

Newbury



Owners Club 1023

NEWSLETTER NO. 334 – July 2022

SECRETARY'S SUMMARY July 2022

What an action packed month starting off with many club members displaying their cars at the Pangbourne College Classic Car Show over the Queen's Jubilee weekend. The highlight of the show was when a Lancaster bomber made several low passes overhead. All the proceeds go to the Footsteps Foundation and a Uganda charity supported by the college. Thanks to Tom for organising it.

It seems to have been a car show month with a few members also attending shows in Thatcham and Yattendon later in the month as well as those on the Chinon trip enjoying the Chinon Classic at the end of their stay, with cars of all ages, shapes and sizes.

It was sad to miss, due to Covid, our Midweek Meander organised by Jenny & Richard to the Hospital of St Cross, Winchester, with its many medieval buildings and almshouses. The visit seems to have been greatly enhanced by a humorous guide with his many stories that brought the place to life.

Rosie and Paul organised two beautiful happenings for our club night! With "Avon calling" indoors, some members were treated to a demonstration of that company's beauty products. Outside Paul shared some of his skills in car detailing using a scrap car boot lid to demonstrate "before and after" by working on just half the lid with his many potions and other paraphernalia.

After a year's delay due to Covid, 16 of us enjoyed a week at a lovely family run Diderot hotel in Chinon in the Loire Valley. Most of us travelled on the overnight ferry from Portsmouth to St Malo, driving to Chinon in time for an evening meal together at a local At'able restaurant. For the rest of the week we were free to visit our choices of the varied chateaux and other attractions in the area. Most of us did come together for several pre-arranged activities such a wine tasting evening at Cave Plouzou, then an afternoon tour of Cave de la Sybille that depicted one of Rabelais's stories in a series of rock carvings, finishing off with more wine tasting.



Finally, we had a private tour of Les Caves Painctes underneath Chinon Fortress, guided by local MG owner, Richard who with his wife Wendy lives near Chinon. Thanks to them both for advice and help with some of our arrangements.

Last, but not least, somehow Trina managed to join a line-up of super cars (Ferrari, Aston Martin BD1 and Ford GT40) parked in the courtyard of our hotel.



Kelvin

Newbury MGOC Diary 2022

Full details for all events will be published in the Newsletter near event date.

Date	Event	Organiser
Thu 7 Jul	Newbury Races – evening event	Jan C
Tue 12 Jul	Club Night	
Sat 16 Jul	Barbecue at Bob and Carolyn's	Committee
Thu 28 Jul	Lunch Bunch Walk 168	Trina
August		
Thu 4 Aug	Evening Drive-Out – what3words mystery route	Colin and Janet
Sat 7 Aug	Gazebo Gathering - West Berkshire Classic Vehicle Club Show	Andy
Tue 9 Aug	Club Night - Scuttles - new date	Marion and Rob
Wed 17 Aug	Midweek Meander 65 - tulip route from Elm Tree pub in Beech Hill	Ian And Sue
Thu 25 Aug	Lunch Bunch Walk 169	Trina
September		
Sun 4 Sep	Picnic Lunch on Hungerford Common and Art Challenge	Jurgita
Tues 13 Sep	Club Night – cookery competition	Pauline
Thur 22 Sep	Midweek Meander 66 meets Lunch Bunch Walk 170 at Bradford on Avon	Kelvin and Trina

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO – JULY & AUGUST

NMGOC Barbecue - Saturday 16th July

A reminder to let me know if you are planning to attend the event – or there won't be any sausages for you! Also let me know if you can bring either a pudding or a salad contribution and what it is likely to be.

Location – Bob and Carolyn's beautiful garden. Address in Members List, but let me now if you need either a what3words locator or a tulip route for the last few miles.

Time – sausages and burgers from 1:00 pm but arrival can be any time after 12 noon.

Need to bring – your own chairs, plates, glasses, cutlery and drinks.

It's going to be a lovely afternoon in great company, as always.

Janet

Lunch Bunch Walk - Thursday 29th July

July's Lunch Bunch on Thursday 28th, will start from The Castle in Cold Ash.

Sylvia & Roger are organising and have asked walkers to be at the Pub by 10a.m. to choose menu options for lunch. The Walk is about an hour and a half, so very manageable.

