



# WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN- HOLT

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**NEXT CLUB NIGHT**  
27th February - Talk

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

The events season has now started and last week I was at the International MG & Triumph Show & Spares Day at Stoneleigh, this was a very well attended show and it was good to meet visitors from across the world including the well known North American MG Enthusiast John Twist.

There are many more events coming along and we have received an invite to The South Cerney Steam Extravaganza in August, if you would like to attend this show please let me know by club night as space at the show is limited.

We also now have a club discount code for The Thruxton Historic on June 18<sup>th</sup> more details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Many thanks to Lynne and Roger for organising the catering and Club Scalextric event at Edington Village Hall, this was a very exciting evening and congratulations to John Bishop who emerged

as the new holder of the trophy also congratulations to Millie Strickland, one of our younger members, who was a very close runner up .

It is good to see that Malcolm Taylor is now home from hospital and recovering , I am certain that all members will join me in wishing him a speedy recovery

A warm welcome to our friendly club for new members Julian and Gemma Drew, Chris and Karen McCormack and Christopher Richards.

Our first club night in January featured a fun quiz and Our Next Club Night at The Tollgate on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February we should have a visit from The Guide Dogs for The Blind Charity who were our Charity of the Year for 2022.

**Martyn**



## Club Member Car of the Month - 1993 MG RV8



**This month's featured car is owned by Julian Drew**

**W**hy an RV8? Well, I've always had a passion for motor cars & things mechanical for as long as I can remember and in 1987 when leaving school, I took up a mechanical apprenticeship with Hartwell's of Bath to become a vehicle technician.

This took me through my apprentice years and onto further qualification with Rover Cars as Master Technician in 1993.

I went through the MG saloon days with Metro's, Maestro's & Montego's so became quite attached to the brand. My mother and father had several two seaters back before I was born and a Magnette saloon when I was rather young, so only a very few distant memories of that last car along with an MG Montego in the nineties.

Roll onto 1993 and our Dealership in Bath became an appointed dealer for the launch of the MG RV8. I remember that this required a dedicated technician for the service & maintenance side of things. As Master Technician I don't think I needed to put my hand up for this but at the time I do remember showing some very keen levels of interest!

In the early 1990's a lot of the vehicle product was starting to see significant electrical systems being fitted within the cars, fuel injection, engine management systems & internal electrical systems were becoming quite prominent on most models. Seems quite some way away from today's modern vehicles, however, even back then we were experiencing a big shift.

I was in my twenties and with a rather senior workforce found myself at the front of all this modern technology for the time, as others felt more comfortable with traditional mechanical work.

RV8 has a real blend of vehicle systems with electronics from Metro's, Rover 200's, 800's a fuel injection system as used on Land Rover and Range Rover vehicles, not to mention a little Porsche and Vauxhall, so quite the mixed bag.

To become more familiar with the vehicle before launch I spent a few days at Cowley with the training school & production team, which very much supported my interest with the model.



However, as most will know the large majority of the RV8's produced were exported to Japan & as such quite a low volume remained in the UK. Which didn't dent my enthusiasm for the vehicle.

Wind on some twenty-five years & with the family getting a little older I found the opportunity to finally get my hands on one.

A significant number of the exported vehicles had made their way back to the UK and the very familiar colour of Woodcoat green being the rather dominant colour on these returning cars.

I bought my first RV8 in one of these colours, not my favourite, but a nice colour all the same. The car itself was OK, a kind of test the water car, would the novelty wear off etc. Well, the novelty certainly didn't wear off!

What I really wanted now was a UK car in British Racing green. Well, that turned up which ended up being car number two. Wind on a further 18 months & another British racing Green UK one turns up low mileage, great history & ends up being the current number three car, which I have here.

Quite an early car off the production run & it retains mainly in standard form. I'm quite keen to keep the vehicle this way. Although, during the winter I refurbished the front suspension, power coating, replacing with poly bushes & fitting uprated shock absorbers. Does make the ride a little more compliant.

A fuel ECU performance chip & sports exhaust further compliment the car & not items that are too noticeable. I think a similar overhaul of the rear suspension at some time in the future, but other than that I'll keep the car as it is.

We have a few shows booked for this year, maybe the odd track day. We've already started to brave the top-down driving since January, ensuring we have a dry day, a few layers of clothing with Gemma ensuring a National Trust location is on hand to provide a warm coffee. Both our children Alfie & Jasmine also enjoy the car, Alfie's more akin to top down driving no matter what the weather, we just need to work on Jasmine for more of the top-down driving, but it's all great fun.



**Julian Drew**





**Annual Summer Picnic**  
**To be held at**  
**Sculptures by the Lakes, Pallington Nr Dorchester**  
**on**  
**Sunday 23 July 2023**

This tranquil area of Dorset countryside mingles with spectacular lakeside sculptures with the River Frome running alongside is an ideal spot for picnicking. We have secured a parking and picnic area, though we also have the option of picnicking in the park next to the lakes if we wish.



