



WESSEX MG CAR CLUB THE TOLLGATE INN- HOLT

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

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SECRETARY'S

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Tom Strickland

NEXT CLUB NIGHT

26th October
Quiz Night
Start Time
8:00pm



Hello everyone, and here we are again, but now in October. Alex (my son) just questioned me why I am writing my chairmans chat again already, as he remembered me doing it last month, and It didn't seem that long ago... time is obviously travelling fast! Where has this year gone?!

Which brings me on to a summary of what we have been up to this last month, we are fast approaching the end of the year... scary!

So we've had the great talk by Tom at the last club night- always top draw, and it was a very good turn out..I think I speak for all the club in saying thanks again, it was excellent (as always).

As I start to write this we have ,as a club, just been to Thatchers `cider Mill in Sandford, basically deepest darkest Somerset for a tour and lunch, organised by Mike Childs.

Continued...

We had an excellent turn out, and a few of us even used our MG's, which was great to see, plus we really were blessed with the weather in the end - I was in T shirt order, and the sun was shining on the drive back - a very pleasant run through the Mendips back to Corsham. Thanks Mike for organising a great event, I hope we can do more of these kind of things over the winter and spring.

This time of year our car shows and events tend to go a bit quiet, and it would be nice to see you all and spend some together over the winter months.

Im sure Mike, and others would agree, that it isn't that hard to organise an event - and we are all here to support, so I welcome any member proposing an event and running with it.

Now, its time for me to don my chairmans hat, for a serious talk to the membership.....

As we have mentioned before, the most excellent (and rather dashing/debonair) Paul Warn, our newsletter editor in chief is looking to step aside from putting together this monthly newsletter, which he has done excellently I may add for many years, and it would be great to have someone volunteer to take over this role.

It would also allow Paul to then hand over the reins and support in the transition.

Please can I ask you all to consider this post, and give it some serious thought, before I start trying to tap you all up for the position!

Upcoming events:

Our annual skittles match is now rapidly approaching, on Saturday 24th October at the White Hart in Atworth - I'm looking forward to it, and the excellent basket meal and company as well.

Also, importantly it is our Annual General Meeting, which is coming up at our November club night (See separate notice) - it would be great to see as many members there as possible please, its all of our club - and its you that makes it.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to mention in despatches that our former Chairman Martyn Lucas has reached the higher echelons of the MG car club and is now a Director. A thoroughly deserved appointment, and I know a very popular one, so congratulations Martyn and we all wish you well in this new position from all of us at Wessex MG.



Hope to see you all soon,

David

CALLING NOTICE - WESSEX MG CLUB AGM- 2026

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

2026 Annual General Meeting

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

23rd November

at

The Tollgate Inn - Holt

commencing at

8:00 pm

Preceded from 7.30 onwards by the payment of subscriptions for the 2026 season.

Notice of any resolution to be proposed at the AGM should be given in writing/email 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 2025 AGM.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Consideration of any motions received.
- Break**
- **Photo competition. With a Morgan/MG Theme taken during the year**
- **Voting for awards**
6. Election of Committee for 2027.
7. Presentation of Awards.
8. Arrangements for 2027 AGM.
9. Any other business.



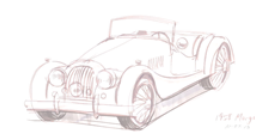
Wessex MG Club

Treasurer & Membership Secretary Report Club Year 1st Dec '25 ~ 30th Nov '26



Funds at Close of Club Year	Bank Account	£1,925.52	£2,061.50
	Petty Cash	£135.98	

Membership: Number of Members: 77
Membership Directory closing at Issue 7
Membership Register closing at Issue 125



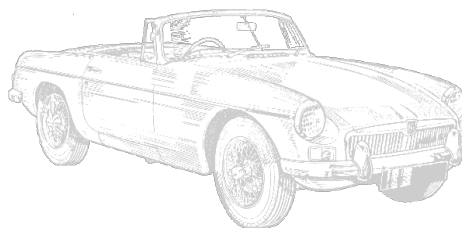
Points of Financial Interest:

Notable Incomes (excluding annual membership subs & event payments):

- £171.80⁽¹⁾ raised from the club night raffles at the time of writing this report.
- £260.00 raised at the 2025 club Christmas meal. The amount collected is used to fund the following year raffle prizes so the Christmas meal raffle continues to be self-funding

Notable Outgoings: (excludes event payments)

- Skittles evening lane hire: £30
- BBQ meal supplement: £160
- Club night speakers gifts: £18.08
- Club bank account monthly charges: £51
- Charity Donation: Blood Bikes: £448.00⁽¹⁾



Club Assets: As per club newsletter.

