



WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN- HOLT

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

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THE CLUB'S DIARY

NEXT CLUB NIGHT

28th March - Talk

8:00pm - See
Chairman's chat

[http://
www.wessexmgclub.or](http://www.wessexmgclub.or)

As we are now officially in Spring, when the clocks change at the end of March we will be able to take advantage of the longer daylight hours.

There has been great interest in the events we have planned for the coming months and let's hope that the season goes ahead to plan and that Covid and the East European Conflict do not interfere with any of the events in our diary and also that the cost of fuel stabilises.

On several weekends we have a choice of events to attend with the major clash being in June when there is MG Live at Silverstone, which this year in addition to the usual classic racing is featuring a special timeline for the MGB and the MG Rover TF models, both of which are celebrating anniversaries this year. And on the same weekend we have a club presence at The Thruxton Classic Weekend which features classic racing from all makes, as both will certainly be very exciting

events maybe the answer is to go to one on the Saturday and the other on the Sunday, who knows!!, or choose one and spend both days there.

It was good to hear that those members who attend the Valentine Meal at the Tollgate were pleased with the evening.

For this months club night Malcolm Taylor has offered to give us a talk on the development of the Hamilton Water Jet system, with tales of the braided rivers of New Zealand that inspired its development. It feature slides and action video's, with a bit of history, geography and his personal experience as well as a twist in the tail.

This promises to be a very interesting presentation and will be followed by a round of bingo presented by Roger Binney.

Our March club night is on Monday 28th at the Tollgate at the usual start time of 8.00pm.

Martyn



Club Member Car of the Month



This month's featured car of the month is owned by Roger and Kay Cox

We are pleased to have joined your club. HOWEVER... a recent decision has recently been taken and we are now going to be retiring and moving to Northern Cyprus. The B will also be relocating although retirement is not on the cards for she'll be enjoying the sunshine and enjoying runs out with the Classic car club of northern Cyprus. I will keep you updated.

Best wishes

Roger and Kay.



Exbury Gardens



Bring a picnic and visit these colourful gardens on Sunday 15th May to see wonderful flowering Azaleas, rhododendrons and camellias and take a ride on the steam engine

Total cost of £13pp

If paying direct into the Club bank account, be sure to advise Peter Hine by email: peter_hine@btinternet.com and Gordon: gornew@yahoo.co.uk



Payments no later than Club night on 25th April

Summer Picnic

To Kingston Lacey NT and Keyneston Mill perfume garden

On Sunday 17 July



The picnic is to be held in the grounds of Kingston Lacey House near Wimborne. Entry to the grounds is free. Usual NT prices apply to the house and formal gardens.

We visit the perfume gardens at Keyneston Mill on the way to Kingston Lacey where coffee/tea will be served on arrival followed by a wander in the gardens and a demonstration of how the perfume is created.

Cost of this visit is £12.50 pp (children under 12 go free). If paying direct into the Club bank account be sure to advise Peter Hine by email peter_hine@btinternet.com & Gordon on gornew@yahoo.co.uk



Payments no later than Club night on 27 June.



AOB Morgan's Next Generation 3- Wheeler

Paul Warn

Morgan has unveiled its next-generation 3 Wheeler, this latest model is called the Super 3 with customer deliveries scheduled to begin in July of this year. You may remember - probably not - that Morgan reintroduced their 3 Wheeler model back in 2011. Coincidentally, it was in 2011 that I decided I'd had enough of clambering underneath my MGB and decided I would at long last consider buying a new Morgan. In that year Allon White a Morgan Main Dealer from Bedford was representing the Morgan factory at the 2011 Silverstone Classic and would have the full range of Morgans on display. So I booked a test drive in a Plus 4 on the Friday of the Classic. Come the day Allon decided to come out on the test drive. Whilst we were out and about, Allon mentioned that Morgan were testing their new 3 Wheeler on the internal Silverstone corporate test track during the weekend and asked whether I would like to be involved.

Having apologised for biting his hand off, I duly turned up the following day, a Saturday, for one of the best motoring experiences of my life - and I have been lucky enough to have had a few. I related the story of the experience in the August 2011 edition of this newsletter, which is where I sourced the photo opposite. There were a number of pre production machines being evaluated by the Morgan designers/engineers. As it had been drizzling with rain, the track was quite greasy, so I was 'only' allowed to go out as a passenger with one of the development engineers called Mathew.



