

NEWSLETTER



The WESSEX MG CLUB
 At the Bell on the Common Broughton Gifford

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

This is your **Final Notification** that from September onwards our new regular meeting place will be **The Bell at Seend**. As I mentioned last month, the management at the pub changed hands recently and so Sandra and I visited to introduce ourselves and check that all was still in order. We had a very warm welcome from James who is head chef and son of the landlord, and Luke who is front of house. We also met the landlord's wife, Denise and together they confirmed that arrangements are as previously agreed. We will have exclusive use of the upstairs restaurant on meeting nights and use of the garden for a summer BBQ.

Meanwhile, last Sunday the Club made a visit to Bletchley Park, the WW2 code breaking station in Buckinghamshire. This was a terrific day out, very well organised, so many thanks to Peter for arranging such an interesting trip and a smooth running day. Jackie's father came along and has sent a message thanking members for making him so welcome and for an enjoyable day out. In October we welcome Richard Edmonds historic vehicle and automobilia auctioneer from Castle Combe. Be sure not to miss what promises

to be an interesting and entertaining evening from a professional in the field in which we are all enthusiasts. Please make this a well attended event for some one who is giving up his leisure time to entertain and enlighten us.

With the AGM looming we are looking for nominations for the Committee. New committee members are always necessary to bring along new ideas and to give support to the organisation and preparation of events. So put your name forward and play a bigger part in your club. I shall be resigning as Chairman and Committee Member after a number of years service.

And finally..... don't forget the 24 September Club meeting is at **The Bell, SEEND**.

Gordon.

For your diary in the coming month

September

23rd - MG50 Blenheim Palace.

24th - Club Night.

October

22nd - Club Night.

For details see page 11.

Please note that unless otherwise stated club nights start at 8:00pm

We are moving!!!

To "The Bell Inn" at Seend



Bell Hill, Seend,
Wiltshire SN12 6SA

Tele 01380 828338 - <http://www.thebellseend.co.uk>

Our first meeting at The Bell Inn, will be the 24th
September club meeting.

MYSTERY CAR

David Whiteley provided this teaser for last month's mystery car feature:

What is the connection between MG and the manufacturer of this car?

True to form **Ken Scott** came up with a comprehensive answer:

A really difficult one this month! I believe it to be a Hotchkiss, possibly from around 1935. The company was set up in Paris in 1867 as Hotchkiss et Cie as an armaments manufacturer and subsequently moved into engine manufacture and then complete cars. The radiator badge was 'crossed cannons' but even on magnification of the photograph, it is not that clear.



During the first war they built a factory in Coventry to continue the armaments manufacture and this was subsequently sold to Morris Motors in the 20's and became the Morris engine factory. Could this be the first MG/Morris connection?

I believe the real connection with MG to be 'Old No. One'. When Cecil Kimber joined Morris as Sales Manager of Morris Garages he wanted to give the cars a more sporting image. In 1925 he considerably modified a Bullnose Morris Cowley and fitted it with a tuned 'Hotchkiss' 1548 cc OHC engine and campaigned it very successfully in trials. This was the first car to be badged 'Morris Garages' hence its nickname.

As a coincidence, there is an article in September MG Enthusiast of an Australian replica of Old No. One that has just been completed, albeit, with a standard side-valve Morris Bullnose Cowley engine.

See page 4, for more fascinating history from **David Whiteley**, on the Hotchkiss connection.

We've not had a mystery car for a while, and now we have two in consecutive months.

This one is courtesy of **John Bishop**

"I came across this car during our travels this summer. There are a few clues in the photo, I suspect, and it is exceedingly rare - but what a beauty!



Mystery Car - A few more comments

History of most things is fascinating. Each generation believes that it is their own that is the most interesting, the most interwoven and the most complex. However, cast a few years back and dig a little, and past complexities are revealed.

As Ken rightly says, the connection between the Mystery Car and MG is the Hotchkiss engine factory in Coventry. The car is a Hotchkiss 413 Riviera of 1934. This car was manufactured 11 years after Morris purchased the Coventry engine factory and Hotchkiss returned to manufacturing in Paris, albeit under the management of the two Englishmen who has previously run the Coventry works.

