

May 2026



ARDEN CLUB

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 [Arden MG Club](#)

Arden Matters Newsletter May 2026

Editorial team David Pitt and Graham Robson. Please send contributions, 500 words maximum, for the newsletter by the 10th of the Month. Send to dpitt@btinternet.com



Plucky Speed Chasers

In the 1930s, a whole host of racing drivers make the Magic Midget their car of choice. In 1931, the MG EX120, nicknamed The Magic Midget, sets a land speed record by becoming the first 750cc car to exceed 100mph, logging a top speed of 103.13mph.

(Anyone remember the Dinky Toy version of it?)

Picture taken from <https://www.mg.co.uk/mg-centenary>

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Breakfast Meeting April 2026 Report, by Paul

The last meeting was set fair which brought out the MGs. I had checked with the Groundsman at the Museum and he reluctantly agreed to let us park on the grass outside the Entrance but only after I suggested that we would just reverse onto the grass keeping movement to a minimum!! This was fine but I have some difficulty explaining this to the drivers and I must apologise to John D for shouting at him (I don't want to upset the Groundsman, so we can use the grass in the future, he is very protective of 'his' grass!!), hence one car pointing the wrong way. This didn't stop us having a good display of more than 10 cars (most of which were MGs, Bob is allowed to bring his AMV8 Vantage!) and there were 20 of us enjoying our breakfast rolls.



As promised I had prepared my notes to complete 'The Rover Story' talk that we ran out of time for at the Festive Lunch, so we moved down to the Starley Safety Cycle for a re-cap on the early history and progressed via HUE the first Land-Rover, to the Road Rover S1, Alvis TE21, P6BS, to end with the Range Rover. I hope you all enjoyed the walk around the Museum and found the talk interesting.



I will not be at the May meeting but that is no reason not to turn up!

Asparagus Launch Report 23rd April, by Paul

We were invited to join 'The Fleece' in Bretforton to help celebrate the Launch of the Asparagus Festival, which is always on St. George's Day the 23rd April. As ever it was a wonderful morning, greatly helped this year with the sunshine that gradually emerged through the early morning. It was an early start this year at 9 O'clock and a couple of us were late arrivals. It must be something to do with being called John!

There was the usual supply of tea & coffee in the barn, very soon followed by bacon and asparagus rolls provided by the pub and very good they were too. Then the fun began with the Mayor opening the event and Nigel reciting the 'Ode to Asparagus' then with the Pebworth Morris performing several dances, followed by the Asum Gras Ladies dance group. A highlight of the morning was the arrival of the Bretforton Primary School Children who watched the entertainment with great enthusiasm waving their 'Cross of St George' flags before walking down to the assembled Classic Cars. I thought it would be a good idea to let them sit in my car and several other MG owners followed suit, the kids had a great time and were very respectful of our old cars. It was definitely impressive how easily they got in and out compared to the owners!!



The traditional 'Round of Gras' was then taken in a convoy of classic cars (Morgans, Triumph TRs and of course our MGs) to Croome Park. All the children had by now reassembled at the orchard exit to wave all the cars away and the call of "press your horn" encouraged lots of noise to the kids great excitement. Wonderful fun.

I was not able to join the convoy to Croome but I hope it went well. I had a report that the talk about the history of the Defford Airfield was very interesting. Worth a re-visit if you didn't hear it.

I hope you like the photo of St MG George slaying the Dragon, thanks to Phil B.



Drive it Day 26th April, by Paul

The National Drive-it-Day was celebrated by Arden MG Club with a run from The Valley in Evesham to The Dodford Inn, near Bromsgrove. Nick & Philippa did a great job to find some lovely country lanes for us to travel on and even managed to solve the 'road closure' problem with a small diversion off the original route.



Over 30 MGs assembled at The Valley and after their drivers were suitably refreshed, we were off into the sunshine. The run was 28 miles to get the Dodford where the MGs were parked in a 'Horseshoe' shape for display (very difficult to photograph).

Inside the pub it was time for lunch and the food was very good, another great day out for AMGC, so many thanks to Nick & Philippa for their organisation, well done.



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
Mon-Fri 1 st – 5 th June	Arden Adventure to Alvaston Hall		
Mon 1 st June	Kineton Classic Meet – Sports & Social Club	No	18:00-20:00 Just turn up
Tue 2 nd June	Club Night—Fleece in Bretforton. See Page 6 for details	Yes	Paul Dunster
Sun 7 th June	Stratford & Henley Classic Meet Durham Ox, Shrewley CV35 7AY	No	10.00 till 12.00 Just turn up
Sun 7 th June	MG's in the Park Cotswold Wild Life Park	No	Book on-line
Tues 8 th June	Gaydon Gathering 2 nd Tuesday of the month 17:00 – 20:30	No	Book Free Tickets at Britishmotormuseum.co.uk Go to What's On then Gaydon Gathering
Mon 15 th June	Visit to National Trust - Packwood House	Yes	David Smith davandali@hotmail.co.uk
Tue 16 th June	BMM Breakfast Gathering—10.30	Yes	Just turn up
Sun 21 st June	Ragley Hall – Father's Day Motor Show	Not currently	Book Tickets at Classicshows.org Displaying £5.91 Driver + 1 or £15/person on the day
Tues 7 th July	CLUB NIGHT – SHOW NIGHT GOLDEN CROSS See Page 6 for details	Yes	Paul Duster
Tues 8 th July	Mid Week Cotswold Run Cotswold Barn to Donnington Brewery	Yes	Fred Bury tbury04@aol.com
Sun 12 th July	BMC & Leyland Show – BMM Gaydon. See Page 6 for details	Yes	Paul Dunster paul.dunster@talktalk.net
Sat 12 th July	Badsey Flower Show. See Page 7	Yes	Steve Entwistle enty7@btinternet.com
Sat 8 th Aug	Brailles Show	Yes	Fred Bury tbury04@aol.com