Have a look at the website

[www.sculpturebythelakes.co.uk](http://www.sculpturebythelakes.co.uk) Entry

fee is £14.50 less 10% for us. Well behaved dogs on a lead are welcome except in the kitchen garden and ornamental gardens.

Further details regarding route etc. to follow in due course.

Don't miss out on this highlight of the year.

**PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW**

## 2022 Club Charity



Last club year, our chosen charity was Guide Dogs and I'm pleased to say we made a donation of £350 in December. On this month's club night, a representative from the Guide Dogs Association will be coming along to give us a talk on the organisation, the work they do and how money donated is used. It would be great to see as a good number there to support the speaker, and if you feel so inclined, further help their funds. Sadly she won't be bringing along a cute puppy, but our Clara will be there as usual who will appreciate any amount of attention 😊



**Peter Hine**

## 2023 Club Charity



Many thanks to all of you that completed the survey to select the charity to be supported by the club in this club year. The results are:

Great Bustard: 4%

Julia's House: 65%

Storehouse Food Bank: 31%

As a result, our chosen charity will be Julia's House. The charity donation is funded by the club night raffle takings (and match funded by the club funds at the end of the club year), so please keep buying lots of raffle tickets on club nights. It's all going to a good cause.



**Peter Hine**





Second in my series of contemporary British Leyland advertisements for MG Sports Cars. 



YOUR MOTHER WOULDN'T LIKE IT.

94.5 bhp. 109 mph. 0-50 in 8.0 seconds.\* £1393.00  
\*Including car tax and VAT. Head restraints, number plates, seat belts and delivery charges extra. \*Source: Motor.

 **MG**  
From British Leyland  
Makers of the best selling cars in Britain

**MGB**

## Club Events - Update

### Thruxton Historic - Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup> 2023



I have booked a club parking area at this event and have a discount code which will give those who wish to get a 50% discount off the normal ticket price, booking details are below

To purchase tickets at 50% off the on the day price and supply vehicle details for a free club display vehicle pass visit the **dedicated car club ticket booking page via this link (this page is not visible on the website)**. Each order allows you to book one free vehicle display pass with the driver and any passenger tickets.

<https://thruxtonracing.co.uk/tx-hist-car-clubs-2023>

Scroll down, select a ticket type, and click 'ADD TO BASKET'

Adjust the quantity required (to add a different ticket type go back one page)

**Enter code WMGC423HT in the DISCOUNT CODE field** (bottom left of the basket) click **APPLY**

Repeat to apply the discount to each ticket type on the order

Please check the total before clicking PROCEED TO CHECKOUT

Car Club tickets must be booked by 2pm Monday 12th June. Tickets and display vehicle passes will be sent to club members by first class post on or before this date.

**Martyn**



## Gloucester Country and Vintage Extravaganza - Sunday August 6<sup>th</sup>

This is a very large show with something for almost everyone, not just car enthusiasts, we had a stand at this show last year and it was a popular day out.

This year we have been allocated a space for 15 cars if you would like to join us this year please let me know at the next club night.

**Martyn**

## Preliminary Information Beaulieu MG Event - Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup>

A collaboration of the South Coast MG Owners Clubs are organising a get together for MG cars at Beaulieu on this day, at present I do not have more information, but may be worth pencilling in your diary.

**Martyn**

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The latest Tom Strickland "Spy" pic of the new MG sports car...



## Club Members' Chat

**O**ur new club member Christopher Richards responded to my request in the February newsletter calling notice with the following - thank you Christopher.

I took the midget (Bridget, as I have named her) to Cirencester then through the Stroud valley to Stroud, through the valley to Nailsworth up to Tetbury and Malmesbury and back home. A good morning out in fine weather.

This was a taster for later in the year when I will be joining a trip to the Isle of Man classic and sports car weekend 18th May. Drive it Day 23rd April for NSPCC Child Line. By the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs.

Then on to the London to Brighton run 4th June 2023.

And the Scotland scenic route 500 in September.

After that it depends upon what I can find.

**Christopher**

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And Rick Meopham responded...

Reading Christopher's interesting missive re his recent spin around the countryside in 'Bridget the Midget' prompted me to recall the 'North Wiltshire Discovery Tours' twenty plus years ago and I wonder if any other club members participated in any of these two day events?

They were superbly organised by the North Wilts District Council and attracted classic car owners from many parts of the UK. The Mayors of the various towns en route would turn out for photo ops with vehicle owners, excellent lunches and a first rate dinner on the Saturday evening usually at some prestigious venue.

