



# WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN- HOLT

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

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Tom Strickland

**NEXT CLUB NIGHT**

March 23rd

Talk - Antartica

Start Time 8:00pm



Well here we are again, it's now March and the car show and event season is rapidly approaching.... I for one can't wait, and I'm sure you are all feeling the same! As I write this it's been a glorious day, finally! Hope you're all making the most of the sunshine.

I have started to book up for events for the year, however, mainly because of my stupidity, I missed out on the middle wallop wings & wheels as by the time I went to book it it had already sold out! I'm on a waiting list, and I might just buy a normal ticket and still go, just won't be able at the minute to park in the main display.

However, I have another slight problem.... I've no car currently. 😞

Continued...



Margot, my MGBGT Jubilee has finally gone in to have the sills replaced... So far no news, which I'm taking as good news! Time will tell.

(I'm an eternal optimist!)

Just as long as she's back in time for the spring break next month. 🙏

Events wise...

We've the Dunkertons cider tour coming up on the 21st March which Maccer has organised - should be great.

That weekend is also the restoration show at the NEC, which I'm sure some members will also be attending. I've never been so I'd be interested to hear about it from anyone attending.

Next club night is on Monday 23rd which will include a fascinating talk by John Bishop on his travels to Antarctica... I have had a sneaky peak at the presentation and it is simply stunning. It shall be a great talk I'm sure, and I hope you will all come along.

All it leaves me to say is enjoy the sunshine, while its about, enjoy your cars, take care and see you in a short while.



**David**

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## CLUB DIARY -

**Note:** 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
21/22nd March	Restoration Show NEC		Ironbridge	Order your own tickets
<b>21st March (Details February Edition)</b>	<b>Dunkerton's Cider Cheltenham Tour and Lunch</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Dunkerton Park Cheltenham</b>	<b>Chris McCormack</b>
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
<b>26th April (Details February Edition)</b>	<b>Drive It Day</b>			<b>David Collier</b>
27th April	Club Night - Prod & Poke	7:30pm	The Toll Gate Inn	David Collier
9th May	Clevedon Cars and Coffee: MG Focus			Martyn Lucas
<b>18th May (Details March Edition)</b>	<b>Club Night - Mystery Run</b>	<b>6:00 for 6:30pm Wickes in Trowbridge</b>		<b>Terry &amp; Sue Warder</b>



2026 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Start Time	Venue	Additional Information
<b>20th May</b> <b>(Details</b> <b>February</b> <b>Edition)</b>	<b>Atwell Wilson</b> <b>Gathering</b>	<b>4pm - 9pm</b>	<b>Atwell Wilson</b> <b>Museum</b>	<b>Chris</b> <b>McCormack</b>
<b>6th June</b>	<b>Middlewick Open</b> <b>House (Pre-Book</b> <b>required)</b>	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>Middlewick</b> <b>House</b>	<b>Chris</b> <b>McCormack</b>
7th June	MGs in the Park			
7th June	Chippenham Lions			
20th June	Planks Farm Classic Car Meet			
27/28th June	Bath Rotary Festival of Motoring and Music			
<b>29th June</b>	<b>Club Night - Boules</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>		<b>David Collier</b>
<b>11th July</b> <b>(Details</b> <b>February</b> <b>Edition)</b>	<b>Wings and Wheels (Pre</b> <b>Book - Book as MG Car</b> <b>Club)</b>		<b>Middle Wallop</b> <b>Flying Station</b>	<b>Fully Booked</b> <b>Martyn Lucas</b>
<b>12th July</b>	<b>Atwell Wilson Annual</b> <b>Show</b>			<b>Martyn Lucas</b>
<b>19th July</b> <b>(Details</b> <b>February</b> <b>Edition)</b>	<b>Wessex MG Summer</b> <b>Picnic</b>	<b>11:30am</b>	<b>East Somerset</b> <b>Railway</b>	<b>Chris</b> <b>McCormack</b>
<b>27th July</b>	<b>Club Night - BBQ</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>		<b>David Collier</b>
<b>2nd August</b> <b>(Details</b> <b>February</b> <b>Edition)</b>	<b>Gloucestershire</b> <b>Vintage &amp; Country</b> <b>Show</b>		<b>South Cerney</b>	
16th August	MG Festival Brands Hatch			Martyn Lucas
<b>24th August</b>	<b>Club Night - Social</b> <b>Evening</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>The Toll Gate</b> <b>Inn</b>	<b>David Collier</b>