As the machines were under development they didn't have mud guards over the front wheels and consequently we got rather wet...From memory there were two or three of us out on the track and therefore life got quite competitive.

Anyway, back to the present. The three wheeler became hugely popular, a significant chunk of its appeal has always been the visceral driving experience with that fantastic torque delivery of the V-twin that hangs off the front of the car. Ironically that same V twin is the reason why the new model has had to be introduced. The SS-built V twin has fallen foul of emissions legislation and can't be homologated for the future.

So what is replacing such an iconic engine? - wait for it, a naturally aspirated 1.5 litre inline three-cylinder from Ford. The Super 3 retains the Mazda MX-5 five speed manual transmission and rear wheel drive.

There were a number of issues with the drive-train in the previous model which apparently have been resolved. Also instead of the growly sound of the V-twin, Morgan has tuned the sound of the Ford engine for a raspy mid-range. I can't help thinking its been targeted for the American market given its bigger seats and yes a coffee cup holder... It still looks pretty cool though. What do think? Yours for around £42,000.



As a Bonus....

I've included a couple of video clips:

Be sure your internet connection and sound is on then click on each picture

The first is a virtual trip around the Morgan factory via drone

The second is the new Super 3 Morgan as described above.





Tried & Tested

Malcolm Taylor

This ties into Rogers first item under this heading last month, **battery maintenance**. I usually disconnect the battery on the TF and put it on a trickle charger over the winter. But so as not to overdo it I switch off the charger occasionally. Then I forgot I had switched it off and you can guess what. Totally flat battery.

The trickle charger wouldn't pick up because there was no charge for it to read. So I had to put an old standard charger on, to recover it.

When I reconnected the battery, the immobiliser was engaged, hence the horn and flashers were going and the engine would not start. Also the fob wouldn't do anything, not even operate the door locks.

No amount of swearing or kicking made any difference so I e-mailed MG Owners Club Technical Help, AKA Roger Parker.

After he had ascertained that I had the later key fob and hence the more problematic Pektron SCU security unit, he reckoned that I had a big problem and wouldn't be able to get anyone locally to deal with it.

He referred me to **Paul of Technozen Electronics** in Brighton. I spoke to him by e-mail and was advised to post the SCU and fob to him. The worst case scenario was £80 for a new fob.

So, on a Friday I attempted to remove the SCU which is housed in the centre console below the heater controls. Bearing in mind that the car is immobilised in a narrow garage where I can only get the driving door open by first opening my cunning hatch in the side of the garage, I prepared myself for a lot of aching joints.

Following reference to the contortionists handbook and a lot more swearing, I discover that the screw holding the end of the strap on the SCU is a weird security fitting. It's like a torx fitting but with 5 lobes and a central pin to stop you jamming anything into it.

Having paid £18 at the local auto-shop for a set of drivers, I remove the offending screw.

Now for the really contorted bit to get across the car to the passenger footwell. Where I find that some kind person has fitted a cross head screw. So I could have got the unit out for £18 less!

Still if anyone unfortunately has the same problem, I have the tools. Before last post on Friday I sent the unit off for its early spring break in Brighton. On opening the puter some time on Monday, I have an e-mail from Paul, timed at 1.40am saying the electronics are corrupted but he can fix it for £45 inc. return postage and giving various payment options. I transfer the money into his bank. Wednesday morning the unit is returned by special, before noon service and is refitted.

The refitting is easier, because once the electrics are plugged in I can start the car and reverse it out of the garage, meaning the contortionists handbook is no longer needed to re-assemble all the bits.

So now the car is drivable and can be taken for its MOT and investigation of even more expensive problems.

The result is I am impressed with **Paul at Technozen Electronics**. Website www.technozen-electronics.co.uk.

P.S. Especially as I have just noticed that he has extracted the EKA (Emergency Key Access) code, which I didn't have and has printed it on his receipt.





"Tried & Tested"

Roger Binney

Lost a nut or bolt out of reach or cannot pick it up?

I just bought this extendable torch with magnetic head recently for £6.99 from [7dayshop.com](https://www.7dayshop.com) . Pretty good value I would say 3 LED's and half a metre reach. Even comes with batteries.





