



HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

WELCOME TO THE WESSEX MG CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year.

In a normal year the club does not produce a December edition of the newsletter, but as 2020 has not been a normal year, Paul Warn volunteered to produce a "one off" special December newsletter. You will find some differences from the regular newsletter including a fun Christmas Quiz.

Your committee decided that in recognition of all the sterling work that Paul has put into producing the newsletter this year he deserved a surprise reward which was the hamper that you will have seen a picture of in a recent email, and I would like to say thanks to Paul for all his efforts this year.

This Christmas will certainly be different to ones we have enjoyed in previous years but I expect that somehow we can all have an enjoyable one.

The good news is that there should be a Vaccine for Covid available soon, which will hopefully enable some easing of the restrictions in the coming months, but I think it will be quite a time before things return to the pre Covid times.

Hopefully we will be able to resume some form of Club activities again in the Spring. I have already received provisional 2021 dates from the organisers of the major events and shows that were postponed this year, and hopefully if the situation eases these will go ahead.

Your committee will be meeting - virtually of course - in January to put together a provisional diary for 2021 and these dates should be in the forthcoming newsletters.

Please Keep Aware, Cautious and Safe have a Merry Christmas and look forward to the future and a brighter New Year.

MARTYN





THE THIRD LOCKDOWN PROJECT

TERRY WARDER

TERRY WARDER

Hi everyone hope you are all fit and well. I thought you may like to see what I finished at the end of the first lockdown..

You may recall in a previous article I had restored a Mini Moulton that once was my mother-in-law's, well word got out and my aunt said she had a Moulton that had been in one of her sheds very neglected for many years, and would I try to bring it back to life. As you will see from the photos this MK3 model was in a bit of a state.



A little bit of history for you. When Alex Moulton first designed the Moulton his plan was to sell his idea to a bicycle producer i.e. Raleigh cycles. To his surprise he was all but laughed out of their offices, so he decided to produce the bike himself. As we know it became very popular, so much so that Raleigh tried copying the idea and came out with their Raleigh shopper but instead of suspension like the Moulton had, they put large balloon tyres to give it some bounce. No surprise, it never really competed against Alex Moulton's design, so cap in hand Raleigh went to Moulton to try and buy the rights to produce his bike, they were successful in their bid and that was the start of the MK 3 model albeit a slight pared down version. At the same time Raleigh launched the Chopper which became so successful they were short on production space, this enabled Moulton to buy back the rights at a bargain price.

Despite the condition, my aunt's bike was all there, including the bag. It only needed a bit of TLC, some new tyres, brake cables, stickers and respray. As my aunt wanted to keep costs down, I just tidied up the chrome and re-plated some parts at home with





zinc, which when polished looks quite decent. The paintwork was competed with a few Halford's spray cans of Ford Diamond White.

Sue and I enjoyed a little ride round on both Moultons and took them over to the factory in Bradford on Avon for a photo shoot. The MK3 was returned to a very happy aunt, who is now storing it in her daughter's garage (warm and dry).



NEXT PROJECT

I am now looking for a pre 1930's motor cycle to restore to enter the Banbury Run. Can anybody help?





CARRIAGES AT THREE

PAUL WARN

Some years ago when I was younger than today, one of the projects I was involved in during my MoD career, required that I spend sometime in Aldermaston, Berkshire. Rather than spend the budget in hotels, I preferred to stay in Bed and Breakfast accommodation. On this occasion I was a frequent guest at a B&B in a village called Bucklebury. You may or may not make the connection, however Bucklebury became renown as the village in which Kate Middleton grew-up in.

My "home" during these visits was quite grand. The children of the family had flown the nest leaving "vacant" the two rooms they had once occupied. It was one of those places where thread-bare carpets on the staircase didn't look out of place. The front door opened into a grand hall with a grand piano at one end and the aforementioned staircase in the other. My room looked out over the tennis courts...

I grew to know the family quite well. Breakfast was served using silver cutlery and of course the AGA was chuntering away in the kitchen, making for a very cosy environment to have breakfast. It was during one of my visits that I first came across the term "Boot Room" - I'd obviously led a sheltered life....

One morning, late one year in the mid nineties, I came down for breakfast and was engulfed in the distinctive smell of Christmas. I asked the obvious questions and it turned out that it was the time of year to prepare an old family chutney recipe to accompany the Christmas lunch. On the morning I was leaving for the Christmas break, I was given the following recipe. It was written on the back of a left over invitation from that summer's charity event, hosted by the family in the grounds of where I was staying. The invitation ended thus "**Carriages at Three**" which is what we call the chutney.

If you make it - although its a little late now - I hope you like it, its delicious.





