

August 2025



ARDEN



CLUB



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[Arden MG Club](#)

## Arden Matters Newsletter August 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)

Apologies for being late in sending this newsletter through!

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## Cotswold Run Report—10th July by Paul

What a day we had on Fred's Cotswold Run, the sun was shining but as Fred said there were lots of roads with dappled shade. The 14 MGs lined up at the Cotswold Barn; some people had bacon sandwiches and tea or coffee but everyone was ready to leave around 11 for the very scenic 45 miles run through the Cotswold countryside to lead us to Hidote Manor Gardens, where Fred had arranged a super spot for us to park up, display our cars to the Garden visitors and enjoy picnics in the shade.

A lovely day. Our thanks to Fred and his team for another enjoyable day out.



After the event Fred wrote to thank The National Trust for their hospitality and asked whether we could do something similar in the future as many of their visitors seemed to enjoy the display?

This was their reply—"It was an absolute pleasure to have you all here. Yes, lets host the event again – just let us know when."



## BMC & Leyland Show, British Motor Museum Report—13th July by Paul

Our annual visit to the BMC & Leyland Show at the British Motor Museum last Sunday was another success, with 17 cars filling our display area between the Collections Centre and the Museum Entrance, although 3 of them were non-Club guests (all are welcome). We had a very good selection of BMC & Leyland era cars and an earlier TC and later RV8, F & TF to fully illustrate the history.

The weather stayed fine and was thankfully a little cooler than the previous days, nevertheless the Storm Shelter was put to good use to sit and socialise in the shade.

The Show's Manager at the Museum was especially complimentary that we all displayed our mirror hangers speeding up the process of getting our cars on site, so well done all.



The show was not as busy in the Arena area but the top display area was filled with an excellent collection of Ex-works cars from the Abingdon Competition Department. I was especially pleased to see two of the 3 Mini Cooper S that were disqualified from the 1966 Monte Carlo Rally (Registration Numbers GRX 5D & GRX 55D, the missing car was GRX 555D which should have won with Timo Makinen driving. In the Museum are the Winning cars from 1964, 5 & 7). Colin was very pleased to see both of the GTS cars RMO & MBL, especially next to each other, which has probably not happened for many years.

Another enjoyable Arden MG Club day out.

## Breakfast Meeting Report—15th July by Paul / Graham

Our lowest turnout of the year so far, where were you all? You missed another good day when we were able to display our MGs on the grass outside the Museum Entrance, although we were restricted to the cafe as the Gallery was in use for a conference.

Richard came along in his new purchase, an MGB GT Jubilee Edition, which is new to him but has been in another Club Member's hands previously.

I hope more of you will turn-up for the August Meeting on Tuesday 19th. If you are new to visiting the Museum make sure you book your ticket in advance (saves you £3) and say "yes" to donating your entry. Plus, if possible Gift Aid it; this gives the Museum an extra 25% and is funded by your tax taken by the Government. As far as I am aware we will be back to the Gallery and should be parked on the grass, I look forward to seeing you there, Paul.



More from Graham!

Whilst praying for rain, stalwarts collected in a corner of the café to do justice to the work done by the Ladies (see photo). We welcomed a new member, too.

Two lovely quotes from general round-the-table chit-chat:

- 1 - "I've been used to bit of power in the past. I had a 5 litre Jaguar XK . . ."
- 2 - "I nearly killed myself once, driving a Morris Oxford" (how on EARTH do you do THAT?)



Also, here's a couple of photos of a glorious Jaguar 3.8 Mk 2 parked outside. Coombs rear arches, Halda Speed Pilot on the dash and competition instrumentation. And it was on Swiss registration plates.



Then the cartoonist's mind takes over. There's got to be a gag in that?

How about: "It's a great car but, every hour the bonnet opens and a cuckoo pops out"

Meanwhile - Good news: . . . it had rained!