Club Night - 2nd June, by Paul



As most folk will be away at Warners in Cheshire, there will not be a meeting at the Golden Cross, however as there are a few of us not going away, I thought we would have an informal get together at a different venue for a short drive out with a pint and natter. I have booked us in at the Fleece in Bretforton for 7.30 and reserved 2 'Horsebox Tables' in the Orchard. We can also use the Orchard to display our MGs. Let me know if you are going to join us.

Show Night - 7th July, by Paul

A reminder of our annual fun night at the Cross, probably on the same style as last year, more details next month.



MG/Morris Tour of Oxford Sites, by Paul



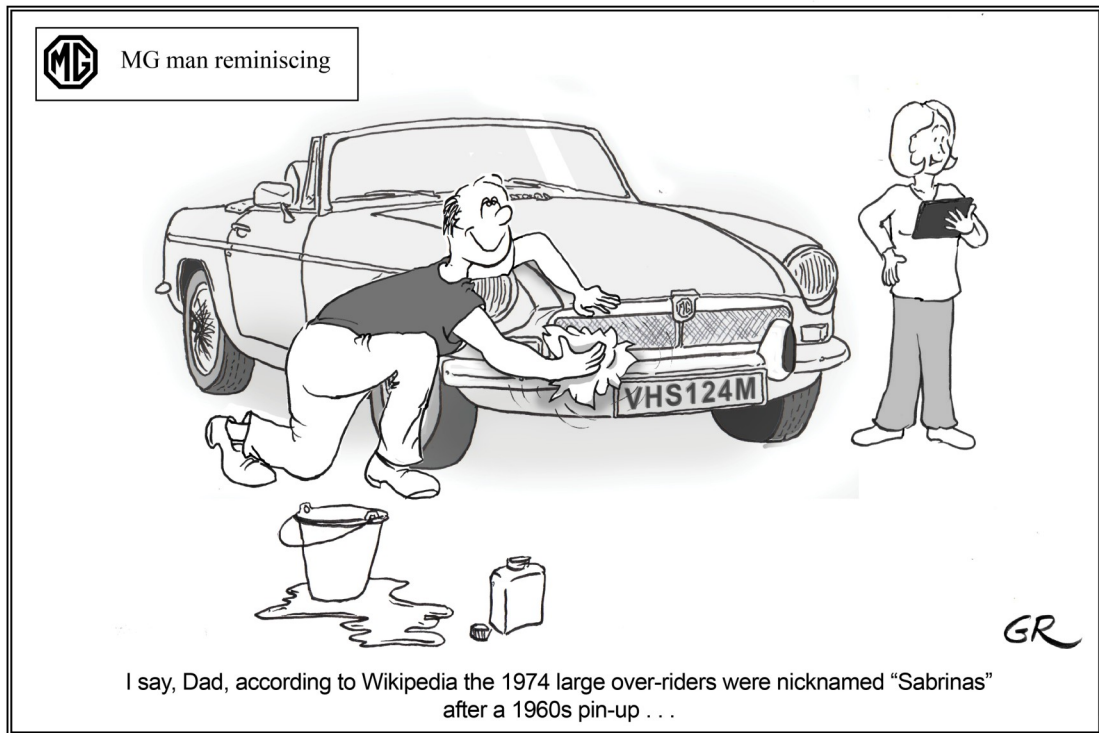
Advance notice that I'm arranging a Tour around Oxford to visit the places that have a connection to Morris Motors and MG Cars. This will be a walking tour around the City Centre on a weekday (to avoid Tourist Crowds) and will be limited to no more than 10 people. I will send an email with information when it is

BMC & Leyland Show at The British Motor Museum - 12th July, by Paul



Our annual visit to this show is booked for the Sunday and we have been allocated our usual prime spot between the Museum Main Entrance and The Collections Centre. I will obtain the Display Passes (free of charge) in time to hand out at the Show Night. These passes get you access to the Show, The Museum & The Collections Centre. There will be food on site in the Junction 12 Cafe and others, however we will have space to picnic around our cars. This is always a good show with lots of British cars on display, so come and join us. Please book with Paul (paul.dunster@talktalk.net) as soon as you can and I will reserve a 'Pass' for you, we have nearly 10 cars booked already.