CARRIAGES AT THREE

PROVISIONS LIST - HAVE IT DELIVERED

3 lbs BEETROOT (COOKED AND SLICED)

2 LARGE ONIONS

1 1/2 lbs COOKING APPLES

1 PINT MALT VINEGAR - 1/2 tsp GINGER - JUICE OF ONE LEMON

1/2 lb DEMERARA SUGAR

METHOD

Take a large saucepan - the one you usually use for a large haunch of venison will do nicely. Toss the pan on the AGA, and add the apple, onions, vinegar, ginger, lemon juice and sugar. Boil for about the time it takes to have a couple of good glasses of wine - 20 minutes.

Add the sliced beetroot and bring to the boil again, you may as well finish the bottle - another 20 minutes.

Settle in the summer house and have a snooze whilst the chutney cools and then simply decant into any old crystal jars you have hanging around and cover.

An excellent accompaniment to all game, pheasant, grouse, swan etc.

ENJOY!





A Very Merry MG
Christmas

Pat and Malcolm



Remember this, our great MG trip to Rutland Water

A very Merry Christmas to all our MG friends.
We hope to see you all again when this wretched Covid ends.
We really have enjoyed our quiz and chats on Zoom.
Our Tuesday evening meet ups have helped dispel the gloom.
Let's hope our MG calendar for the coming year
Will be filled with great events that will bring us all good cheer.
It really has been quite a bumpy ride.
Looking forward to meeting you on the other side.

Pat





WESSEX MG CHRISTMAS FUN QUIZ 2020

- 1- Who invented the Christmas Cracker?
- 2- What is the name of Ebenezer Scrooge's partner in A Christmas Carol?
- 3- Who wrote A Christmas Carol?
- 4- What year was "Do they Know it's Christmas" first written?
- 5- What is the biggest selling Christmas Song?
- 6- Which carol brings you tidings of comfort and joy?
- 7- The first Royal Christmas broadcast in the UK was made by which monarch?
- 8- Who banned Christmas Carols after the English Civil War in 1647?
- 9- Who wrote the monarchs first ever broadcast Christmas Message?
- 10- Who is the patron saint celebrated on December 26th ?
- 11- What is wassailing?
- 12- Who recorded the song "Blue Christmas"?
- 13- What colour are mistletoe berries?
- 14- When was Christmas first celebrated in the UK?
- 15- Which US States have towns actually named Santa Claus?

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 11





An Unusual Christmas

Malcolm Taylor

This is going to be an unusual Christmas, but I have had others.

The first time I went to New Zealand to see my brother, was about 1992-3 and was over Christmas. He was then living in the warm end of the country and of course it is the middle of their summer. But they still did Christmases like in 'The Old Country.'



This is Matilda having a facelift before sale.
Surprising what you can do with a spray can.

All the shop window displays were decorated with fake snow. There were even Santa Clauses dressed in thick red uniforms, fake beards and big boots. Gawd, they must have been melting. Christmas day dinner was out on the sun deck at a friends and then we went sailing.

The end of that trip I had New Years Day in New Zealand, then flew out, crossed the International Date Line and had New years Day again.

I've also had Christmas days in a

camper-van in the outback in Australia and ditto in New Zealand. One New Years Day in New Zealand I was free camped right on a beach on Golden Bay at the top of the south island. Drift wood was collected and a fire lit. People gathered with their musical instruments and there was singing and dancing round the fire. At midnight I counted 18 similar beach fires around the bay.

My favourite time was spending summers in the UK and our winters in New Zealand. Continuous summer for 3 years. I bought a camper-van in New Zealand and stored it at my brothers. After 3 years I sold the camper and because currency exchange rates had moved, made a profit!





Merry Christmas 2020

To all our friends in the Wessex Club, Lynne and I wish you all the best for Christmas and a much, much better 2021.

Let's hope to be able to enjoy each other's company as soon as possible in the new year.

Roger and Lynne





And finally a few reflections on 2020.

- The silliest thing I bought was a 2020 planner
- 2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.
- The world has turned upside down. Older people are creeping out of the house, and their grand children are shouting at them to stay indoors!
- I saw our neighbour talking to her dog. It was obvious she thought her dog understood her. I came into my house and told our cat. We laughed a lot...
- Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pyjamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
- Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
- This virus has achieved what no woman has been able to - cancel sports, shut down all pubs and keep men home!
- I never thought the comment - "I wouldn't touch him or her with a 6 feet barge pole" would become national policy.
- Never in a million years could I have imagined I could go into a bank wearing a mask and ask for money.
- I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip into the garden. I'm getting tired of the sitting room.
- The spread of COVID-19 is based on 2 things:
How dense the population is and how dense the disregard is.





ANSWERS-

1-Tom Smith, a London sweet shop owner

2-Jacob Marley

3-Charles Dickens

4-1984

5-White Christmas

6-God rest ye merry gentleman

7-King George V in 1932

8-Oliver Cromwell

9-Rudyard Kipling

10-Saint Stephen

11-The tradition of wishing neighbours a long life

12-Elvis Presley

13-White

14-6 th Century

15-Georgia, Arizona and Indiana

