



WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN-HOLT

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

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**SUSPENDED FOR THE
FORESEEABLE FUTURE**

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

First a message to Vic. Vic we all wish you our very best in your fight against throat cancer.

I hope that all members and your families are well in these strange times.

Despite some relaxation of the lockdown rules, I fully appreciate the need for caution and support the reasons for cancellation of major events which were planned for the next few months and either rescheduled for later this year or for 2021,

I think that in the classic car world 2020 will become known as the year of the cancelled event, but I agree that we all need to keep safe and support social distancing,

Because of the restrictions our April Club night was a virtual gardening quiz hosted by Sue Warder. This was a successful night and it seems to have given members the appetite for more quizzes so another quiz was hosted by Roger

the next week and then due to popularity Gordon and Sandra volunteered to host a quiz and now we have another chance to test our knowledge with a quiz from Peter and Sue Hine.

Many thanks to all who have organised and participated in these quizzes.

Our normal monthly club meetings continue to be cancelled until further notice but will resume as soon as possible taking into account accordance with social distancing parameters.

I am looking forward to later in this year when hopefully we can all start using our cherished cars properly and attend events as a group.

Although the current pandemic has been a temporary set back we all look forward to a brighter future.

Martyn





Scenes of VE Day



Appropriately
Enough

Malcolm Taylor

Here's another picture of Babs, who you've seen before in last month's newsletter. She belongs to the guy that organises the Newark Park show. He set her up outside his house for VE Day, which is appropriate considering her registration number. He also told a story of going for a walk round a field that is beside his house, instead of around the pavements. He had never been in there before and not 50 yards from his house, in the undergrowth, came across the chassis of an old lorry, still on 4 wheels. He mentioned it to his next door neighbour, who said that it had been there for as long as he had lived in the village which was 50 years. he recons it dates from the early 1950's.

Not even a barn find?



Scenes of VE Day



Pics of Our Social
Distancing Street
Party

Sue Warder

Here's a few pics of our social distancing street party.

Seven houses in Kingsley decorated and set up our tables etc. in our front gardens/driveways.

Terry decorated his 1940s butcher's bike and I premiered my 1940s dress made for Goodwood later this year.

Next door produced a wind up gramophone, but eventually technology won the day using a Smartphone and Bluetooth speakers!



Scenes of VE Day



The evening before VE Day, we were outside joining with the others in the cal-de-sac clapping the NHS and other front-line workers. I suggested, tongue slightly in cheek, that we should have a social distancing street party to celebrate VE day - without any planning.

Everyone thought it a great idea and here we are. The large Union Jack outside our house is the cover we use for the Morgan. Others managed to find bunting to fly outside their houses. Thanks to Spotify, we had music specifically themed for VE Day. So I set that up with a blue tooth speaker. Fours just flew by. **ED**

With all the quizzing that's been organised over recent weeks, try taking this short test on morality, and let me know what the result of the test is. By giving a serious answer you will discover where you stand morally. Be really honest now OK?

The test only takes a minute or two and is well worth the effort, so start now:-

The test features an unlikely and completely fictional situation in which you have to make a critical decision with no time available to think about what you are going to do next.

The situation:-

You are a photojournalist working for a major national newspaper and you are caught up in the middle of a raging storm which becomes an epic disaster situation.

The situation is becoming hopeless whilst you are attempting to take career-making photos. However, there are now houses and people swirling around you, with some disappearing under the rapidly rising torrent of water. Nature is unleashing all of its destructive fury.

The Test:-

Suddenly you see a man in the water fighting for his life desperately trying to avoid being taken down with the debris.

You move closer, and realise to your horror that it looks very much like the President, Donald Trump. To make sure, you call out his name and he responds by screaming "Yes, its me for God's sake, help!!". At that moment you realise that the torrent is about to take him under. He could be lost forever right there in front of your eyes.

You have two options:-

You can save the life of President, Donald Trump, or you can shoot a dramatic Pulitzer Prize winning set of photos documenting the last moments of the world's most powerful man, Hell bent on the destruction of the United States of America.

The Question:-

Here is the question, and please give an honest answer.