Hotchkiss arrived in Coventry during the First World War, escaping the advancing German army and in order to continue armament manufacture. It brought with it French tooling, including their thread cutting taps and dies used in the manufacture of their guns.

After the war, Hotchkiss were looking for work. They had an experienced workforce and extensive machine shop and in 1919 started manufacturing engines for Morris Oxfords and Cowleys, even though before meeting Morris, they had never made an engine. The engines were made under licence to an American pre-war design.

Hotchkiss sold the Coventry factory to Morris in 1923. By chance, this closely followed the date (1921) when Kimber joined William Morris as sales manager of Morris Garages in Oxford, the service and repair side of Morris cars. In 1922, Kimber was appointed General Manager of Morris Garages and started toying with sporty car design.

His very first effort was the MG Raworth Sports in 1923, commonly known as "Old Number One". This had a modified Hotchkiss engine, variously described in "The MG Log" as an overhead valve

and a side valve engine! Perhaps Ken is right and it was an OHC instead.....

The curiosity that stayed with MG from those early post-Hotchkiss days until 1955 was the nut and bolt specifications for their engines. The French tooling brought over during WWI cut to fine thread metric whilst Morris's assembly tools were Whitworth. This led to the adoption of metric threaded bolts with Whitworth heads, nowadays cryptically known as "Mad Metrics". Nearly all MG and Morris engines used these oddity bolts, the last MG to use them being the 1500TF in 1955. The Magnette from 1953 was introduced under the then new BMC banner and had an Austin engine with UNC and UNF bolts (lucky Tom).



Supplies of these strange "Mad Metrics" bolts nowadays are a bit of a nightmare, partly because of the fine 1mm thread pitch – even that is not the current standard! However, a lovely old gent in Devon turns-down Whitworth bolts to metric fine threads, which prove profitable for him and invaluable to the surprisingly numerous owner of '30s, 40's and early '50s Morris, Wolseley and MGs.

In conclusion, congratulations to Ken for not only naming the Mystery Car but also providing the background to the "Mystery"!

P.S. did you know that "SU" stands for Skinners Union, the latter after the brothers Henry and Carl Skinner who developed the SU carburettor around 1906! I didn't.....

David

METRO SUB PLOT

The pictures are of the last car(?) I had with Metro sub-frames. However, unlike the 'F', this had a sub-frame at the rear. It was intended to eventually have only half of a sub-frame at the rear, as I was building a 3 wheeler, but it never got that far. The first picture is of the first human assimilation into the bare space-frame by the, nearly bare, Development Engineer.



As the designer, I had to rework the control pedals, as you will see that the Development Engineer drives with her clutch foot on the accelerator pedal!



The second picture shows the nearly operational rolling chassis. You will note that it has the old 'A' series engine stacked on top of the gearbox.

The third picture shows the car's first powered outing. Observe the look of concentration (or was it fear) on the face of the Chief Test Driver. Well it was a daunting responsibility to be let loose in such exotic machinery. Also shown is the improvised fuel tank securely lashed to the bit of old wardrobe (sorry, floor-pan!).



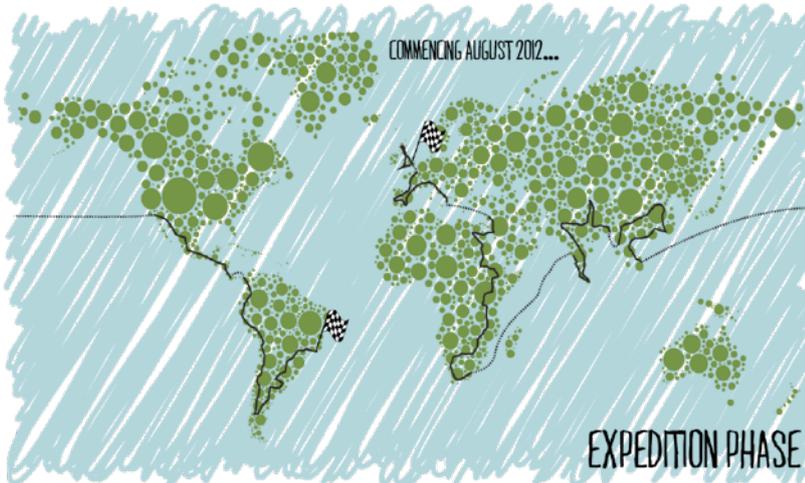
Other than sorting the rolling chassis in its 4 wheel format, the project went no further. On a subsequent house move, I towed the vehicle to the local scrap merchant. Someone in the yard took a close interest in it and after studying it closely for some time, said, 'who did the welding?'. 'I did' I say, proudly. 'I shouldn't give up the day job!' CHEEK.

