



WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN- HOLT

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

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Tom Strickland

NEXT CLUB NIGHT

February 23rd

Talk

Start Time 8:00pm



Well, like everyone else I am wondering will it ever stop raining!

I've always been one to use my MG as much as I can even over winter, but even i've kind of failed so far this year, but maybe its not surprising given the weather we've had.

I've managed one Wednesday to pop over to Burton farm shop for Lunch in Margot, which was I think the first time out since around the Christmas break.

Forever the optimist, I believe it will stop shortly and spring will come in full force!

Since my last chairmans chat you would have seen the committee has met, and we have a bumper year of events around the corner to look forward to.

It should be another fantastic year, as always.

Continued...

Take a look at the diary and flyers in this month's newsletter, and you'll have plenty to choose from.

As I write this I've today finally managed to do both of my favourite things, I've managed to play a round of golf and then go out in Margot for a bit of a spin.

I've seen from the WhatsApp chatter that a lot of people went today to the Rowdey cow for another breakfast meet, I highly recommend this place - great cooked breakfast too!

My car (Margot) is about to go off the road for a couple of weeks, its time to address the tin worm that has attacked my sills - I'm telling myself its all for the best (see glass half full) and the car with its new sills will be good for many years more motoring.

I will be organising a run out on Drive it Day again this year, on Sunday 26th April - to mix it up a bit, rather than the classic motor hub where we've been for a couple of years we will be going to Beaulieu for the day.... I hope you will join me for a lovely drive over Salisbury Plain and through the New Forest.

See the flyer in this issue.

If you book your tickets before **1st March**, there is early bird pricing to be had, below is the link.

You will need to buy participant tickets for both the driver and any passengers,

<https://www.beaulieu.co.uk/events/drive-it-day/>

Enter the code at checkout: **DRIVEEB**

And then you will get the discount.

Let me know when you've booked, so I can keep a check on numbers.

I have asked Beaulieu for our own Wessex parking area.

Nearer the time, I will update you all on a meeting point location so we can drive down together (if you'd like to do so) which will most likely be in Devizes, and the timings also.

Next club night is on Monday 23rd February at the Tollgate, we will have a presentation from the Institute of Advance Motoring, which Graham Bennett has kindly arranged, so I hope to see you there...should be a good night.

All that remains for me to say is, I hope you get to get out in your cars between the downpours, and remember every day it gets lighter for longer now, warmer better days are on the horizon!



See you all soon

David

CLUB DIARY -

In the date column, where the **DATE** of an event has been highlighted in **RED** the sponsor has included additional promotional details in the newsletter also highlighted in **RED**

2026 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Start Time	Venue	Additional Information
23rd February (Details February Edition)	Club Night - Talk Institute of Advance Motorists	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	Graham Bennett
21/22nd March	Restoration Show NEC		Ironbridge	Order your own tickets
21st March (Details February Edition)	Dunkerton's Cider Cheltenham Tour and Lunch	10:30 am	Dunkerton Park Cheltenham	Chris McCormack
23rd March	Club Night - Talk Antartica	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	John Bishop
4th April	Planks Farm Classic Car Meet		Lydney	Graham Risdon
7/9th April	Wessex MG Dunkirk Trip			Tom Strickland
17/21st April	Wessex MG Spring Break to Cornwall			Graham Bennett
26th April (Details February Edition)	Drive It Day		Beaulieu	David Collier
27th April	Club Night - Prod & Poke	7:30pm	The Toll Gate Inn	David Collier
9th May	Clevedon Cars and Coffee: MG Focus			Martyn Lucas



2026 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Start Time	Venue	Additional Information
18th May	Club Night - Mystery Run	TBA	TBA	Terry & Sue Warder
20th May (Details February Edition)	Atwell Wilson Gathering	4pm - 9pm	Atwell Wilson Museum	Chris McCormack
6th June	Middlewick Open House (Pre-Book required)	8:30am	Middlewick House	Chris McCormack
7th June	MGs in the Park			
7th June	Chippenham Lions			
20th June	Planks Farm Classic Car Meet			
29th June	Club Night - Boules	8:00pm		David Collier
11th July (Details February Edition)	Wings and Wheels (Pre Book - Book as MG Car Club)		Middle Wallop Flying Station	Fully Booked Martyn Lucas
12th July	Atwell Wilson Annual Show			Martyn Lucas
19th July (Details February Edition)	Wessex MG Summer Picnic	11:30am	East Somerset Railway	Chris McCormack
27th July	Club Night - BBQ	8:00pm		David Collier
2nd August (Details February Edition)	Gloucestershire Vintage & Country Show		South Cerney	Martyn Lucas
16th August	MG Festival Brands Hatch			Martyn Lucas



