

# NEWSLETTER

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



## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Just back from the Club "weekend" away in France. I thought I'd better take the car for a few miles before going which was just as well as I needed to replace the alternator. Great trip, good places to visit, food wine and company. Followed Kevin there and back in our small group.

I was worried about the car though as I found it was losing water and was unable to locate the leak, so two large bottles of

water were carried on the return journey as back up. Now I know where the leak is I will fix it before the mystery run when I hope to see lots of you. Thank you Roger for organising a great event.

**Graham**

For your diary in the coming month:

### May

18th - Club Night - Mystery Run. See Page 9 - 7:15pm.

30th - Vintage Nostalgia

### June

6th - Gloucester Motor Show

22nd - Club Night - Prod & Poke  
(Fox & Hounds Devizes)

See pages 12 & 13 in this edition for more events and details.

Club Night start time 8:00pm unless otherwise stated



## Flower Shows Are Not All Plants

Having subjected Annie to a number of chilly motoring events over the past two months, it was time to make amends. The first was a visit to Highgrove gardens and last weekend our annual pilgrimage to the Malvern Spring Flower Show.

Although the sun was shining, there was a wee chill in the air as we walked around the large show ground with everything from amaryllis to violas on show and a number of purchases made along the way. Now I knew from experience that amongst the many species of plants on offer, there is, invariably, a small eclectic gathering of interesting Vintage and classic cars tucked away on the site. As we approached the show gardens, I could just make out what looked like a mature-male creche. A place where those of us of a certain age are left in the care of old cars and their owners.

You may remember in the February edition, I included a piece on the Peking-Paris Rally under the title "You always hurt the one you love". Well, parked

amongst this stately gathering of cars was a 1928 Chrysler Type 65 which took part in the 2007 centenary of the original 1907 event!



Chris with Ruby

We got chatting to Liz and Chris Jones, who bought this car in 2013. Chris explained

that the car is an American Chrysler with a 3,200cc straight six cylinder side valve engine. The Holden body was fitted when it was exported to Australia. The car was rescued from a sheep farm in Oz and imported into the UK about 25 years ago by a family of collectors, recommissioned and registered in 2000. The car was then bought by Bob Pattinson and Jules Fitzsimmons in 2006. They were looking for their next adventure after sailing around the world - the 2007 Peking-Paris Rally seemed like a good idea.



The Two Jerry Cans in the rear

The car was modified for the event. Including an overdrive, 12volt electrics and an up-to-date air cleaner. All the seats were removed to make space for an extra fuel tank in the back and more comfortable seats in the front. The wooden artillery wheels were

replaced with wire wheels and a system for pumping fuel from two jerry cans mounted at the back of the car.

Soon after leaving China, the car suffered a serious break-down in Mongolia, losing all the engine oil which resulted in a big-end failure. Support vehicles are not allowed. However they managed to find a local garage in a nearby village. A mechanic made a temporary repair which apparently lasted the 10,000miles to Paris! They finished

When Liz and Chris bought the car the original seats and wheels which had been removed, had disappeared. They are gradually replacing the lost equipment but want to retain the shabby-chicness of the car because of its historical significance and provenance.

They bought the car to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary and have named the car Ruby.

### Fuel Saving Transport

As seen in Budapest. I was going to enter this picture for the mystery vehicle spot, but it's a bit of a giveaway really. As you can see, at full-chat it's 10 drunk-power, but it's only running on 9 drunks at the time of sighting. I don't know where the 10th one fell off, we couldn't see him in the road. I think the guy at the back is in charge but there is no sign of any brakes or steering mechanism? He seems to be weaving through the traffic successfully though.

As they say, 30% of accidents are caused by people under the influence. This means that 70% of accidents are caused by sober people. Therefore it would be much safer if sober drivers got off the road and left it to us drinkers.



### Malcolm

PS as we are now a nomadic bunch, it could be the answer to our efforts to find an alternative club meeting place!

### ED

The 2015 Wessex MG Spring Trip - Brittany



It must have been in October last year that Roger suggested travelling to France for our "Spring Weekend". How time flies, seven months later Anne and I set off on Sunday 4th May for Portsmouth, to meet up with the other fourteen cars for our overnight stay.

