



WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN- HOLT

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

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NEXT CLUB NIGHT

MARCH 24th

Talk

Start Time 8:00 pm

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

We are now officially in Spring, and with the lighter evenings and hopefully less frost and salt on the roads we should be able to enjoy getting out and about in our cherished cars, certainly the last weekend was a really good one.

The season has started and there are lots of events for us to attend in the coming months.

If you did not manage to get along to our last club night you will have missed a very interesting presentation about Donald Campbell, which was given by Frank Bond and on behalf of the club I would like to thank him for the time and effort put into this.

Several club members took a short drive to the Atwell Wilson Museum for the MG Rover Cars and Coffee morning, it was good to see a varied selection of cars from our club at this event.

Don't forget that on July 20th we have a special event to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Wessex MG Club, more details will follow in the next few months.

Later this month I will be at the Practical Classics NEC Restoration & Classic Car Show, if you have not been to this show there are cars from barn-finds to pristine on display and you can watch restoration work being carried out on many cars.

At our next club night on Monday 24th March we have a visit from the Wessex 4x4 Response group, this should prove to be another interesting evening starting as usual at 8.00pm at the Tollgate.

For those who have not been to a club night recently you may be pleased to know that the car park has now been extended giving much more parking space.

Martyn





CLUB DIARY

2025 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Start Time	Venue	Additional Information
24th March	Club Night - Presentation Wessex 4x4 Response Team	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	
6th April	MGB Register Spring Run		TBA	
18th - 21st April	Easter Bank Holiday			
27th April	Drive It Day	TBA	Classic Motor Hub	
27th April	Drive It Day		Atwell-Wilson Motor Museum	
28th April	Club night - Prod and Poke night	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	
TBA	COMMITTEE MEETING	TBA		
18th May	Chippenham Rotary Club Run			Chris McCormack
19th May	Club Night - Mystery Run	TBA	TBA	
23rd -26th May	Club Spring Weekend Away		Ironbridge	
1st June	MGs in the Park			Celebrating Anniversary of the MGB
1st June	Chippenham Lions			
7th-8th June	Nick Mason Open Day		Middlewick House Corsham	Chris McCormack
8th June	Classic & Super Car Event		Bowood Park	
15th June	Steeple Ashton Classic Car Show		Steeple Ashton	Graham Risdon
23rd June	Club night - Boules	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	
28/29 June	Charlton Park Classic		Charlton Park Nr Malmesbury	Inaugural event featuring Classic & Super Cars and Vintage Aircraft



2025 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Start Time	Venue	Additional Information
12th July	Wings and Wheels at Middle Wallop		Middle Wallop Flying Station	Historic Aircraft, Classic and Super Cars and Motor Bikes
13th July	Atwell Wilson Museum Show Open Day		Atwell Wilson Motor Museum	
20th July	WESSEX MG 40th Anniversary Picnic	TBA	Langford Lakes Nature Reserve	Given the importance of this occasion, the club will subsidise this event.
28th July	Club night -	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	
1st - 3rd August	Gloucestershire Vintage & Country Show		South Cerney	
18th August	Club Night -	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	
TBA	MGs in Tom's Field	TBA	Tom & Nancy's Home address	
22nd September	Club night -	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	
27th October	Club night -	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	
TBA	COMMITTEE MEETING			Martyn Lucas
24th November	Club night - AGM	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	Club AGM
TBA	Christmas Party	Yes	The Toll Gate Inn	

2025 DIARY UPDATES

PROD & POKE EVENING - Club Night 28th April



No not quite this forensic!

For the benefit of newer members, the Prod & Poke evening is the club's annual official awakening of members' classic cars.

The clocks have sprung forward into summer time, the evenings are lighter and warmer? So bring your car along to the April club night evening and chat with fellow members about your car, compare notes with other similar models.

Its always a popular evening being outside and socialising using your car as the topic of conversation



PS

Of course you can just bring yourself and enjoy the evening.

Club Mystery Run on Monday 19th May



For those of you who have not yet replied, here's a reminder as we will need to ask for deposits soon and the amount depends on the numbers.

The club mystery run has been planned for the 19th of May.

We will be starting from Devizes at 6.15pm and driving for about 30 miles.

This year, we have decided on a buffet supper to make the evening more sociable and easier to organize.

The overall cost will be between £22 - £25 per head depending on numbers.

The more participants we have, the lower the cost.

We will need to know numbers, food allergies and dietary requirements before 1st April, soon after which time we will ask for a deposit of around £5 per head, again depending on numbers.

