

May 2025



ARDEN CLUB

 ardenmgclub.co.uk/

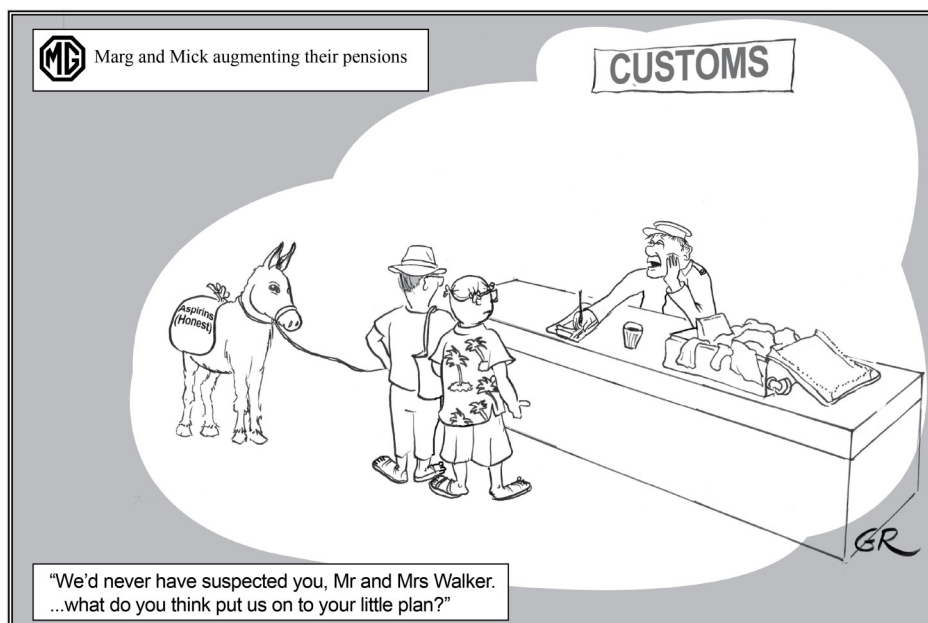
 [Arden MG Club](#)

Arden Matters Newsletter May 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

Graham's Cartoon Time—Front Page Special

This is based on a discussion Marg and Mick were heard having at the Drive it Day lunch about becoming drug mules, 'cos who would suspect us?



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Breakfast Meeting Report - April by Paul

Attendance was a bit lower this month, but 15 of still shared a large table on the Gallery and although the day was a bit dull and chilly there was a good display of MGs. We are not yet allowed on the grass outside the Main Entrance, but maybe the ground will be hard enough for this month. See you there at the British Motor Museum which opens at 10am. We usually sit down around 10.30, and please remember to give your name when ordering your bacon/sausage/egg rolls.



Old Number One being driver in the car park
See <https://www.mgcc.co.uk/articles/old-number-one/>



Asparagus Festival Report - 23rd April by Graham

April 23rd is National Asparagus Day, and the Vale of Evesham celebrate it in grand style. We took a trip to that excellent pub The Fleece where we had a parking area of our own. This was a marvellous move by Paul – thank you.

There were a lot of Morgans there as well, plus Morris dancers and lady Morris dancers.



Visitors in the Morgan enclave



The Men



The Lady Morris Men



Clearly a Morgan driver

And Bob went there on his bike.

A bit bleak and cold so we forced nourishing (free) bacon-and-asparagus baps between our unwilling lips. There was also an apparently traditional run involving sending 100 rounds of asparagus in cars in a motor cavalcade to Honeybourne station on their way to the Japanese Embassy in London. The call went out for cars to help and the Morgan people seemed to fill all the gaps almost instantly.



Hurrah for the Arden MG Club



Paul explaining the route plan to a bunch of people who rather fancied just staying by the fire

So us MGs tagged on the back – and, frankly, never saw the Morgans again. We think they got the instructions wrong and drove to Marylebone station.

Back we came and then set off on the gaffer-of-the-pub's Post Code Treasure Hunt. Not sure how much we enjoyed it – but it certainly gave us an appreciation of the quality of our home-spun ones.



No captions, please

Then, back at the pub, there was the buffet with much conversation based on how well we got on with the Treasure Hunt. Plus queries as to where on earth the Morgan cavalcade disappeared to.

A lovely day, as long as you avoided bashing your head on the accursed low beam in the Gents toilet. Some of us will know for the next time . . .

But it was also St George's Day . . . Hurrah!