Off-Road Driving Challenge

John Bishop

When our daughter, Becca, and her husband relocated to Scotland for their work it didn't take them long to purchase not an MG, but a Land Rover Discovery Sport to help them transport a new baby and to offer some security on those snowy, blowy days which affect places north of the border. And included in the price was a half-day, off-road experience for two people! The idea is to demonstrate the capabilities of the vehicle that you would not need during ordinary road use - and to have some fun into the bargain. My son-in-law is not known for his love of cars and driving so I was generously offered a place. Game on!



Land Rover have built a most impressive, custom-built centre near Dunkeld on the shores of Butterstone Loch. I had assumed that we would be guided by an instructor in the car who would ensure that we would not roll the vehicle or get stranded in a river, but we were handed the keys to a newish Discovery and told that we would be driving on our own in convoy. There was, however, a walkie-talkie set handy, presumably to communicate with us if we got lost or were about to do something stupid.

It was a short road drive to a nearby estate where the centre has established several courses, challenges and obstacles in the forest. The instructors station themselves around the route to be followed - so you wind your window down and are given instructions on an obstacle-by-obstacle basis. The first few challenges were fairly mild and designed to get us used to the Land Rover, the terrain and the need to squeeze between roots, trees and boulders. The satnav has a function with a clever multi-camera view of the terrain ahead and each of the front wheels so, if you dare, you can stop looking ahead through the windscreen! But inevitably things got more exciting: on

one particularly steep downhill we were taught how to engage a clever computer system that controls speed, braking and the four-wheel drive system which helped us to slither down a hill safely - it was odd to be told to take your feet off the pedals and to trust the Land Rover.

This was followed by traversing some huge mounds, rather like the moguls you get on ski courses, only much bigger. We were amused to see just how far the individual wheels could come off the ground on the vehicle in front of us, that is until it became totally grounded and presumably had to be winched off. After that we negotiated several water splashes and gullies in which our vehicle was tilted to improbable angles to the left and right - but you have the security of knowing that these have all been carefully planned to avoid disaster. It was also fun to drive across a log bridge guided by hand signals from an instructor, rather like you get when parking on a cross-channel ferry.



We both had a go at driving, but it is also fun being a passenger as you can enjoy watching the other vehicles and the expressions on the driver's face. Our two or so hours went all too quickly, and we were soon back at the centre enjoying a hot cup of tea in front of a log fire.

In fact I have since learned anyone can sign up to this or a similar experience and that there are centres all over the country, the closest to us being near Honiton and Ledbury. So, would this tempt me to buy a Land Rover? I doubt it, but I never knew that you could have so much fun at 5mph!





Tried and Tested

An Old School
Mechanic

Steve Todd

I just wanted to drop a quick recommendation for a mobile mechanic into our newsletter.

El Diablo, my MGF, kindly decided to throw a wobbly upon me in January. An almost unheard of issue for the bulletproof K Series engine - head gasket failure. I popped out a shout for help on some of the Facebook groups to get some recommendations for a mobile mechanic who would have the correct experience to do a proper job. Amongst a few suggestions was a gentleman called Russell, based near Sevenoaks in Kent. You will see from the link to the website below how extensive his experience is, and K Series engines are how he makes his living.

<https://mgroversolutions.com/>

Not only was Russell thoroughly knowledgeable, he was also very friendly and informative. He was the perfect 'old-school' mechanic that is happy to share his knowledge with you and show you clearly every step of the way what he is looking at, and why. I'm certain that some of the things he has taught me whilst doing the repair will help me in the future with trouble shooting and identifying issues with this, and possibly my other cars. I was impressed by how thorough and methodical Russell was, and equally impressed by the amount of coffee that one man can drink in 4 hours.

Given that the journey to me involved a 5 hour round trip, plus the amount of information I gleaned as well, I felt that £450 to replace the head gasket and have a thorough inspection of the rest of the engine was a fair price to pay. His work also includes 12 months parts and labour warranty. He was also kind enough too loudly say "what great condition this car is in for its age, you've done well here" and an opportune moment when Mrs T walked outside. If you would like to contact Russell then please let him know that I recommended his work. His details can be found on the website link.

