

August 2024



ARDEN CLUB

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Arden Matters Newsletter August 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

In this edition we have:

Reports on recent events, details of forthcoming events, an MG ZA trip report, details of a change to the website for recently received technical articles, and lot of other information.

Message received from Alison and David Smith:

Hi to all our Arden friends.

Thank you to all involved in organising the visit to Wythall Transport Museum. Dave and I enjoyed the run and the visit to the museum greatly. When we got home there was another unexpected but lovely surprise. Mike and Jane, on behalf of the club, arrived with a gorgeous bouquet of flowers. We are still enjoying their lovely colours and fragrance. Thank you so much. We are so fortunate to be members of The Arden MG Club family.

Much love to you all.

Al and Dave xx

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Chairman Stephen's Chit Chat Report

No report from Stephen for this edition—he and Denise are away on a well earned holiday!!

BMC & Leyland Show 14th July Report

We were again very lucky with the weather for this event and although Richard + helpers put up a 'Storm' Shelter, no one used it, there was no rain and most folk sat around their cars or in the shelter of the Collections Centres building. It was one of the best turn outs for us at this event with 17 cars on display (including the Chairman's Mini, a photo of which had been used in the promotion material by the Museum for the Show and was taken the previous year, poignantly with Norman's MGB, FAV sat next to it) and 2 MGs that had missed the cut-off time to be allowed down into the Arena.



There were also a few MGs that were sent down to join us, we just about had space, so welcome to fit in with us, although none of them stayed for long!! I think the late arrivals might be partly my fault and I think for next year the target arrival time needs to be before 10am.

The Show itself was as big as ever and this year celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Landcrab (Austin/Morris 1800). There was a large display of these cars, which I'm surprised still exist but great to see them all lined up in front of the Museum.



I was very impressed with the display of Rally Cars, which of course majored on the giant killers of the 60's: the Mini Coopers. Triumph cars were in great abundance but not many MGs apart from ourselves. Where are they all hiding? When I returned to the group after a long walk round I was greeted by another celebration and was able to share Julia C's birthday cake. Congratulations! But does this mean there will be no cake at Badsey!! Sadly another good day came to an end and cars started drifting away, so we packed up and made for home. Will we go again next year?

Breakfast Meeting 16th July Report

There was a surprise treat for us at the Breakfast Meeting. As I arrived I was approached by Carl Gotham who is the Chief Designer for MG Motors UK and he was there to drop off the MGs that had been the 'Show Stoppers' at the Goodwood Festival of Speed over the weekend.



We were able to see them unload the MG Cyber GTS Concept Car (essentially a hard top GT based on the new Cyberster roadster) from the trailer into the Museum, we were then very lucky to see the car on display in the Museum hall as I witnessed it being reloaded back onto the trailer 2 days later on the Thursday. The second MG that was delivered was the New Concept Car the MG EXE 181 and although not on display on the Breakfast Meeting

day it has now been unveiled as part of the 'Summer Exhibition' in the Museum Exhibition Gallery called From Sketch to Street. Well worth going to the Museum to see the car and the Exhibition.

Attendance was back up to 19 of us, so we have a good regular core of members and it works. There is plenty of space to spread out with a common table and you get to talk to different people, outside of our normal groups. What's not to like? Come and join us 3rd Tuesday at the British Motor Museum (opens at 10am, convert your ticket to an annual one and only pay once for a whole year). The breakfast rolls are good as well.



Badsey Flower Show 27th July Report

The Flower Show has not been very lucky with the weather the last few years but it was glorious sunshine when I left home, only to turn to rain as the afternoon progressed. It's a good thing the Storm Shelter had been put up.

MG Club but all around the Village for this year's Show which was last Saturday.

The show was well attended by the club. 18 cars from the club were displayed along with another 10 from the village.



Continued /.....

Steve did a grand job attracting classic cars to join the Badsey Flower Show, not just from the Arden

Another PLUS for the club at the flower show was that Bea won 3 prizes!



I hope everyone enjoyed the Show despite the showers. Well done Steve and thanks for organising. Also thanks to Alan who insisted I borrow his rain coat, as I escaped the Show early (a prior engagement with a Grandson).

Now the planning starts for next year!

Badsey Flower Show “Article Title Competition” From Graham

Graham sent this through and between us we thought it would make a good article title competition. Suggestions to me at dlpitt@btinternet.com . Not too smutty please!!

