



WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN-HOLT

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

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THE CLUB'S DIARY

**NEXT CLUB NIGHT
25th October 8:00pm**

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

Since the last newsletter we have had a variety of events including a short evening run finishing at The Duke in Bratton and a few days later on a very wet Saturday several of us attended the Castle Combe Autumn Classic and then the next day the weather improved and we enjoyed a Sunday Run into Dorset with a lunch stop in Marnhull and then an after lunch run through the Dorset countryside ending with Tea and Biscuits generously provided by Sandra and Gordon, many thanks to them for this and for leading the after lunch run.

It is good to welcome new members and pleasing to see that they are participating in our club events.

For the first time I visited the Somerset Transport Festival held near Frome and this was a show with various types of vehicles on show.

Despite the Fuel panic hopefully the recent good weather has enabled us to make use of our cars in the Autumn sunshine, Our next club night is on Monday 25th October and this will be held upstairs at The Tollgate at 8.00pm and we will be looking for an idea of who

may wish to join our planned 2022 Spring Break to the Gower Coast, which was our planned break for 2020 but had to be postponed because of the lockdown, hopefully this will now go ahead in late April or early May of 2022.

As we are now able to meet in the upstairs room at The Tollgate the AGM will be held there in November, the room will be well ventilated but this year for those who do not wish to be in enclosed spaces there is the option of reading the draft reports in this newsletter and if you have any comments you can email these before the night, There will be elections on the night for committee members and it would be good to have some new nominations.

It's really good news that we now again have use of the room at The Tollgate for our meetings and I look forward to seeing some of you there on Monday 25th October at 8.00pm for our club social night.

I've included additional information in relation to the 2021 AGM below...

Martyn

IMPORTANT WESSEX MG AGM UPDATE

This year the AGM will operate in a different format, you will find attached to this newsletter copies of the Chairman and Treasurer Reports.

If you do not wish to attend the physical AGM being held upstairs at The Tollgate on Monday November 22nd at 8.0pm, you can submit any comments by email prior to the date.

NB For those not attending comments on the Chairman's Report should be submitted to Martyn and the Treasurer's Report to Peter Hine.

With the ongoing Covid pandemic we have made this change as this gives those who do not wish to be indoors the opportunity to participate in the AGM

On the evening the AGM will be held in the usual pattern with the opportunity to nominate and vote for Committee Members, all members are encouraged to stand for committee membership/roles.

Those attending will also have the opportunity to bring a photo for entry in the annual photo competition and the opportunity to win a prize for the photo which the members attending vote as the best.





CALLING NOTICE - WESSEX MG 2021 AGM

AGM

Please be advised that in accordance with the Club's rules, two month's notice is given for our Annual General Meeting.

Wessex MG Club

2021 Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the above meeting will take place on the

22nd November

at

The Tollgate Inn - Holt

commencing at

8:00 pm

Preceded from 7.30 onwards by the payment of subscriptions for the 2022 season.

Notice of any resolution to be proposed at the meeting should be given in writing to the Secretary before the 1st October

The proceedings of the meeting shall be as follows:

Agenda for AGM

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Approval of minutes of 2020 Virtual AGM.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Consideration of any motions received.

Break

- **Photo competition**

- **Voting for awards**

6. Election of Committee for 2022.
7. Presentation of Awards.
8. Arrangements for 2022 AGM.
9. Any other business.

Chairman's AGM Report

Another year has passed and we are at the AGM of our club.

Thanks to all who have continued membership and also to those who have joined this year or are considering joining our club, it is the enthusiasm and friendliness of those who attend that make Wessex MG a fantastic and successful club

During the first part of this year we were holding regular quiz nights on zoom, which were certainly fun, interesting and educational and thanks must go to Paul Adams for facilitating this through his zoom account.

Due to the Covid restrictions the events season did not get under way until the Mid-summer and then there were so many events each weekend that we had to choose which to attend.