Malcolm T

HOW PASSIONATE ARE YOU! *MOTORING OF A UNIQUE KIND*

Most of us claim to be passionate about something, whether it is supporting a football or rugby team, a hobby or a charity or like Tom in this month's scribbles his MGs.

Perhaps a measure of how passionate we are about something is what we would give up for it, or put at risk - for instance, would you risk your life? would you give up your job? would you sink all your savings into it?



Well my godson Nick Gough and his close friend Rich Sears are doing all of the above because they are passionate about education. More specifically global education. They are two teachers who will be travelling the world in a tuktuk to raise awareness of the global campaign for education.

A number of global education targets were set at the turn of the millennium, these targets are due to mature in two years. Their aim is to raise awareness and to increase the accountability of world leaders in the achievement of these goals.

To achieve this they have set up a charity - The TukTuk Educational Trust - working to promote and advance education worldwide. The goals of the charity are:

Fundraising

Aiming to raise funds for inspirational educational projects around the world, with 100% of public donations going straight to charitable projects

Allowing followers both to participate actively in the fundraising process and to donate to specific projects that may appeal to them personally.

Advocacy

Raising awareness about the [Global Campaign for Education](#).

Aiming to increase the accountability of world leaders for the achievement of the global education targets set at the turn of the Millennium.

Education

Talking at schools and universities about Tuk Tuk Travels the development issues encountered along the way.

Encouraging and inspiring students to engage critically with and pursue interest in the spheres of education and international development.

Academic

Conducting research in the fields of education and development to aid policy-makers and development practitioners in the future planning and implementing of policies and projects.

Producing resources to aid teaching and learning in schools in the UK and elsewhere, enriching and extending the national curriculum.

In order to help realise the charitable goals of The Tuk Tuk Educational Trust – they are attempting to drive around the world in a tuk tuk. See map. They will travel through areas lacking education, visit projects seeking to alleviate this problem and talk at schools and universities about the development issues encountered along the way. Through blogs and video-blogs they will share the stories of the people they meet and the valuable work of charities and NGOs, allowing followers to donate directly to particular projects that may appeal to them.

The first leg of their journey is complete. Preparations are now well under way made to start their journey around the world later this month. I will try to provide updates as they journey around the world.

They have have sponsorship from Cardiff University and have been interviewed on CNN. They also have endorsements from:

Ed

INSPIRED LUNACY WITH A HEART OF GOLD AND THE MIND OF ARISTOTLE – I'M BEHIND TUK TUK TRAVELS ALL THE WAY. – JOANNA LUMLEY, OBE (ACTRESS)



EDUCATION PLAYS A FUNDAMENTAL ROLE IN COMBATING POVERTY & INEQUALITY; BY PROMOTING THIS CRUCIAL ISSUE IN DEVELOPMENT, TUK TUK TRAVELS IS WORKING TO IMPROVE THE LIFE CHANCES OF COUNTLESS CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES ACROSS THE GLOBE, HELPING SOME OF THE MOST VULNERABLE AND MARGINALISED IN SOCIETY TO REALISE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. – ROBERT LINDSAY (ACTOR)



THE SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE, WRAPPED UP IN A GREAT CAUSE – I WISH TUK TUK TRAVELS ALL THE BEST – BEN FOGLE

TUKTUKTRAVELS IS A UNIQUE ADVENTURE THROUGH SOME OF THE MOST CHALLENGING AND DIVERSE ENVIRONMENTS, COUNTRIES AND CULTURES ON THE PLANET – IT PROMISES TO BE UNMISSABLE VIEWING – SIR RANULPH FIENNES, OBE



CLUB VISIT TO BLETCHLEY PARK

Did you know -

- That the bombe is not just an ice cream pudding?
- Why the tiny island of Malta in the Mediterranean and Cairo were so important to us in the war?
- Long before girl power young 17 and 18 year old girls were doing crucial work at Bletchley Park.



