

January 2026



ARDEN  CLUB



ardenmgclub.co.uk/



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

Arden Matters Newsletter January 2026

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



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Breakfast Meeting Festive Lunch, December 2025, Report by Paul

24 of us sat down in the Sky Suite at the British Motor Museum for the Festive Lunch, spread over 3 tables of 8 each and a very good lunch it was too. I think everyone was pleased with the food and service, they look after us very well.



The Gang's all here!

Most people arrived early for a cuppa in the Cafe and plenty were enjoying mince pies as well!! To add some further interest for the day I did a talk around the Museum titled 'The Rover Story' looking back at the history of the company based on the exhibits in the collection. There was a bit of a clash with the normal public and a private Tour in the Museum, so I had to do a few modifications but hopefully the Story made sense.

However I need to talk quicker or we needed to walk faster but I ran out of time to complete the talk, so if there is interest we could finish it before this year's lunch or after a normal breakfast meeting. Another talk I'm considering is 'The Daimler Story' as it is the 130th anniversary of the formation of the company this year and JDHT have laid out their Daimlers in chronological order in the Collections Centre, so ideally set up for a logical talk. Would anyone be interested? Contact [Paul Dunster](#)

On to this year I have booked us in with the Museum for our regular 3rd Tuesday of the Month, so the first Breakfast Meeting will be on Tuesday 20th January and every third Tuesday through the year, however I will not be at this first meeting but I'm sure you can have a good social morning and I expect the Gallery to be available for seating you.

Breakfast Meeting Festive Lunch, December 2025, Report by Graham

It's all very confusing. We have the popular Arden Breakfast Bap Meeting once a month at the Breakfast Motor Museum, but THEN along comes Christmas and we align ourselves with their Christmas Lunch. Therefore we have the Arden MG Breakfast Lunch. Sadly, as there has never really been any traditional association with Yuletide and Bacon Baps (i.e. not up there with Brussels Sprouts, Turkey and Mince Pies) they were supplanted by more seasonal fayre.



Paul explaining

But before the lunch, Paul Dunster had put together a superb talk on The History of Rover, and escorted (can you say "escort" when talking about Rovers?) us round pertinent bits of the Museum. Enough history left over for another year.



Rare Prototype



The finished product



For the meal there was a very good turnout from AMG, amounting to three tables, and we are extremely grateful to Paul Dunster for organizing it. Because we are a civilised group there were no arguments, conflicts or dramatic revelations of the Eastenders variety during the course of events. Perhaps the tensest time was trying to work out how to stick the Christmas cracker novelty tree trimmings together. Another bonus was some of the cracker gags were quite good.



Where are the bloody instructions?



Success.... All except for Lech, who's dropped in his soup



Success

Thank you, Paul

January Club Night - Report, by Paul

Although the Golden Cross was closed for the January meeting (so there was not officially a 'Club Night') a few of us were thinking of meeting up anyway and The Piston Club @ The Stag, Red Hill was suggested. As it happens Lech and I were passing one day, so called in to see if they would be able to host an informal Club Night and they were only too happy to help. They booked their 'Function Room' for us despite not really knowing how many would turn up. An email round brought enough responses to confirm with The Piston Club and the room was ready for us. In total we numbered 20 people, so not bad on a cold winter evening for an ad-hock gathering.

We were spread out on a large table filling the center of the room, so lots of cross table chatter. What was also interesting is that most people stayed until they came to throw us out at the 10 O'clock closing time.

Was it a success? You tell me.

AMG ChilliWilliRun 2026, by Graham

Distinctly threatening weather led to a reduced presence of Open-Topped vehicles. It seemed like most of those that could have been open had their hardtops VERY securely in place.

Great thanks go to Mike Green for coming to the rescue with a venue (a previous plan had sadly floundered), and also Paul Dunster for saving the day with a Run.

Thus we met at The View, set off on a run . . . and arrived back at the The View for lunch.



But it's a crackin' area for a run, and Paul (and presumably Lech) made great use of it. Plenty of quiet roads and attractive views, and lovely houses we probably couldn't afford of the entire Club pooled their resources. Many of us cheerfully blew or horns as we went past Norman and Christine Large's; affectionately meant, but it was probably bloody irritating to the neighbours.

Back to The View and the extremely well-organised and friendly staff soon had us aligned with our chosen meal choices. A good venue.



After lunch we realised that those of us who had not only arrived for the day with the HOOD DOWN (i.e. one car) had also NOT SPOTTED that it had RAINED during the meal. Our journey home (yes, it was Fiona and I) was accompanied by distinct and slowly seeping up dampness in the nether regions . . .