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

## DETAILS OF UP COMING EVENTS

### Dunkertons Cider Visit – Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup>

#### Event Information

#### Dunkertons Cider Visit - Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup>

**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/>

I will collate a list of anyone interested in joining this trip, so please let me know via email or whatsapp, Thanks.

Best

**Macca**

07974 429153

[cdropstix@btinternet.com](mailto:cdropstix@btinternet.com)



## 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.

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.

**David**



## DETAILS OF UP COMING EVENTS

### Mystery Run



Hi All

Just a reminder for the Mystery Run on **May 18th.**

We will be sending out for a £5 per head deposit (by separate email) before the end of March.

If any one else would like to join in, please let us know.

We currently have 18 cars and 32 people. The route is about 30 miles long and will be starting from Wickes in Trowbridge at 6 for 6.30pm. We will be ending with a Pub Buffet costing £16.50 per head.

**Sue and Terry**

## DETAILS OF UP COMING EVENTS

### Bath Rotary Festival of Motoring and Music



After unfortunately having to cancel last year, the Bath Festival of Motoring is back - and this time as the Bath Rotary Festival of Motoring *and Music!*

At our last festival in 2024, we raised over **£30,000** across the weekend for local charities, and provided entertainment for thousands of visitors across the south west and beyond. A huge part of this is our exhibitors, bringing their classic and modern vehicles to share with the community.

We're delighted to announce that exhibitor registration for this year is now open. The festival will take place on the **27th - 28th June 2026** at Walcot Rugby Ground BA1 9BJ.

## CLUB NOMINATED CHARITY of the YEAR



Firstly, many thanks to all of you that voted. 75% of you registered your vote which is great. The result is:

British Heart Foundation	58%
Brain Tumour Charity	28%
RSPCA	14%

So, a clear preference. As previous years, our donation at the end of the club year comes primarily from the club night raffle ticket sales, so please come along to the monthly club nights and dig deep.

**Peter Hine**





## MGA Returns to JPR Tuning

Chris Brunt

On Wednesday the 11th, Graham and I returned to JPR Tuning for a full rolling road tune up. I had previously bought a '123 + tune' bluetooth distributor during the restoration of the A but never fitted it. The MGA has a 1974 MGB 1800 engine and gearbox married to the original MGA carbs and exhaust manifold so nothing was going to be standard. The October Club visit to JPR showed the A to have 77 bhp, and was running out of torque and fuel at the top end.

First point of call was to check and adjust the valve clearances, best done cold, so I dropped the car off the night before. The carbs were balanced and the new distributor fitted with the standard timing curve. This produced a small increase of 1 bhp.

Next the needles were changed. I already had some slightly richer 'GT' needles but these were replaced with even richer 'No. 7' needles. This added another 2 bhp. Harry then re-programmed the timing curve, using a phone.... This allows you to retard or advance the timing at a specific point in the rev range, something impossible to do with a standard distributor, electronic or not. This improved the torque curve, making it flatter across the range and produced another 2 bhp

Next stop was to re-profile the shape of the needles at specific heights, thus increasing the fuel supply at different points in the rev range: idle, pick-up, cruise or top end. Additional nodes (points) were added to the timing curve allowing for a more bespoke curve and a final power run.