We are greeted with sunshine on Monday morning although a little blowy...The terminal is literally a three minute drive away so not an overly long drive to the ferry port! Why is it out of five lanes of cars, we pick the one with the trainee? eventually we are sitting on the ferry awaiting our departure, which is some thirty minutes later than scheduled. The posh members of our group upgraded to Club Class, while the rest of us could only look on. Remember the blowy weather? well club class or not, the English Channel started to heave gently, just enough to up-set a few tummies. Best leave it there.



Jeff Rattle sent via Roger a number of alternate routes to

drive down to our hotel, situated a few minutes south of Dinard. Some took the quicker route from Cherbourg via Sainte-Mère-Église. This small town was made famous when a British paratrooper's parachute got caught-up in the spire of the local church during the D-Day invasion, a representation of which can be seen today. We decided to take the more westerly route, hugging the coast of the Cotentin Peninsular, stopping in Portbail for lunch, over-looking the marina. It was warm enough to



sit outside, however there were ominous storm clouds looming.

Sure enough, not long after making our way further south, it started to rain and quite heavily too, the closer we approached Dinard. Everyone arrived safe and sound. Our first evening was spent eating together at the hotel, catching up with stories of the day.

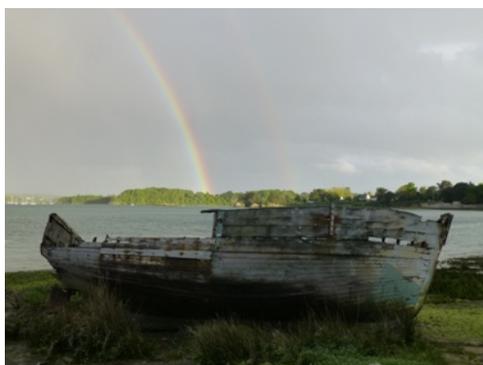
Over the period of our visit, we all pretty much did the same things but not necessarily at the same time. We decided to travel down to Dinan on our first day -



Tuesday - as did Sue, Terry, Ron, Anne and Kevin. Dinan is without doubt one of the most attractive and best preserved small towns in Brittany. With its ramparts, half-timbered houses, attractive port and cobbled streets filled with art galleries and craft shops. Saint-Sauveur Basilica sits at the top of the town and walking beyond the east end of the

church through the English garden are great views of the river below, the port and restaurants - yum, yum.

Ambling through the cobbled streets, we came across the steep cobbled walk to the river below where we decided to have lunch. Oysters, Salmon in a delicious cream sauce with sweet potato and carrot as a puree followed by a light pudding. Much needed time to recuperate before the climb back up to the town and onward to Dinard. Dinard is an altogether different place on the northern coast of Brittany. Everything one might expect of a sea-side resort. At this time of the year with its quiet beach very pleasant, in the summer, I imagine an altogether different proposition.

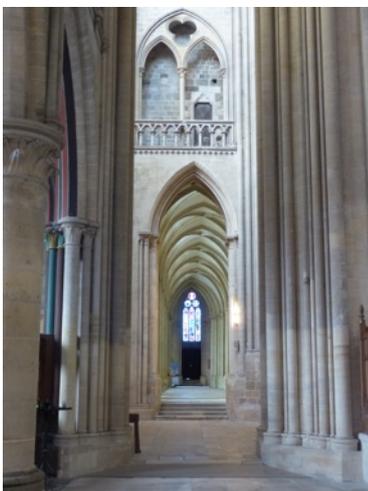


Our hotel looked out onto the River Rance which flows into the English Channel between Dinard and Saint Malo. The river is accessed by a path adjacent to the hotel. It reminded us of the River Tamar in the west country where we grew up. The evening we decided to walk down to the river was very overcast and rain threatened. We were treated to the most fabulous twin rainbows set against a blackened sky - brilliant!

Wednesday we decided to be a more restful day. First stop after a fuel top-up was a local pâtisserie and onward to the west of Dinard. Saint Lunaire was our first stop and the fantastic viewpoints on the Pointe du Décollé. A good place to have lunch. From here we motored to St-Briac-a-Mer, crossing a bridge over a quiet estuary to Lancieux, and then

onto Ploubalay, Tregon and finally St-Cast-le-Guildo. A bit of history dug-up on the internet about the last destination.:

“The [Battle of St Cast](#) took place on September 11, 1758, where the French repelled the English. First of all, the English first attacked the region of [Dinard](#) by sea, but were stopped at the [Rance](#) by [Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban](#) fortifications. They were forced to retreat to their fleet in front of St-Cast, where [Emmanuel-Armand de Richelieu](#) was waiting for them and launched an attack on the beach while the British were fleeing back onto their vessels. The casualties were big with the British army as they lost 1,160 soldiers when the French lost about 445 men Today there is a monument in the Bourg (neighborhood of St-Cast) showing a greyhound defeating a lion; the Castins defeating a lion (the English symbol)”.