The season really started with a Club run for a picnic in the New Forest, skilfully organised by Gordon and Sandra, this was followed by a club stand at The Atwell Wilson Car Show, and then our first visit to the Tollgate for almost 18 months when on a lovely summers evening we enjoyed our Barbeque, we also had a club stand at The Chippenham Lions Cherished Vehicle Show

Another mid-week picnic was also organised by Gordon and Sandra and our August Club night featured a short run followed by food at Longbridge Deverell. The main event on August Bank Holiday Monday was the action day in Tom and Nancy's field and the first winner of The Vic Wright Memorial Trophy was Steve Todd..

September took us to The White Horse Car Show in Westbury where once again our membership excelled with a large attendance of cars, this was followed by a short evening run which finished for a meal at The Duke in Bratton, which is run by MG Enthusiasts Roger and Kay.



The first few days of October saw us attending the Castle Combe Classic Race day on a very wet Saturday, luckily the weather cleared on the Sunday when we held a Sunday run into Dorset stopping for lunch at The Crown in Marnhull and then an afternoon drive through the Dorset countryside finishing at the home of Gordon and Sandra who must be thanked again for providing Tea and Biscuits.

We are now again able to meet in the upstairs room at the Tollgate and are Christmas Meal is planned to be held at The Tollgate on Saturday December 11th.

Once again I would like to thank all involved with the club for their interest and patience during the recent unprecedented times and let's hope that during the coming year we will be able to get back to a more normal pattern with all our usual events and also some new ones.



Martyn Lucas



Treasurer & Membership Secretary AGM Report



Wessex MG Club



Treasurer & Membership Secretary Report Club Year 1st Dec '20 ~ 30th Nov '21

Funds at Close of Club Year*	Bank Account	£1,118.27	£1333.71
	Petty Cash	£215.44	

Membership: Number of Members: 47**
Membership Directory closing at v5
Membership Register closing at Issue 88

Points of Interest: *Not a lot...* 😞

Notable Incomes (excluding annual membership subs, Valentine meal & Christmas meal payments):

- No notable incomes

Notable Outgoings:

- No notable outgoings



Club Assets: As per club newsletter.

Club Regalia:

- Car Badges: 2 Grill mount
- Wessex Bears: 0 (Available to order)
- Club Cards: 35 (Distributed by request)
- Windscreen Stickers: 46

Treasures Comment:

Due to the exceptional circumstances this club year, there are no notable financial events to report. Club funds are at an acceptable level to the committee and no changes to the way the club is funded are foreseen.

* Due to the date of publication for this report, closing funds shown above exclude club year 21/22 annual membership subs and 21' Christmas meal deposits. These will be accounted for in the 21/22 club year accounts.

** The club has had about six new membership enquiries this year and as such we would hope to see membership numbers at 50+ in the coming club year.



**** END****



Invitation to a Winter's Walk

Roger Binney

Roger, Lynne and Millie invite you to join us for a winter walk through Erlstoke Woods on **Thursday 2nd December**.

Meeting up at 1pm for a gentle stroll through sun filled woodland in unseasonably warm weather, followed by an alfresco warm Cornish pasty and mulled wine treat.

Please email if interested in joining us.
Nominal cost for purchased pasties.

Dogs and dog treats welcome



Electric Vehicle

Malcolm Taylor

We had a discussion in the newsletter some time ago about electric vehicles. My next door neighbour has just taken delivery of a brand new Tesla. I have booked my demonstration run, but am still waiting.

Pat and I went to NT Dyrham Park this Sunday. Those that know the place will remember that between the car park and the house is a steep and winding downhill access road. We walked down but decided to get the shuttle bus back up. They have two new electric vehicles that undertake the task admirably. In fact the situation is ideal for electric vehicles.

I spoke to the driver about regenerative braking. He confirmed that they had this feature, but said that on the first run of the day, it didn't work and he had to use the conventional brakes. He couldn't understand why this was? Thinking about it afterwards, it is obviously because the battery will be full after an overnight charge and therefore can't take any more electricity. After the first run dissipates the battery slightly, the feature is again available.

Because the battery is charged on every downhill run, he said that after a full day's use, without mains charging, the battery was still 76% charged.