See you all there.

Sylvia & Roger

What3Words Mystery Tour - Thursday 4th August

Following on from the success of Andy and Jenny's What3Words Mystery Tour in 2021 we have another planned for your entertainment. This year we will give you the starting point in advance. It is roughly in the area of nicely.visits.gadgets (I thought that seemed an appropriate square to choose). If anyone is totally unfamiliar with what I am talking about please see Colin or Kelvin at the upcoming Club Night for a quick tutorial.

We will meet you at nicely.visits.gadgets on the 4th August between 6:15 and 6:45 pm with a list of 3-word addresses. As you enter these into the what3words app you should be navigated around a route of approximately 18 miles and about 45 minutes later arrive at a mystery pub which is keen to welcome us. This pub is within a 5-mile radius of Newbury centre.

Simple! And because you are now all so familiar with the basic technicalities we are throwing in an optional (ridiculously easy) observation puzzle based on what can be seen at the check-in points.

Please would you let us know by the 20th July if you are hoping to join in the event so I can let the pub know potential numbers. The plan is for this event to be a drinks-only visit but if people are interested in eating at the pub do let me know and we can always change this. The food is reputed to be good with top-side of average prices.

Any questions, do get in touch.

Colin and Janet

UPDATES ON RECENT EVENTS

Visit to Hospital of St Cross – 9th June

After a delay of 2 years the club visit to Winchester organised by Richard and Jenny finally took place. The trip started with coffee and biscuits then a tour for 25 members at the Hospital Of St Cross, the oldest Alms-house in Britain. Following which we had lunch at a local pub and a free afternoon to shop, walk and generally explore Winchester. The following email to the Porter sums up our appreciation of Brother John.

“Good morning Catherine, On behalf of the club members lucky enough to have a Tour last Thursday led by Brother John, (Big Bad John) may we thank you so much for organising the Tour and for Brother John to lead it and give us so much of his time. He entertained and educated us and we feel lucky to have been able to visit your remarkable site. Please pass on our thanks. We attach a couple of photos as a memento.”



Jenny and Richard

Chinon Invasion by Newbury MG Owner's Club – 20th – 27th June 2022

The ‘invasion’ started off in a very civilised fashion with a meal at ‘O Sole Mio’ on Port Solent, where we had been before, some years ago on a similar journey. There were 10 of us, but that included Liz’s (Trina’s friend) daughter and son in law. We then made our way to the ferry and slight chaos, but we all embarked after a certain suspicious MGC was security searched! We found our cabins and then the most important area – the Bar. Janet then joined the quiz, answering the questions with a digital device! Janet was winning the quiz all the way through until we came to 70/80’s music and then team 11 – Janet – lost by 1 or 2 marks, and Janet was so hoping she would win another special Biro as she had done before! We were then ‘entertained’ by a magician who worked extremely hard to not a lot of applause. We then retired to cabins and possibly bed?

Bright and early on Monday NMGOC gradually emerged from their bolt holes and some breakfasted as per French fashion, some ‘full English’. We disembarked and went on our separate ways to Chinon. Most following a Satnav one following Bob & Carolyn – the one without a Satnav!! They stopped at Fourgeres, an interesting walled town – not to keep out the British but the French! The Bretagne’s wanted to preserve their independence from the French! Sadly, there wasn’t enough time to really explore this interesting town so we travelled on. Some prudently used main roads and found petrol stations; some travelled lesser roads and began to panic when there were no filling stations – where do the French in small towns and villages fill up? Happily Bob suddenly spotted a small Super U with PETROL – Hooray.

Much relieved we carried on to Chinon where we had been warned of the dreaded roadworks. But we sailed through with no apparent deviations or disturbance to the roads. We arrived at Hotel Diderot, where Paul and Jurgita has arrived the day before, having set out on Saturday and encountered some strangely adverse weather conditions – hailstones as big as golf balls – and they were, see Whatsap picture! We settled into our rooms and met two additional couples who joined us – temporary and honorary members of NMGOC – Maureen and Mark – Kelvin’s friends from Switzerland – and Jim & Sue – Bob & Carolyn’s friends, and made our way to ‘Restaurant At’ able’ for a welcome dinner and where we met Richard and Wendy who live in Chinon, are members of the MG Club of France and who provided much useful information and arranged a couple of events for us. Full of good French cooking and wine we wandered back to the hotel and, I think, mostly feeling slightly exhausted, fell into bed.

