

January 2025



# ARDEN CLUB

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

 [Arden MG Club](https://www.facebook.com/ArdenMGClub)

## Arden Matters Newsletter January 2025

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)

### Caption Competition

We had some very good responses with captions for this photo of Graham taken at the December meeting. Here are a few—all equally as good so no outright winner:

- Graham's detailed account of his recent vasectomy was highly illustrative. Martin P.
- Got rhythm in my soul! Sadly, nowhere near my hands . Graham R.
- Just what's he banging on about this time. Mike G
- Graham announces he's fitted new 'drum brakes' to his MG.  
A pocket watch and still can't keep time!  
Dinner Is Seeerrrvved. John S
- Hi Ho Hi Ho, it's off to work we go! Paul D



### ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chairman's chit chat . . . . .	2
Membership secretary news.....	3
Cartoon time . . . . .	3
Festive lunch.....	4
Chilly willy run . . . . .	5
MGOC snowman competition.....	6
Breakfast meeting events . . . . .	7
Website tech matters.....	8

## Chairman Stephen's Chit Chat Report

Welcome to January's Chairman's Chit-Chat.

Firstly I would like to wish all our members a 'Happy New Year' and every best wish for a happy and healthy 2025. Fingers crossed the weather gods will shine upon us this year, and we can enjoy some decent weather whilst out and about in our MG's - here's hoping!

The first event of the year has taken place, and our thanks to Richard and Fiona for organising the 'Chilly Willy' run on New Years Day. Whilst the weather was not favourable, all who took part in the run had a very enjoyable day which started at the Piston Club and ended at the Vale at Evesham, where many took advantage of a meal in the Garden Centre's Apple Barn Restaurant.

The first club night of the year has also taken place, and despite the freezing weather 24 hardy souls were in attendance at the Golden Cross - all eagerly edging for a seat near the open fire! My thanks to all that attended.

Charity Donations;

In last months newsletter I mentioned the club is looking to make a number of donations. I spoke about this at club night, and approval was given for a total of 5 donations of £50 each. At the meeting I took the opportunity to ask members to note down a charity or charities that they could relate to. My thanks at this point to Sheila Pitt for handing out and collecting the completed slips. There were a good range of suggestions that I have now had the opportunity to 'total', and when added together with e-mails received, I would advise the 5 donations will be as follows;

- **British Motor Museum.** In keeping with a tradition as a motoring club to make a donation to a motoring institution, Arden MG will adopt a car at the BMM. Of course it is an MG..... I have selected a 1979 Black MG Midget 1500 (last of line) that has a very prominent position in the museum and can be seen on our visits. We will receive a digital certificate of adoption, and the club name will be added to the on line collection details. As background, each car in the museum can be 'adopted' with the vehicles donation being set at fixed prices. The Midget falls within the £50 bracket, and the adoption will last for a year.
- **Warwickshire Air ambulance.** No words can say what a wonderful job the air ambulance do. Saving lives and bringing medical assistance to those in urgent need.
- **Myton Hospice.** Focussing on enhancing life when cure is no longer an option. Supporting people living with a terminal illness and their families.
- **Guide Dogs.** (Formally Guide dogs for the blind). Our donation to the Guide Dogs National Centre, Breeding Centre, will go towards the important work of breeding and training guide dogs in the UK.
- **Molly Olly's wishes.** Supporting children with life threatening illnesses and their families to help with their emotional wellbeing, and help make their dark days brighter. Children and families can apply for something which they wish to have to support their journey. They have also developed a therapeutic toy lion Olly The Brave and a series of six story books about Olly's experiences including diagnosis and treatment. Gifts can include medical equipment, toys, days out and outside play equipment.

On a personal note, I will be standing down as Chairman at the forthcoming AGM next March. It was my intention to stand for a year, and therefore the Chairperson role is looking for a new owner. I have enjoyed my time as Chairman, and I thank you all for being club members and attending the many events this year, and my thanks to those of you who have organised events for the club.