A Change in the Law



The GB sticker is no longer legal when travelling abroad or Northern Ireland.

The UK sticker is now required consequent to UK government changes in the law.

Beware, as car insurances no doubt will jump on this in the event of a claim overseas.

Stickers available on ebay £1.95

Bless them!





'Six Fighting Sons' -
The Pickard's of
Wingfield during the
Great War.
Researched by Tom
Strickland
August 2021

It was a cool summers evening at a Wessex MG club night just after lockdown 2021 that Terry and Sue Warder passed me a brown envelope and explained that I might be interested in the contents. **The title photo shows the content of the envelope.**

Well, I was amazed at the story that emerged...

In 1914 Job and Mary Pickard lived at Vine Cottage in Wingfield near Trowbridge. Job worked on the estate of Wingfield House for Sir Vincent Caillard. Together they had a large family of at least 11 children. Six of the boys served in the British forces during the war:

- Will was in the Wiltshire Yeomanry and survived the war
- Herbert was in the Royal Navy and served with Drake Battalion at Gallipoli (worth looking up what they got up to!) Herbert was wounded and discharged in 1916.
- James was with the Royal Flying Corps and also survived the war.

But the envelope said nothing of these three brothers

Instead, the envelope concentrated on just three brothers who went off to war together. The Postcards were mostly from Phil and the letters were about Joe and Tom. I slowly pieced the story together and then found that Richard Broadhead had a Newspaper article on them along with their photos in his large database to complete the story. Here is their story.



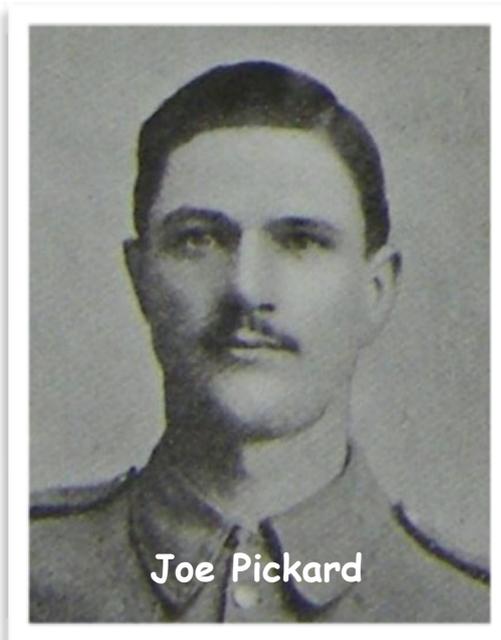
Wingfield House 1917

Phil, Tom and Joe all served together in A Company 1st/4th Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment. The Regiment was sent to India as part of the Empire's defence against possible invasion or uprising. This was a very real threat with the Turks under German



leadership trying to invade through from the Middle East and also Germany was also financing and recruiting 'troublemakers' from Indian PoW camps to go back to India and stir up anti-British acts. The Regiment spent days on long 'Flag marches' and had an interesting time seeing many of the famous sites of India. The Postcards show pictures of the Red Fort and famous sites in Delhi but

also Hill top places such as Chakarata and Dehra Dun. Most of the postcards talk about sites the boys are seeing or culturally interesting things about India. The three young lads must have been having quite an eye-opening experience in stark contrast to their Wiltshire life experience so far. Before joining up Joe worked at the Palmer and Mackay Cloth Mill (Courts Mill?) in Trowbridge and that he joined the Territorials just