At the Badsey Flower Show there was a friend of Steve Entwistle’s in a TR3. He and I got to know each other because the rain came down and I helped him put his hood up. I think Dave Rayner helped, also.

Got in conversation with him about dashboard controls – because that was my business for many years, plus we had the tooling for a short while to make, for a retro spares company, the very knobs he had on his dashboard. They were something of a standard type, originally made by Wipax (?). All this was best part of forty years ago, and I discovered I had kept some bits and bobs from the past as

mementos.

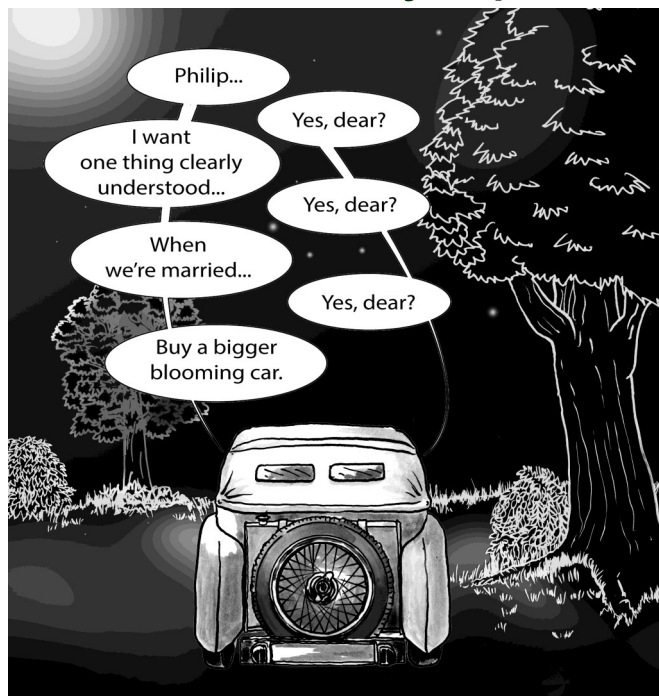
He and I had email transfer and it turned out I had two that he wanted.



So I have set them aside to pass over to Steve for him to pass on as a gift, as it’s nice to see them finding a home.

Graham’s Cartoon Time—MG History Department

Research reveals that The Duke of Edinburgh (as he later became) had an MG in the very early days of courting young Princess Elizabeth.”



Wythall Bus Museum Run 31st July Report

It was a 'Grand' day out visiting the Wythall Bus/Transport Museum.



16 MGs (well one was an MX5 but say it quietly) assembled at the Piston Club at The Stag, Red Hill for breakfast (very good bacon roll) ready for the 11am departure for our 30+ mile scenic run through the Warwickshire lanes to arrive in Wythall in bright Sunshine. I was very impressed with the Motor Theme in the Gents at the Piston Club, above the sinks (see photo) and the urinals were Haynes Manuals stuck to the wall, yes the whole book, look carefully you can see the MGB one in the middle row 3rd from the right hand side. Who has never had a Haynes Manual for any car?



They were expecting us at the Museum and quickly opened the gate to allow entry into the grounds in front of the Bus Garage and two additional MGs had sneaked into the grounds before us, both missing out the scenic run.



Caroline & I went for one of the early free open top bus rides to the Maypole Island and back and lovely it was too. When we returned it was time for lunch. Some had picnics, some went to the cafe but whichever it was wonderful to sit outside and enjoy the warmth and sunshine.



The Museum was very interesting to look round with it's origins going back to the Midland Red Bus Company and who knew they had set up their own bus manufacturing facility to ensure they had the buses they needed for the job. These and many others are on show with some good information boards discussing the evolution and social history of 'The Buses'. A surprise was the building dedicated to electric vehicles (nothing is new in the World!!) even if most of them are Milk Floats but there were a vast number of companies making them back in the past, way ahead of their time! Incidentally the Museum is entirely run by Volunteers and a good job they make of it.

The main comments I heard were: "I used to travel on the number ... bus back in the day". Well worth a return visit.

My contact asked me to let you know they have a Monthly Classic Car Meeting on the 3rd Sunday of the Month.....