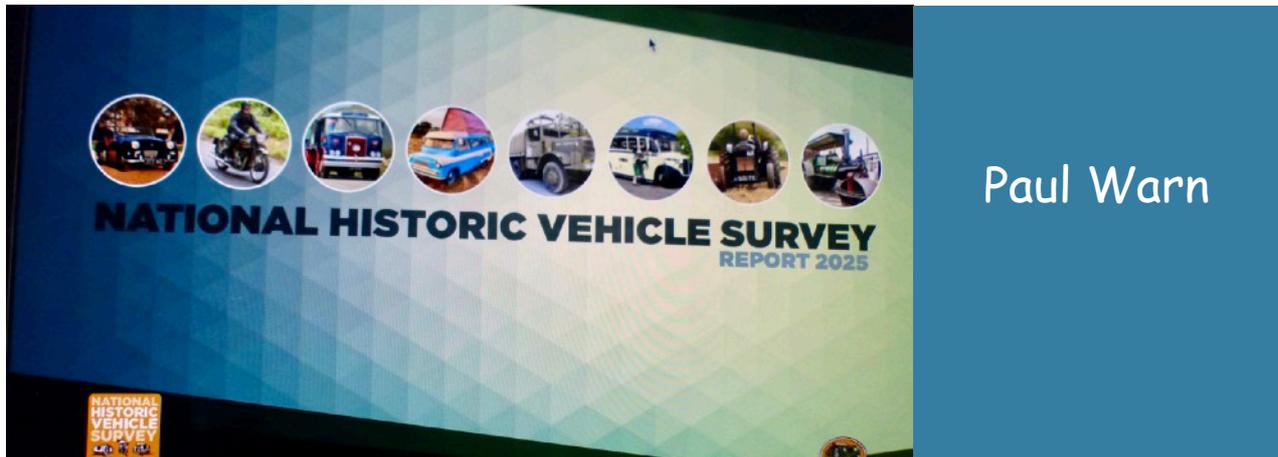
The final result of 84.5 bhp, an increase of 10%, was achieved. This may not sound huge but this is only the top end figure and the overall change to the car was great.

The A had been running pretty well, static timing was accurate, components all in good condition. She started well and drove nicely although tickover was lumpy so was set to 1200 rpm. There were no noticeable dead spots in the acceleration but now, it is noticeably smoother. She now idles very comfortably at 650 rpm. The flattening out of the torque curve has given a more responsive smoother acceleration across the rev range. She now pulls better in higher gears and the engine feels more like that of a modern car. The engine even sounds better and an added bonus is that you can immobilise your car from your phone.

I can't recommend highly enough the switch to a '123' distributor and for the additional £100 the programmable one is definitely worth it to get the most out of your car. You can set them up yourself on the driveway using your phone, but you really need a rolling road to see the effects of each adjustment. It is a dark art and I don't think you can find many better magicians to conquer this than Harry and JPR.

Many thanks to Graham for his company on the day and you will be able to view a full video of the day on his channel soon.





Paul Warn

**I**n the January edition I included a short piece on the Federation of Historic Vehicles Clubs (FBVHC) including a description of some of their work - to quote from the January edition:

**"The FBHVC also provide key facts and data, like the National Historic Vehicle Survey to demonstrate the movement's economic and cultural heritage and value. Perhaps more on this next month..."**

Well "next month" turns out to be March! You may have already picked up on the outcome of the 2025 survey elsewhere, if not read on.

The survey is based on a sample of 19,943 Owners, Enthusiasts, Trade Clubs and the wider UK Public. I have plagiarised parts of the survey for your information and included a link to the report here:

<https://www.fbhvc.co.uk/survey>

Quoting from the survey...

### What is a Historic Vehicle

Internationally, vehicles become regarded as "historic" when they are 30 years old. In the UK we recognise seven categories: Cars, Motorcycles, Buses & coaches, Lorries, Agricultural, Military and Steam vehicles. When historic vehicles become 40 years old, under the provisions of the Finance Act 2016, they are exempt from paying for their Road Fund Licence.

