

June 2026



ARDEN CLUB

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Arden Matters Newsletter June 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

The Golden Cross Has Now Closed.

You will have seen an email from Paul D advising that our spiritual home, The Golden Cross, has closed and by the time you receive this newsletter hopefully an alternative venue will have been agreed upon for our meetings.

Mike and Jane have personally arranged with "The Wild Bunch" in Alcester to deliver a bouquet to Laura and Felan from AMGC both thanking them and wishing them well.



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Alan Griffith, a Personal Tribute by Richard

Very sadly Alan passed away on Monday afternoon, 8th June in Warwick hospital after over two years fighting cancers along with all the pain and suffering which that entailed. Throughout, Alan was always upbeat and positive and in his own words would say 'we'll get there!'

Our thoughts and prayers are with Liz and the family at this difficult time.

I remember the first Club Night when Alan and Liz came to join the club. They sat with us and immediately their charisma and zest for life was apparent. They joined in every event they could and quickly becoming an integral part of the club.

During lockdown restrictions, Alan & Liz opened their grounds to the club for a social distancing picnic, which was typical of their generosity.

Alan wanted to organise an event for the Club himself and organised a Mystery Run from the Golden Cross to Hiller's.

At around the same time, Alan suggested to me that we organise a club holiday in a hotel for a weekend. Within a few days he came up with a package from Warner's, with dates & prices for a weekend to Cricket St Thomas, which the Club embraced and bookings flooded in.

Following that success, Alan came up with 3 further Club holidays, Bodelwyddan, Bembridge IoW, and Gunton Hall which we worked on and organised together – such good times and what great memories I have spending time with him working on the detail. Alan always had great ideas to put to Liz, Fiona & I often doing all the background work beforehand.

Regrettably, despite all the hard work that Alan put in, due to his health issues he and Liz were unable to attend the Bembridge & Gunton Hall holidays. In fact the latter, Alan organised whilst recovering from major surgery as he wanted to keep busy and feel connected to the Club.

Alan was such a lovely person and we have all been blessed to have known him.

Our love goes out to Liz – she knows she has so many friends at AMGC to support her whenever she needs it.

Rest in Peace, Alan – you will live on in our memories.



Arden Adventure, Alvaston Hall 1st to 5th June 2026, by Richard



A group of 28 were booked onto the trip to Warner's Alvaston Hall, near Nantwich, Cheshire. The forecast for the week was looking very unsettled and wet. However, we managed to stay dry except for one shower whilst out in the cars.



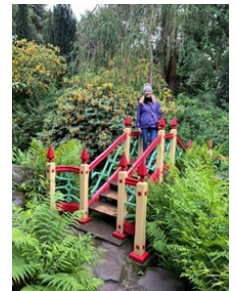
On the way up, the majority met up for a snack stop at a garden centre, near Newport.

We settled into our rooms and met up for dinner in the combined dining and entertainment hall where 5 tables of 6 had been reserved for us. As usual, the food and choices was very good. A variety of entertainment would start around 8:00pm and continue on till 11:00pm

On Tuesday, we all headed off to Quarry Bank Mill – a National Trust operational cotton mill. What a day we had there – if you haven't already been, it is fascinating and highly recommended.



Wednesday, some of us went to National Trust's Biddulph Grange Gardens



Thursday, we all headed for the Lion Salt Works museum near Northwich – another excellent insight into salt production up until 1985. There, we were treated to a buffet of home-made sausage rolls and cakes etc, made by the volunteer ladies in the kitchen.

On the following pages there are more photos and feedback on the event.....

Arden Adventure, Alvaston Hall 1st to 5th June 2026

Well, we thought Bodelwyddan couldn't be beaten, but Alvaston Hall has become our new favourite. Both the Grand House and it's location were superb. All the usual Warners expertise and hospitality, and shared with our Best Friends. Brilliant.!

Thankyou. Margy and Mick ❤️

Alvaston Hall had everything we could have wanted, a good location with not too far to travel, good grounds, amenities, accommodation, food and entertainment.

Whilst the weather was mixed, it did not deter us from taking part in runs and enjoying our time in Cheshire, with plenty to do in the surrounding area.

It is certainly a venue we would be happy to return to, and would highly recommend.

Well done Richard and Fiona !

Denise and Stephen

Another fun trip. Alvaston Hall was livelier than some of the other Warner venues.... more dancing, good entertainment and the food was great... but it was the MG club members that made it fun. Moving tables every night and chatting was great. The runs and visits were brilliant... who knew that a salt works could be so fascinating! Thank you MGRs for a great week Bea & Bob



My one line comment on the event would be "Simply the Best, Better than all the Rest" as Tina would say.

