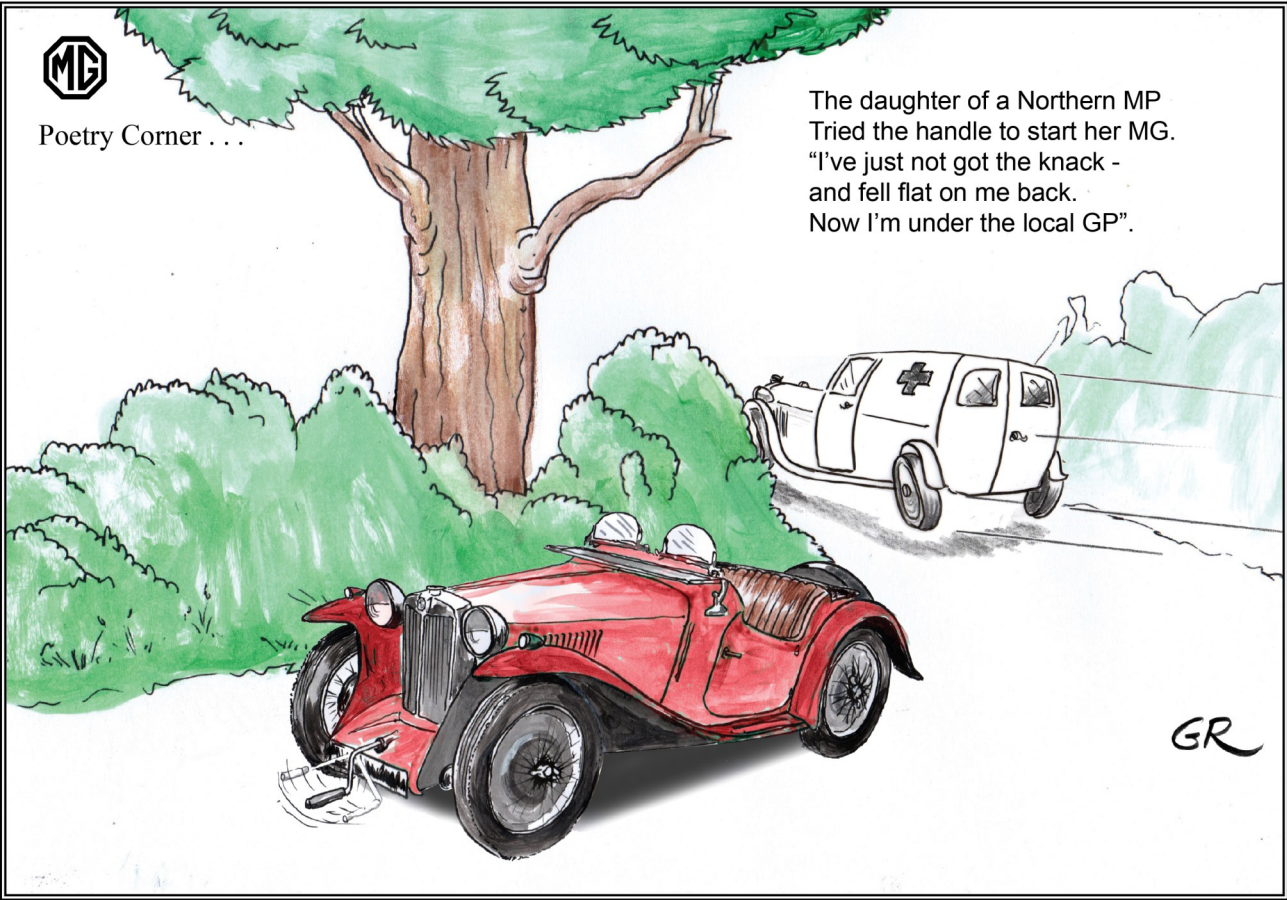
Village residents, Mick and Margy Walker, had told us how the site had become their saviour during Covid as it opened as a café and shop to serve the village and really brought the community together. They have plenty of tables and chairs outside.

## Graham's Poetry Corner



Poetry Corner . . .

The daughter of a Northern MP  
Tried the handle to start her MG.  
"I've just not got the knack -  
and fell flat on me back.  
Now I'm under the local GP".



GR