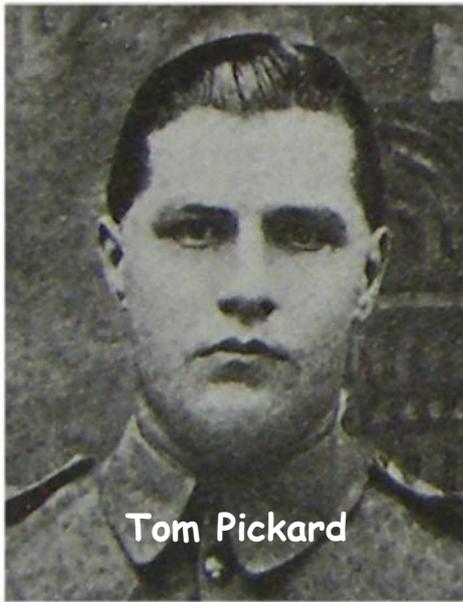


before the war. Tom worked at S. Collier and Co. Woollen Merchants and joined up when he heard Lord Kitchener's call to arms. Tom was also a chorister. Both boys played football and cricket for Wingfield and sometimes helped playing for Bradford club. Phil's story is not documented unfortunately.

At some point whilst in India Phil spent a Christmas in Hospital as there is a postcard where Phil points out where he was staying in the Sexan Hospital, Meerutt. I wonder how the boys felt being away from the real war and doing continuous long marches. A Concert troop was put together for the battalion's entertainment called the Moonrakers, so I expect that fun was had even if they were a little frustrated. The boys' turn was to come though and

in September 1917 the Regiment was moved to Palestine. General Allenby had taken over command of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force and prepared to go on the offensive

against the Turks and their German Officers in Palestine. Allenby had put together a well thought out plan that started with the surprise attack at Gaza. The attack started on the 31st October 1917. It was a great success and by Christmas Allenby



Tom Pickard

had taken Jerusalem, capturing 12,000 Turkish Prisoners of War. Unfortunately, not all the brothers were to survive the campaign. In November the Wiltshires were involved in the push on Gaza. At 2am on the 2nd November 1917 the Gurkhas to the left of the Wiltshires raided the Turks at Outpost Hill, this brought down retaliatory artillery fire on the Wiltshires. We are told what happened through two letters home to their parents. Joe's Platoon Officer Lieutenant Sainsbury wrote from 'the field' and explained that Joe was killed by a shell whilst sleeping in his 'narrow trench' and could 'have suffered no pain', I hope that this was true but we must acknowledge that nearly all letters home looked to alleviate the family's pain by saying

things like 'died instantaneously'. A later letter from the Company Commander, Captain Pye-Smyth, arrived a month later from his hospital bed in Cairo where we find out that Joe's burial was attended by Tom and that he was buried in a cemetery just to the 'rear of the lines'. A few days later, on the 7th November The Wiltshires



were ordered to move forward and take Fryers Hill just east of Gaza. They were shelled by the Turks the whole way that they advanced, suffering 8 deaths and 73 wounded, one of those killed was Tom. Captain Pye-Smyth's letter explained that Tom was killed on Fryers Hill in the afternoon and was buried there on the hill itself. One gets the feeling that the

Wiltshires had it really tough in this battle! Pye-Smyth also talks of Phil and says he was 'stunned' about Tom's death and went to double check that it was true. He expresses that he was glad that Phil was 'spared the stress attending the two battles of El

Mesmiyeh on the 13th as he was given the job of collecting reinforcements (Was Phil deliberately sent to spare the loss of another brother?).

Later, the local community found out through the casualty rolls published in the papers and so the family received letters, including one from the local Bishop. A friend of Joe writes that she had been in constant letter contact and asks for a photo of him. Once the news got out at home the local paper ran a story

about the 'Six Fighting Sons' and this sparked the family to receive some more supportive letters. Phil fortunately survived to live in Upper Studley, Trowbridge, but he must have always been scarred by the loss of his two brothers.

Tom and Joe are now buried in the same plot, a few graves apart, in the CWGC Cemetery in Gaza (Battlefield graves were often concentrated later into larger cemeteries post war)



PHOTO GALLERY



Cars are on the move again! Waiting to board the Caen to Portsmouth ferry in September, these guys had been on a club trip. Very varied assortment ranging from MGB to a new Alpine. Glad to say Millie's new French passport works a treat and can now travel to anywhere in Europe and Northern Ireland without the £125 a time cost. Conversely the phone companies that promised no mobile roaming charges in Europe are now charging, causing us to take on a French landline and internet contract at £300 a year! Bless.