## Badsey Flower Show —26th July, Photo Collection by Graham





## Aunt Sally Report—3rd August by Trevor

“Aunt Sally” - a quintessentially British game involving mild skill and sunshine. It brings so much joy: friendly competition, a drink and aimless banter though possibly grievous bodily harm if cheating, excessive drink and argument makes people use the wooden sticks as weapons. Luckily, none was evident on the fourth running of this Arden MG Club event.

Angie and I decided this year to add a short run to enhance the day. We had forgotten the previous arguments we encountered when doing this, never being closer to divorce. Luckily, I remembered how much we had spent on solicitors previously. So, and because our memory is failing, my wife Mary thought if we used a mix of old runs nobody would notice. Think we got away with it.

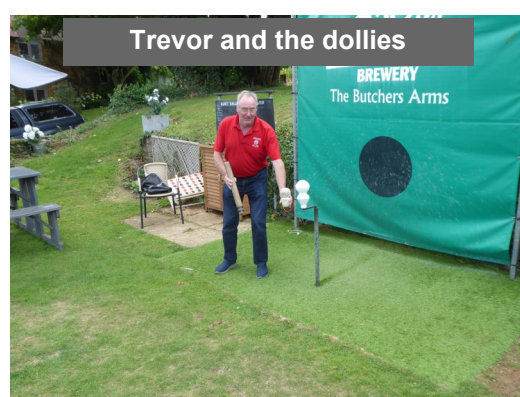
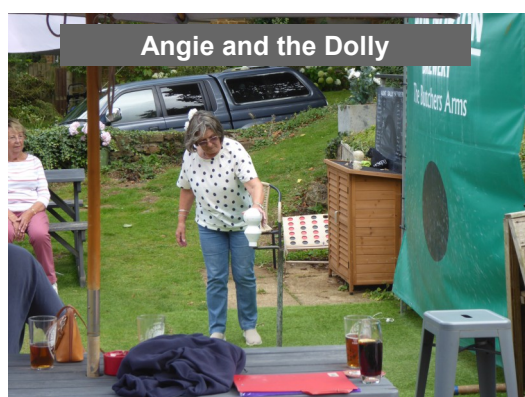
Because this event relies upon pleasant weather and cannot be played indoors, Linda and I worried about weather predictions. Seaweed was employed to help. But Sandra made me throw it away due to an infestation of mussels. The forecast was becoming depressing; should we postpone?

Sunday: the forecast didn't look good. Defiantly, we set off to the start point with the hood down. As cars arrived: more defiance and optimism, as all hoods were down. Thirty-three people had signed up to embarrass themselves throwing a long piece of wood at a small round piece of wood. Unfortunately, Roland and Karen had to cancel due to being called away for a family matter. People may remember that Roland was “Person of the Match” in 2022? The 2023 champion was David Tilly, after a ten way “stick off”, David being the only one to hit the sally once in it.

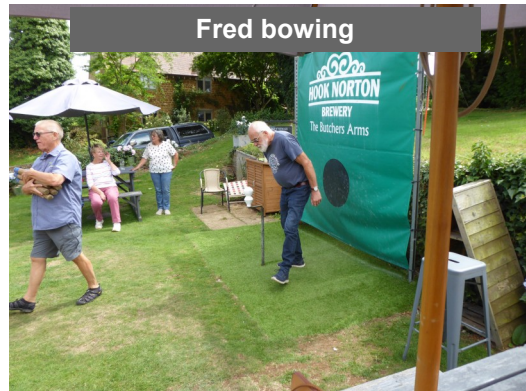
The run, copies available, although short, included interesting roads with good views. Must make the Happy Herefords run more challenging.

As lunch was being served, it rained. Luckily, Kate, our lovely host, had prepared tables in the pub, in case. Many headed inside . . . some stalwarts stayed out. A very enjoyable meal was had, it perked up and then it was down to the business of the event, full throttle. We'd asked people to form their own teams, but this was a struggle, so it was down to my good wife, what's-er-name, to form teams of six.