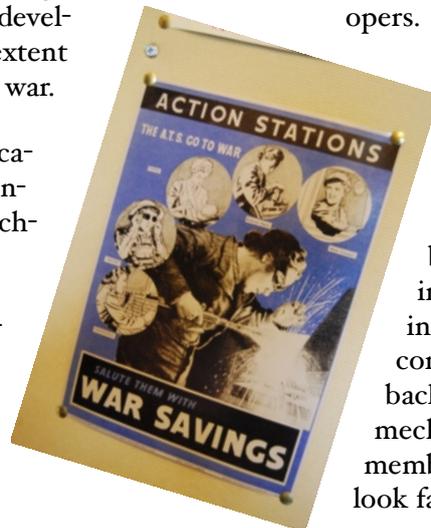
At school when we played writing codes, replacing each letter in the original message with another letter we were actually writing ciphers. Whilst a code is hiding the meaning of a message by replacing it with a word or set of characters.

The enigma machine did both and the chances of the Allies breaking the German enigma “code” machine during the 2nd World War were 157,000,000,000,000,000 to 1.

It turns out we should be rather grateful to our European neighbours. The Dutch who invented the Enigma and the Polish who stole one from the Germans and handed it over to us as their country was about to fall to the Germans.

These were just a few facts from our excellent guide Kevin during our tour of the remaining Bletchley Park facilities. I had been expecting scout huts in a wood similar to the Enigma film starring Kate Winslet, so I didn’t expect such a beautifully preserved house. If it weren’t for a few dedicated volunteers and a clever council planner who suggested using tree preservation orders, Bletchley Park may have been lost to the nation to housing development. Still shrouded in secrecy until 1974 most people did not know the extent of what went on at Bletchley Park and how it helped us win the war.

Churchill recognised the importance of communicating the war and in particular knowing what the enemy was up to and so the covert code-breaking operation at Bletchley was amazing to see the tiny huts, cramped (and damp) conditions. The highlight for most of us was seeing the electro-mechanical machine working and to imagine the young Wrens doing 8 hour shifts without letting their hair down. Looking at the Colossus was certainly going to be the beginning of the computing era. The electro-mechanical Character Reader and punch tape started to



tions in win-emy was up to ley was born. It back then smelly) ing the Bombe ine the young concentration drop. back in time to the mechanical parts were members and the Op-look familiar.

My brain was hurting by the end of the day so the frequent breaks in the Library being served tea, coffee, biscuits, cake and lunch were very welcome. There were 15 cars and amazingly despite one group taking the motorway at one point we all arrived at the same time. Bletchley park staff were there to greet us and made us very welcome.

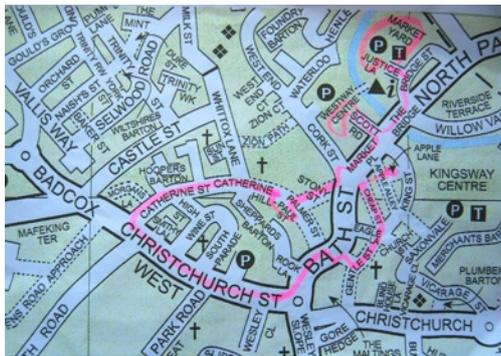
And finally... The trans world wireless cable runs past Malta and Cairo and Singapore (which we had already lost) so it was essential to listen in to all those coded messages!

Sue Hine

FROME - WHAT A TREASURE!

The club descended on Tony and Jenny Neale's hometown of Frome for a walking treasure hunt on Sunday 16th September.