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 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
Tue 20 Aug	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up
Sun 26 Aug	Pershore Plum Festival	No	
Sun 1 Sept	Malvern Autumn Show & Auto Jumble	No	
Mon 2 Sept	Kineton Classic Gathering 18:00 – 20:00	No	Just turn up
Sat 7 Sept	Wellesbourne Lions	No	
Sun 8 Sept	Dorridge Fun Day 50 th 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	October Fest Run & Sunday Lunch at Wheat-sheaf Badsey – Menu—see page 7	Yes	Steve Entwistle
Tue 15 Oct	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up



Club Events—What's on 2024

Club Nights:

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Tuesday 1st October 2024

Tuesday 5th November 2024

Tuesday December 3rd 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 20th August 2024

Tuesday 17th September 2024

Tuesday 15th October 2024

Tuesday 19th November 2024

Other Event Details:

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.

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

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

All my cars are MGs now!

Having traded in my Skoda for a MG3 Hybrid. So far, thoroughly enjoying the new MG.



Article From David Harrison—Part 1 of 3

By Magnette to the Porsche's Lair

Some of you may know (I have gone on about it often enough!) that it has been my practice since we bought the Magnette in late 2010 to use it as much as possible. Initially we drove all over the UK and then from 2015 decided to take it to the European Magnette Owners meeting. These meetings have been held annually in several places in Germany as well as in Austria and Luxembourg. This year was in Germany again. Schifferstadt in the Rheinland-Pfalz region. In the middle of the wine growing area! This was to be the ZA's seventh trip in ten years. Sadly this year without Jane.

However I have a friend, also a widower, who is a keen continental traveller and who has driven and likes the Magnette! His main fault is that he is a long standing Porsche owner (!) As a condition to coming with me he wanted to take in the Porsche Museum (no hardship!) at Zuffenhausen (near Stuttgart). This is about 120 miles further on than the Magnette meeting, so no big deal.

I took the dogs to their hotel and drove to pick up Ollie at 11.00am near Broadway. He then drove the 190 miles to Le Shuttle and we had a painless crossing, arriving in France at about 6.30 in the evening. We found our B&B in Ardres about 20 miles out of Calais after a bit of "interesting" navigation...looking for a blue painted house, that turns out to be green! A pleasant beer and a meal in a local estaminet rounded off the day.

Next morning we had a long and for the first part, pretty dull, drive across northern France and into Belgium and then into Germany. We used motorways for the first part until we got to the Ardennes and had an exciting drive near Spa-Francorchamps. Many hooligan/ suicidal Motorcyclists kept the driver alert. There were some very steep descents with really lethal looking escape roads! We needed the good Lunch in Trois-Ponts! We arrived in Daun about 5pm. Daun is a small Spa town in the Eifel "mountains", not far from the Nurburgring, but that was not on our itinerary this year! We stayed in a very fine Schlosshotel (castle) and ate well in a nearby restaurant. 265 miles. The ZA is remarkably comfortable and competent.

Next day a leisurely start after a superb breakfast, we were off across Germany to a very small town called Guldeshheim, about 40 miles from Stuttgart. Mostly Autobahn after we left the Eifel. An uneventful 175 miles, arriving about 3pm. Another

Schlosshotel, superb value, huge rooms, good parking. Parking access not for the fainthearted - in the fortunately dry moat. Coffee and cake in the village, followed by wine and dinner in a lively restaurant.



Early start (well 9.00) and off to Zuffenhausen in the drizzle. The fine, easy to find, Auto-museum, with every conceivable Porsche. An uninspiring sandwich in the Museum and off to Schifferstadt in the afternoon to meet up with the other Magnostes. It was only a short drive that day, about 120 miles to the Meeting. Welcome greetings with Beer, Wine and Cake!

To be continued in the next newsletter.

Website Information ardenmgclub.co.uk/

We have had two technical articles sent in and we have decided that we are going to set up a new page on the Arden MG website called 'Arden Tech Matters' and include them there.

The reason for doing that is if somebody wanted to go back to it for similar work they are going to find it is easier to go to the website page than trawl back over old newsletters. Similar technical articles from other members would also go there.

These first two articles are summarised below:

From Peter Grice.

As my 1973 B GT was suffering with a saggy rear end and the MGOB was offering a deal on parabolic leaf springs, together with a free fitting kit with polyurethane bushes and pads, I decided to take the plunge. Of course, no instructions are provided and the Haynes manual goes little further than suggesting the battery is disconnected (joke). What I thought should have taken a few hours turned into two weekends of trauma. Here is my hard learnt suggested approach.....



From Trevor Smith.

This is about his pain and anguish and finally recent pleasure at getting his MGB sorted. This one has been documented previously up to the point of the Ford ST150 Duratec engine failing! This article covers his trials and tribulations and finally success in fitting a new Mazda VVT engine.....