Each player throws six “sticks,” at a “dolly,” on a metal pole. Knock the “dolly” off cleanly - you score a point. Regular players can score as many as 4/5 hits from six throws. On our last try at this game the scoreboard had so many zeros, some people contacted the Samaritans. So, time to rewrite the rules. A larger “dolly” / stand closer / a team member passing the sticks, so you don't lose focus. This worked very well with competitors hitting the “dolly” regularly. Just before the last person to throw, four people were tied for highest personal score. Then the final player John Stephens: six hits, making him “person of the match”, helping Team D to be overall winners.



## Aunt Sally Report continued



Our thanks to everyone who attended for their good humour at an event which was not so much a contest of skill, but more an afternoon down the pub with exceptionally good company.

Trevor & Angie, Mary, Linda, Sandra, Julliana & Titianna.

**Team A** Stephen & Denise , David & Di, Mick & Marge. **Team B** Colin & Lindsey, Eddie, Fred, Graham & Fiona. **Team C** Lech, Harry, Mike & Jane, Steve & Gaynor. **Team D** Dave & Tracy, Peter & Julia, John & Oosha

We have 2 links to videos taken by John Stephens:

<https://youtu.be/VDBwpHL-YWs>

<https://youtu.be/7-XwD5IWZDI>

## 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
Mon 1 Sept	Kineton Classic Gathering 18:00 – 20:00	No	Just turn up
Tue 2 Sept	Club Night - Talk by Mike Brown on Mayflower's involvement in the development of the MGF/TF	Yes	Just turn up
Sun 14 Sept	Dorridge Day - Classic Car Show Classic Car Parade – Leaves at 10:30 from The Black Boy pub, Warwick Road, Knowle B93 0EB	?TBD?	<b>TBD</b> Please advise me if you are going to attend so I can pass on info to the show coordinator. <b><i>Rich.avery186@gmail.com</i></b>
Tue 16 Sept	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up
Tue 7 Oct	Club Night – Talk by John Redshaw and will be about the work that the RNLI do. John is also an MG enthusiast and a couple of years ago carried out a tour of Scotland in his MGC GT and wrote a small book about his adventures. All of the proceeds from the sale of the book were donated to the RNLI.	Yes	Just turn up
Sun 12 Oct	Oktoberfest car run and lunch—see more details below and menu on next page.	Yes	Steve Entwistle

## Oktoberfest Car Run and Lunch—Sunday 12th October

We are organising Oktoberfest again this year, so please let us know if you can make it. The run will start from the Valley and will be about 40 miles through some lovely scenery.

Lunch will be back at the Wheatsheaf in Badsey two courses £20 including tea and coffee. If you have any special dietary requirements I am sure Peter the chef can sort an alternative.

Please let us have your menu choices as soon as possible and transfer money into the Arden MG club account. Please email [enty7@btinternet.com](mailto:enty7@btinternet.com) with your food orders.

Look forward to seeing you on the day!

Gaynor & Steve, Alan & Julia, Mike & Jane.