Anyone interested in being the new Chairperson, please contact me and I will be pleased to meet with you and give you an insight to the role.

On club night, David Rayner our Membership secretary advised he will not be standing for re-election next at the forthcoming AGM. Please see David's article in this newsletter.

Next club night; Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 7.30 for an 8pm start.

Happy MG'ing,

*Stephen*

## Message from David Rayner

As I announced at the AMGC meeting 7th January 2025, I will be standing down as Membership Secretary at our AGM in March.

In 2008, when our past chairman, Allan Smith, announced that he wanted to reduce his workload, I offered to take on some of his work.

One of the reasons I took on the job was to help improve my computer skills. I used to throw my computer out of the window

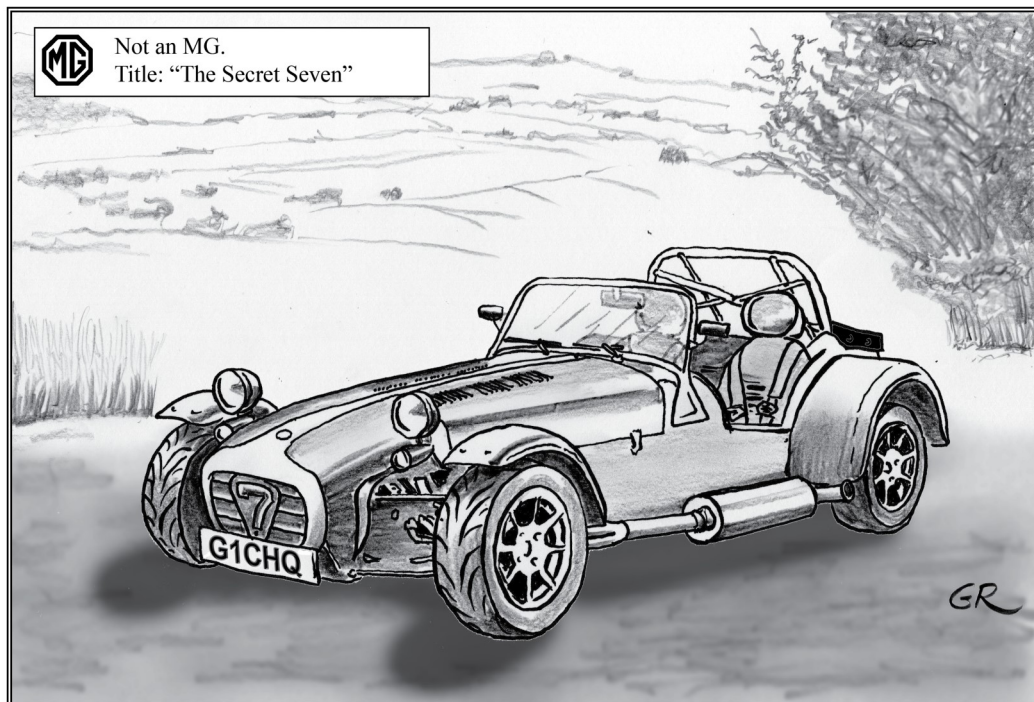
once a day, now I only do it 6 times a week.

I have very much enjoyed meeting all the new members, and helping pull the membership of the club together. But, after hogging the position for so long, I feel it is time to let someone else step into my shoes.

For those interested to take on the role, either email me at [ddrayner@bidford.net](mailto:ddrayner@bidford.net) or Stephen Bailey [minorman60@hotmail.com](mailto:minorman60@hotmail.com)

David Rayner  
Membership secretary

## Graham's Cartoon Time



## Breakfast Meeting (Festive Lunch) Report - December by Paul

Although this breakfast meeting was for lunch, most of us met in the cafe at 10.30am for a cuppa, I didn't see anyone with a bacon roll, except for a few cookies (well it's a long time 'til lunch!!). This was short lived as we were off down into the Museum for a couple of talks, firstly about the MG Prototypes in the Museum and then about the J40 Pedal Cars under the Mezz. I hope I was able to put a new slant on the information about the prototypes, especially the earlier ones as we have talked about them before but David Knowles's book *MG The Untold Story* was very helpful for me (packed with interesting information). We did need to move about the