A few simple Warners delights arose from those odd impromptu chats with friends:

- * *Colin Howes - I discovered he was a DJ at a Club in Hopwood, where I used to frequent as a lad.*
- * *Lindsay Howes - she attended the same school as me - Redditch County High, but 4 years below; we grew up a mile apart in Hollywood.*
- * *Policeman Diesel Dave - he has a role with training Police Cadets - freely volunteering his time in the Public Sector to benefit particularly our young people - top man!*
- * *Last but not least - judging the AMGC dancing troop and particularly watching Margaret Curtis, smiling as she moved that new knee about - nice one Margaret.*
- * *On the subject of agility, I'm sure Margaret enjoyed a lifetime career in teaching Sport to young people - this has set me thinking about alternative sports for seniors more to follow.*

THANK YOU

A great tribute to Fiona and Richard for making it all happen, with all thanks to Alan and Liz for introducing us to the Warner's experience some 5 years ago.

Mike G

Arden Adventure, Alvaston Hall 1st to 5th June 2026

David's & Diane's thoughts:

- * Motor & Meandering
- * Joking & Jesting
- * Camaraderie & Chatting
- * Friendship & Fun
- * Socialising & Smiling



Fiona's Best Bits

- * *Best Culinary Bit: Chocolate Plant Pot complete with real edible flowers*
- * *Best Car Bit: Meeting a twin of our 50th anniversary BGT head-on in Middlewich*
- * *Best Noisy Bit: Watching the 'Spinning Mule' charging across the floor at Quarry Bank Mill*
- * *Best Scary Bit: Tree branch nearly falling on Richard, Lisa & Larry in the woods at Biddulph Grange Gardens*
- * *Best Car Photo Bit: The smile of the guide at the Salt Works when she finally got the go-ahead from her boss to have a run round the car park with David Smith in his BGT*
- * *Best of all Bit: Face time call with Alan & Liz to share a virtual drink together on our last night – Bless them both*

Arden Adventure, Alvaston Hall 1st to 5th June 2026



MGCC 2026 Welsh Rallye Report, 16th May 2026, by Fred and Lech

Lech & Pam, Alan & Julia and Jane & I went on the MGCC 2026 Welsh Rallye on the weekend of 16th of May.

Lech & Pam and Jane & I left our house 13:30hrs on Friday 15th May and drove in convoy to Llandrindod Wells Metropole hotel, then in his wonderful 1933 L type Magna (just reassembled) and us in my BGT.

It's great fun following the Magna as it changes direction over each undulation and keeps him engaged at all times!



We met Alan & Julia at the hotel and all had a good 90mile run on the Saturday dodging the showers. Lech only gave in at the lunch stop and put his roof on. Jane & I were tail end Charlie's having been asked to marshal the start.

A fun night was had by all over dinner on Saturday night with Lech being presented with the trophy for best car!

We stayed on an extra night and travelled home on Monday.

Both cars performed faultlessly throughout but, of course, that didn't prevent Lech from crawling under a car to help the other pre-war offering, an M type from 1930! He's always a good bloke to have in your corner in a crisis.



See Graham's cartoon on Page 9—very appropriate!

Breakfast Meeting Report – 19th May 2026, By Paul and Graham

Sorry I was not at this Breakfast Meeting but I hope everyone have a good old chin-wag anyway. My spies tell me there were 18 of you there to enjoy a breakfast.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 16th if this Newsletter reaches you before then, there will be a new treat for you in the 'Concepts & Prototypes Section' with the addition to the Museum of the loan (for 12 months) of another MG concept that was not pursued to production: EX234, well worth a look. If I have time before the meeting I will research a history of the model for a short talk if anyone is interested.

You all know the routine by now./ The Museum opens at 10am and we sit down around 10.30, I also hope we will be able to display our cars on the grass in front of the entrance.

See you there.

Eighteen people were present today, some of whom had braved the adverse weather forecasts and come in their treasured MGs. Hope they were OK on the way back because the weather was positively biblical.

Graham Smith came in shorts. Hmmm.....

There was coffee, bacon and stuff, and general lively chat. Details of upcoming dates were also broadcast. At about 12:00 the thoughts of lunch at home was starting to take over, so we started to drift off.

By which time, sadly, the perfectly lovely Aston DB7 in the car park had gone.