Thank you again to Mike Green and Paul and Pal for their work on creating this event.

Who said there was going to be quiz? Well – by way of apology, here's a very late question, in the "Motoring" category: The celebrated dancer Isadora Duncan came to a tragic end (pick a cheery subject, Graham) as a passenger in WHAT make of vehicle?

Club Events. What's on in 2026

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/ Coordinator
Tue 20th Jan	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up
Sun 1 st Feb	Stratford & Henley Classic Meet NOTE NEW VENUE – Durham Ox, Shrewley CV35 7AY	No	10.00 till 12.00 Just turn up
Tue 3 rd Feb	Club Night at the Golden Cross	Yes	
Sun 8 th Feb	MG & Triumph Spares Day – Stoneleigh Park	No	£15 on the day £12 advanced
Tue 17 th Feb	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up
Tue 3 rd Mar	CLUB NIGHT AGM – GOLDEN CROSS (See below)	Yes	Please Attend
Tue 17 th Mar	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up
Sun 29 th Mar	Mad March Run & Lunch	Yes	Book with Mick & Margy Walker
Tue 7 th Apr	Club Night at the Golden Cross (See Page 7)	Yes	
Tue 21 st Apr	BMM Breakfast Gathering – 10:30	Yes	Just turn up
Sun 26 th Apr	Drive-It Day Run & Lunch (See Page 6)	Yes	Book with Nick & Philippa Godfrey

AGM – March Club Night - 3rd March 2026, by Paul

It is my turn to host the Club Night in March and this will be our formal meeting of the year, which gives everyone the chance to volunteer for the posts that make the Club function, so your chance to get involved and ensure it moves in the right direction.

I think most of the current officers are happy to continue in their roles, however we still need a Chairman or Chairwoman and it has been suggested that I provide a 'Job Description', which is very difficult because the job can be as much or as little as you want to do. The main thing is to provide some direction for the Club and most importantly to co-ordinate the activities. Ideally they would host the Club Night, however as we have done this last year this can be spread amongst all the officers of the Club. This can be a very rewarding role getting you closer to all the people within the Club and wider MG circles and is a chance to put something back into the Club. As ever the more you put in the more you get out. There is a small incentive from the MG Owners Club who provide free membership (including subscription to Enjoying MG Magazine) for the years you are the Club Chairman.

I will send out an Agenda with the February Newsletter, so if there are any items you would like to discuss then please let me know and I will add them to the list.

Drive it Day Details and Menu, Sunday 26th April

This year's run is being organised by Nick & Philippa Godfrey. The run will start from the Valley Evesham departing at 11.00 am. The run will be approx. 1½ hours, and ends at The Dodford Inn, Bromsgrove, where there is an option of a 2 course meal for £ 25 per person. We need to pre-order and pay in advance.

Please can you confirm to Philippa philippagodfrey@hotmail.com and copy Nick nfg90@hotmail.com and Richard Avery rich.avery186@gmail.com , whether they wish to attend the run only, or the run and meal (with menu choices) and send the money to the club account with reference SURNAME DID, e.g. GODFREY DID. Responses and payment needed by 22nd March.

Meet at The Valley from 10 am, hopefully they will reserve the usual meet up area for us.

MAIN COURSE

Beer battered cod, skin on fries, garden peas, tartar sauce
Pan fried sea bass, herb infused crushed new potatoes, buttered greens, samphire, beurre blanc (gf)
Gina's homemade beef lasagne, skin on fries, coleslaw
Mushrooms, sundried tomato & basil risotto (vg)

Roasts:

28 day aged rump of beef, served pink (gfo)
Slow roasted pork belly, sage & onion stuffing (gfo)
½ roast chicken, sage & onion stuffing, pig in blanket
All served with: Yorkshire pudding, dripping roast potatoes, mash, seasonal veg, rich gravy
Mixed seed & lentil roast, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, mash, seasonal veg, rich gravy (v) (vgo)

DESSERT

Crème brulee of the day, buttery shortbread (gfo)
Triple chocolate brownie, vanilla ice cream (gfo) (vgo)
Sticky toffee pudding, toffee sauce, vanilla ice cream (gfo)
Mixed berry Eton mess (gf)
Crumble of the day, warm custard (gfo)
Bailey's & white chocolate cheesecake, brandy snap, salted caramel ice cream

v= vegetarian, vg=vegan, gf=gluten free, o=option available

For Sale

A friend has asked if I know anyone interested in these 5 AA badges, just best offer.