Graham's Cartoon Time



Editor's note—more details of Sabrina nostalgia can be found somewhere in this newsletter.....

Badsey Flower Show - Saturday 25th July, by Steve

The annual flower show takes place at the Recreation ground in Badsey on 25th July. Anyone wishing to attend please let me know at enty7@btinternet.com and copy Richard in rich.avery186@gmail.com . All cars must be in place by 12 midday.



The Missing AMGC Report in EMG June Edition, by Graham

Apparent email problems meant that my Regional Review for June never arrived. Quite mysterious, in fact. So here it is, and apologies for the blank space in the actual magazine.

A recent requirement to write on the subject "Nostalgia" brought about this:

The word was coined by a Swiss scholar in 1746 to cover "morbid longing to return to one's home or native country, severe homesickness" and was considered as a disease. Various German and Greek words were plundered to arrive at "nostalgie" and it was in French army medical manuals from 1754. Originally referring to Swiss soldiers it was considered potentially fatal.

As we know, the Swiss army is enormous; it has to be to account for the production of several million Swiss army penknives every year.

A thought: Well, OF COURSE they wanted to return to Switzerland. Why did they leave in the first place?

So, let us now look at today. Nostalgia is the absolute BACKBONE of the £4bn Classic Car industry. A huge percentage of classic sports car owners drive their cars to feel part of a time gone by.

A time when roads were shocking, petrol was of poor quality, engine reliability was modest, and if a car got beyond 70,000 miles on the clock you dropped it like a hot brick.

But the vintage sports car fan is, at any one time, adorned in a leather flying hat in a Vintage Bentley, or an MG TC, or, at a stretch he's Biggles in a Sopwith Camel.

It's RAW . . . it's not mollycoddled by excessive engineering developments designed to reduce the fun of driving.

And there's always the joy of an RAC man if it all goes wrong.

Events Calendar:

Mon 1st June: Kineton Classic Meet – Sports & Social Club 18:00-20:00 Just turn up

Tue 2nd June: CLUB NIGHT – GOLDEN CROSS (Note— most people will be away on the Arden Adventures holiday, so those left behind can talk about them).

Mon 15th June: Visit to National Trust - Packwood House with David Smith

Sun 21st June: Ragley Hall – Father's Day Motor Show

More Nostalgia

Ah . . . the good old Type 300.



Even More Nostalgia

The Sabrina explanation from earlier in the news-letter...



Website Information ardenmgclub.co.uk/



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Tech Matters

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Articles kindly written and shared by members.

- [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](#) **See example below**
 - [A Directory of suppliers and services recommended by members](#)
- [MGB Daylight Running Lights](#) **New April 2026**
 - [An MGOC article about daylight running lights on an MGB. Shared with permission from MGOC.](#)
- [MBG Quiter Tappets](#) **New April 2026**
 - [An MGOC article about quiter tappets on an MGB. Shared with permission from MGOC.](#)
- [MGB Heater Upgrade](#) **New April 2026**
 - [An MGOC article about upgrading the heater on an MGB. Shared with permission from MGOC.](#)



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Directory Of Services

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Arden MG Club, Directory of Services. V4 110925									
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	
A. C. F. Howell Chrome plating	Croft St, Walsall WS2 8JR 01922 649992	All					Yes		Colin H Specialists in nickle and chrome plating as well as other metal finishing
Aldon Automotive	Breener Ind. Est, Station Drive, Brierley Hill DYS 3JZ 01384 572553 www.aldonauto.co.uk	MG Midget MG B		Yes	Yes				Mike G Electronic ignition etc
Avon Auto Centre	95 High Street, Bidford, Warks, B50 4BD 01789 773363	All	Yes	Yes					Fred B
Bill Moore	Studley 07773 247730	**		Yes **					Steve F **SU specialist
CBH Fasteners	Unit 16 Bartleef Rd, Redditch B96 0DG 01527 500866 www.cbhfasterers.co.uk	All						Yes	Colin H Suppliers of nuts, bolts, fasteners, screws and tools
College Motors	Unit 4, Sturt Farm Ind. Est, Bluford, Oxon., OX18 4ET 01993 823560 www.rovermgspecialist.co.uk	MG Rover MG F, MG TF		Yes				Yes	Steve E
Compton Auto Repairs	01760 8684714	All				Yes **			Dusty M, 'excellent job, reasonable price' Paul A ** Accident repair specialist
Cotswold Motor Co.	Unit 5, Springfield Farm, Welford Rd. Long Marston, CV37 8RA 07514 698101 01789 720054, 07514 698101	All				Yes			Graham R, 'good spraying co.' Body, trim, paint, welding
Custom Coach Trimming Co. Chris	Unit 19, Honeybourne Airfield Trading Est, Evesham, WR11 7QF 01386 834454 www.customcoachtrimming.co.uk	All					Yes **		Martin P **Custom coach trimming.
Dave's Engineering Dave	Unit 3, Royal Victoria Works, Birmingham Road, Studley B80 7AS 01527 854968	All		Yes					Colin H Engineering services, rebores, head skimming, valve guide replacement, etc