

February 2025



ARDEN CLUB

 ardenmgclub.co.uk/

 [Arden MG Club](#)

Arden Matters Newsletter February 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

Caption Competition

- We see and hear a lot about AI but what does it mean?

Amusing but clean suggestions to me please and nothing to do with cattle breeding!



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Chairman Stephen's Chit Chat Report

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

Spring is slowly approaching and our minds are gradually turning to the time when we will be able to get out in our MG's.

At last month's meeting, I asked you to nominate a charity or charities you would like to see receive a donation from us. As you know, the figure we had was £250 and the 5 chosen charities chosen to each receive £50 were as follows - in no particular order;

- British Motor Museum. In keeping with a tradition as a motoring club to make a donation to a motoring institution, Arden MG has 'adopted' a 1979 Black MG Midget 1500 which was the last of the line. It has a very prominent position in the museum - it can be seen in the main hall on a stand in the middle of a couple of Triumphs, so will be clearly visible on a visit to the museum. We have received a 'digital certificate of adoption' which is shown here, and our club's name will be added to the on line collection details. Our 'adoption' will last for 12 months.
- Myton Hospice. Supporting people living with a terminal illness and their families. Focussing on enhancing life when cure is no longer an option. I have received a note from Danni Mooney, a Manager from the Hospice, thanking us for our donation that we have made in the memory of Edward Steele, David & Diane Rayner's son-in-law. Note shown below.



- Guide Dogs National Breeding Centre. Our donation will go towards the important work of breeding and training guide dogs.
- Molly Ollys wishes. Supporting children with life threatening illnesses and their families to help with their emotional wellbeing. Children and families can apply for something which they wish to have to support their journey. Gifts can include medical equipment, toys, days out and outside play equipment.
- Warwickshire Air ambulance. No words can say what a wonderful job the air ambulance does. Saving lives and bringing medical assistance to those in urgent need. We have given to Air Ambulance on previous occasions, however this time was somewhat different, and something we should be aware of if the club donates in the future. Roger made the donation and was then advised that he would be charged a £5 'Admin Charge'. Evidently the Air Ambulance now use 'Enthuse' a donation management company to manage their incoming donations. Roger initially received an acknowledgement from the Air Ambulance that they have received our donation but no payment was taken. Roger took this up with the Air Ambulance, and received no reply. Therefore, Roger made a complaint with the Air Ambulance. Roger subsequently received an apology but they were unable to assist as 'Enthuse' manage all on-line donations and they could not trace our donation ! However, on the 4th February, our donation has at last been taken. We therefore need to be mindful if we make another donation to the Air Ambulance.

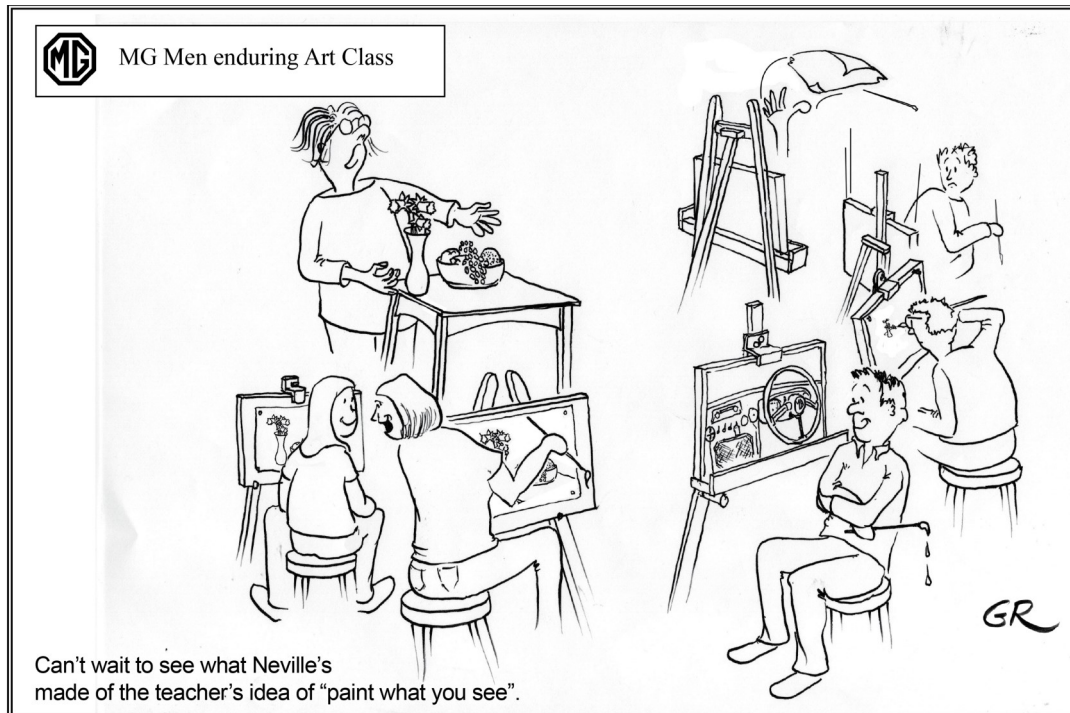
Next club night; Tuesday 4th March is the AGM, and it would be good to see as many of you as possible at the meeting.