2026 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Start Time	Venue	Additional Information
4th September	Planks Farm Classic Car Meet		Lydeaway	
12th September (Details February Edition)	Dumb Post Revival (Pre-Book)	11:30am	The Dumb Post Inn	Chris McCormack
28th September	Club Night - Talk by Tom	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	Tom Strickland
26th October	Club Night - Quiz	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	
13/14th November	NEC Classic Motor Show			
23rd November	Club Night - AGM	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	David Collier
TBA	Christmas Party		The Toll Gate Inn	

DETAILS OF UP COMING EVENTS

Talk - February Club Night 23rd February 8:00PM



IAM Roadsmart used to be the Institute of Advanced Motorists. It promotes safer driving and advanced road skills. The Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM), now trading as IAM RoadSmart, is a UK-based registered charity dedicated to improving driving and motorcycling standards and enhancing road safety.

Graham Bennett

DETAILS OF UP COMING EVENTS

I have joined the committee this year to help run a few events, which are detailed below, please look to save the dates and purchase tickets where required for now if you are interested.

I will collate a list of anyone interested in joining any of these trips, so please let me know via email or whatsapp, giving your names and event.
Thanks.

Best

Macca

07974 429153

cdropstix@btinternet.com

Dunkertons Cider Visit – Saturday March 21st

Event Information

Dunkertons Cider Visit – Saturday March 21st

Location : Dunkertons Cider Factory and Shop

Address: Dowdeswell Park, London Road, Cheltenham, GL52 6UT

Parking Information: Private area in main car park to display cars

Arrival time: 10:30

Notes: A private tour of the cider factory has been arranged for 11am, this will last approx. 1 hour then we have our own area for lunch in the Tap room, a fabulous tented space where you can purchase lunch from a number of amazing street vendors. There are a number of high end shops also based at the site.

Cost: Group discount £12pp payable directly to the venue on the day.

Travel arrangements: 9:15 meet at Tesco car park, Calne, Leave 9:30.

Venue Information: <https://www.dunkertonscider.co.uk/>

Macca

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DETAILS OF UP COMING EVENTS

Drive-It-Day - Sunday April 26th

I will be organising a run out on Drive it Day again this year, on Sunday 26th April - to mix it up a bit, rather than the classic motor hub where we've been for a couple of years we will be going to Beaulieu for the day.... I hope you will join me for a lovely drive over Salisbury Plain and through the New Forest.

If you book your tickets before **1st March**, there is early bird pricing to be had, below is the link.

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Enter the code at checkout: **DRIVEEB**

And then you will get the discount.

David



DETAILS OF UP COMING EVENTS

Atwell Wilson Evening Gathering - May 20th

Event Information

Atwell Wilson Evening Gathering - May 20th

Location: Atwell-Wilson museum

Address: Stockley lane, Calne, SN11

Parking Information: Museum Car Park

Arrival time: Gathering open form 4pm - 9pm, TBC Club area.

Notes: No booking required, just turn up.

Cost: Free entrance to museum grounds, reduced cost of £8 for museum entry.

Travel arrangements: TBC

Venue information: [Atwell Wilson Motor Museum](#)



Macca

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DETAILS OF UP COMING EVENTS

Middlewick House open house – Sat June 6th

Event Information

Middlewick House open house - Sat June 6th 2026

Location : Middlewick House

Address : Middlewick Lane, Corsham, Wiltshire, SN130PX

Parking Information : Arrive as a club at 08:30 in order to park together.

Arrival time: 08:30am

Notes: This family friendly weekend includes a display of Nicks cars, plenty of stall to browse, with lots of items for sale, including jewellery, plants, candles and art.

Costs: pre booked tickets only this year. Entry cost £20. Club Parking pass £5

Tickets via : [Middlewick House Open Garden](#)

Travel arrangements : Meet in Sainsburys car park, Chippenham at 07:45am, look to leave for the venue at 8am.