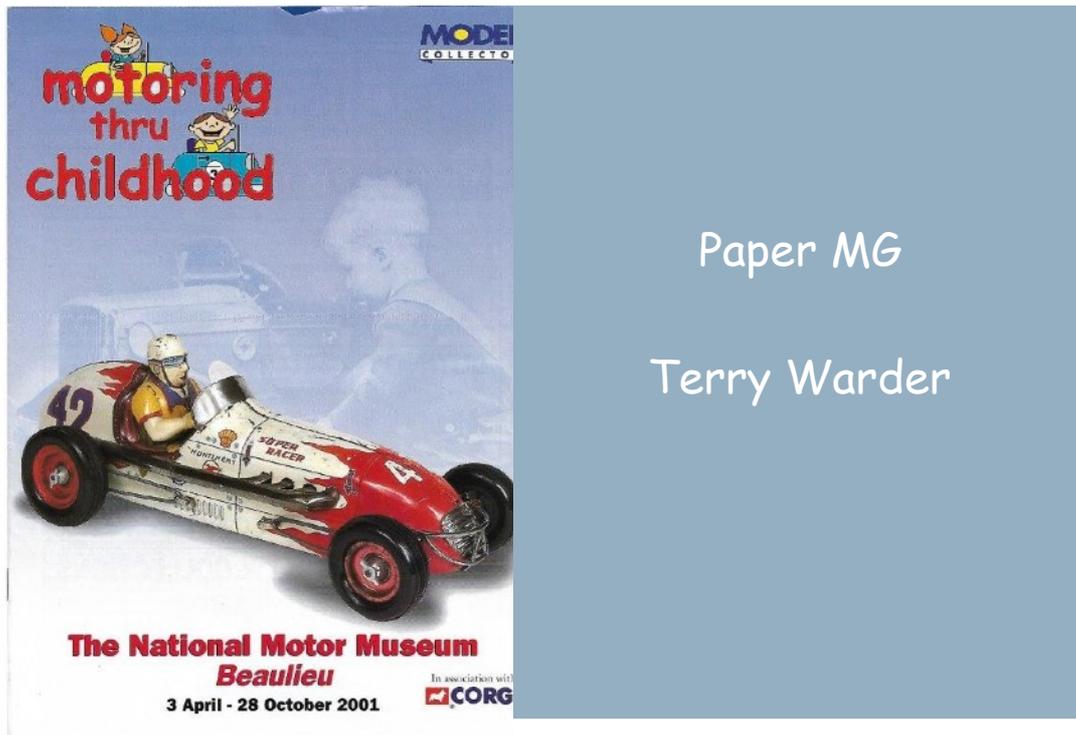
Would you:-

a) Select high contrast colour film?

or b) Go with the classic simplicity of black and white?

Let me know now!! **ED**





Paper MG Terry Warder

Firstly I must apologise to Steve, sadly the paper MGB project ended in disaster then got crushed and thrown into the waste paper bin. I'm blaming old age and fingers the size of sausages.

But many years ago I did start a paper MG project (well large cardboard boxes really) after restoring my MGB GT for the first time (several other restorations of it have happened since).

I tried finding a tin pedal car for Tim, when he was about three years old, thinking I could spray it the same colour as my MG, but the search came to nothing or they wanted silly money for rusty wrecks.

Then it came to me, if I could keep the shape of the body panels flat and square with limited curves or compound curves, I may be able to build one for him.

Looking at drawings and photos for inspiration, I came across a china plate at an auto jumble with a picture of an MG J2 printed on the front of it.



So with that idea in mind we set about designing cardboard templates and full-size drawings on pieces of card. Then I made plywood formers to shape the galvanised sheet metal that I had chosen to form the body panels out of. I thought the galvanised sheet steel may keep the rust away to give it a longer life.



The chassis was welded up using one inch square mild steel tube with the body being pop riveted in position, then the hard part trying to find wheels and tyres to fit. In those days, without the likes of eBay, it took some time to come up with the wheels. Eventually I found two brand new wheel barrow wheels (not quite what I wanted but needs must), then I had to order the other two and wait weeks for them to arrive.

The grill was hand fabricated and hand polished from stainless steel plate which also acts as part of the structure of the body. The headlights are new bicycle dynamo lights; there is only one rear light as per the period. The "radiator" has a hand crafted MG badge; the car also sports a small solid brass AA badge.

I had some blue vinyl and paint left over from restoring a mini countryman estate, so Sue did the upholstery and the car became blue not the planned blaze orange!

At first the car was "pedal power" but as Tim got older it was changed to battery power using two metro rear windscreen wiper motors (and no it doesn't go backwards forwards backwards forwards if it starts raining).