So far it looks like a good turnout with 14 cars.

Thanks Sue and Terry

I have just discovered this which takes place each month (aside from September) between April and October at West Woodlands Showground near Frome. Classic car owners can look around free of charge - a HUGE £2 saving which could go towards some random bric-a-brac that you don't need. I have pencilled in to go in April — weather dependant, but there is no need to book or any time restrictions for arrival and departure.

Steve Todd

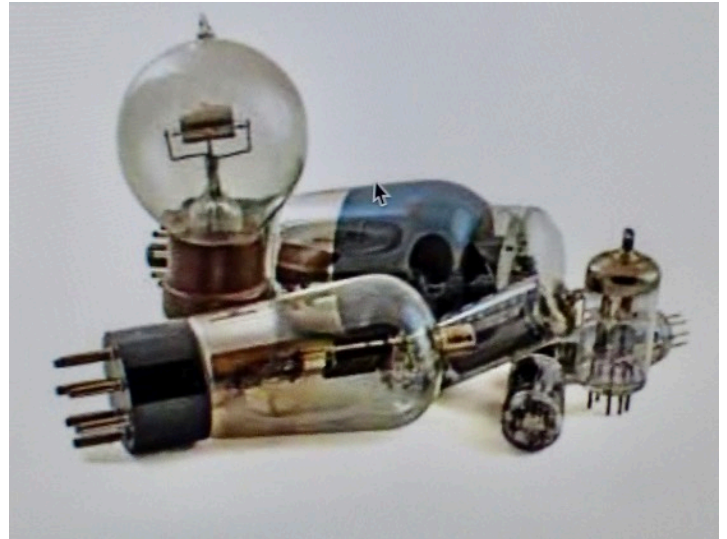


THE WAY IT WAS

The Thermionic Valve

It wasn't that long ago that the BBC announced that its Longwave service was on the blink - no sorry brink - of shutting down, due, of all things, to a shortage of valves - no not the valves you find in engines! But the good old thermionic valve. Those of us of a certain age will remember the house radio going on the blink and yes even the black and white television. We were all electronic experts in those days - a few taps on those glowing glass tubes in the back of the unit and with any luck all would be well, assuming that is you didn't burn your finger on the red hot valves or even worse get a high voltage jolt!

Of course any self respecting garden shed in those days would have a shelf full of valves just in case...I seem to remember having to breath warm air onto the the valve to make out the number in the glass - Ahum.



You might have thought that the valve would by now have been completely replaced by microchips or whatever but apparently the cult among audio enthusiasts, who relish the warmth - excuse the pun - of the sound reproduction of valves, has ensured their survival and many of the most expensive hi-fi amplifiers proudly display an array of glowing vacuum tubes.

And in a clash of technologies you can even buy valve amplifiers in which to dock your latest device.





Memories of my Classic Cars

Ian McConchie

As a new member of Wessex Car club, it might be of interest to fellow members to hear about my involvement with classic cars over a period of time.

I currently own an MGB roadster which I bought in 2017. This is a rubber bumper model, coloured black with stripes down both sides

It was first registered in 1980. The mileage is 7018 and it has been "round the Clock" once. This was confirmed by the previous owner who bought the car new from the MG factory in Abingdon.

This owner kept the car for most of its life but eventually sold it to me. He informed me that he would have liked to keep the vehicle but a divorce settlement meant it was not viable. In addition, his new wife was very small and could not reach the pedals!

This owner sold the vehicle through the "Autotrader" magazine but didn't get much response - possibly because this publication is better suited to modern cars. Maybe he would have had more interest if the car had been advertised in a classic car publication!



This owner had the car maintained throughout its life by the main MG dealer in Maidenhead - Summit Motors. This company did a complete

rebuild of the car a few years before it was sold to me. Pictures of the rebuild were given to me as evidence of the work carried out.

I have used the MGB extensively throughout my ownership, either with members of my family or through participation in events organised by my previous classic car club in Hertfordshire - LGCVCC. (Letchworth Garden City Classic and Vintage Car club). This large club of 120 members organised many events such as treasure hunts or an annual "fishchip run" In aid of the charity Air Ambulance Hertfordshire.

I have also used my MGB for picnic trips out with my wife - Tamara - or outings with my son - Seb. Last summer we toured central and South Wales.

