

# NEWSLETTER

**WESSEX  
MG CLUB**  
AT THE BELL INN SEEND



## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

As you will all know, the club has been experiencing issues associated with the club's current meeting place - "The Bell Inn" in Seend. Specifically the unavailability of the pub without any prior warning for the February and March meetings. As a stop gap, "The Greyhound" in Bromham allowed the club to use their facilities.

As a result of subsequent discussions with The Bell, it was mutually agreed that the current arrangements for the club to meet at The Bell would cease. An alternative meeting place will therefore need to be found.

Two venues have been identified as potential candidates. "The Greyhound" as mentioned and "The Fox & Hounds" on the fringes of Devizes.

Your committee fully discussed the merits of both locations. There was a general consensus that "The Greyhound" had fulfilled

the club's requirements for the February and March meetings. It was also agreed that the Fox & Hounds was also a sound alternative although untried.

Parking arrangements at The Greyhound, particularly in the busy summer months, was identified as a potential issue for members' classic cars.

A way forward was reached. Which is to try both pubs as potential meeting places, to allow the membership the opportunity to have a view.

With this in mind, the April meeting will take place at "The Greyhound" and for June we will meet at the "Fox & Hounds". A decision will then be made for all future meetings.

The April Meeting will start at **7:00pm**.

**ED pp Graham**

For your diary in the coming month:

### April

27th - Club Night - Talk

**Start time 7:00pm**

### May

4th-7th - Spring Tour of Brit-tany

18th - Club Night - Mystery Run.

30th - Vintage Nostalgia

See pages 11 & 12 in this edition for more details.

Club Night start time 8:00pm unless otherwise stated



## The 73rd Goodwood Members' Meeting

Last year I reported on the revival of the Goodwood Members' Meetings which was a regular event on the Goodwood calendar in period. The last of which - number 71 - was in 1966 the year the circuit closed. The background to this new event is that as a club, GRRC members put it to Lord March that the Revival meeting in September had become too busy as more people were using the event as a themed party. Although as an historic racing event it has evolved into one of the best in the world.



A garage of Bugattis at dusk

Lord March's answer was to revive the Members' meetings, and to hold it in March. The first event took place last year, continuing the chronological sequence as the 72nd meeting. As luck would have it, it was a glorious early spring weekend, no crowding and wonderful racing.

This year the sun shone once again although it

was bitterly cold...but super enjoyable!

I realize I've become an old fuddy-duddy. I am a bit of a techy and enjoy the advantages that technology brings to our every day lives, including having my Morgan engine remapped. However, when it comes to motorsport, I prefer the pre-chip days of honest to goodness simple racing



The late evening GT race

in spades. Although our grandson Fraser enjoys modern fast cars and Formula One, He now prefers historic racing to the hollywood theatre that Formula One has become.



Group C Cars of the 1980s

Well, what about the event? After the late Saturday evening GT race, honouring Graham Hill's two Tourist Trophy wins at Goodwood, Jason Plato the BTCC champion was asked about his race. He replied saying that he had worked harder in one racing lap in his Chevrolet Corvette Sting Ray than in a season of BTCC racing - well you get his drift. No pun intended. Historic racing is attracting more and more

contemporary professional racing drivers than ever before. Is that a good thing - another story.

Highlights? The wasp-like rasping of 1920s Bugattis, the colourful simplicity of the tall-airbox formula one cars of the 1970s - the formula one cars were not allowed to

race, but took part in high speed demonstration runs. As did the fabulous Group C cars of the 1980s. Group C cars were built to a formula whose only restriction was the amount of fuel they were allowed to use in a race. It was in this period that Jaguars recaptured its Le Mans winning ways of the 50s by repeating that success twice in 1988 and 1990.



Choc Ice

Not forgetting MGs and Morgans of course, both marques were

well represented and major players in period, particularly MG. In the Earl Howe Trophy for formula libre cars of the type raced before 1935 there were many Bugattis and a 1933 MG K3 which Earl Howe himself raced. Two MG Magnette ZBs took part in the Sopwith Cup a race for saloon cars that raced during the 1950s.



The Lord Howe 1933 MG K3

In the Les Leston Cup, for British road-going sports and GT cars raced between 1960 and 1966, there were MGBs and Morgan Plus 4 Super Sports, one of which David Whiteley will recognize as 'Choc Ices'. To add to the mix, there were races for the Hawthorn Trophy for 1950s grand prix cars, the Salvadori Cup for 1950s sports cars and the Bruce McLaren Trophy - amongst others.