Unofficial June Club Night Report, by Paul

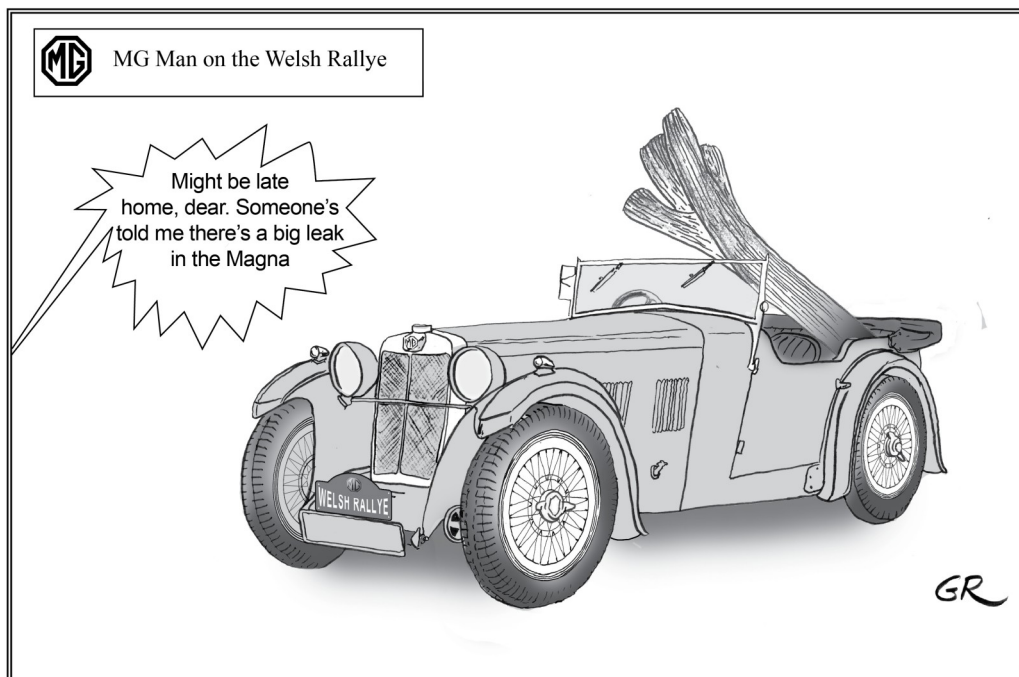
As most folk were away in Cheshire for the 'Week Away' at Warners, I thought that those who didn't make the journey North, we could hold an 'informal' Club Night and take the opportunity to venture somewhere different. We booked ourselves into The Fleece at Bretforton and were allowed to bring our cars (I won't say MGs as several were different Marque Classics) into the Orchard and so we sat in one of the 'Horse Boxes', which would have been better if it was warmer!! Anyway good use was made of the display area to stand around the cars with what looked like interesting discussions. In total there was 8 of us with 5 MGs and a couple of others (still very welcome), although we do seem to be becoming a sub-branch of the Aston Martin Owners Club! There are 3 within AMGC now!!

I would have said that we will be back at The Cross next month but the news was spread about that they had closed their doors for good that day. A big shame as Felan & Laura said in their announcement this was not just a business but their family home. What is happening to the pub industry in Britain?

You will all have seen my message about finding a new venue to replace the Cross and provided you vote or have voted for your preferred choice we should be in place for the July meeting on the 7th. You will also have seen that we have decided to 'rest' the Show Night for this year and hopefully it can come back next year bigger and better.



Graham's Cartoon Time



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

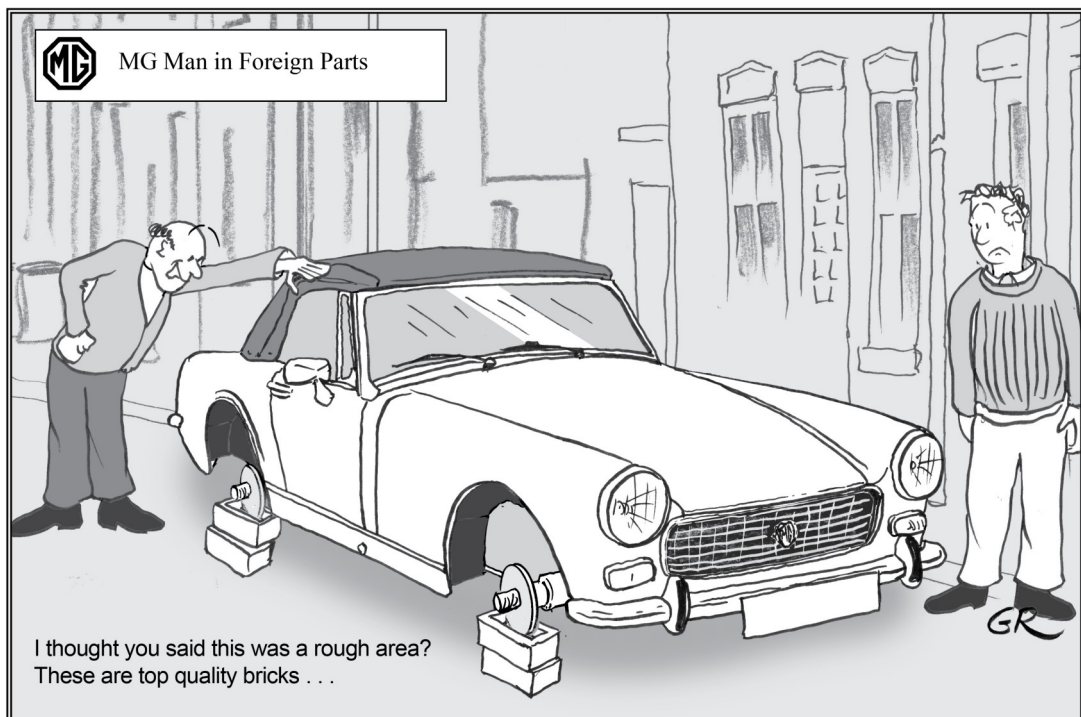
Date	Event	AMGC	Organiser/ Coordinator
Sun 21 st June	Ragley Hall – Father's Day Motor Show	Not currently	Book Tickets at Classicshows.org Displaying £5.91 Driver + 1 or £15/person on the day
Sunday 5 th July	Stratford & Henley Classic Meet Durham Ox, Shrewley CV35 7AY	No	10.00 till 12.00 Just turn up
Monday 6 th July	Kineton Classic Meet – Sports & Social Club	No	18:00-20:00 Just turn up
Tues 7 th July	CLUB NIGHT – SHOW NIGHT <u>CANCELLED for 2026</u>		Golden Cross is NOW CLOSED
Wed 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	Yes	Paul Dunster paul.dunster@talktalk.net
Tue 14 th July	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
Sat 25 th July	Badsey Flower Show	Yes	Steve Entwistle enty7@btinternet.com
Sat 8 th Aug	Brailes Show	Yes	Fred Bury tbury04@aol.com