St George and the Canon

Drive-It-Day Report – Sun 27th April by Richard Avery

A bright warm sunny morning made for great start for the day. In all 26 MG's assembled at the Piston Club in the second of the car parks, where we were not alone – as more of our cars arrived parking spaces were running short so one or two had to park nose to tail.

Most enjoyed beverages in the sunshine but those coming via Stratford encountered road closures due to a half marathon taking place and were forced to make big detours only arriving as we were heading off.

The first carpark was filled with motorbikes and on the grass area were some grand American vehicles – there was a great atmosphere!



Leaving the Piston Club the run took us out to Ardens Grafton passing the Golden Cross and on to Bidford and then on through the pretty villages of Salford Priors, Harvington on through the Lenches then round towards Redditch, Alcester, through Great Alne and finally on to Wootton Wawen for lunch at The View.



The View looked after us very well and served us up lovely food.

Another great day out with our Arden MG family!

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 20 May	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up
Sun 25 May	Cheltenham Cider Drive (see P 6 and email from Richard A 19.5.25)	Yes	John Stephens
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
Tue 10 June	Gaydon Gathering - 5:30pm till 08:30pm at the BMM – Must Book Free Tickets via BMM website	No	Must book free tickets
Sat 14 Jun	Kenilworth Lions Show, Procession thro' Kenilworth to the Abbey Fields Display	Yes	Richard Avery
Tue 17 Jun	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up
Tue 1 Jul	Show Night at the Golden Cross - 19:30. See page 6 for more details.	Yes	Just turn up
Sun 6 Jul	MGF/TF 30th Anniversary at the BMM Gaydon	No	Book via BMM website £12/car
Wed 9 Jul	Cotswold Run - Cotswold Barn – Hidcote Maner Gardens (Please register by 13th June)	Yes	Fred Bury
Sun 13 Jul	BMC & Leyland Show, BMM Gaydon	Yes	Paul Dunster
Tue 15 Jul	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up
Sat 26 Jul	Badsey Flower Show (see P 7)	Yes	Steve Entwistle

Sunday 25th May—Cheltenham Cider Drive

John Stephens is organising a Run to Dunkerton's Cider on Sunday 25th May, starting off from The Valley Evesham. See your email today from Richard with full details of the run.

Please register your interest with John at John@jspv.co.uk and copy Richard Avery (rich.avery186@gmail.com), ASAP.

Tuesday 1st July—Show Night by Paul

There will be a 'Show Night' at the July Club Meeting at the Golden Cross; However, despite my efforts over the years to have more variety amongst the 'winners' there have still been some comments that the same people (cars) always win, so this year the evening will be different. There will still be prizes and the chance to vote but the winners will be chosen by lottery. However, there will be an observation quiz and a new feature that I wanted to give advance notice about. Following an idea from Mike Green there will be prize(s) for the best/most informative/favourite 'Car Information Sheet', so get your thinking caps on and produce a write-up about your car. The only stipulation is that can be no larger than one A4 size page. It's up to you whether it is about the model of MG, your history with the MG, your restoration of the MG or what you think people would be interested in looking at. It can be hand written or computer printed, include photos or not, so you can use your imaginations! Save the day in your calendars/diaries.



Sunday 13th July - BMC & Leyland Show at British Motor Museum

Again we have the opportunity to show our cars at this very popular show at the Museum. This year there will be a display of Works cars from the Abingdon 'Comps' Department and lots of other attractions.

Our display will be in the prime spot between the Museum Main Entrance and the Collections Centre, so let's put on a fine show. As usual I will secure free passes to gain entry to the show ground, which includes the Museum and the Collections Centre. I will need to know if you want to join us in good time before the July Club Night, so I can hand out the 'Passes' at the Golden Cross. If you are interested please book with Paul (paul.dunster@talktalk.net) and copy Richard (rich.avery186@gmail.com) as soon as possible.



Saturday 26th July—Badsey Flower Show

If you would like to attend the 122nd flower show please let myself know (enty7@btinternet.com) and copy in Richard Avery (rich.avery186@gmail.com).

All cars need to be in position by 12 at the latest. The flower show is at The Rec, Sands Lane, Badsey and direction signs are posted in the village.

See <https://badseyflowershow.co.uk/> for more details.

Steve Entwistle

Newsletter Information from Mike Green

Our former Editor in Chief, Norman.