## MG CLUB SUNDAY LUNCH MENU

### 2 COURSE £20

Traditional Sunday roasted beef dinner \*

Chicken ballotine, stem broccoli, mash & gravy \*

Pork schnitzel, new potatoes, peas, butter & parsley \*

Korean beef bulgogi, rice & Asian salad garnish \*

Fishcakes, red pepper sauce, salad, new potatoes \*

### Puddings

Autumn apple pie & custard \*

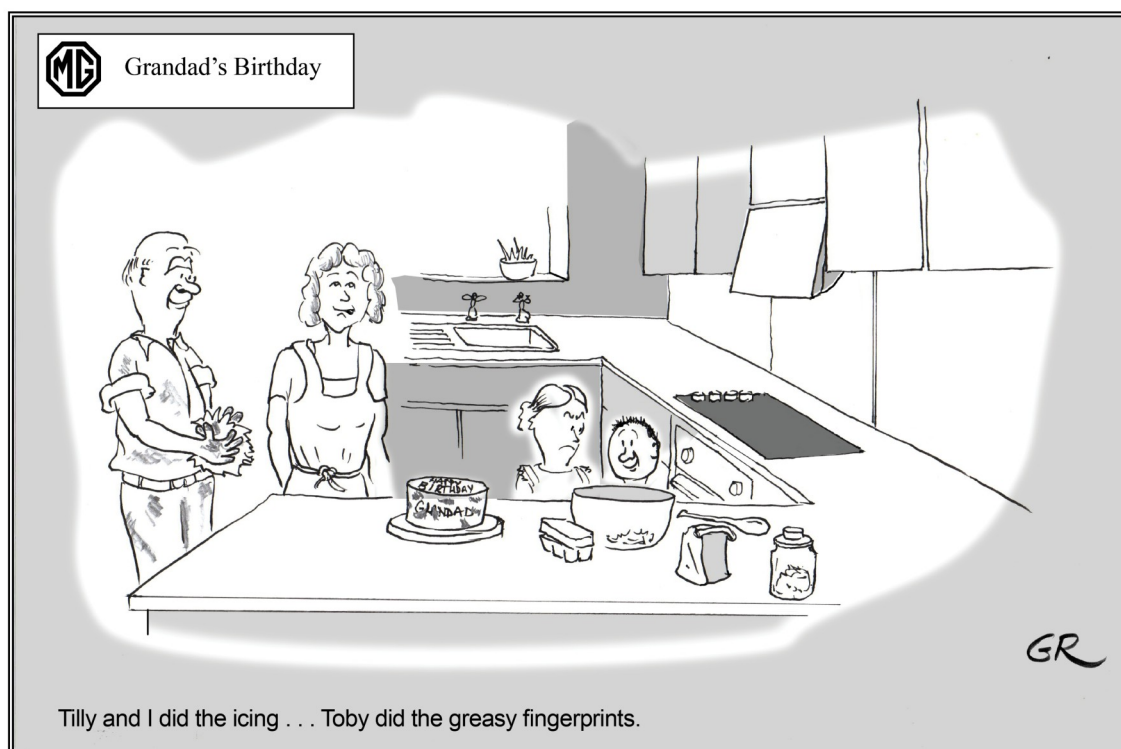
Chocolate fudge cake & vanilla ice cream \*

Cherry bakewell tart \*

Sticky toffee pudding \*

## Graham's Cartoon Time

Inspired by Lech's work on Helen's brake issue in Suffolk, and Pam having asked for a picture showing he'd got his hands dirty.



## “My other car is . . .”

Remember those window stickers people used to have “My other car is a Ferrari / Porsche”? (About the same time a James Bond bullet holes?)

Well, we thought we'd stretch this concept to people whose lives also include other devices. The second in this series is an interview with Paul Dunster, whose “Other Car” is . . . a bike.

### My other car is . . . . a Bike

Deputy Editor (DE): Paul – first: how long have you been a cyclist?

PD: Since I was about 10 – Winter 1964, Club Run on a Sunday – on a Tandem initially. We are a cycling family – Dad was a founder member of the “Rough Stuff Fellowship”, using byways where possible.

Went on to be with the Altrincham & Sale CTC, doing Time Trials with Altrincham RC: 10m (23m 47secs) and 25m (1hr 2m 22secs best). Medal performances!

In the picture we have Paul (he's the one on the bike) being readied for a time trial in the late 60s.

The bike pictured was his home-built 'Track Bike'.



Time Trials then consisted of a 15 mile bike ride to the event, high speed time trials . . . and THEN 15 miles ride home. All in the one evening!

I had a very proud moment when I was presented with the BAR Cup – by my Dad.

But time passed, life took over.

DE: When did it pick up again?

PD: Welford, 1985. Local chap, Ron, and myself started cycling regularly. I was very out of practice had to start a training regime!

DE: Do you still cycle together?

PD: Not together now but we meet on a bench in Claverdon.

DE: What changes have you seen in the cycling world?

PD: Certainly the clothing! I had a very smart Jersey . . . money was tight and it was actually a “copy”, knitted by my mother.

DE: Helmets and saddles?

PD: Gosh, yes. Early helmets were strips of covered foam! Saddles? Well, the one you aspired to was the Brooks B17. Leather, and looked great! Later technology has never rivalled them. As for pedals – lots of changes there.