Some years later I was at a Beaulieu auto jumble waiting for the gates to open, and looking through the show guide I spotted an advertisement (see main title picture above ED) asking for one off pedal cars for a Motoring Through Childhood exhibit they were planning to put on in the museum.

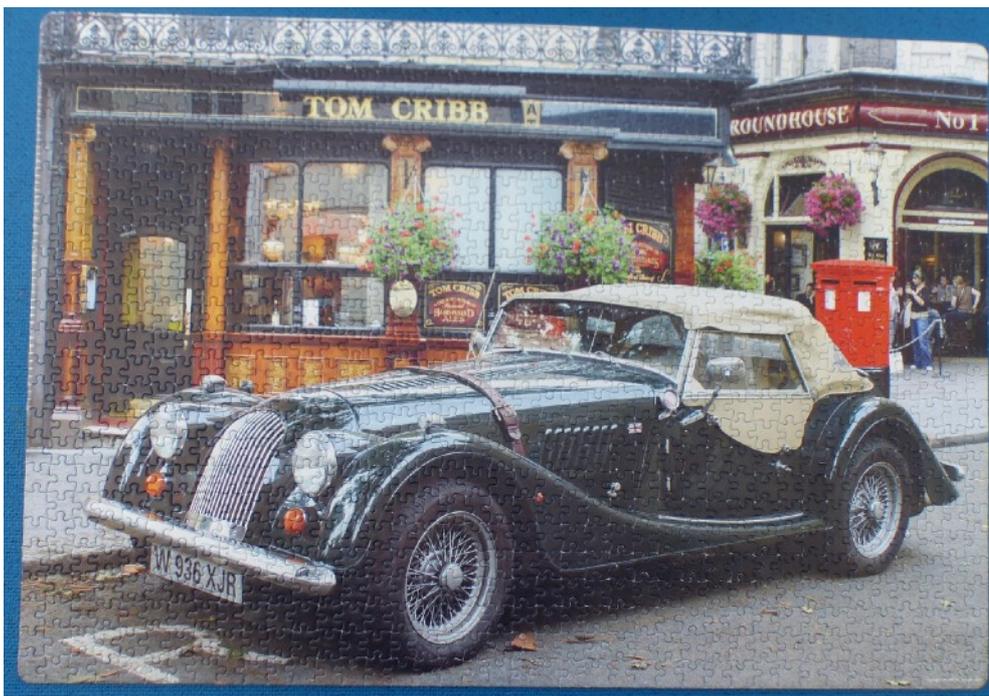


So I replied and the little car was accepted, they came and collected the car and later they sent entry passes to go and see the display.

At first we couldn't find our little blue car amongst a large display of over a thousand toy cars. They all belonged to one person's private collection in Australia and were to be auctioned off at a later date.

Then we found it, and much to our surprise it was in with the royal pedal car collection right next to Prince Charles' and Prince Andrew's three toy cars.

Due to the popularity, the museum decided to extend the display and the little pedal car stayed on show for a further eleven months proudly displaying its WESSEX MG CLUB sticker on the windscreen.



Our latest jig-saw puzzle. Surely someone must have a jig-saw of an MG...ED





The Roaring
Raindrop -
Homage to a
Couple of
Speedsters.

Malcolm Taylor

In memory of Stirling Moss who died last month and his connection with MG.

The roaring raindrop is the nickname given to the fastest MG ever. The last of a line of MG record breakers, EX 181 was driven by Stirling Moss on the Bonneville Salt Flats in 1957.

Class F is for engines between 1100 and 1500cc. EX181 had an MGA twin cam engine of 1489cc with a huge supercharger. It produced 290 bhp at 7000 rpm running on 86% methanol, laced with nitrobenzene, acetone and sulphuric ether. I wonder what sort of poison was pumped out of the tailpipe? Whatever it was, apparently it got sucked into the cabin when his foot was taken off the throttle. Nice!

Moss achieved a two way average of 245.64 mph.

The car returned to Bonneville in 1959, with the engine bored out to 1506cc to attack the 1500 to 2000cc class. It was driven by the American, Phil Hill. It now produced 300 bhp at 7300 rpm, running on the same cocktail as before.

Hill achieved a two way average of 254.91 mph.

The car took a number of international and American records on both outings.

EX181 is in the British Motor Museum at Gaydon, to which I have never been. I would be allowed to drive there now but they wouldn't let me in.