Prior to the MGB I owned a Triumph Herald 13 /60 for 7 years. I chose this car



because my children were 6 and 9 at the time so loved travelling in the car with the hood down! However, 4 years later the situation changed! They were too big to sit in the back seat and found the car embarrassing. One of my son's friends asked him. "Could your dad not afford a new car?"





My Most Recent Purchase

Malcolm Barrington

The most recent classic vehicle that I have purchased is a 1943 Dodge WC52. The WC stands for Weapons Carrier and the 52 means that it has a winch on the front bumper as opposed to the 51 that doesn't have a winch.

My toy box is full and to make room for the Dodge I had to sell the Swift. It was a difficult decision to make but I felt the Dodge would be more fun and so far it has been.

My first challenge was, how to drive it into my garage. The Dodge is long and very wide but this was not the issue. The canvas rear cover sits on top of an oak framework which is 12" higher than the entrance to the garage. My answer to this problem was to purchase a length of rectangular tubular steel, make six joiners and split the oak uprights. This worked perfectly.

The first tour of duty using the Dodge, was the Goodwood Revival last year. Every year my brother and I help transport the marshals to and from their trackside positions. Last year my brother and I took both the Dodge (**Photo 1 and 2**) and the jeep. The jeep performed well however, on the Friday, the Dodge broke a front leaf spring (**Photo 3**) almost putting me into the ditch on the side of the road. Game over for the Dodge.

The repair is now completed. (**Photo 4**) It took another road trip to Holland to track down spares, We drove through France and Belgium again stopping at some of the places that we visited with Tom last year.

Last month we decided to test drive the Dodge and visit the Classic Motor Hubs first Military day. **See Video Clip below.** The rain had stopped and although very cold,

Tracy, me and a few friends drove to the event in the repaired Dodge. Wow it was cold but great fun.

The Hub lived up to our expectations. Lots of amazing classics to view and the best sausage and bacon roll for miles around. Henry Cole also turned up in a Vietnam wartime jeep.

Thankfully the Dodge made it back with no problems and I intend to drive it to Normandy in June. Fingers crossed I won't need to use any of the spares that I will be taking with me.

The photos and video clip are courtesy of Keith Nesbit whose passion is WW2 vehicles and photography. The next trip we should also have some drone video of us driving along the road.

I did think about driving something from WW2 on Tom's tour of Normandy in April but speed would be an issue and I do love my MGA lots too.



PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2



PHOTO 3



PHOTO 4



Attwell-Wilson Motor Museum - MG/Rover Day

Very many thanks to Steve Todd and Malcolm Taylor
for the pics of the event



I had a Rover 600 park next to me, reminded me of my very first company car - a navy blue 620iL with beige leather, sunroof and wood trim. Unusual for a 19 year old but I loved it. Fast forward 23 years to December 2024, until finally I've managed to get a car with a sunroof once again!

Steve Todd





Attwell-Wilson Motor Museum - MG/Rover Day



40th Anniversary Club Regalia



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

POLO SHIRT - £17.00 includes updated club Logo - **Photo 1**

POLO SHIRT - as photo 1 plus MGB GT Logo - **Photo 2** £24.00

FLEECE JACKET - £22.00 including updated club logo.

FLEECE JACKET - £29.00 with updated club logo and MGB GT Logo **Photo 3**

To have a new LOGO set up costs £10.00 - £20.00 depending on size and complexity - then £7.00 on each item

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Secretary's Scribbles

Well the weather has made a turn and I have just got back from my school trip to the First World War battlefields - a trip where we were out in T shirts! There has still been a fair amount of salt on the roads and so I am impressed by the number of members who have been out and about in their MGs. I have now fitted my TPMS system that I have been going on about for the last two months but, I am yet to go out and get up to 12mph that is required to initialise the system. I am now in the final preparation stage before some of us depart for the D Day, Normandy trip - hopefully, we will have sunny weather which will make it a superb few days. I am already thinking about where I will offer to take members next year - at the moment I am thinking Berlin. We would have to fly but

once there we could do WW2 and Cold War History and maybe even go on a 'Trabant Safari' to keep the driving theme of the club alive. Nancy and I did this a few years back and were fine until the wiper knob came off in my hand! The club calendar looks excellent and many of the events have been proposed by the new members of the committee showing how the new blood can help rejuvenate us. A young friend of mine has been talking about going to Le Mans with a friend of his - they intend to have a challenge and go in a car bought for under £1000 he was musing about Jags last time I spoke to him but, now he is talking about MGTFs - obviously I thought this was a great idea - I will let you know how this idea progresses!

Take care

Tom



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.