**Research Headlines**



**£7.3 Billion**  
Total Annual Spending  
Estimated total value of spending on historic vehicles and activities in the UK economy



**1,934,178**  
The number of historic vehicles registered in the UK

**9.7 Million**  
The number of people in Great Britain that would like to own an historic vehicle



**£4,567**  
per annum  
The average amount an historic vehicle owner spends on their historic vehicles

**837 miles**  
per annum  
The average distance travelled by historic vehicle owners



**22.7 Million People**  
The number of people that see historic vehicles as an important part of Britain's heritage



**£3.2 Billion**  
The estimated amount of spending on historic vehicles by owners per annum



**690,777**  
The estimated number of historic vehicle owners in the UK  
(up from 683,967 in 2020)

There has been growth in the number of historic vehicles registered and the average number owned per person



**1,934,178**  
The number of historic vehicles registered in the UK\*

The figure for historic vehicles now stands at just under 2 million. The predicted growth by 2025 was expected to exceed 2 million vehicles by 2025 so **1,934,178** is just short of what was anticipated.



**2.8**  
The average number of historic vehicles owned per person

The number of current historic vehicle owners who also own a Youngtimer vehicle (registered between 1994 and 2003) remains around 1 in 4.

Those historic vehicle owners who also own a Youngtimer typically own **1.5** future historic vehicles.

\*Source: DVLA, August 2025



*The number of historic vehicle owners has risen*

**690,777**  
The estimated number of historic vehicle owners in the UK (up from 683,967 in 2020)



**66**  
The average age of an historic vehicle owner



There continues to be growth in the number of historic vehicle owners in the UK but it is more modest than was seen between 2015 and 2020.

We estimate that there are now around **690,777** individual historic vehicle owners. This is 1% higher than the equivalent estimate of 683,967 in 2020.

The average age of an owner has also risen over time to **66** currently.

Estimated number of historic vehicle owners 2015-2030 (projection)

Year	Number of Owners
2015	493,014
2020	683,967
2025	690,777 (+6,810)
2030	697,684 (+1%)

Please note:- The estimate of historic vehicle owners tracks the number of registered historic vehicles divided by the average number of vehicles owned in the survey results (2.8). It allows a like-for-like comparison to be made every 4-5 years. We have applied similar logic to the calculation of new historic vehicle owners over the next 5 years. Please treat as indicative and with some caution.

*Historic vehicles are still typically only used for short runs and not as regular transport*

**837 miles per annum**  
Average annual mileage of historic vehicles

**744 Million miles**  
Total annual mileage by historic vehicles



**0.2% Road Usage**  
Proportion of all UK road miles

**11 Times Driven Annually**  
Average number of times driven per year

**55% Short runs**  
Proportion of vehicles used for short trips

*It continues to be a hobby that can be enjoyed by many irrespective of income*

The total value of the entire historic vehicle fleet in the UK is an estimated **£35.1 billion**. Cars continue to be the highest value (**£22.7k**) with motorcycles (**£6.6k**) and tractors (**£4.7k**), as always, valued lower.

**£35.1 Billion**  
The estimated value of the historic fleet in the UK



**36% <£35K**  
Just over a third of owners earn less than £35k per annum

**£45k per annum**  
Average income of historic vehicle owners (unchanged from 2020)



**43% <£10K**  
Historic vehicle values (compared to 51% in 2020)

As would be expected the average value of vehicles varied dramatically across different types and marques. The average value across all vehicle types is £18.1k.



### Total number of historic vehicle owners

**690,777**

The estimated number of historic vehicle owners in the UK (up from 683,967 in 2020)



The estimated number of historic vehicle owners in the UK is **690,777** which has increased from 683,967 in 2020. There is more interest than ever in historic vehicles and the proportion of the general public who would like to own one has doubled over time.

Club membership is strong, with **88%** of owners belonging to at least one historic vehicle club.