Email me, David Rayner davidnrayner@gmail.com



Message from Helen and Mike (The Rafflers)

Many thanks to everyone that donated prizes to the raffle during 2025, and to also the club members who purchased raffle tickets. Without them, we wouldn't be able to donate the nice amounts of money to local charities that we do each year and to also cover the club events (admin costs).



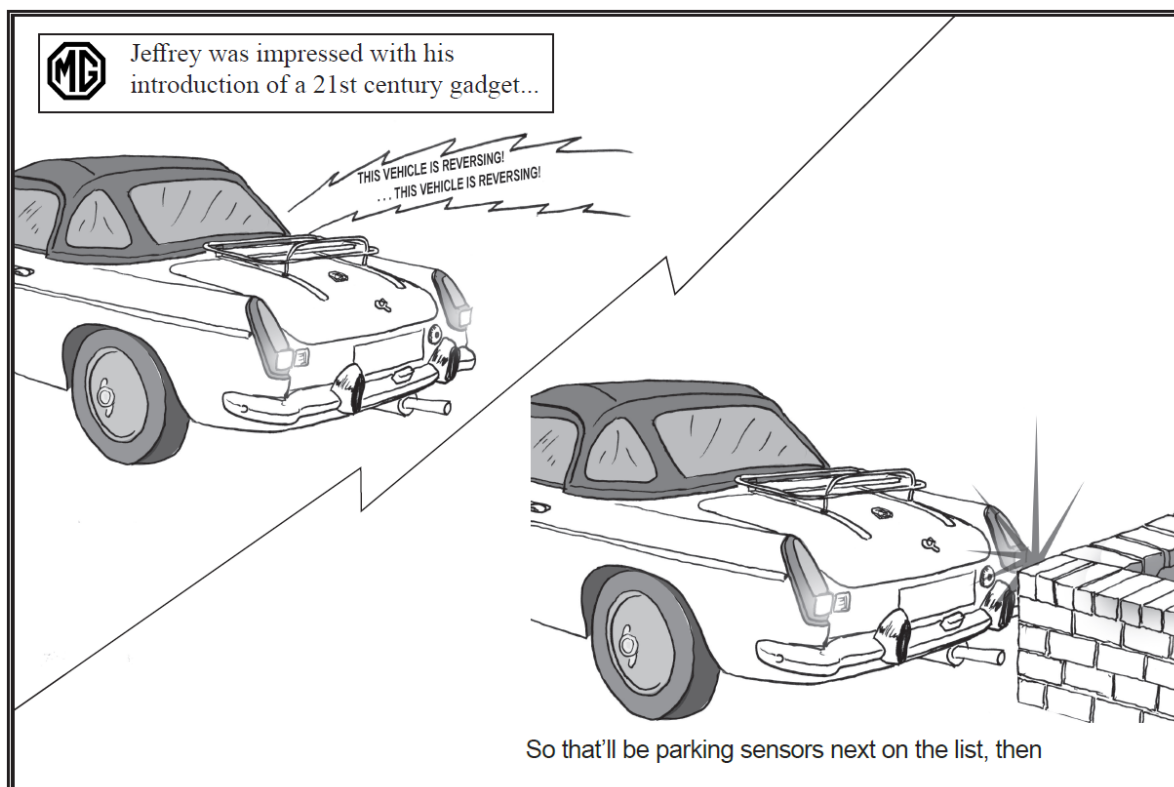
If club members have any un-wanted Christmas gifts lingering in their cupboards, they can fling them our way! But please can they just check the use by date/best before dates as we do get the odd gift that is 'out of date'.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the February club meeting.

April Club Night Tuesday 7th April – Guest Speaker, by Paul

Thanks to a suggestion by Leslie who reintroduced me to Ian Pogson, who gave a talk to the Club many years ago, when he was the Chief Engineer on the MGTG Programme at MG Motors, about the launch of the 85th Anniversary Edition of the MGTG. He has offered to talk to us about the Transition from MG Rover to SAIC Motor & MG Motor which he assures me is a fascinating story. We will aim to start after the notices around 8pm. It has been suggested that anyone who may not be as interested in listening could de-camp into the bar to continue their conversations, so feel free to do so after the notices.

Graham's Cartoon Time





Hercules The Panto—Thespians Graham and Fiona are in it.

29th – 31st January, Methodist Hall, Stratford. Tickets £15.00.

Contact Fiona on 07795 474074.