Museum, unfortunately I can't get the Curator to move the cars I want to talk about together but it was a bit like herding cats. There was a lot more attention when I was talking about the J40, so I hope this sparked some interest in these small cars. It was soon time to sit down and to gather the girls together, I'm told they had a very good time chatting in the cafe waiting for us.



As ever the meal was very good with Julia (Duty Manager not Cleobury) guiding the proceedings with a train of waiting staff bringing each course together for each group.

There was a slight problem that the after meal chocolates, which were one short on each table, not a problem on Graham's table as he does not eat chocolate (yes I can't understand either) but I had to use by insider contacts to obtain the extra one needed!!



There were lots of Christmas Jumpers on show as you can see in the photo and quite a few MGs on display in the car park.

Lech and I were one of the last to leave and walking back to Ellie (my BGT LE) there was another BGT but with the bonnet up! There was Chris sat inside busy looking at his phone for the breakdown service number!! "What was the problem?" we asked, "it won't start" he replies "and no smell of petrol". Is the fuel pump ticking? Where is it? So Lech is on the floor checking underneath. "It's not there, so will be in the boot".

He soon had the cover off to check and it was ticking merrily. Check for a spark, so out comes my special 'spark tester' (everyone should have one in their MG toolkit) and sure enough no spark. Check the coil lead I say (I've had a problem with those before). The connector into the dizzy cap was a mess but fortunately Chris had a full set of leads in the boot, it was soon swapped and with a bit of waggling in the cap, broom broom we were in business.

We followed Chris to the Fosse (mind you a strange route to get there through Kineton, very scenic but a long way round) and all looked well. I did have an email from Chris when I got home to say he had arrived back safely, proof yet again that MG is the 'Marque of Friendship'.

## Chilly Willy Run – 1 Jan 2025 by Richard

The weather forecast leading up to the event was not looking good (50mph winds and heavy rain) and we wondered how many would turn up at the Piston Club.

We woke up at 07:30 to torrential rain but the wind had dropped considerably to a strong breeze.

By 8:45 the rain had eased to a drizzle and we started to consider using the 'B' instead of the everyday car. At 9:15, still with just light drizzle, the decision was made to use the 'B' and got it out of the garage.

No sooner had we got into the car then the rain started up again and we questioned if it was the right decision but went with it anyway. By the time we had left the village it had eased back to a light drizzle



which continued on our journey to the Piston Club but changed to rain again as we parked up. Still unsure how many would turn out by the time we had ordered a coffee and found a seat, David & Sheila Pitt walked in shortly followed by others until by 10:30 the room was buzzing with our ever supportive Arden MG friends.

When we came to leave, the rain had stopped and as we headed for our cars the Piston Club manager came out to take photos of the cars – they looked after us very well and appreciated our being there.

21 cars, including 8 -10 MG's, followed the 28 mile route which took us out towards Alcester, past Ragley Hall Entrance and around the estate before heading out towards the edge of Redditch then heading back to Inkberrow, finally wriggling through the Lenches and on to The Valley at Evesham.

The Apple Barn Restaurant in the Evesham Garden Centre had reserved tables for us and soon the area was alive with chatter. Again the Apple Barn staff made us very welcome and food orders made at the till were efficiently delivered to the tables.