Nineteen club members and two mini members (our kids) turned out on a slightly grey morning but the morning was actually rather mild and Ken was rewarded for his faith in the weather with a dry day. We parked up and walked into the central area of the town. Nancy and I cracked on with kids in tow and the pace and spread of questions was spot on to keep us moving round the streets. We discovered lots of new things about Frome such as the fantastic canoe slalom on the river and how much fun can be had with street names (we had to do a quiz before we even set off!). There was



lots of 'play on words' going on and you certainly had to keep the brain firmly switched on. Tony and Jenny had caught the magic balance of having enough easy questions to make us feel like we were doing well a long with the odd tricky one to split the teams results - no one got the same score and the Warders clearly won the day by 3 1/2 marks. After the Treasure Hunt we descended on a Hotel for a drink during which the marking was efficiently carried out and the awards were made. We then fired up the MGs and roared to a local pub for a carvery Sunday Lunch. The day was great, the food was great and I would recommend the Malteaser and Baileys cheesecake Actually the most interesting thing in the debrief chats at the end was the

number of people who said they would be coming back to explore the amazing variety of independent businesses/shops in the town. Tony and Jenny did themselves and their town proud. If you weren't there and haven't been to Frome for a while you really should pay a visit.

Tom

THIS YEAR'S MG LECTURE

I have had an email about this years MG lecture. I have been to the last two - Land Speed Record Attempt and the Vulcan Bomber and they have been very good. This year's is perhaps unsurprisingly about the MGB. It's on Thursday 4th October at Abingdon school and tickets are £8 each or £7 if a block of 10 are bought. Looks as if this will be the story of the B told by people involved such as the designer Don Hayter, Paddy Hopkirk rally and racing driver and others from BMC.

I have an application form if anyone is interested or you can go to www.kimberstores.co.uk and purchase with card.

Paul Adams

PICTURE GALLERY

August Club Night - Driving Test & BBQ



Club Run to Bletchley Park



CLUB NEWS

The WESSEX MG Club 2012 EVENTS LIST				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
23 Sept	MGB 50 MGCC/MGOC Event www.mgb50.com/MGB50/MGB_50_Home.html	Yes	Blenheim Palace	Details to follow. Make your own ticket application.
24 Sept	Club Night -	No	The Bell Inn at Seend	Natter and Noggin Evening
22 Oct	Club Night Richard Edmonds Classic Car Auctions http://richardedmondsauctions.com	Yes	The Bell Inn at Seend	Roger Binney. 01380 830524.
3-Nov	Roger & Lynne's Party	No	Edington Village Hall	<i>Roger & Lynne 01380 830524 - details to follow</i>
26 Nov	Club AGM	No	The Bell Inn at Seend	Formal notification will be included in the Sept & Oct newsletter.
8 Dec (Prov)	Christmas Dinner	No	Bromham	The Greyhound

The 'Joys' of Growing Old!

Well, I don't have to go to work; I don't have to pay for a TV licence and in a few more years I won't have to pay for membership of the MG Owners Club. But; I no longer have a short term memory and memory recall has simply disappeared! The worst thing for me, though, is loss of bladder control. For this reason I would like to make a public apology to all members of the Club for not joining with other members on arranged club runs. It is most certainly not that I wish to be unsociable or not join in the fun and camaraderie of all travelling in convoy and arriving en-masse but I am afraid that my bladder will not allow me to travel far before the need to stop, and with extreme urgency! A classic example of this was on the recent trip to Bletchley Park; the group took 1 3/4 hours without stops and I took 2 1/2 hours with 5 stops! I do not have a serious medical condition but nothing can be done to improve the situation and I just have to live with it. It is a most embarrassing and depressing situation and I am sure that you will all now understand.

Ken
Thank you

I would like to thank the club for the card of condolences following the passing of my father. Your support through your kind words and thoughts is very much appreciated.

Kevin

SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLES

Oh I miss my MG BGT! If any of you B owners out there are getting twitchy or tinkering with the idea of changing - forget it! Nothing beats the experience of foot down charging through the lanes and A roads in an MG B. I of course love my Magnette but boy do I miss the MG B driving experience.

My Peugeot heats up and demists in seconds, it has a heated rear screen that works, it is highly fuel efficient, it has wheels at its 4 corners but No Soul, no va va vroom (sorry thats a Renault thing). It is so practical with proper back seats that our Honda fuel guzzler is in semi retirement. Ah.. I have just thought of a another bad thing about the little Peugeot you can't put the push chair in at the same time as any shopping! In fact I need to win the lottery so I can afford to have all my dream MGs all in a purpose built garage facility. I wonder what I would have.... Definitely a T Type of some sort, an MGA , a B roadster, my Magnette (of course). Then well it would be case of how much was left over... Perhaps an MGA or B upgraded with modern stuff in the same vein of the Frontline MGBGT - it would have to look completely standard in the cockpit and from outside and then when one of those BMWs pulls out on me vrrrrm goodbye sucker!

