



WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN- HOLT

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

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THE CLUB'S DIARY

NEXT CLUB NIGHT

26th September

8:00pm

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

It is sad to hear of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11 who gave incredible service and devotion to the United Kingdom and Commonwealth during her long reign, she had a passion for the motor car which was shown during World War 2 when she was driving Forces trucks and also doing mechanical work on them, and our thoughts are with the Royal Family at this sad time.

Our new His Majesty King Charles 111 has a connection with the MG brand, having an MGC GT in 1968, which I believe was a Birthday present and that MGC is now at Sandringham in a display of Royal Cars.

The last month has been a busy one for us and thanks go to Gordon for his talk on Construction of the Semington bypass and to Tom and Nancy for their efforts in hosting another fantastic Action Day,

Congratulations to Jo Dodd on winning the Vic Wright Memorial Trophy for the best score at the action day.

We have more events later this month with the Castle Combe Autumn Classic on Saturday 24th followed on Sunday 25th by the MGB 60th Anniversary Celebration at the British Motor Museum at Gaydon, then on Saturday October 1st our club skittles match at The White Hart Atworth.

The Club Christmas Meal is booked for Saturday December 10th at the Tollgate and if you would like to attend please let Peter know by the end of September.

Our club night this month features a presentation by the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust, this should prove interesting and also by coincidence has a royal connection as the Patron of the Bobby Van Charity is Camilla the Queen Consort

Hope to see you at the Tollgate on Monday 26th September

Martyn





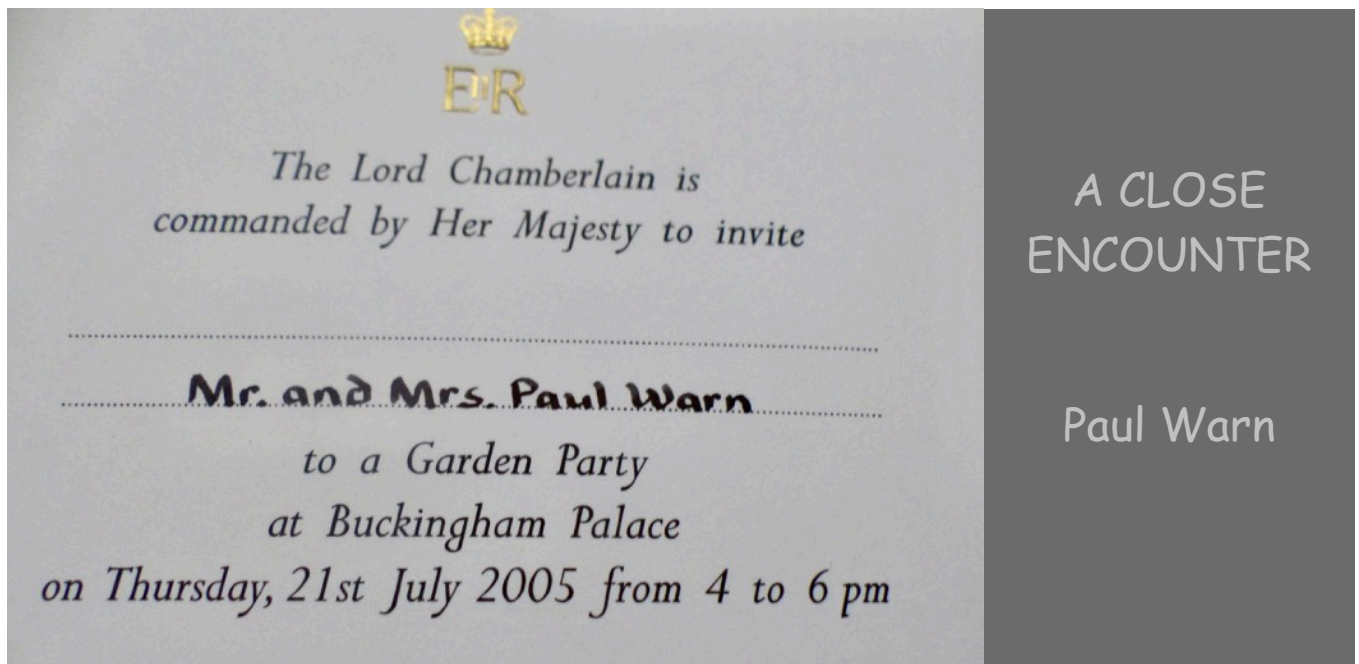
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
1926 - 2022