As you know, I am standing down as Chairman and David Rayner is standing down as Membership Secretary, and Database Administrator. Therefore these positions are looking for new owners.

Happy MG'ing,

Stephen

Graham's Cartoon Time



"The Older I get – the Better I was"

The motto of "Old Guys Rule" . . . and here's an example:

In the Olden Days – the late 1980s – when I had a proper job – I was on the Technical Team at a medium size engineering company. Largely speaking I got there through being part of the management of the small sub-contract plastics company they absorbed. I became known as "Brains" (from 'Thunderbirds') courtesy, largely, of my ability to read long words, understand engineering drawings and, bearing in mind the gene pool for the management of the new company was either family or Wake Green Football Club, the ability to spell.

So, I had an image to maintain. Part of that, along with my flowing white cowgown, was the latest in technology (although by that time I'd had a Tandy and a trusted Amstrad) computers were only just coming in) – a Casio Calculator watch.

Time passed. I left the company and set up on my own as a freelance industrial tart and technology eclipsed the Casio watch. Then, over thirty years later, at the age of 76, I got sentimental thoughts about a calculator watch and discovered that they are, indeed, being made in Korea. So I had one for Christmas 2024. Here started the realisation that the memory – combined with associated age – can rather work against you. I was expecting something larger and with far greater presence. I would also have liked an instruction manual that hadn't been reduced dramatically in scale so as to fit in the box. Although there are bits of text on the screen I can't even read, secretly, I rather like the fact that, which is such a benefit in the world of retirement, it tells you in big letters what DAY it is.

I had remembered from "Brains" days that it had a splendid alarm function.

So I read the instructions. Several times, involving varying strengths of light and magnifying media, bearing in mind they are in A) a Korean's pretty impressive but not wholly accurate idea of English and B) 6pt type.

On the fifth go I reckoned I'd cracked the alarm function.

And, of course, you've guessed it. After thirty years – it turns out that, such are the ravages of time, unless I'd got the watch strapped to my ear and not my wrist – when it went off, I couldn't even hear it.

Vague MG connection: I had an MG Montego for a while.



Breakfast Meeting Report - January

Another good turnout for the January breakfast meeting. The ordering system by name seems to be working well. Just tell them we are on the reprobates table and they seem to know where to bring the food!

Thanks to Bob W for the photos.



March Madness Run & Sunday Lunch - Sunday March 16th

Message from the March Madness Crew

We are planning another March Madness run starting at the Valley for coffee and then a leisurely run around the blossom trail (although probably not out yet!). Sunday lunch will then be taken at the Wheatsheaf in Badsey – menu to follow. Put the date in your diary; more information to follow. Although it is short notice it would be nice to see as many members attend if possible.

Richard will send out the Menu as soon as it becomes available

Gaynor & Steve, Mike & Jane, Alan & Julia



Interesting Type of Electric Vehicles?

Does anyone watch BattleBots? If you don't you should. They are like the old fighting Robot Wars from a few years ago but on steroids.