Roger and Lynne



DOT and CLARA at the White Horse Show



Malcolm Taylor

PHOTO GALLERY



A couple of pics of The Tigers Children's Motorcycle Display team at the Frome Festival of Transport.

The Boy jumping the MGBGT is 11 years old! The youngest in the team was 5 year old Izzy in the tiger suit, who also displayed on her own bike.

Sue and Terry





PHOTO GALLERY



Views from the Sky - the top two are of the Castle Combe Circuit.

Roger Binney





Secretary's Scribbles

We are still in a strange time - much of life has gone back to normal and I was surprised to have hands thrust towards me when I went to university last Saturday. The handshakes felt defiant - like the chaps were all doing it on purpose to signify survival and victory. This is in contrast to the rising numbers of students absent from my classroom and the inability of Wessex MG Club to hold a proper AGM. The good news is that things are better than they were and the absence of a proper AGM will not stop the club being active or having the friendly atmosphere that we have always had.

Please do speak to the committee if you have any questions or ideas for the

future because we represent you - the club.

I was contacted by former member this week, Colin English and I put out an email of items he has for sale. I popped round to see him and Chris - they have sold their bungalow in Devizes and are moving into a retirement flat near the wharf. They have a camper van and make good use of this so they will not be contained by their flat which is good. Do have a look at the email I put out to see what he has - Colin has a background in engineering and his tools are always of good quality and well looked after.

Tom

PS see AGM proceedings update on page 2. **ED**



CLUB DIARY

2021 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/ Time
25th Oct	Club Night		Tollgate	
22nd Nov	Club Night AGM		Tollgate	
11th Dec	Christmas Party		Tollgate	



FESTIVE MENU

THE TOLLGATE INN

2 Courses £24.95 3 Courses £29.95

Starters

Pulled Pork & Stilton Croquette *Apple & Black Pudding Salad, Dijon Mayo*

Goats Cheese Mousse *Roasted Butternut Squash, Sage Crisp, Ciabatta Crostini***

Gin & Beetroot Cured Trout *Pickled Cucumber, Beetroot Puree, Dill Croutons***

Roasted Plum Tomato Soup *Basil Pesto, Parmesan Crisp, Tomato & Onion Bread** VGO*

Mains

Traditional Christmas Turkey *Chestnut & Apricot Stuffing, Pig in Blanket, Roast Potatoes***

Red Wine & Rosemary Braised Shoulder of Lamb *Garlic & Rosemary Mash, Redcurrant Jus**

Honey Glazed Confit Duck *Pancetta, Pearl Onion, Fondant Potato, Carrot Puree, Port Jus**

Wild Mushroom, Spinach & Truffle Wellington *Thyme Roasted Potatoes, Stilton Sauce VGO*

All served with

Sprout & Chestnut Fricassee, Mulled Spiced Red Cabbage, Honey Roasted Carrots & Parsnips

Smoked Haddock & Crayfish Cake *Buttered Spinach, Tenderstem, Crispy kale, Curried Hollandaise***

Desserts

Traditional Christmas Pudding *Brandy Custard, Festive Poached Berries VGO*

Dark Chocolate Mousse *Black Cherry Compote, Chocolate Soil, Honeycomb Ice Cream**

Lemon, Lime & Ginger Tart *Crushed Meringue, Raspberry Coulis, Raspberry Sorbet*

Ice Cream* *Salted Caramel, Vanilla, Honeycomb*

Cheese & Biscuits *Homemade Chutney*



01225 782 326 / laura@tollgateinn.co.uk

*Gluten Free **Gluten Free Option Available VGO Vegan Option Available

Please inform us of any dietary requirement

A £5 per person deposit will be required at time of booking and a pre order to be received no later than two weeks before your booking. In the event of any changes in government guidelines your deposit will remain safe and be refunded in full, however if the table is cancelled by the party within 24 hours of your booking time, deposits are non-refundable Unfortunately due to supplier availability some options maybe subject to change



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.