Club Regalia:

- Car Badges: 1 Grill mount⁽²⁾
- Club Cards: 21 (Distributed by request)
- Windscreen Stickers: 15⁽²⁾

Treasures Comment:

Expected 26/27 club year opening balance after annual membership payment collection is approx. £3,100

- (1) Charity Donation: This year's chosen charity, as voted for by the club membership was Blood Bikes. Our club charity donation is made up each year of the club night raffle takings, which are then match funded by club funds. I'm pleased to say our donation was £448 which went directly to the local blood bike group. This total was also helped by a couple of small event overpayments by members being directed to the fund, and Graham & Nicola generously donating their eChristmas card savings to the pot. Thanks as always to Terry for his excellent work in organising the raffle & selling the ticket & for all your help in buying raffle tickets. You may not win, but it all goes to a good cause so please keep digging deep on club nights.
- (2) I am currently working to source stock of car badges (grill & bar mount) and windscreen stickers. The windscreen stickers aren't a problem but getting small quantities of the car badges at a reasonable price is proving a little more challenging. I'll keep you advised once sorted.

** END **

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
24th October (Details August Edition)	Skittles Evening	7:00pm	The White Hart Atworth	Martyn Lucas
26th October	Club Night - Quiz	8:00pm	The Toll Gate Inn	
13/14th November	NEC Classic Motor Show			
23rd November	Club Night - AGM	7:30pm	The Toll Gate Inn	David Collier
5th December	Christmas Party		The Toll Gate Inn	

DETAILS OF UP COMING EVENTS

Skittles Evening 24th October



The poster is for the Wessex MG Club Skittles Evening. At the top, it features the Wessex MG Club logo, which is a red octagon with 'WESSEX' in white and 'MG CLUB' around it. Below the logo, the text 'WESSEX MG CLUB SKITTLES EVENING' is written in large, bold, black letters. To the left and right of the text are images of bowling pins and a bowling ball. Below the main title, a red banner with white text reads 'An enjoyable social evening for Wessex MG Club members and friends'. The poster is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a calendar icon next to the text 'SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2026', a clock icon next to 'FROM 7:00 PM', and a location pin icon next to 'THE WHITE HART Bath Road, Atworth Melksham SN12 8JR'. On the right, there is a section titled 'JOIN US FOR:' with four bullet points: 'Traditional Skittles', 'Friendly Competition', 'Drinks & Refreshments Available', and 'Great Company and MG Chat'. Below this, there is a section titled 'PLEASE RSVP' with the text 'To help us confirm numbers with the venue, please let us know if you'll be attending.' and 'RSVP BY SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2026'. At the bottom, there is a photograph of a red MG convertible car parked in front of The White Hart pub. The car's license plate is 'MG 1962'. The pub's sign is visible, showing a white hart. The bottom of the poster features the Wessex MG Club logo and the text 'Wessex MG Club KEEPING THE MG SPIRIT ALIVE ON AND OFF THE ROAD'.

WESSEX MG CLUB
SKITTLES EVENING

*An enjoyable social evening for
Wessex MG Club members and friends*

SATURDAY
24TH OCTOBER 2026

FROM 7:00 PM

THE WHITE HART
Bath Road, Atworth
Melksham
SN12 8JR

JOIN US FOR:

- Traditional Skittles
- Friendly Competition
- Drinks & Refreshments Available
- Great Company and MG Chat

★ PLEASE RSVP ★
To help us confirm numbers with the venue,
please let us know if you'll be attending.

RSVP BY SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2026

EVERYONE WELCOME
Whether you're a seasoned
skittles player or a complete
beginner, come along for a
fun social evening with fellow
Wessex MG Club
members and friends.

Wessex MG Club
KEEPING THE MG SPIRIT ALIVE ON AND OFF THE ROAD

The annual Club Skittles Evening will be held at the White Hart, Atworth, Melksham SN12 8JR from 7.00pm

Basket Meals will be available the menu will be available at the beginning of October.

This is a fun evening and no previous skittles playing experience is needed

If you wish to join us please email me at martyn.lucas2@btinternet.com before Saturday 17th October.