Circa 1973 Windsor
Horse Show





You have no doubt heard ad infinitum over the past week, tales of folk meeting our late Queen. Well I hope you will bear with me if I relay this little story...

During my career with the Ministry of Defence Anne and I have been fortunate enough to have been invited to the Queen's Garden Party at Holyroodhouse in May 1981 during my time on the Polaris Missile Project in Scotland, the Queen's Birthday Parade ie Trooping the Colour in June 1993 and as you can see from the title pic the Queen's Garden Party in July 2005. All three of these events were fascinating experiences in their own way, but it is the last of the three I'd like to share with you.

London was on high alert at the time following the 7th July 2005 London bombings. We were allocated a parking space on The Mall along with other guests. As you can imagine given the bombings and the occasion people were a little twitchy.

We were guided through the main entrance of the Palace through a number of reception rooms and out into the garden at the rear - the weather was dry and sunny! Armed soldiers were stationed on the roof of the palace.

During the afternoon we had befriended a young Flight Lieutenant and his wife. When it was time for the Queen to make her appearance we made our way together to get a glimpse of the royal party. A corridor of guests was formed with the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and if memory serves Princess Anne and a few others in attendance. The Queen was making her way inside the corridor and as she went she would stop and talk. Before she commenced her walk the Queen's equerries came down the corridor stopping to ask individuals if they would like to talk to the Queen. For whatever reason they stopped and asked me! I suggested perhaps the young lieutenant and his new wife would be more appropriate as they were about to be sent on their first posting.

After they had been identified as being on the Queen's radar we witnessed a fascinating build-up to the point when the Queen arrived at our side to talk to them. Another equerry came to talk to the couple making notes of his career etc. The Queen had two or three other officers in attendance as she made her way along. The notes that had been taken not only from "our" couple but from others, were passed to one of the officers who seemed to be reviewing them. They would then pass the notes to the officer who was in close attendance to the Queen.

This process was being conducted on a number of occasions as the Queen spent about five minutes with each person. When it was "our" turn, as the Queen was approaching, the attending officer seamlessly briefed the Queen based on the aforementioned notes, introduced the couple to the Queen who greeted them with the widest smile you can imagine. Straightaway they were at ease in her company. She entered into a conversation about where they were being posted and the Queen seemed to have personal knowledge - probably because she had visited at one time - of the area and the operational environment in which he was going to operate.

Afterwards the couple were absolutely gobsmacked - to coin a phrase - of her knowledge of the RAF, the aircraft he was flying and the environment in which he would be working. You can't put everything into a brief, this was someone with the deepest knowledge in a multitude of areas.

We were also gobsmacked!

A very impressive lady and a privilege.



CALLING NOTICE - WESSEX MG CLUB AGM- 2022

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

2022 Annual General Meeting

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

21st November
at

The Tollgate Inn - Holt

commencing at

8:00 pm

Preceded from 7.30 onwards by the payment of subscriptions for the 2023 season.

Notice of any resolution to be proposed at the AGM should be given in writing to the Secretary (Tom Strickland) before the 1st November

The proceedings of the meeting shall be as follows:

Agenda for AGM

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Approval of minutes of 2021 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 2023.
7. Presentation of Awards.
8. Arrangements for 2023 AGM.
9. Any other business.