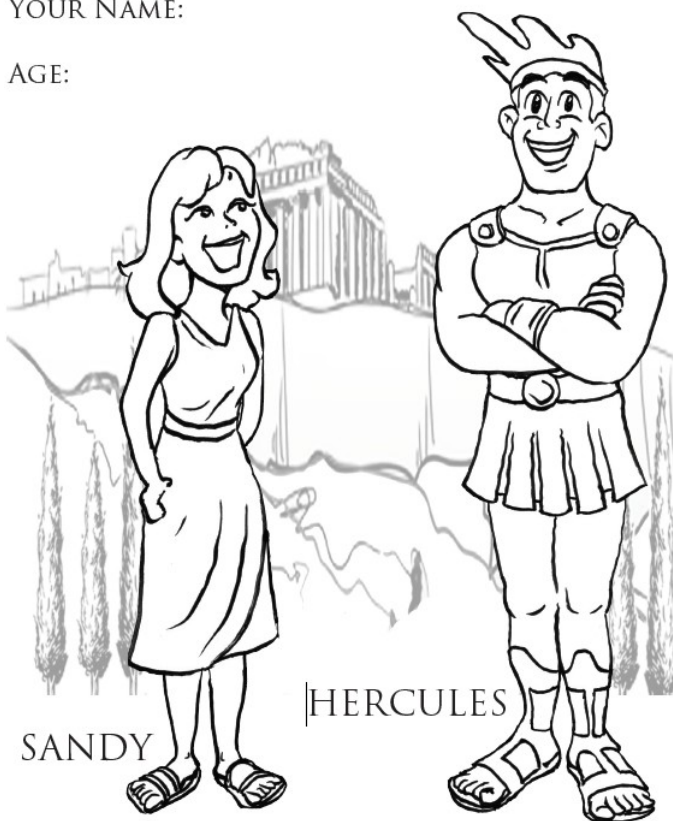
Colouring in sheets below!

YOUR NAME:

AGE:

YOUR NAME:

AGE:



SANDY

HERCULES



MEDUSA

HADES

The 20th Cotswold Caper
Sunday 5th July 2026
Join us for a scenic charity drive through the Cotswolds & Beyond

Gloucestershire

 OWNERS CLUB
 Supporting:


 CALM
 Children Achieving
 Lifelong Movement



Starting from
 Cirencester Football Club, GL7 1HS
 Price - £35 per Car
 For details contact:
caper.admin@glosmgoc.co.uk
www.glosmgoc.co.uk

The Cotswold Caper

The Gloucestershire MG Owners Club has been running the Cotswold Caper for 19 years to support local charities. In that time, we have raised over £83K for our chosen charities. A different local charity is nominated and voted for every year by our members.

The event is open to all classic and cherished cars and we usually attract well over 100 cars with entries from all over the country.

The route is around 85 miles in total, with a half way stop for lunch where you can picnic or have lunch at the café.

The crews of each car entered will be provided with a detailed route guide and bottles of water.

On arrival a bacon roll together with a tea or coffee can be pre-ordered when booking at the cost of £6.00 per person.

See <https://glosmgoc.co.uk/the-cotswold-caper-2026/> for more details.

Ratae Road Run to Burghley House - Sunday 14th June

This year, at South Leicester MG Club, it will be our 28th annual Ratae road run for charity happening on Sunday 14th June.

Here, hundreds of owners of classics and modern classics of various types will meet and enjoy a fantastic run and day out. This year it's to Burghley House, Stamford (PE9 3JY), with the start being in Broughton Astley, Leicestershire (LE9 6PT).

See <https://www.mgleicester.org/2025/10/ratae-run-2026-2/> for more details.

**Sunday 14th June
2026**

Burghley House & Gardens



Start White Horse Pub,
Broughton Astley,
Leicestershire LE9 6PT

Free breakfast roll
(bacon or
sausage), tea/
coffee on arrival
Also
Tulip Route guide
& Rally Plaque.
Half way coffee
stop

**Open to all Classic Cars
And modern Classics**

An established and well-
organised run
See web site for full details.
www.slmg.club
Organised by the South
Leicester MG Club.



Website Information [ardenmgclub.co.uk/](https://www.ardenmgclub.co.uk/)

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Tech Matters

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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	
	Somerset, TA11 7HD, 07722 175473 www.martinsmithmgspares.co.uk	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)) www.mbtrim.com						Trimmers		Alan C
MGF Centre	D'urberville House, 101 D'urberville Rd Wolverhampton, WV2 2EG Tel 01902 453100 www.mgfand500centre.com	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 www.mgrovermobilemechanics.co.uk	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 www.pennantclassics.co.uk	Classics		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Graham R
P J Auto Electrics Paul Wormal	39 Mayhurst Rd. Hollywood, Birmingham B47 5QG. 07765 351721 www.pjautoelectrics.co.uk	Classics			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				