Venue information : [Middlewick House Open Garden](#)

Macca

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CLUB DAY OUT TO
MIDDLEWICK HOUSE OPEN GARDEN
SAT JUNE 6TH 2026
10am - 4pm

HOME OF THE NICK MASON CAR
COLLECTION

OPEN GARDEN

Meet in Sainsbury cark park, chippenham 7:45
Leave for venue 8am

PRE BOOKED TICKETS ONLY VIA
[HTTPS://MIDDLEWICKHOUSEOPENGARDEN.COM/](https://middlewickhouseopengarden.com/)
ENTRY £20 / CLASSIC CAR PARK £5

MIDDLEWICK HOUSE, MIDDLEWICK LANE, CORSHAM, WILTS, SN13 OPX



DETAILS OF UP COMING EVENTS

Wheels and Wings Middle Wallop Saturday 11th July

Unfortunately the Army Flying Museum have announced that car display spaces are now sold out, if you have not already booked a car display space it is still possible to book a spectator ticket and park in the public car park.

Martyn

DETAILS OF UP COMING EVENTS

Annual Picnic Sunday July 19th

Event Information

Annual Picnic Sunday July 19th 2026

Location : East Somerset Railway

Address: Cranmore Railway Station, Cranmore, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 4QP

Parking Information: Tarmac Strip adjacent to the Grass area at the top of the car park. There are tea/coffee/cake facilities on site within the museum

Arrival time: 11:30am

Notes: Picnic / Chat 12 - 1.30. 2pm Train ride arranged for the club.

Cost: Group discount £14 entry charge payable on the day, directly to the venue, gives full access to the museum and steam train rides

Travel arrangements: 9.45am Meeting Point, The Milk Churn, Commerce Way, Melksham SN12 6AD, look to leave by 10am for the venue.

Venue Information: [East Somerset Railway | Family Attraction in Somerset](#)

Macca

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DETAILS OF UP COMING EVENTS

Gloucester Vintage & County Extravaganza Sunday August 2nd

I have a club space provisionally reserved at this event and if you would like to be at the show let me know before April 20th , I can then get you to fill in and sign a form and then confirm numbers with the organisers.

This is a very popular show with plenty to see other than cars and entry is free for those displaying classic cars, but you must arrive before 9.30am and cannot leave until 4.30pm

Martyn Lucas



DETAILS OF UP COMING EVENTS

The Dumb Post Revival September 12th

Event Information

The Dumb Post Revival - Sept 12th

Location: The Dumb Post Inn

Address: Dumb Post Hill, Bremhill, Wiltshire, SN119JZ

Parking Information: Pit Lane Parking display ticket required

Notes: Amazing day, celebrating the best of all things Goodwood, Cars, vintage dress, live music, outstanding food, all in support of the British Heart Foundation. There will be a full afternoon of planned activities including best car, best dressed driver and co-driver, raffle, BBQ, live band "Splat the Rat"

Cost: £5 for a Pit Lane Display Pass

Tickets : <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/select/gweznpjmedw>

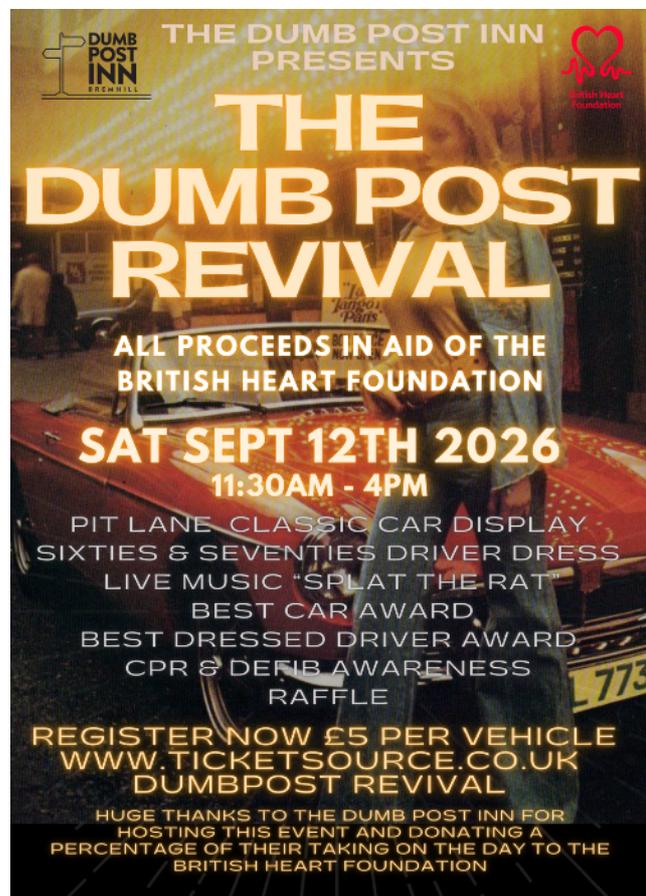
Travel arrangements: Pre booked Cars should plan to arrive for around 11:30am and will be shown to your display space.