DE: How many bikes do you have? (Basing this on guitarists, for example, never have just one)

PD: Only the 2. The Blue 'Best' bike is for summer use and the red Hybrid is for the winter/wet weather runs.

DE: With a Cycling Club these days?

PD: Only with Ron, that's as competitive as I get.

DE: How many miles on a “run out”?

PD: Around 40 Km / 25 miles.

DE: Has puncture repair got any easier over the years?

PD: No!! It's far more difficult to get tyres off rims now; I've struggled several times to fit new tyres!!

DE: And, finally . . . your Grandchildren and Bikes . . .

PD: Poor Benjamin did not master the scuttle bug and struggled with a balance bike but has expressed an interest in being able to ride a bike as he has seen bikes parked at school.

Rory loves the scuttle bug, getting started with a balance bike and on a bike with stabilizers he struggles with pedalling.

Patrick was like a duck to water with the scuttle bug and balance bike. He now has the 'Bluey' bike with stabilizers, but not pedalling yet.

And here's the famous bench in Claverdon.

Ps. From Paul—I have discovered that 17th August is the 40th Anniversary of Ron and myself cycling together!!!







## EMG Caption Competition



Congratulations to Steve Harrodine for winning the recent caption competition picture—see photo above. The winning caption was “Before we went out, my wife said it’s me or the dog”  
The story from Steve, via Richard Avery, was that his wife is not very impressed with his caption and he is in the dog house.

Other captions that were entered from Arden MG members:

Dave and Di Rayner - “How long does it take to buy a dress, guarding the MG is one thing, but I can’t keep my legs crossed much longer”

Graham Robson – “Sit here, he says, and if a Traffic Warden appears, bark! Do Traffic Wardens look like Postmen?”

## Data Base Musings by Paul

As there were 3 new members at the August Club Night (welcome to them) I have been looking through the Data Base on which is recorded the register of attendance, this was started by David, in order to award a prize for the highest attendance of the year.

Currently we have 79 members (spouse/partners are included in this number)

There has been 25 events recorded (Club Nights, Breakfast Meetings and Club Runs/Shows) and 4 people have attended 80% or more of them.

In total more than 500 members plus spouse/partners have attended these events.

Very impressive for a small car club.



## Website Information [ardenmgclub.co.uk/](https://www.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.
- **Now updated with 2 additions and garage names being put in alphabetical order.**

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### 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	
	Somerset, TA11 7HD, 07722 175473 <a href="http://www.martinsmithmgspares.co.uk">www.martinsmithmgspares.co.uk</a>	MG 3, MG 6							Sales, spares, repair, trim and upholstery
MB Trim Ltd	Unit 6, Royal Enfield Ind Park, Redditch. B97 6DL 01527 68141 ( Bernard & Maureen ( Mo)) <a href="http://www.mbtrim.com">www.mbtrim.com</a>						Trimmers		Alan C
MGF Centre	D'urberville House, 101 D'urberville Rd Wolverhampton, WV2 2EG Tel 01902 453100 <a href="http://www.mgfand500centre.com">www.mgfand500centre.com</a>	MG F MG TF		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Steve E
MG Rover Mobile Mechanics	Unit 7, Endland Ind. Est., Parcel Terrace, Derby DE1 1LY 01332 207198, 07595 704340 <a href="http://www.mgrovermobilemechanics.co.uk">www.mgrovermobilemechanics.co.uk</a>	MG F MG TF	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Phil W They come to you!
Navigation Garage Simon Baughan	Stratford Rd, Wootton Wawen, Henley-in-Arden, B95 6BZ 01564 792629	All	Yes	Yes	Yes				David H
Pennant Classics Ltd	Warwick Road, Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9LX 07465 219298 <a href="http://www.pennantclassics.co.uk">www.pennantclassics.co.uk</a>	Classics		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Graham R
P J Auto Electrics Paul Wormal	39 Mayhurst Rd. Hollywood, Birmingham B47 5QG. 07765 351721 <a href="http://www.pjautoelectrics.co.uk">www.pjautoelectrics.co.uk</a>	Classics			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				