Club Member Car of the Month - 1953 MG TD - "Dorothy"



This month's featured car is owned by Peter Oldale

My love of old cars began at an early age. I was lucky enough to have a father who encouraged me to have a go at anything mechanical and use the workshop without any worries if something got broken. My first foray into old cars was a 1930's Morris 10-6 at the age of thirteen. It was sitting languishing in an orchard in our village. On asking my father if I could have it, he set the challenge, that if I approached the owners on my own, if the answer was positive, he would then see to it that the car came to our home. Of course, I had no money at that stage but set about converting it into a hill climber, painting it yellow. Needless to say, I did not achieve the end result but learnt a lot and had a great deal of fun. My sad reflection now is that the exterior glass radiator thermometer was the target for my air rifle. If only I had the thermometer now.

Having passed my test, I bought an Austin A 30 for the princely sum of £30. My Dad gave me the £8 for road tax. The A 30 travelled the length and breadth of the country on caving and camping holidays. She met her end with the rear of a lorry, returning for the first time from meeting my girlfriend's (now wife) parents.

The years passed with various cars from a Cortina Mk1, MG Midget to an Austin Maxi as our son arrived on the scene. I then became the proud owner of an Austin Seven van for a major restoration project. Unfortunately, this project did not get completed as we were sent abroad for work to Switzerland and France. In our

minds, we were going for a year, suffice it to say that this became 30 very happy years.

My next project was a 1980 Lightweight Series 3 Land Rover, which was a total strip down to the chassis and rebuild. A great deal of fun was had with this, especially at a Land Rover challenge event in Switzerland. As soon as we arrived the Landie fans swarmed around it like bees. The reason being it was a rare beast as this model was banned in Switzerland due to exhaust emissions. Sadly, this also became the death knell of her in France too, as despite two engine changes, she could not meet the requirements.

Whilst on a country lane not far from our then home, I spotted a house with any number of old tractors and cars outside. A knock on the door was met by a typical old French man complete with beret who was only too pleased to show me his eclectic collection in the barn, ranging from a London Taxi to a number of Peugeot 201s and even a Messerschmitt bubble car. Long story short, a couple of weeks later I parted with his 1936 Peugeot 201 Boulangère, which was laid up since the 1950's but in a restorable condition. Years of stripping down and rebuilding on a one step forward two steps back rhythm resulted in a truck which we brought back to England with us. She is currently having the brakes balanced by a professional and hopefully will get its DVLA registration next year. But I guess as it's not an MG or sports car she will not be allowed at the Wessex MG events??? Maybe we can have a French themed event and serve wine off the back?

My next dream was to acquire a car which was more usable than the Peugeot. I have always hankered after an Austin Seven Special. The only issue is at six foot tall its very difficult to fit into one. In addition, with my not so small feet I easily press two if not three pedals at the same time. Having seriously looked since we came back, I concluded that some other form of classic sports car was the only option. The MG T series fitted the bill exactly. I looked long and hard at several. A TF had chassis issues, a TD had what looked like a serious rear crankshaft seal leak, another was pristine but left-hand drive. Finally, I found an enthusiast who had just restored a TD to a very good standard. In his garage were other samples of his work, which were equally impressive. The reason for sale was that due to ill health he could no longer easily get in and out of the TD. She had been exported to America at some time as an original right-hand drive and was reimported in 2017. The MG Car Club T Register was an amazing help in checking engine and chassis numbers and proving that it was a matching numbers example. So, we struck a very amicable deal, complete with a brand-new MOT. I am now the proud owner of Dorothy, named after my mum. I hope that we will see you all at future events. I particularly look forward to drive outs and who knows maybe even a tour??



Peter

The Menu For The Club's Christmas Party



Desserts

Peanut butter cheesecake, autumn strawberry jam, chocolate & sea salt ice cream

Black Forest gateau, chocolate sponge, mirror glaze, kirsch cherry compote, chocolate soil & cherry sorbet

Christmas sticky toffee pudding, brandy custard & honeycomb

Cheese board (2.00 supplement)

Important Information

This is the menu for the Club's Christmas Party always a very popular event. As in previous years and owing to the size of the function room at The Tollgate Inn, there is a limit of 30 guests .