Oh maybe I could have a James Bond style Anti BMW equipment- something electronic that makes its immobiliser cut in. Just an extra flick switch on the dash to give it away - flick... And the BMW helplessly drifts to a standstill. Time for me to stop I think before BMW Warny censors my article!

Tom

You have come very close to the edge! As a learned history teacher you probably know of John Milton's pamphlet "Areopagitica". Milton's central argument was that the individual is capable of using reason and distinguishing right from wrong, good from bad. In order to be able to exercise this ration right, the individual must have unlimited access to the ideas of his fellow men in "a free and open encounter." ie this newsletter.

But remember banter is a two way street!

Ed

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Club Website

<http://www.wessexmgclub.org.uk>



"Wessex Weekend Away" Friday April 26th to Monday 29th 2013

Llangollen, Denbighshire and the Dee Valley



In 2013 the Wessex MG Club weekend away will be based at The Chainbridge Hotel near Llangollen, situated right on the banks of the River Dee close to the famous chain bridge, with room balconies actually alongside this lovely river, for those that book early enough.

Llangollen is just 160 miles of country roads away from us, and 25 miles from Chester and Lake Bala. The region offers us The Llangollen Steam Railway, horse drawn barge tours on the Llangollen Canal, the famous Horseshoe Pass, the Pontcysyllte Canal Viaduct, Vale Crucis Abbey, beautiful countryside and amazing shopping at Chester.

13 riverside rooms have been reserved by deposit, providing us with Bed and Breakfast. Dinner will also be at the hotel restaurant overlooking the river and will be a la carte to provide everyone with maximum flexibility in their choices.

The cost will be £180 per couple (£150 per single) for B and B, and you should budget for £75 per person for dinner, giving a total cost (excluding the odd snifter of gin and tonic) of £330 per couple and £225 per single.

Although I realise it is early to make decisions, it was essential that we made a commitment to secure rooms and prices and I have therefore personally paid deposits on all rooms, so I do ask you to commit now to secure your riverside rooms, give me your dosh and save me from debtors prison.

A full tour programme will be developed over the coming months, but you can see our hotel and something about Llangollen area at the following websites: www.llangollen.com
www.chainbridgehotel.com

Information presentation and booking commitments - Next Club Meeting Monday 24th September

Or: Roger.binney@btopenworld.com Or: 01380 830524

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

2012 Annual General Meeting

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

26th November

at

The Bell Inn, Seend

commencing at

8:00 pm

Preceded from 7.30 onwards by the payment of subscriptions for the 2013 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 2011 AGM.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Consideration of any motions received.
- Break
6. Election of Committee for 2013.
7. Presentation of Awards.
8. Arrangements for 2013 AGM.
9. Any other business.



Going for a Song – Verse 2

Following the success of last year's "Going for a Song" Party, Lynne and Roger would like to invite you to join us on the evening of Saturday 3rd November at the Edington Village Hall, 7:30pm ... for **Verse 2 !!!!**

The format will be the same and we will be joined as usual by our Edington neighbour friends and alcoholics.

To be let through the door you will need to come dressed as a song title, (known only to yourself, and as cryptic and devious as possible) and each couple needs to bring with them either a main course or dessert for at least two people.

We will provide plenty of French wine and soft drinks.

Cooker, ovens and microwaves, plates, knives and forks etc. will be available.

Please advise us if you are able to join us and whether you will bring mains or puds and an idea of what they may be, so that we can balance everything out. Last year we had delicious food and lots of variety, so do dig out the recipe books as well as the song books.

We plan to have another music quiz, dancing and of course amazing prizes for the best song titles.

Will we see yet another of Gordon's Yellow Submarine classics or The Ears-er-alites, or Lynne's Anne Summers version of Good Vibrations? Who knows!!

So please let us know by email or phone asap if you will be joining us and if you are puds or mains.

Roger and Lynne

roger.binney@btopenworld.com or 01380 830524