Gordon Coppuck

The meeting also attracted great names from the past who seem to enjoy the relative calm of the event. I met up with Gordon Coppuck who designed the McLarens in which Emerson Fittipaldi and James Hunt won their world championships during the seventies. He also co-founded the Spirit Formula 1 team, the team in which Honda re-entered Grand Prix racing in the 80s.

Bonhams the auction house was also present with a number of historically important and interesting lots.

Leading the auction and with some local interest to Wiltshire, was the ex-Kitty Maurice 1955 Frazer Nash Le Mans Coupé. Ordered new in April 1955 by a Mrs. Kitty Maurice of Castle Combe. The coupe was beautifully turned out in sea-green and of-

ferred with an estimate of £600,000-700,000, selling under the estimate at £466,666.

Amongst the restoration projects was a quite dilapidated Aston Martin DB4 series IV which sold for £256,860 and a 1963 Porsche 356B Super 90 Coupé, which sold for a more affordable £32,200.

Of more interest to the club and particularly Tom was a 1956 MG Magnette ZA Competition Saloon nick named 'Bumble'.



I've seen it race many times at Goodwood and elsewhere. It sold for a very



reasonable £21,850. A freshly engineered race engine by Classic & Modern Engine Services of Bracknell had been installed together with a new balanced clutch assembly. Custom-built telescopic shock absorbers had been fitted under the supervision of Chris Snowdon at CS Racing, and the car had been

rolling-road tested to ensure that it is ready to race. 'Bumble' is UK registered and MoT'd and therefore road legal. It is also eligible for the Mille Miglia retrospective. For a little more than the cost of an MG6, Tom could have had all this...

A memorable weekend.

ED

### The Wessex MG Summer Picnic

Amongst the actions placed at last week's committee meeting was one on you dear readers! The committee is looking for ideas for this year's summer picnic. Now the majority of our events involves the theme of cars in one way or another. The summer picnic is an attempt to make it more of a ladies day. So, thinking caps on, what would you like to do for a summer picnic? Come along to the April meeting with your suggestions.



ED

## Highnam Court - Gloucestershire Motor Show

For all of you that have read as far as June in the newsletter events list, you will have seen the Gloucestershire Motor Show at Highnam Court on the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> June <http://www.gloucestershiremotorshow.co.uk/> My email sent out to all in March asked for a show of interest by 10<sup>th</sup> April - thanks to those that have responded.

The Saturday (6<sup>th</sup>) has been chosen as the preferred 'club' day. I will arrange a couple of spare tickets so if you decide you want to go (it's free entry to the show and house gardens if your displaying a classic car) then these will be available on a 'first come first served' basis - Tickets are valid for either day.

Peter

## Chippenham Lions Club Cherished Vehicle Show and Farm Fun Day 7th June 2015

If you have already registered for this years' show we are looking forward to seeing you there, it is going to be a great day! If you have not yet registered, we would love to see you and your Cherished Vehicle at the Show.

We are taking registrations until the end of April. Just to remind you that this years' show will be held on Sunday 7th June 2015, at Allington Farm, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 6LJ, on the A420 towards Bristol near the Castle Combe race track.

Exhibitors' vehicles, drivers or riders, and up to one passenger can enter for free. All other visitors will be charged £5 with children under 10 entering free. Breakfast will be available on site from the excellent Allington Farm Shop caterers.

Passes will be issued by return email shortly before the show. No forms will be issued, just send us the following details to [chiplionscvcs@gmail.com](mailto:chiplionscvcs@gmail.com) for each vehicle to be registered:

- Club/Organisation (if applicable)
- Owner's or Driver's (Rider's) Name
- Make of Vehicle
- Model
- Year
- Registration Number

Please note that the Lions Club of Chippenham cannot accept any liability for any loss or damage involving motor vehicles. Please make sure that your Insurance is adequate. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday the 7th of June 2015 for another fantastic day.

## 4th Dolomites MG Event - October 2015

Hi dear MG-Driver Tom Strickland,

I wish to extend an invitation to your Members in your Area and to your friends to join us in October 2015 for the 4th Dolomites MG Event, which will be based in the middle of the Dolomites - South Tyrol, which is where I live and use daily my MG ZR. My friends in the Northants MGOc - Gary and Pam, who have taken part in the previous three events will be joining us again, as will another 3 cars so far booked.