ARDEN MG CLUB  
Chilly Willy Run – Piston Club to The Valley Evesham  
1st January 2025  
(The Valley Hotel Park WS11 6DS)

Not all junctions are shown in the route plan, only those where you need information to change direction or to verify the route.  
The route travels through a number of villages, please drive carefully and show consideration to the local communities and other road users. Drive the drive!  
Richard's Mobile: 07767 307408

No.	Total Mile	Interim Mile	Junction Level	Sign Post	Instruction / Additional Information
1	0.0	0.0			On Leaving the Capark Zero Trip Turn RIGHT out of the Capark
2	0.0	0.0		No Sign	At the Tee Turn LEFT onto A46
3	3.3	3.3		North Birmingham Redditch	At the island take the 2nd Exit onto A435 (Ignoring the Services)
4	3.7	0.4		Arton Woodford	At the island take 1st Exit A432 towards Arton
5	0.1	2.4		Redditch: Cookhill	Turn RIGHT onto B4988 shortly passing Hillers Farm Shop
6	6.9	0.8		No Sign	At the Toll House Keep Right
7	11.5	4.6		Inkberrow B4992	Turn LEFT onto B4992
8	12.3	0.8		Inkberrow B4992	Staggered Cross Turn LEFT & immediately RIGHT
9	14.2	1.6		Worcester Inkberrow A423	At the Tee Turn RIGHT
10	15.8	1.6		Lenches Radford	Bear off LEFT on right hand bend
11	16.8	1.0		Alcester Abbots Norton	At the Tee Turn LEFT
12	16.9	0.1		Lenches Evesham	Turn RIGHT soon after a detached cottage



Thank you everyone who made our run a success – we are very grateful.

Happy 2025 to all at Arden MG Club.

Richard & Fiona

## MG Owners Club Magazine Snowman Competition by Paul



### Win an MGOC 2025 calendar

Look carefully through this issue and you will find ten snowmen hiding in plain sight. Finding them is just for fun, but if you would also like to be in with a chance of winning a 2025 Club Calendar, then send an email to [competitions@mgownersclub.co.uk](mailto:competitions@mgownersclub.co.uk) with a list of which pages they are on. (The one pictured here is for reference only, and does not count as one of your ten!) Include your name and membership number and we will draw a winner to get a free calendar. Closing date for entries is December 14th.



Did anyone else have a go at the Competition in Enjoying MG to find the 10 Snowmen hidden amongst the pages?

I had looked through the Magazine to find them but thought it would be good to involve my 5 year old Grandson Benjamin in the quest, so we started wading through the pages and we soon found most of them. We kept looking back over the pages to find the last elusive 10th Snowman and Benjamin quickly pipes up "perhaps it has melted"!

There is no answer to that. We did eventually find the last one but as you can see we didn't win the Calendar.

### Snowman finders

The ten snowmen hidden in the December issue were on pages 3, 7, 22, 31, 32, 35, 42, 47, 50 and 63. Winner of the 2025 MGOC Calendar was Richard Holl from Fordingbridge in Hampshire. Thank you to everybody else who entered the competition.



JANUARY 2025 | ENJOYING MG 7

## Breakfast Meeting Events update by Paul

**Tuesday 21st January - Breakfast Meeting** at British Motor Museum, Gaydon

I will not be at this month's Meeting, however we are booked with the Museum and as far as I am aware the Gallery will be available. I will ask for Reserved signs to be placed on some tables.

As always the Museum is open at 10am and we will sit down for bacon/sausage/egg Rolls around 10.30am. If you do not have a Museum Ticket, then ideally buy on-line in advance (there is a £3 reduction on-line) and make sure you choose the 12 month ticket option (and if possible Gift Aid you purchase).

**Tuesday 18th February - Breakfast Meeting** at British Motor Museum, Gaydon

**Tuesday 18th March - Breakfast Meeting** at British Motor Museum, Gaydon

**Tuesday 15th April - Breakfast Meeting** at British Motor Museum, Gaydon

**Tuesday 20th May - Breakfast Meeting** at British Motor Museum, Gaydon

**Tuesday 17th June - Breakfast Meeting** at British Motor Museum, Gaydon

## Club Events—What's on in 2025

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

If anyone wishes to take responsibility for 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	AMGC	Organiser
Tue 21 Jan	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up
Tue 4 Feb	Club Night at the Golden Cross - 19:30	Yes	Just turn up
Tue 18 Feb	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up
Tue 4 Mar	Club AGM at the Golden Cross - 19:30	Yes	Just turn up
Tue 18 Mar	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up
Sun 27 Apr	Drive it Day	Yes	Richard Avery
Mon 2 to Friday 6 Jun	Arden MG Adventures, Gunton Hall, Norfolk	Yes	Alan Griffith

## Phoenix Players Event

Another great Panto coming up—with Lisa Maxwell as Lead Pirate !