Martyn



Christmas Party - 5th December

THE TOLLGATE INN

CHRISTMAS MENU 2026
2 COURSES 32 • 3 COURSES 38

Starters

Roasted spiced cauliflower soup, *homemade bread* **

Beetroot tartar, *whipped feta, pistachio crumb, crispy cavolo nero* *

Smoked mackerel pâté, *roasted apple puree, sourdough crostini, pickled fennel* **

Braised Wiltshire Venison Bon Bon, *blackberry gel, parsnip crisp*

Mains

Turkey ballotine with *apricot & rosemary stuffing, pigs in blankets* **

Braised beef shin, *bordelaise sauce* *
(£2.50 supplement)

Wild mushroom and tarragon Pithiver, *red currant sauce*

Salmon Wellington, *white wine and caper sauce*

All mains served with roast potatoes, Pancetta sprouts, braised red cabbage and honey roast carrots and parsnips

Desserts

Mint chocolate torte, *vanilla ice cream, chocolate soil* *

Sticky toffee pudding, *vanilla ice cream* **

Christmas pudding, *brandy custard*

Cheese board (2.00 supplement)

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

Our club Christmas dinner is, as previous years, at the Tollgate on Saturday 5th December. The menu with costs is as above. At the moment I just need to know who would like to go (I don't need menu choices yet or deposits) so I can advise the Tollgate of numbers. Places are limited, so if you'd like to go, please reply to me as soon as possible (please don't 'reply all') so I can get you on the list. Many thanks.

Peter Hine



Grandad and
Grandson
Role Reversal!
The 2026
Goodwood Revival

Paul Warn

Over many years I've taken Fraser - our grandson - to the Festival of Speed and The Revival Meetings and many other race events besides, and as a result he credits me with his interest in historic racing cars (not the current crop of Grand Prix Cars thank goodness).

Earlier this year the Goodwood Public Relations office asked Fraser - now living and working in London - if he would do some work for them during the Revival Week. An invitation he was pleased to accept and as part of the arrangement he had me included as part of the invitation.

He tried to get a Ford Mustang as our transport for the event but sadly we ended up with one of the last Audi TT's off the production line complete with active rear aerofoil and twin turbo chargers - neither of us liked it - ho hum. He couldn't stretch to attending the 3 days of the event and so mid morning on the Friday a rumbling grumbling barking TT rocked up on our drive after a fast drive from London.

We both agreed it should be a leisurely drive to our first AirB&B in Worthing and consequently we stopped off at the Winchester Auto Barn and had lunch in the Filling Station Restaurant. And further down at the Caffeine and Machine Cafe near Petersfield.

Continuing the leisurely theme we decided to let the early morning chaos around Goodwood abate and drove straight into the main carpark at 10:30am on Saturday morning. First stop the press office where Fraser met up with the team sponsoring him and we were allocated Press Arm Bands which gave us literally access to anywhere on the circuit including the track and dinner vouchers for Saturday and Sunday. My Goodwood Road Racing Club membership could never compete with that!

For me the main highlights of the event was the presence of the three 1966 Le Mans winning Ford GT40s. I remember at the time hoping the steam roller that was Ford

would not win. I've always had an interest in the racing history of Maseratis and this year Goodwood was celebrating the centenary of the make. And of course the cars are the stars as indeed is the racing.

Another highlight was meeting up with Malcolm Barrington and Tracy on the Sunday with his Dodge US Army truck which I only just managed to clamber into the back of! Not as flexible as I used to be. He drove us down to Lavant corner on the inside of the circuit where we parked up joined by his brother with another of his US Army vehicles this time a Jeep - to watch the racing. Thank you Malcolm a real treat - see more of Malcolm's pics below on page 11.

Later in the day whilst we were both sitting and chatting when we were approached by an ITV sound and camera team who had picked up on our conversation reminiscing on years gone by and asked to be able to film and record what we were saying... it probably ended up on the cutting room floor!

A great weekend when a Grandad and Grandson's interest in motorsport came full circle. Long may it continue.





I now manage the marshals transport at the Goodwood Revival. Ferrying marshals to their posts before the racing and picking them up after the racing. This is one way to get onto the track now that I have finished racing!

Malcolm Barrington



I was recently invited to bring my MG along to Heywood House near Westbury for a photoshoot. There were some Ferraris and other cars too but I just focused on the MGs. I wrote a letter to **Enjoying MG** and saw that it had been published on p.21 of the October edition. I laid down a challenge - take your MG somewhere interesting and take a few photos of it. **Maybe the same challenge could be extended to our Wessex MGOC members.**



John Bishop

/ LETTERS /



MGs are simply made to be photographed!