The event as always is open to all MG owners from everywhere, we usually have a good turnout of MG models and nationalities. For example in the June 2015 there will be more than 10 cars from UK (England and Scotland), others will come from Germany, Switzerland, USA and South Tyrol.

I understand it is a long journey for you and I am sure that I have planned a very interesting and exciting driving event - it is not a speed rally - to and around the Mountains over very high passes!! This will be all based in a village surrounded high mountains.

The dates are Wednesday 30th September to Sunday 4th October 2015. Entries are by 15th June 2015.

My contact details are below:

Christian Bianco

email = [christian@discohustle.info](mailto:christian@discohustle.info) phone = +39 338 314 67 79

So, if you would be kind enough to circulate this amongst your friends I would be grateful.

Regulations for the event can be found here:

<http://mg-dolomites.info>

Best Regards

Christian Bianco

## Wessex MG - Peter Browning Talk - Wednesday August 19th

I have made a provisional arrangement for a talk and presentation by Peter Browning. Peter worked in the BMC/BL Competitions department during the 1960's, when the MGB was racing at Le Mans, he later became Manager of the department from 1967 until 1970.

The talk will take place at Kimber House, Abingdon in the evening. More details to be available soon.

As we need a set number of attendees to stage this event, Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to attend - either by email [martyn.lucas2@btinternet.com](mailto:martyn.lucas2@btinternet.com) or phone 01373 859583.

Martyn Lucas

## CURING CLOUDY HEADLIGHT LENSES

As June's Micra was in danger of failing its MOT this year because of cloudy lenses, I was particularly interested to read the article in April's EMG about how to cure this problem. Anyway I managed to source the necessary wet and dry paper from the web (couldn't find any 3,000 or 5,000 grit locally) and set to with some trepidation. I had previously used a Turtle Wax lens restoring kit but only with limited success.

As it happened, having masked around the lenses, it took less than 90 minutes to do both headlights and it wasn't nearly as onerous as the writer of the EMG article implied so all in all a very satisfactory result so the article couldn't have appeared at a more propitious time.

Jeff Rattle

## Vintage Nostalgia - Warminster

Just a note to let you know that everything is in place for the Nostalgia event on Saturday 30th May. We have a space for 8 cars, currently 7 cars are booked in, so if you want to take advantage of a space, now is your chance. We could probably squeeze 2 more in.

Go on line to the Vintage Nostalgia site and get your ticket. £5/person in your beloved classic. Just mention the Wessex MG Club at the gate. They will direct you.

If you have any questions then get in touch on 01373 465044 or [yntjen22@aol.com](mailto:yntjen22@aol.com)

Tony Neale

## Bath Motor Club Barbecue evening Monday June 8th 2015

We have been invited to the Bath Motor Club Barbecue evening at the Orchardleigh Golf Club on the night of Monday June 8th 2015 from 7 pm onwards:

"Orchardleigh is set in a beautiful location of manicured lawns in the very scenic Orchardleigh Estate at Buckland Dinham, near Frome. In Orchardleigh we have the ideal location for this evening as the venue has ample space indoors and out. We want to assemble a good range of classic cars for the evening.

We wish to make use of this occasion by inviting our charity, Great Western Air Ambulance to give a short presentation on this evening. We will also invite our local radio stations, Breeze and Radio Bristol as well as our local newspapers, the Bath Chronicle and Frome Standard to the evening.

The barbecue of sausages, burgers, rolls and mixed salad or vegetarian option will be served from 7 pm for a cost of £6 a head.

We would welcome support from members who would like to join us and particularly members with classic cars, and would be grateful of a speedy response from you in order for the event to progress forward".

If you are interested in this event please let me know either by phone, email or at the April club meeting.

Vic

## The Club Mystery Run - May Club Night

**START TIME** - 7.15 for 7.30 start

**FROM** - Falcon Interiors car park which is to the right of the entrance to Melksham ASDA.

Food is available at our destination. If you would like to eat I have menus on request, I need to let the pub know by the 12 May.

Vic

### The March Mystery Car

I thought that this was a rather fine looking car and, much to my surprise, it hails from a country that is not renowned for the style of its cars, the USA. We only had one response this month - congratulations to **Steve Todd**; yes, it is a Pontiac Solstice Coupe but regret, no prizes this month, only the glory of being right!



To be exact, it is a Pontiac Solstice GXP Coupe which is fitted with a 260bhp turbo-charged two litre engine.