See you all soon!



Secretary's Scribbles

The Ministry of Munitions essay is still evolving but I am glad to say that I managed to get the Magnette going with a new battery. I also took the front off the TF and added the spotlights, although they are not wired up yet - the car looks better though.

I think I will have a go at the electronic boot release next and then sort all the wiring and switches out at once while I swap over my new red centre console.

I notice Morgan have brought out their new midget ... sorry... 3-wheeler and with it I feel the usual pain of what MG could have been. MG Motors are due to be releasing some new models soon though and we can expect a smaller EV may be based on the MG3 and

also the sporty EV coupe if we are really lucky.

MG Motors have continued to improve their products and they sell well and there are rumours that they are struggling to meet demand with their petrol models.

The better weather should be along soon and we can start to get out and about enjoying our cars without worrying about road salt (hopefully).



Tom



CLUB DIARY

2022 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/ Time
28th March	Club Night - Talk by Malcolm Taylor- The Hamilton Water Jet System		Tollgate	8:00pm
4th April	Committee Meeting		TBA	8:00pm
22nd - 25th April	Club Spring Weekend Away		The Stradey Park Hotel Llanelli	
25th April	Club Night - Prod and Poke		Tollgate	8:00pm
15th May	Visit Exbury Gardens		Hampshire	Gordon and Sandra Newman
23rd May	Club Night - BBQ			8:00pm
11 - 12th June	Thruxton Classic		Thruxton Race Circuit	Martyn Lucas - Club Stand booked
11 - 12th June	MG Live		Silverstone	
19th June	MGs in the Park			
20th June	MGs Track Day		Castle Combe	Steve Todd - TBC

Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/ Time
27th June	Club Night - Boules Evening		Tollgate	8:00pm
10th July	Chippenham Lions			Martyn Lucas - Club Stand booked
16th July	MG40 - MGs later than 1982		The Gloucester & Warwickshire Steam Railway - Toddington	Martyn Lucas
17th July	Club Annual Picnic		Keyneston Mill & Kingston Lacy	Gordon and Sandra Newman
25th July	Club Night - Mystery Run		TBA	Gordon & Sandra Newman - Start Point etc TBA
6 - 7th Aug	Gloucester Steam Fare			
6 - 7th Aug	Bournemouth MG Meet		Sandy Miller Motor Bike Museum	
22nd Aug	Club Night - TBA			
29th Aug	Tom's Action Day		Tom & Nancy's House	Tom Strickland
4th Sept	White Horse Show		Westbury	
24th Sept	Castle Combe Classic			
25th Sept	MGB 60		Gaydon	
26th Sept	Club Night - Talk by the "Bobby Van" Trust			Martyn Lucas

Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
TBA Oct	Pre AGM Committee Meeting			
24th Oct	Club Night - TBA		Tollgate	
21st Nov	Club Night - AGM		Tollgate	
10th Dec	Christmas Party		Tollgate	

Other potential events:

- Club Skittles Event
- Skittles Vs Gloucestershire MG
- Ramsbury Brewery/Gin Distillery
- American Museum
- Clifton Suspension Bridge
- SS Great Britain
- Westonbirt
- Boat Trip
- Abingdon Museum and Nuffield Place
- Autumn Walk

Club Asset List

CLUB ASSET LIST			
ASSET	CURRENT HOLDER	CONTACT DETAILS	
Engine Hoist	Tom Strickland	012489 447125	stricklandto@hotmail.com
Club Sail Banner	Kevin Meakin	01380 727151	kevinmg1@live.com
Event Shelter + Sides	Kevin Meakin	01380 727151	kevinmg1@live.com
Projector	Paul Warn	01225 768676	paul.william.warn@gmail.com
Speakers	Paul Warn	01225 768676	paul.william.warn@gmail.com
Projector Stand	Paul Warn	01225 768676	paul.william.warn@gmail.com
Projector Screen & Cover	Paul Warn	01225 768676	paul.william.warn@gmail.com
Set of Boules	Terry Warder	01225 766068	suewarder60@gmail.com

NOTE:

If you need to borrow or take custody of any of the club's assets, the current holder should be contacted directly to arrange transfer. The new 'holder' of the asset should notify Paul Warn by email to ensure the asset list is kept up-to-date.