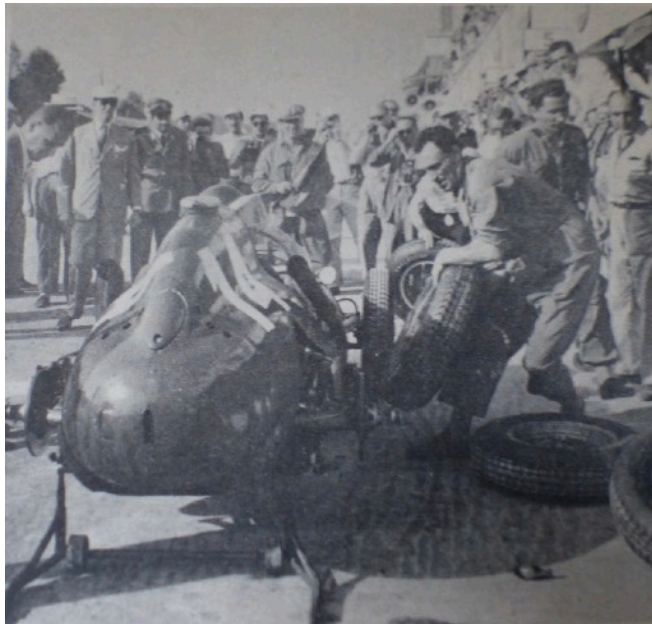
The annual events were huge fun for both participants and the townsfolk. So sad they are no more - killed off I understand by the short sighted council bean counters.

**Rick Meopham**



## March Club Night - Talk

How did we get from this...



To this!



Just to get a car to go faster around a race track.  
Well join me at the March club night when I will attempt to give you the inside line.

**Paul Warn (ED)**

## Secretary's Scribbles

Hi all,

Well I haven't moved forward with any of the jobs I wanted to achieve at Christmas and got behind with because of my illness. I have though made one BIG decision and that is I plan to sell the Magnette in the summer. I have the big MG 100 event and a colleague's wedding to do in May/June, which will inspire me to give her a real good going over prior to placing her on the market. The sad reality is that firstly I have just hardly used the Magnette in recent years and secondly having the TF I am reminded that the soft-top sports car is what I always loved. I suppose the additional consideration is that I bought the Magnette

to enable us to continue club life with our young children but now they are of the age where we normally attend events without them. Having three MGs is a bit greedy! By the way if you go onto the Gaydon British Motor Museum website you can now book your participation at the big MG100 event on the 27<sup>th</sup> May.

[https://  
www.britishmotormuse  
um.co.uk/whats-on/  
mg-centenary](https://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk/whats-on/mg-centenary)

Take Care Everyone

Tom





# CLUB DIARY

2023 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
<b>27th Feb</b>	<b>Club Night - Talk Guide Dogs for the Blind</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>	<b>Peter Hine</b>
24-26th March	NEC Restoration Show	For Info		
<b>27th March</b>	<b>Club Night - Talk Grand Prix Racing</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>	<b>Paul Warn</b>
7th - 10th April	Easter Bank Holiday			
15th April	Pride of Longbridge	No		
<b>TBA</b>	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>			<b>Martyn Lucas</b>
<b>21-24th April</b>	<b>Club Spring Break</b>	<b>Yes</b>		<b>Gordon and Sandra Newman</b>
<b>24th April</b>	<b>Club night - History Talk</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>	<b>Tom Strickland</b>
<b>22nd May</b>	<b>Club night - BBQ Prod &amp; Poke</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>The Toll Gate Inn</b>	<b>Martyn and Peter</b>
27th May	MG 100		Gaydon	
1st June	MG100 Celebration at the original Garage in Oxford		Oxford	
4th June	Chippenham Lions Cherished Vehicle Show		Chippenham	
4th June	MGs in the Park		Cotswold Wildlife Park	
10th - 11th June	MG Live Silverstone	For Info	Silverstone	
11th June	Lions on the Green			Devizes Lions Club
<b>17th - 18th June</b>	<b>Thruxton Historic</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Thruxton Circuit</b>	<b>Martyn Lucas</b>
18th June	Bowood 'Masters in Motoring'	For Info		





## 2023 EVENTS DIARY

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Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
26th June	Club night - Mystery Run	Yes		Steve Todd
9th July	Atwell Wilson Museum Open Day			
15th - 16th July	Post-Abingdon MG Show			
23rd July	Club Annual Picnic	Yes	Dorchester Sculpture Lakes	Gordon and Sandra Newman
24th July	Club night - Boules	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	Martyn & Terry
6th August	Gloucester Country & Vintage Extravaganza	Yes	South Cerney	Martyn Lucas
6th August	Haynes MG100 Breakfast Meeting			Martyn Lucas
21st August	Club Night - Theme <b>TBA</b>	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	
3rd September	White Horse Car Show	Yes	Westbury	
25th September	Club night - Theme <b>TBA</b>	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	
30th September	Beaulieu MG Event	For Info		
23rd October	Club night - Theme <b>TBA</b>	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	
<b>TBA</b>	COMMITTEE MEETING			Martyn Lucas
TBA	Club night - AGM	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	Club AGM
TBA	Christmas Party	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	



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2023 EVENTS DIARY				
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### **OTHER POTENTIAL EVENTS**

Boat Trip on the Thames? (Martyn)

REME Museum at Lyneham? (Martyn)

Abingdon and Nuffield Place? (Martyn)

RMA Sandhurst – Would be Weekday? (Peter)

## Club Asset List

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

### 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.