Pontiac made a handful Solstice Coupes in 2009 only, and not many were ordered in turbocharged GXP trim. If you find a good GXP Coupe, especially with a manual gear-box, (which is rarer still!) hold on to it, because you might have a future classic on your hands.

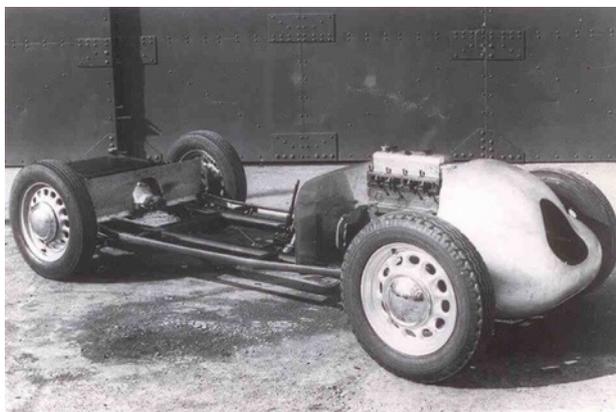
However, I suspect that none were imported into the UK - shame!

### The April Mystery Car

We are closer to home this month. This is another car that was news to me, even though .....



David



## Club News

### Secretary's Scribbles

This month I have been waiting for news about my 5 speed kit arriving in stock - no call yet. I am waiting. I haven't done much else MG wise this month. Nancy and I really enjoyed our night out away from the Kiddies at the Club Skittles night - thank you to Vic for organising that.

I am also looking forward to Martyn's run to Bourton this coming weekend. My MG3 is loosening up and the engine feels better all the time.



Talking of the modern MGs have you noticed that firstly there is a new MG6 out. It is only available in diesel and

has engine, interior and exterior improvements. The starting price is low too £13,999 (7 grand cheaper than the equivalent Skoda) for the base model. Secondly that the new MG CS (SUV) is going to use Benedict Cumberbatch (Sherlock) in its advertising - good eh!



Tom

2015 EVENTS LIST				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
26-Apr	Sunday Brunch Scamble	No	Bicester Heritage Site	<i>For Info</i>
<b>27-Apr</b>	<b>Club Night (Talk - Castrol lubricants)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>The Greyhound Bromham</b>	<b>7:00pm Start - Graham Bennett</b>
4-7 May	Club Spring Tour Brittany	Yes		<i>Roger Binney</i>
<b>18-May</b>	<b>Club Night (Mystery Run)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>A Mystery</b>	<b>See page 8 for details- Vic Wright</b>
30-May	Vintage Nostalgia Warminster	Yes		<i>Tony Neale</i>
6-Jun	Gloucestershire Motor Show	Yes	Highnam Court	<b>Peter Hine</b>
7-Jun	Chippenham Lions Club Cherished Vehicle Show	No	Allington Farm	<i>For details see page 5 Tom Strickland</i>
8-Jun	Bath Motor Club BBQ	No	Orchardleigh Golf Club	<i>See page 8 for details</i>
13-14 June	Bristol Classic Car Show	No	Shepton Mallet Show Ground	<i>For Information</i>
<b>22 Jun</b>	<b>Club Night (Prod &amp; Poke BBQ)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>The Fox &amp; Hounds Devizes</b>	
12-Jul	Summer Picnic	Yes	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>27-Jul</b>	<b>Club Night (Games Evening)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>David or Tom's House</b>	<b>TBA</b>

2015 EVENTS LIST				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
19th Aug	Peter Browning Talk	No	Abingdon	See page 7 for details - Martyn Lucas
<b>24-Aug</b>	<b>Club Night (Talk) - TBC</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>
30-Aug	Action Day	Yes	Tom's Field	Tom Strickland
20-Sep	Club-Run Basingstoke Milestones Museum			Martyn Lucas
<b>28-Sep</b>	<b>Club Night (Theme TBA)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>26-Oct</b>	<b>Club Night (Grand Prix talk - Duel of the Titans - Nazi sponsored GP racing 1930-1939)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Paul Warn</b>
<b>TBC</b>	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	No	<b>TBA</b>	Tom Strickland
<b>23-Nov</b>	<b>Club AGM</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Formal notification will be included in the Sept &amp; Oct newsletter.</b>
<b>13-Dec</b>	<b>Christmas Party</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>The Greyhound Bromham</b>	

NB The last column includes the committee member responsible for the event. If you need to contact them, you will find their details on page 7. Just click their email address or give them a call.

**ED**