Owners are highly active within the community: **20% attended 10 or more events in the past year.**

The hobby remains accessible across income groups: **over a third of owners earn less than £35,000 annually.**

The average owner income has increased marginally to **£45,930** (vs £45,000 in 2020), above the UK average salary.

Diversity remains limited, with **94%** identifying as White British and a low proportion of participants under 55.

**88%**

Percentage of owners belonging to at least one historic vehicle club



### Who are the female historic vehicle owners?

**496 females** participated in the survey

Average age – **60.2** (slightly younger than the male owners)

**86%** are members of an historic vehicle club

Typical average income – **£34,331**

**43%** retired

**93%** White British

Own **2.4** historic vehicles on average

Approximate average value of their collections is **£60,971**

For **87%** their most important vehicle is a car and for **5%** it is a motorcycle

Key car marques – **Morris** (14%), **MG** (12%), **Austin** (10%), **Ford** (7%) and **Triumph** (7%)

Key motorcycle marques – **Triumph** (25%), **Honda** (17%)

Average car value (most important vehicle) = **£31,941**

Average motorcycle value (most important vehicle) = **£6,046**

**38%** of motorcycle owners have owned their most important motorcycle for 31 or more years

**13%** inherited their most important vehicle (higher than the average)

**24%** also own a Youngtimer vehicle (1.6 owned on average)

**467 (94%)** were owners

**29 (6%)** were enthusiasts

### The economic value of the historic vehicle sector continues to be very important

Category of Spending	2020	2025
Direct Spending	£2,889,000,000	£3,155,372,999
Indirect Spending	£589,000,000	£893,488,622
Vehicle sales	£2,082,000,000	£1,929,523,121
Foreign owner spending	£946,000,000	£890,260,000
UK Trade to UK Trade*	£272,000,000	£378,038,566
<b>Total Annual Spending</b>	<b>£7.2 Billion</b>	<b>£7.3 Billion</b>

\*based on estimate of 2,500 commercial organisations, 120 museums, 100 events

The average amount that owners typically spend on their historic vehicle(s) each year is **£4,567** an increase on the £4,225 that was being spent in 2020. The combined value of all owner spending that is 'directly' attributable to their historic vehicles is around **£3.1 billion** per annum (compared to £2.9 billion in 2020).

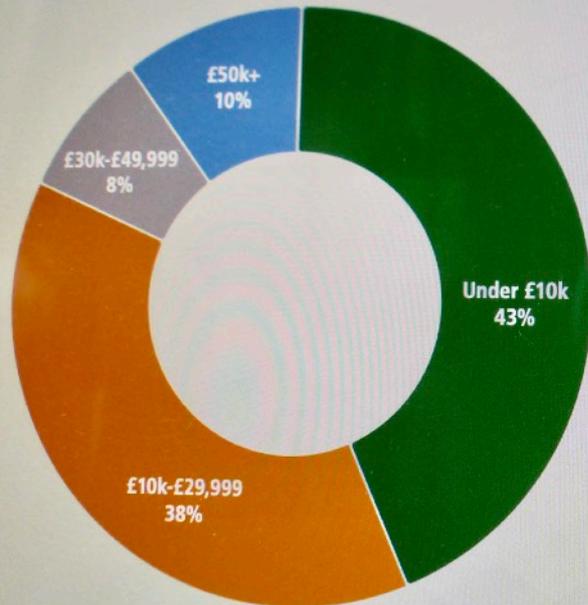
The amount of indirect spending has increased since 2020 which is positive – it must be noted that the previous survey took place in the height of COVID which will account for some differences.