Thursday was the day of our return journey to Cherbourg - and the General Election at home. Again, using Jeff's notes we travelled back using the westerly roads, this time in bright sunshine. After a couple of stops along the way, we eventually reach Coutances and the town's magnificent Cathedral and glorious municipal gardens - and lunch. Further up the coast we stopped of at the chateau in Pirou, sat a spell on the Lindbergh-Plage - the first point Lindberg crossed in France on his epic flight across the atlantic. And finally to Barneville-Carteret to rest awhile before making for the ferry.

It took sometime to load the ferry, as the crew was having to squeeze and I mean squeeze not only those pre-booked for the crossing but also travellers who had travelled up from Caen because the terminal there was on strike!

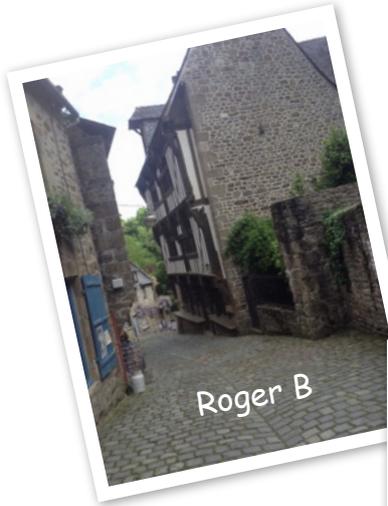
A peaceful crossing and drive home. Bedtime in the wee small hours of Friday morning.

On behalf of those of us who ventured across to Brittany, very many thanks to Lynne and Roger for organising a very successful event.



More pics supplied of our trip can be found on page 7.

Photo Gallery - Spring Trip to Brittany



Roger B



Roger B



Jane B



Anne W



Anne W



John B



John B

## 50 Shades of Grey - BY PAM AYRES (A husband's Point Of View)

An Occasional Poem by Pam Ayres - ED

The missus bought a Paperback  
Down Shepton Mallet way  
I had a look inside her bag  
T'was "Fifty Shades of Grey".

She struggled back upon her  
feet a couple minutes later  
She put her teeth back in and  
said I am a dominator!

Well I just left her to it  
And at ten I went to bed  
An hour later she appeared  
The sight filled me with dread.

Now if you knew our Mabel  
You'd see just why I spluttered,  
I'd spent two months in traction  
for the last complaint I'd ut-  
tered.

In her left she held a rope  
And in her right a whip!  
She threw them down upon the  
floor  
And then began to strip.

She stood there nude and naked  
bent forward just a bit  
I went to hold her, sensual like  
And stood on her left tit!

Well fifty years or so ago  
I might have had a peek  
But Mabel hasn't weathered well  
She's eighty four next week!!

Mabel screamed, her teeth shot  
out;  
My God what had I done?  
She moaned and groaned then  
shouted out:

Watching Mabel bump and grind  
could not have been much grim-  
mer. And things then went from  
bad to worse  
She toppled off her Zimmer!

"Step on the other one"!!

Well dear readers I can tell no  
more of what occurred that day.  
Suffice to say my jet black hair  
Turned fifty shades of grey.

## 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.

## 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.

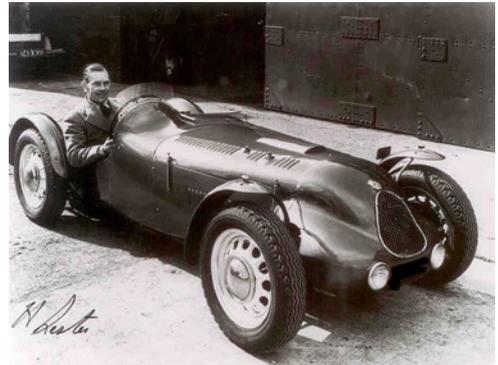
Vic

## The April Mystery Car - Harry Lester and "The Monkey Stable"

I admitted last month that this car was news to me. But you can't trick Ken and I can do no better than quote his response!