A few days ago I was invited to visit Heywood House near Westbury with the objective of using the location to set up some shots of my MG and, with luck, show what a beautiful car it really is. My friend Colin Dewsbury came along as well in his delightful British Racing Green Midget. The front of the house itself proved to be a suitable backdrop, but the grounds of the house and some trees also offered interesting locations. I have attached some of the results, plus another shot of Colin's Midget with the Westbury white horse in the background – this has been taken from ground level which makes a difference, I think.

Lovely shots of various MGs are always a part of the magazine, but imagine how many beautiful images *Enjoying MG* could feature if, once in a while, we were to choose a likely location and go out with the express purpose of taking some shots of our wonderful cars, which could then go on to be treasured memories. Maybe this could be a challenge for your readers.

John Bishop

Some lovely shots there John, and yes

I would love to see photos that readers have set out to make as beautiful as possible. May I remind readers of the feature on taking better photos that was in the February 2026 issue? That contained a number of (hopefully!) useful tips on positioning both the car and the photographer with regards to the available sunlight, setting the car up for the ideal photograph and more, all for no outlay on equipment. Ed



MAJORITY OF CLASSIC OWNERS WOULD BACK A DEDICATED 'HISTORIC' MOT TEST, HAGERTY SURVEY FINDS

Almost two-thirds of classic car enthusiasts would support the introduction of a dedicated MoT-style test for historic vehicles, according to a new survey by Hagerty UK. More than 1200 drivers responded, with 64% backing the idea of a classic-specific inspection and 69% believing the current 40 - year exemption makes it more likely that unroadworthy cars will remain in use.

The rolling MoT exemption was introduced in May 2018, replacing the previous system that applied only to vehicles built or first registered before 1960. In 2026, cars built before 1 January 1986 qualify, provided they have not undergone substantial changes to their main components within the previous 30 years. That now brings increasingly modern machinery into the exempt category, including the Ferrari 328 and BMW E30 M3, alongside more everyday cars such as the Mk2 Vauxhall Cavalier and Citroen BX.

Hagerty's survey suggests owners remain divided over the principle of exemption. Some 61% believe it is a good thing, while 39% disagree. More revealingly, 43% of respondents who own an MoT-exempt vehicle still choose to have it tested annually. Of those who do not, 98% said they maintain their cars to a standard at which they would pass a test.

Hagerty's survey suggests owners remain divided over the principle of exemption. Some 61% believe it is a good thing, while 39% disagree. More revealingly, 43% of respondents who own an MoT-exempt vehicle still choose to have it tested annually. Of those who do not, 98% said they maintain their cars to a standard at which they would pass a test.

Safety remains the central concern, and some 51% believe exemption helps owners use unroadworthy vehicles, while 21% said they had personally seen an MoT-exempt car being driven in an unroadworthy condition.

Support for reform appears stronger than support for simply reinstating the standard MoT. Respondents argued that existing testing criteria can be poorly suited to older cars, particularly where emissions requirements, warning lights or other modern systems are concerned. There was also concern that some testers lack sufficient knowledge of historic vehicles.

That helps explain the 64% support for a dedicated classic-car test. Some 44% believe such an inspection should cost the same as a conventional MoT, while 43% would pay more for an exempt car carrying a valid test certificate - suggesting it could also influence values.

'It is clear that many owners would welcome a classic-specific MoT test,' said Hagerty UK managing director Mark Roper, 'one that proves roadworthiness with tests more appropriate for the age of vehicle.'

The **Historic & Classic Vehicles Alliance** has also backed the principle of regular safety checks, while arguing that any system should recognise the specialist knowledge required to assess older machinery. There are currently no government proposals to change or end the 40-year MoT exemption.



Words taken from Matthew Hayward - Octane Magazine

Secretary's Scribbles

Thank you to all the kind comments that came my way following the War Artists talk - I was a bit worried about it but, it evidently went down well. I have now put the hard top back on my TF - I am a real convert to having the hard top on and now it has been relined it looks great too. I am hoping to get the TF out tomorrow to drive up to Gloucester (which I do most Sundays to see my friend who is long term in hospital) but, I am a bit stressed as the A417 is shut with a long detour and the M4/M5 slip road is also shut with a diversion so... up via Stroud (with everyone else I presume) which is a longer journey. The AGM

is coming up in November so please do start to think about whether you wish to become more involved by joining the committee or if you want to make any suggestions about your club moving forward.

If any members are not on the Whatsapp group please let David or myself know and we will get you sorted.

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.