**£7.3 Billion**  
Total Annual Spending  
Estimated total value of spending on historic vehicles and activities in the UK economy

**£4,567**  
per annum  
The average amount an historic vehicle owner spends on their historic vehicles

**£890 Million**  
inward spending  
Estimated foreign spending with UK firms from foreign historic vehicle owners

## The proportion of vehicles with a value of less than £10k is lower than what we have seen previously



What their collections were worth **£834,160,901**

Average direct spend per owner **£4,567**

Average indirect spend per owner **£643**

The estimated value of the UK historic vehicle fleet has grown to approximately **£35.1 billion**, up from £25.8 billion in 2020

**43%** of historic vehicles are now valued under £10,000 – a fall from 51% in 2020 – indicating rising asset values

The hobby remains accessible across income groups: over a third of owners earn less than **£35,000** annually

The average owner income has increased marginally to **£45,930** (vs £45,000 in 2020), above the UK average salary.

There are many individual headline conclusions that stand out both in terms of absolute numbers and trends in this detailed and up-to-date report. There is the staggering contribution (£7.3 billion) that spending on historic vehicles makes to this country's economic prosperity which has remained stable (2020 £7.2 billion), notwithstanding challenging economic circumstances. However, we consider the standout figure is the simply huge number of people (22.7m) who regard historic vehicles as part of the heritage fabric of this country. Equally impressive is the proportion of young people in that standout figure who appreciate their importance and support their continued use on the roads without modification. This is significant when it must be conceded that the report's findings confirm that ownership continues to be dominated by the older generation.

As the federation which represents over 500 historic vehicle clubs, we are obviously delighted that the report confirms that owners so value the benefit that their club brings to enjoyment of their vehicles, that over 88% belong to one. This is a tremendous vote of confidence in the mainly volunteer officials who give up their time to sustaining this obviously universally valued part of Britain's heritage.





## Secretary's Scribbles

Some Springness peeping through at last. I gave my TF a good run and all was fine but, the next day as I went to use her to go to work she was starting. When I got home she fired up straight away and I went a put some fresh petrol in her but, the problems came back the next day. It isn't the sort of starting problem I have experienced before - she does catch but then instantly dies and I have now found if I keep trying she will eventually start. I have recently changed the batteries in my fobs so don't think it is a mobiliser issue and my current theory is to do with damp and aged ignition components so, have ordered new coil packs, plugs and leads.. fingers crossed as we are off on the Dunkirk trip next month. The other problem/

annoyance of course is that a TF is no MGB and I will need to remove the hardtop, and unbolt the engine cover etc etc to gain access. I have decided to use the opportunity to have another go with the hardtop seal and found that Brown & Gammons stock a different part numbered seal - maybe the hardtop will sit better... fingers crossed (again).

I also noted while on the Brown & Gammons website that you can buy a key fob repair kit - so if any of you have a tatty MGRover 3 button fob you can get a new housing with nice new buttons ... fingers crossed (poor fingers) this is an easy swap over job.

Just need some time now to crack on..

**Tom**





## Club Asset List

CLUB ASSET LIST			
ASSET	CURRENT HOLDER	CONTACT DETAILS	
Engine Hoist	Tom Strickland	012489 447125	<a href="mailto:stricklandto@hotmail.com">stricklandto@hotmail.com</a>
Club Sail Banner	Kevin Meakin	01380 727151	<a href="mailto:kevinmg1@live.com">kevinmg1@live.com</a>
Event Shelter + Sides	Kevin Meakin	01380 727151	<a href="mailto:kevinmg1@live.com">kevinmg1@live.com</a>
Projector	Kevin Meakin	01380 727151	<a href="mailto:kevinmg1@live.com">kevinmg1@live.com</a>
Speakers	Paul Warn	01225 768676	<a href="mailto:paul.william.warn@gmail.com">paul.william.warn@gmail.com</a>
Projector Stand	Paul Warn	01225 768676	<a href="mailto:paul.william.warn@gmail.com">paul.william.warn@gmail.com</a>
Projector Screen & Cover	Kevin Meakin	01380 727151	<a href="mailto:kevinmg1@live.com">kevinmg1@live.com</a>
Set of Boules	Terry Warder	01225 766068	<a href="mailto:suewarder60@gmail.com">suewarder60@gmail.com</a>

**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.