I Hope This Makes You Smile

**“Vaping”
back in
my day.**



The three hardest things to say are:

1. I was wrong
2. I need help
3. Worcestershire Sauce

My doctor said now that I'm older I need to install a bar in the shower



Therapist: Your wife says you never buy her flowers is that true?

Him: To be honest, I never knew she sold flowers.



Secretary's Scribbles

Hi everyone,

Since last writing I successfully removed the drivers seat from the Magnette and Nancy ordered some curved needles so that SHE could then redo the stitching for me. There was no rip - just some of the stitching had come undone and it had always annoyed me. I have even got the seat back in and given the leather some feeding. On the list is to carve out some time to give the car a complete service.

I have and am quite busy still doing school work. The government cancelled all GCSE and A levels this year and replaced them with 'Teacher Assessed grades' - what this means is that I have submit a History grade for each student. However the exam board also want me to rank all of those on the same grade - so for example all the Grade Cs need to be ranked. The exam board is then going to run our results through some computer and some grades will be altered

before they are issued to students in August.

This may sound complicated but it gets more so when bureaucratic schools need robust systems behind the grading system that need data to reinforce all decisions. Also remember that when I rank all the 'C Grades' I have to do this not just from my own History class but actually across all the History classes. This is taking up quite a lot of time and as teachers we have to connect in a human way too - For example some students were ill during their Mock exams - we have to know the students quite well in order to be absolutely fair and compensate these students when looking at the raw data. All schools will do it slightly differently. What a palaver! So last week I wrote and got agreed a system of how we are going to decide the Grading and agree the Ranking. This week my staff are inputting the data and I am then running through the agreed system in order to do initial Rankings. Next week we meet online and thrash out



Secretary's Scribbles Cont

anomalies and discuss where there are any disagreements. I then submit the data to the School's senior team...

I continue to set work for students to be doing at home. We are still getting only about half the kids engage in this. Some may be doing it but not submitting and some are just on a holiday! There of course are some who can't access online content (We have tried to send physical 'hard copy' work home when we know) and some may actually be ill. We have adopted a 'soft' approach to the work and are not chasing students who do not complete the work.

Broadband... this has been a bit of a mission for me this last month. We paid for BT Fibre Broadband and we got between 5 and 9 on download speeds. Vodafone cold called Nancy and did a special test and promised a minimum speed of 11 for a good price. They also supplied a super duper router that I could boost specific devices when I need them too. Vodafone failed to deliver their speed and we were averaging between 5 and 7, which

is worse than the previous BT provision. Just streaming Joe Wicks Workout on YouTube was a struggle some days. Our real problem is the rubbish wire coming across the fields - none of the companies can fix that! I got a tip off that EE provide a 4G hub that uses 4G from the air to get the internet before distributing around the house - they reckon we will get up into the 30-60 for a download speed. It is a little more expensive and it is arriving tomorrow - lets wait and see. Oh and the Vodafone customer service is truly dreadful and strangely during the call they passed us on to the tech team and they managed to boost our signal to 11 so that they could refuse to waive the early cancelation fee.... We were on call all afternoon and got no where - we are still going to fight them and take them to the ombudsman if necessary. Anyway I wouldn't go near the if I were you.

I hope everyone is well and it is great seeing people at the quizzes. What back ground will John and Priscilla go for next?

Tom



Club Diary

2020 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
12th July	Summer Picnic	Yes	Newark Park	
25th - 26th July	MGF 25th Anniversary		Gaydon	
27th July	Club night - Mystery Run	Yes		TBA
1st - 2nd Aug	Gloucester Steam Fayre		South Cerney	
24th Aug	Club Night - Social Evening	No		
30th August	Tom's Action Day	Yes	Tom's House	
6th Sept	Westbury White Horse Classic Car Show	For Info	Westbury	
28th Sept	Club night - Talk TBA	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	Talk by Tom Strickland
26th Oct	Club night - Talk TBA	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	Talk by Paul Warn
23rd November	Club night - AGM	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	Club AGM
12th December	Christmas Party	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	



Club Asset List

CLUB ASSET LIST			
ASSET	CURRENT HOLDER	CONTACT DETAILS	
Engine Hoist	Vic Wright	01225 704685	vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk
Club Sail Banner	Vic Wright	01225 704685	vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk
Event Shelter + Sides	Tom Strickland	012489 447125	stricklandto@hotmail.com
Projector	Peter Hine	01672 512847	peter_hine@btinternet.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
New Set of Boules	Vic Wright	01225 704685	vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk

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.