I was thinking that maybe some of our members would like to convert their MGs to full size battling machines with flippers / spinners / high speed cutting discs to do battle in the Valley car park before the March Madness Run in March. Any takers????

Take a look at this for some ideas <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJhIrYpGEeE>



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

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
Sun 16 Mar	March Madness Run & Sunday Lunch	Yes	See Page 4
Tue 18 Mar	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up
Tue 1 Apr	Club Night at the Golden Cross - 19:30	Yes	Just turn up
Tue 15 Apr	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up
Wed 23 Apr	Asparagus Fun Day, The Fleece Bretforton	No	
Sun 27 Apr	Drive it Day	Yes	Richard Avery
Tue 6 May	Club Night at the Golden Cross - 19:30	Yes	Just turn up
Tue 20 May	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up
Sun 1 Jun	Cars at the Spa, Leamington Spa Pumprooms	No	
Mon 2 to Friday 6 Jun	Arden MG Adventures, Gunton Hall, Norfolk	Yes	Alan Griffith / Richard Avery
Tue 3 Jun	Club Night at the Golden Cross - 19:30 for those not going to Gunton Hall	Yes	Just turn up
Sat 14 Jun	Kenilworth Lions Show, Procession thro' Kenilworth to the Abbey Fields Display		Richard Avery
Tue 17 Jun	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up
Sun 13 July	BMC & Leyland Show, BMM Gaydon	Yes	Paul Dunster

New Idea for Website

We had an idea for an additional item to go on our website:

Member's recommendations for:

- Local places to visit (include number of miles and reason for the appeal)
- Good places to visit on a long trip (i.e. morning coffee stops / lunch stops / tea and cake stops, for example off a Motorway journey).

Here's an example of the sort of thing:

Heading to Cornwall – off A30 near Launceston – Lunch/Afternoon tea: “Strawberry Fields” Farm shop

If people would like to send in suggestions we'll put together a table to go on the website.

Send to [Graham](#) / [David](#)

Car For Sale

Mike Green's Jeff the TF 160 - M2 GTF (was M555 BRG)

As they say, all good things come to an end and after some 9 fun years together, it is with sadness that we have decided to let someone else enjoy our special TF160.

When we bought Jeff in April 2016, he had covered just 3,700 miles and was owned by gentleman in Kent, but for family reasons not used. It was garaged next to his Ferrari 430!



Jeff with his winter hat on

Registered on 30 May 2002 and supplied by Barrett's of Canterbury to a local lady, it had covered just over 3,000 before she apparently became ill. Other family members owned it for a period, but did not use it.

In 2016 when we bought it, MG experts Race Retro in Huddersfield serviced it and replaced various components, stainless water pipes, hoses, belts, fluids etc. Soon after it was re-mapped by K Maps own Mark Stacey, to provide more power and in the process better economy. It drives very well.

The current mileage is 32.9k and we have therefore enjoyed some 29k fun and trouble free miles, over our 9 years. Apart from routine servicing, it has had the full head gasket treatment. It runs on proper tyres - Falkens.

Jeff is solar red with contrasting tan leather seats, has protective hoops a hardtop roof and generally “fully loaded”. It has won “Car of the Show” and Club prizes.

Condition - a head turner, find another, apparently original paintwork throughout, including wheels and generally in very good order having been garaged for 20 of the last 22 years. MOT to 11 June 2025. The current registration M2 GTF may be sold with the car.

According to “How Many Left” some 1018 are taxed and 826 SORND. Jeff is a fine and genuine example and to be distinguished from most others. As to price, after a satisfactory test drive etc, a sensible offer will suffice to drive it away. Remember, price is what you pay - value is what you get. Jane and I have enjoyed great value from Jeff over our 9 years together - over to you.

Contact Mike Green 07542 990690

Website Information ardenmgclub.co.uk/



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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



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Directory Of Services

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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 www.tanworth-garage.co.uk	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 www.spamotors.co.uk	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 www.rlcr.co.uk	All		Yes	Yes				
Navigation Garage Simon Baughan	Stratford Rd, Woolton Wauwen, Henley-in-Arden, B95 6BZ 01564 792629	All	Yes	Yes	Yes				David H