"The Mystery Car is a Lester MG.

In the late 40's and 50's, Harry Lester, a garage owner in Knebworth, Herts., was a successful sports car racer in a much modified MG PB. In 1949 he decided to build his own car (you can just about decipher his signature on the photograph). He built his own tubular space frame chassis and lightweight aluminium body. The power unit was a tuned XPAG engine from the TC, hence the MG in the name.



It was quite successful such that he was asked to build others for his wealthy friends. Three of these formed the 'Monkey Stable' and they achieved some success in 1952, culminating in winning the team prize in the first 9 hour race at Goodwood in that year.

He constructed around 20 cars mostly with MG engines although the last two in 1955 had Coventry Climax power. The rise in the success of cars from Lotus and Cooper made his cars uncompetitive and he retired back to his garage business. He died in 1982 at the age of 82".

## The May Mystery Car

This month we have two Mystery Cars, apparently related and could be linked to the egg-head in the photo? I'm not sure I would like to go far in the small one.....



David

## Club News

### Secretary's Scribbles - Parcels

As you know Vic has agreed to help me install my Hi-Gear Sierra 5 speed gearbox conversion. Vic had asked me to get hold of the instructions in advance so that he could study them -I had promised to get it sorted. However I had never quite got round to phoning up Hi-Gear and this week I came home to 3 large parcels outside my back door!

The kit looks good and comprehensive and has brackets and shiny bits galore. I have now rushed the instructions over to Vic and hope he thinks that it is an easy job.

Nancy asked me what I wanted for my birthday this year (May 23rd) and one of my ideas that might be of interest is a repro tax-disc from 1958. It seems fitting that our old cars still have something where the tax-disc has always been and there are a host of websites offering various standards in quality of repro discs. I can't tell you anymore until hopefully I get one in a few weeks time.

I hope you have noticed that MG has slowly started to get better with its advertising - seen any in the newspapers and TV? I have and I saw two other MG3s on my trip to Birmingham last weekend. I had a great drive up the M5 to see my brother - I put the cruise control on as I joined at Bristol and went the whole way without needing to adjust or flick out. One doesn't often get that sort of clear motorway these days. During the following week a colleague at work said she had been on the M5 and had spotted an MG3 in her mirror and had remarked to her husband that there was one of the new MGs coming up and that Tom at work had one- the next thing she knew was that it was me as I purred past! Right poser me!

**Tom**

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2015 EVENTS LIST				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
18-May	<b>Club Night (Mystery Run)</b>	Yes	<b>A Mystery</b>	<b>See page 9 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 April Edition</i>
8-Jun	Bath Motor Club BBQ	No	Orchardleigh Golf Club	<i>For Info - See page 9 for details</i>
13-14 June	Bristol Classic Car Show	No	Shepton Mallet Show Ground	<i>For Information</i>
22 Jun	<b>Club Night (Prod &amp; Poke BBQ)</b>	Yes	<b>The Fox &amp; Hounds Devizes</b>	
12-Jul	Summer Picnic	Yes	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>
27-Jul	<b>Club Night (Games Evening)</b>	Yes	<b>David or Tom's House</b>	<b>TBA</b>
19th Aug	Peter Browning Talk	No	<i>Abingdon</i>	<i>See page 7 for details - Martyn Lucas</i>
24-Aug	<b>Club Night (Talk) - TBC</b>	Yes	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>
30-Aug	Action Day	Yes	Tom's Field	<i>Tom Strickland</i>
20-Sep	Club-Run Basingstoke Milestones Museum			<i>Martyn Lucas</i>

2015 EVENTS LIST				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
28-Sep	Club Night ( <b>Theme TBA</b> )	Yes	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>
26-Oct	Club Night (Grand Prix talk - Duel of the Titans - Nazi sponsored GP racing 1930-1939)	Yes	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Paul Warn</b>
<b>TBC</b>	Committee Meeting	No	<b>TBA</b>	<i>Tom Strickland</i>
23-Nov	Club AGM	Yes	<b>TBA</b>	Formal notification will be included in the Sept & Oct newsletter.
13-Dec	Christmas Party	Yes	The Greyhound Bromham	

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**