Knowing how much Norman Large enjoyed a life long love of trains and steam ones in particular, and that AMGC had partly funded the Memorial Hut, alongside the Station at GWR Toddington, I began to think there should be a plaque for him. I mentioned such thinking to Paul and David (Lord Rayner) and as a GWR shareholder, I approached them and shared my thoughts, which thankfully got a positive response from one of the directors.



I've recently mentioned the idea to Christine and she is very much in favour of proceeding with the process, to be followed by an unveiling in late spring / summer, to be attended by members of AMGC and of course her family.

First things first - the plaque needs ordering through GWR and I have the data sheet to progress this with Christine. The cost is £45 (normally £100) for which the funds can be found.

Depending upon dates etc, the unveiling event may lead onto a Club Summer Celebration, particularly as Christine is considering relocating to Devon later in the year, to be closer to members of her family. In the meantime, I'll crack on.

More details to follow in a few weeks.

50 years ago:

Speaking of celebrations, it was about this time of the year in 1975, that my first MG arrived, a 1973 MGB GT NAM 77M in teal blue with chromed rostyles. I was 23. It was bought by the Firm I trained with and as handcuffs to retain me for 2 more years post qualification. In the event it worked and I became a Partner aged 25 (too young in reality but I didn't turn it down). 3 years later NOV 555M arrived - a damask red MGB GT V8. I had the pleasure of driving that car until 1982, when our son David, then 12 months old was growing too fast to squeeze in the back! Moving quickly on, it wasn't until 2004 that I bought another MG. This time with my own money and a new MG ZR 160. My green 2005 TF160 followed in 2008 and I was hooked again into MG sports-cars - others followed up to the present time.

Quite coincidentally, in discussions with Fred, he mentioned that his first MG arrived around the same time - an MGB GT too - but I guess he's never actually been without at least one MG over the last 50 years.

To close, in a trip to The Hub at Bibury a few months ago, artist Martin Lee was selling some of his water colours, one of which was based on his own MGB GT - teal blue, chromed rostyles etc, just like mine! I had to buy it and at £100 I was delighted.

See photo- but strangely without a near side door mirror, perhaps lost in action?



Anyway - how the last 50 years have flown and most thankfully just about half of them enjoying MGs and moreover the friendships they create. Perhaps something for a celebration sometime soon I say - along with fellow AMGC members' stories?"

Now for The Christmas 2025 Bash Events Section

Following on from the May club night natter, Jane and I have booked the Kings Court Hotel (opposite the Alcester Rugby Club on the A 435).

It's scheduled for Tuesday December 9 and the normal December 2 meeting will be restored. You'll recall I consolidated it with our Party back in 2023, under the Chairman's Rule 1.

More to follow - but basically £35 per head for a 3 course meal, plus a DJ (funded by there being no gift of a bottle of wine). I think the DJ (Richard's man) should play songs we individually choose - say 35 - 40 requests, which should work time wise. Rooms can be booked at £105 for those serious about having a good time. Quite a few folk seem to want to take up the room offer. Jane and I certainly will. For those that don't know the set up, there's an upstairs function room that could easily take over 100 guests. There's an adjoining bar and toilets too, both quiet and for our convenience. (Ho ho, . . . convenience, gerrit? ED)

As Jane and I have funded the deposit, we're quite hopeful that you will consider joining us and pay a £5 deposit each. We'll rig up an attendance sheet soon somehow, but in the meantime, can I ask you kindly email Jane - jg@oakwoodgreen.co.uk, with an indicative "Christmas Party yes" and copy Richard - richavery186@gmail.com , no need to pay the deposit until we produce the booking sheet.

As we're off to Warners in June and thus missing the June meeting, we are keen to get cracking with indicative bookings.

All a bit rushed as we're just leaving for a few days in Scotland.

Finally our change of venue arises from comments to be all sat together, but the success of the event prevents such at the Cross. I will talk to Laura about our thinking and perhaps if they open the Cross on January 1 2026, we could have a lunch there?

Mike Green

Re-gassing MGFs

David Rayner sent through an interesting article from Practical Classics Spring 2025 edition "MGF has its magic carpet ride restored". Unfortunately we do not have permission (yet) to reproduce it in this newsletter but here are images from the 3 pages.

If you need copy you can order the magazine from

<https://www.practicalclassics.co.uk/magazine/issues/spring-2025/> or contact [David Pitt](#)



Website Information [ardenmgclub.co.uk/](https://www.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. **Update in progress.**



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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