Would those interested in going please contact
Peter Hine - peter_hine@btinternet.com
By the 30th September

Gluten free and vegan options available on request

Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements

A discretionary 10% service charge added to tables of 6 or over

If you have enjoyed your visit and fancy £10 off your next visit then why not become a Loyalty Member, please ask for details



The Classic Motor Hub

Paul Warn

Apart from the many excursions organised by our club, I'm sure many of you have been out and about motoring and exploring this wonderful country of ours. Anne and I recently took our selves off to the Cotswolds stopping off at The Classic Motor Hub in Ablington near Bibury.

What a great destination!



Two showrooms with a wide selection of cars for sale, from the "affordable" Anne liked the look of a 1958 Austin-Healey Sprite with a lightweight Ashley bonnet and 1380cc fast road engine - £25,000 - to high end classics eg 1956 OSCA MT4 a beautiful car yours for £475,000.

There is also a very nice themed cafe with motoring memorabilia on show and for sale. Whilst we were mooching about we met up with a fellow enthusiast Jon Preece.

Here he is with his MGB GT and his story...



We have owned this MGB GT ("Gertie") for about 24 years. Actually it technically belongs to Pip my wife, as we bought it to replace her Austin Metro and, as it seemed more likely that she would tire of it before I would, it seemed fair that she should have "the say" about changing it. Fortunately we both loved driving it and we still do, so it has stayed with us!

We are the third owners of the car. The previous owner had been given it as an 18th birthday present by her parents- lucky girl- and had kept it for several years. The car is largely original, but has just undergone a bit of 'revitalisation' - including a respray. We are very pleased with the result.

My other classic car is a 1972 MG Midget called (rather unimaginatively) "Midge". I bought this car in 1979 when I was 21, and it has been my old faithful friend ever since. My interest in classic cars is really an accidental result of owning this car. As it has aged (along with me!) it has progressed through various stages of "bangerdom" until it eventually achieved the respectable status of "Classic" - dragging my interest along with it!

Pip and I are members of Gloucester MG Owners club, which we joined about three years ago, and enjoy going to events and meetings.

Pip also has a near mint 1985 Ford XR3i which she has owned from new, but that's another story.....!



Jon Preece



My favourite - 1966 OSCA MT4



Anne's favourite - 1958 Austin-Healey Sprite



The Cafe

The Victoria Road Classic Car Show



Have you ever wondered how many classic cars there might be in your town? Or even how many might be tucked away in garages in your own street? Well those of us living in Victoria Road, Trowbridge, were about to find out.

A couple of weeks ago a gentleman knocked on our door, introduced himself as Julian, and explained his plan of having a classic car show for our road. Recently retired, Julian has recently purchased an immaculate Austin Healey 3000 about which he is very excited. He is also clearly a great organiser: he had already identified a venue in an adjoining street which is rather quieter, and therefore safer, than ours. He explained that it had a grass area suitable for displaying vehicles - and, even better, everyone in the street seemed to be very keen on the idea! This would not be an official event or a charity fundraiser: the idea was just for like-minded individuals to meet up and enjoy a natter and a "prod and poke" session.

So on Sunday September 11 we set off just before 2.00 pm and lined ourselves up. Amazingly cars kept coming and soon we had twenty classics on display, both ancient and more modern! In no particular order there were two vintage Humbers (both nearly one hundred years old), two Mustangs, two Lomax kit cars, a TR6, a Porsche 911, an Escort RS 2000, a Triumph Herald and several others too - not forgetting a Morgan and of course our MGB. I was aware of a few because I had seen them driving past over the years we have been in our house, but most came as a surprise.

Of particular interest were two fully working, home-made model cars - a Willys Jeep and a Land Rover. These were the handiwork of a very near neighbour who I had never met, and they had been constructed less than 150 yards from our house. He had powered them with lawn mower engines and produced them for his grandchildren. The level of skill and expertise required to complete these projects was outstanding: and apparently he has made half a dozen more!