Venue information: [Home - The Dumb Post, Bremhill, Wiltshire](#)

Macca

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New Member

Stewart
Colgrave

It would be fair to say that I have had an affair with cars nearly all my life. I am currently on car number 54 and never seem to be able to stick with one for more than 6 months. My interest started in my early youth with a Talbot Sunbeam that looked like a panda car (need to be a certain age to know that term :-). black and white two tone and my pride and joy. But it came and went and I have made good and bad purchase decisions ever since. Corner me one day over a beer and I will let you laugh at some of my choices... I promise to admit them all, and have kept a list. Some died, some disappeared, and some would be worth a bit of money now, if only I had kept them! (sigh).. but hindsight is a great thing!

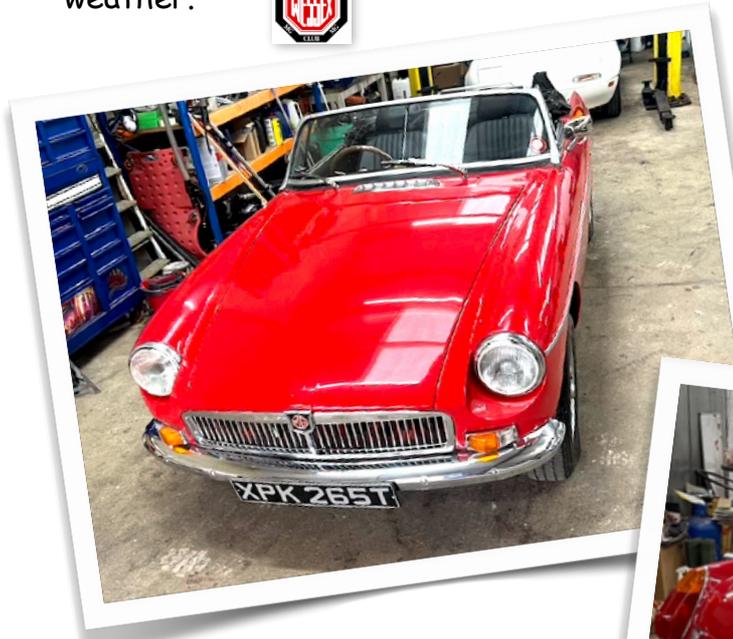
Having just retired, my latest decision was to go back in time and have something I could store and work on in the garage, to occupy my time and learn some new skills... so in November 2025 I became an MG owner. Surprisingly my first MG, and when my wife and I went to look at it, we kinda fell in love. Now I am looking forward to meeting many of you as I am sure you will be able to offer me some guidance, input and recommendations of what to do and when... but my first job was to carpet the boot and buff the paintwork - nothing too risky or challenging ;-).

It's a MG B from Aug 1978. Which I believe makes it the rubber bumper model.. but its had a chrome bumper conversion. It rides a little higher and has minilite mag alloy wheels. So the purists may challenge its authenticity, but I still think it looks super. There is a small hole in the rear quarter plastic window on the hood, but I plan to be driving with that down as much as possible. Regarding how to treat and pamper this new acquisition, I would be very welcome to input from any direction.. and If anyone is near Calne,I would be more than happy to let you have a look and you can tell me if I have made a big mistake or a lucky guess.

As it was purchased in late November, I have had little opportunity to drive it, but when I have, it feels like 70mph when the speedo is showing 40. A totally different experience to cars I have had before, even the convertibles... its certainly not a dull experience and as Elvis Presley said "life is too short to drive boring cars".



Looking forward to meeting some of you soon and fingers crossed for brighter weather.