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 somehow now that Show Night has been postponed. 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.

Another Graham's Cartoon Time



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 2026 Christmas Extravaganza Tuesday 8th December, by Mike

Now less than 6 months to go to this Extravaganza at the Kings Court Hotel Alcester and a similar, but more exciting format, to the 2025 Bash. Custard is available by special request.



We paid a £200 deposit a few months ago and have an encouraging number of bookings to date.

For those interested in attending, may we please ask that you mail Jane at jg@oakwoodgreen.co.uk and copy Richard at rich.avery186@gmail.com and send £5 per person to the Club Bank Account (30-98-26 A/C 00194752). Notation - Xmas and your name/s.

A Skittles etc Evening at the New Snitterfield Social Club, by Mike



I'm in the advance stages of securing a night of 9 pin bowling and a paper airplane airshow. All to music directed by our very own MusicMan - Mr Colin Howes. Accompanied by some tuck and cheap booze - sometime in October - get those plimsolls out.

The event will mark the formal launch of the AMGC - Arden Model Gliding Club.

Wolverhampton & South Staffs Car Club's 'SUMMER FUN RUN' tour

Hi everyone, just a note to let you know about Wolverhampton & South Staffs Car Club's 'SUMMER FUN RUN' tour on the 5th July, starting from Albrighton and finishing in our spiritual home at The Pigot Arms in Pattingham. We expect a number of classic cars and rally cars, but your everyday shopping car will be equally welcome. The route is all tarmac, so non damaging (pot holes excluded).

Navigation by road book with Tulip diagrams and Rally Tripmeter App, no maps required.

Approx. 120 miles of fabulous scenery, in some cases re-living the golden years of road rallying in the dark ages. Come and see what you were missing, driving flat out at two o'clock in the morning! Breakfast bap, coffee and cake, lunch and a carvery Sunday Dinner and Desert are all included in the entry fee, as is a 'Monte Carlo' style rally plate.

Regs and entry form on 'rallies.info'

Summer FUN RUN
- SUNDAY 5TH JULY 2026 -

STAFFORDSHIRE →
SHROPSHIRE →

ENJOY **120 MILES** OF OLD RALLY ROUTE CLASSIC COUNTRY LANES OF STAFFORDSHIRE AND SHROPSHIRE

<p>START THE DAY with a breakfast bap and a hot drink</p>	<p>TAKE IN THE SIGHTS at The Midland Gliding Club on Long Mynd</p>	<p>AFTERNOON RUN to Ditton Priors</p>	<p>FINISH AT THE CLUB'S ANCESTRAL HOME at the Pigot Arms for a Sunday roast</p>
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All are welcome in any type of car.

JOIN US IN A SOCIAL RUN OF NOSTALGIA.

REGULATIONS AND ENTRIES ARE ON **RALLIES.INFO**

NEED HELP CALL **MIKE OWEN 07761 413983**

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 - [Installing the Parabolic spring kit on an MGB](#)
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 - [A Directory of suppliers and services recommended by members](#)
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 - [An MGOC article about daylight running lights on an MGB. Shared with permission from MGOC.](#)
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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 DVS 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