Socially too the event was a huge success. It was fun to spend a couple of hours meeting neighbours who we knew, but even more interesting to meet ones we had not chatted to before and to find that we have a common interest. I had no idea that so many local people share a passion for classic cars, and found myself reflecting how modern life encourages us to focus on our own concerns and not to get to know other fascinating folk who live almost on our own doorstep.



John Bishop





Annual Auto Test in "Tom's Field"

Paul Warn

One of the highlights in the Wessex MG Club's diary is the auto test in "Tom's Field".

On August Bank Holiday Monday Nancy and Tom once again opened up their garden to host the club's annual Autotest. A series of non-damaging auto tests all done in a relaxed and friendly way - just for "fun"...

Proceedings started at around 10:00am for the first part of the day's challenges before a picnic lunch. After lunch we had the final event before adding the scores and dispersing mid afternoon.

You will read in Tom's scribbles that Jo Dodd manoeuvred her way through the obstacles to take the Vic Wright Memorial Trophy. A great day with like minded friends.





NAME	1	2	3	4	5	5	TOTAL
Steve	20	48	2	19	0.33	5	74.6
Kevin	16	117	30	1	1.40	4.5	201.6
Rex	2	19	18	30	38.0	10	40.0
Marlyn	17	32	2	30			
John	14	200	0	18	38.0	40	240
Peter O	14	200	1	143	42.0	35	244
Graham	6	370	2	34	48.0	35	300
Malcolm	3	180		37	1.17	55	45
Edgar	11	200		17			
K.D.	14	10	30	2	51.0	0	228
Paul W	10	32	20	26	38.0	10	169
Peter	10	32	20	16	45.0	20	87
Terry	6	1	1	30	1.40	20	93
John							
Charles							



Terry and Sue's Trip to the Le Mans Classic.



View of our campsite and motorhome from the helicopter (second one in from the bottom)

Came across the car of my childhood dreams, 1968 Lamborghini Miura



Saw loads of these GT 40s but still my favourite car.

This one is for all you Morgan enthusiasts





An MG made it to the grid (Lola/
MG Ex257/2001)

Malcolm and Tracey. Mike and Meena
representing the Wessex MGOc



The fearless foursome rounding
Porsche curves.



Terry and Sue



Secretary's Scribbles

I enjoyed the lovely weather in August, but it is back to work with a bang now. The Autotest event was well attended and we all had a lot of fun, despite the warmth of the summer sun. Congratulations to Jo in her MGB for impressively winning the Vic Wright Memorial Trophy at her first attendance! She won it on the 'Blind-folded drive' and the 'Judge the height' tests. Martyn was 2nd and Adrian 3rd in his Lotus in the close fought fight.

I have bought my most recent 'modern' MGs from AE Wilcox at Wickwar and they like to present themselves as having been MG

dealers since the 1920s (apart from the 2 enforced gaps obviously) so imagine my surprise when they declined to offer my MG TF a Cambelt Service - I actually thought the Service chap was joking with me at first. I had a think about what to do and have booked in an MG Rover Mobile Mechanic to do the job on the drive instead. I am using Russell at MG Rover Solutions, which Steve used for his Head Gasket work last year so I have a good level of trust that it will be a job well done.

Hope to see you all again soon



Tom



CLUB DIARY

2022 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/ Time
24th Sept	Castle Combe Classic			
25th Sept	MGB 60		Gaydon	
26th Sept	Club Night - Talk by the "Bobby Van" Trust		Tollgate	Martyn Lucas
1st Oct	Wessex MG Skittles Night			Martyn Lucas
TBA Oct	Pre AGM Committee Meeting			
24th Oct	Club Night - Talk by Frank Bond		Tollgate	
21st Nov	Club Night - AGM		Tollgate	
10th Dec	Christmas Party		Tollgate	

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	Gordon Newman	07597 374405	gornew@yahoo.co.uk
Speakers	Paul Warn	01225 768676	paul.william.warn@gmail.com
Projector Stand	Paul Warn	01225 768676	paul.william.warn@gmail.com
Projector Screen & Cover	Gordon Newman	07597 374405	gornew@yahoo.co.uk
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.