"New Member"

Malcolm Taylor

Paul has called for pictures of new member's cars. Well I'm not a new member, I'm a very old member, I get my OBE this year. 'Over Blo**y Eighty.'

Many of you will know that I have needed a new collectors car a number of times due to the dramatic demise of their predecessor.

Well my picture is of my recent replacement everyday truck. But it seems to have delusions of grandeur.

It thinks it used to be an MG?





Secretary's Scribbles

Very wet month... but, I have had the opportunity to do some amazing things.. At the Christmas dinner I was chatting to Paul Adams and managed to wrangle a visit to his rather special collection of cars - 2 Austin 7s (a Ruby and an early Chummy), An MGTC and a Jaguaaaar E Type coupe.

So, last weekend Nancy and I went up to see Paul and Sara near Stratford and Paul and I had the cars to occupy us for the afternoon. The weather gods were on our side because as we extracted each car the weather became suddenly dry and in fact when we took the MG out the sun shine (but, of course it would wouldn't it!) Paul and I have known each other in the club now for something like 25 years and he very very kindly allowed me to have a go at driving each car. Look at the list again and you will notice the

cars are very different they are and as I discussed this with Paul I could understand why he had each -the Austin 7 is all about the raw driving - no distractions, the MGTC is sporty and light where as the E type is the 'muscled gent' that you can cruise internationally. I absolutely loved driving each one and felt extremely privileged to be trusted to.

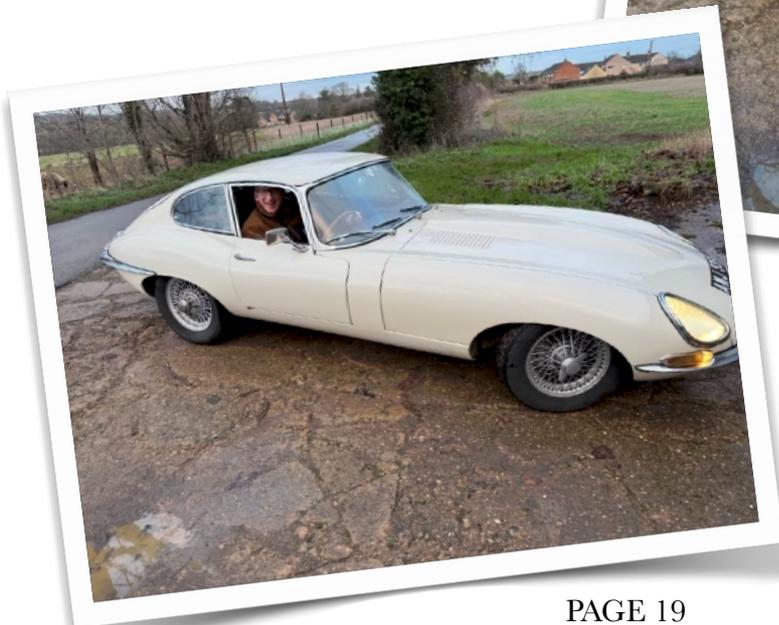
The Austin did scare me a bit as neither the throttle pedal nor the brake pedal did very much at all. I had to tell myself to relax my posture and the vice like grip of the wheel and allow the car to drive in its own manner. I had to go back to basics and think about gearing and braking which is always useful. This is the car for first dates as you don't need any excuses if you accidentally bump knees etc with your passenger in the narrow cabin. The TC was a

different experience and to start with I got quite angry with myself as I was struggling with a narrow gate in the gear change and the getting the revs correct during gear change but, I did improve and I know that I am biased but with the hood down and the air in my hair this car is simply superb.

The TC is beautiful too and afterwards as I banked away in my spitfire to shoot down some Me109s I realised that this car is truly on the 'lottery win list'. The E Type came last and it was now getting duskier as we had been out considerably longer than we promised the girls - another stunning car! The E type felt surprisingly modern, a bit like a more mature BGT - it had labelled switches for a start! We opted for a faster A road for this drive and it lapped it up effortlessly and I could so see the draw of the long continental drive to some exotic location - I grew up loving E Types and I still do and now I know they are as great to drive and I always hoped. As with all new driving experiences I was very cautious and Paul was very patient and generous. I made memories that day! Thank you Paul.



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	Kevin Meakin	01380 727151	kevinmg1@live.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	Kevin Meakin	01380 727151	kevinmg1@live.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.