**Phoenix PLAYERS**

# Peter Pan & The Lost Marbles

30th January to 1st February 2025 at 7:30  
Matinee 1st February at 2:30

Methodist Hall  
Stratford upon Avon

Tickets:  
£12.00 Adult  
£5.00 under 16

**TICKET LINE:**  
[www.phoenixplayersstratford.co.uk](http://www.phoenixplayersstratford.co.uk) or 07795 474074

SUPPORTED BY:  
Warwickshire  
County Council

# Website Information [ardenmgclub.co.uk/](http://ardenmgclub.co.uk/)



- ABOUT US
- NEWSLETTERS ▾
- EVENTS ▾
- TECH MATTERS ▾
- OTHER ▾

## Tech Matters

Home >> Tech Matters

Tech Matters page <https://www.ardenmgclub.co.uk/tech-matters/> now has 3 articles. More will be added as they become available.

### If At First You Don't Succeed

- Modifying an MGB with a Mazda Duratec engine

### MGB Parabolic Springs Upgrade

- Installing the Parabolic spring kit on an MGB

### Directory Of Services

- A Directory of suppliers and services recommended by members



- ABOUT US
- NEWSLETTERS ▾
- EVENTS ▾
- TECH MATTERS ▾
- OTHER ▾



Contact Us

## Directory Of Services

Home >> Directory Of Services

**Arden MG Club, Directory of Services**

This directory is intended to help club members identify garages and suppliers whom others have found reliable, knowledgeable etc. It is not intended that suppliers included in the directory be vetted in any way and neither Arden MG Club nor the editors of the directory or individual Members give or imply any kind of guarantee of work undertaken or take any responsibility for the quality of the services offered. It is still up to the individual to exercise due diligence and satisfy themselves that the service is right for them.

Trading name and personal contact, (latter not essential but useful)	Address & contact details, tel, email www.	Vehicle types eg MGs, all classics, moderns	Type of service						Proposer and Notes, (anonymous if you wish but would be useful to know who's used them)
			MOTs	Mechanical	Electrics	Body	Restoration	Parts	
Tanworth Garage	The Green, Tanworth-in-Arden Solihull, B94 5AJ. 01564 742218 <a href="http://www.tanworth-garage.co.uk">www.tanworth-garage.co.uk</a>	All	Yes	Yes	Yes				Graham R
Hills Retail Ltd, Dave	Evesham Road, Alcester, B49 5DW 01789 764491	All	Yes	Yes	Yes				David T Peter G
SMMC	Unit 1, Baid Park, Brickyard Rd, Napton on the Hill, Southam, CV47 8NT 01926 815681	All	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Trevor S Rolling road and SU gurus
Spa Motors Greg or Dave	Sydenham Ind. Est., Longfield Rd., Leamington Spa, CV31 1XB 01926 882522 <a href="http://www.spamotors.co.uk">www.spamotors.co.uk</a>	All	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Peter M
RLCR Motor Engineers Rowland Rogers	Unit10, Weston Ind. Est., Honeybourne Rd Weston Sub Edge, Evesham, WR11 7QB 01386 840981 <a href="http://www.rlcr.co.uk">www.rlcr.co.uk</a>	All		Yes	Yes				
Navigation Garage Simon Baughan	Stratford Rd, Woolton Wauwen, Henley-in-Arden, B95 6BZ 01564 792629	All	Yes	Yes	Yes				David H