This trip was slightly different from previous recent visits abroad as it was not a ‘tour’, we were based in one place and in an interesting area on the Loire – well actually the Vienne in the Loire region! There were, of course lots of chateau to see; Domaine de Cande where Edward, Duke of Windsor and Mrs. Simpson married and displayed some of Wallis Simpson’s dresses. Chateau d’Usse with an affinity to Sleeping Beauty and a display of rooms showing scenes from the story. Chateau du Rivau with some very quirky garden ornaments -7ft. high wellies, watering can and plant pot; hammocks to rest in on the way round the garden and Snow White and the Seven Dwarves popping up; beware the Orge’s hut! Trespass and you might be devoured – if you look tasty enough! Villandry with it’s magnificent and beautiful gardens. And, of course the ‘Fortress at Chinon. This is now termed ‘Fortress’ and not ‘Chateau’ It came 300th in the list of Chateau – it was 2nd in the list of ‘Fortress’! An interesting and high up Fortress with incredible views over Chinon – ‘Rabelais’ city’ - and some vineyards of the Loire. Another attraction that many of us enjoyed was the Museum of Maurice Dufresne, who had collected an amazing amount of mechanical exhibits from a guillotine to some 100+ year old electric cars as well as a London bus. All rather higgledy piggedly, but great fun.

We enjoyed a wine tasting with Monsieur Plouseau in his Cave. A tour of the Cave and lots of wine barrels! and tasted of several wines at the end with some lovely tasty meats and cheeses – including a blue Gouda! - to help with the wine consumption. Most bought wine here – some more than others!

We had another wine tasting! This time quite different. In Cave de la Sibylle where a number of wine growers and producers meet to display and market their wines, each with their own alcove/niche for such a purpose. There were some beautiful carvings above each alcove which related to a story by Rabelais that was displayed there – in French and English ! and with some nightmare scenes from the story, projected on to the walls. At the end there was a video projected on to the walls showing a year in the vineyard. This was made up of delightful animated line drawings not simply ‘real life’. It was rather different and interesting; and, of course, wine tasting at the end, with explanations of the growers and procedures and tastes.

It was a busy week for Chinon. Tuesday was Midsummer Day and Chinon celebrated with a Festival of Music all around the town – literally! There was a lot of sound coming from all directions. Sound of all sorts and competence, but it brought the population out to celebrate. It was interesting but a set of ear plugs could have been useful!

On Thursday it was market day, so Joan of Arcs car park was given over to that. French markets are always interesting with a variety of good quality food stuffs, quite a bit of clothing and various other interesting stalls. As that started to clear, the car park was prepared for the Chinon Classic Car event over the weekend. By the end of that day there were quite a number of the most incredible Classic Cars from the Citroens we remember from long ago to more recent Classic BMWs.

It was quite a sight. There were a couple of MGs, but the car park at our hotel was just as impressive with a Ferrari, a Ford GT40 and an Aston Martin DB1 (a replica I believe! But still incredibly impressive) and then there were seven really fantastic MGs – it was quite a sight and did, indeed cause a certain amount of interest! Another car park was requisitioned for the inevitable merchandise and food and drink, but where there was also a small ‘army encampment’ with a huge ‘duck boat’!

But all good things must come to an end and we had to be at Caen by 3.30pm on Monday afternoon so a quick dash up the motorways seemed to be in order, unlike our more leisurely drive down. We paid our bills said our goodbyes to the fantastic hotel owners and staff, who made a point of telling us how much they had enjoyed our stay We packed our cars and tootled off on our separate ways, to meet again in the line for the ferry at Caen. Relaxing recliner seats and snooze time for some and a delicious buffet meal were the order of the afternoon until we docked at Portsmouth about 10.00.pm-ish. We said our goodbyes to each other, climbed into our cars for the last time this holiday and then crawled very slowly off the ferry to make our way home – only to find the M27 closed at the vital point. However, we all arrived home safely after a very enjoyable time away in France.

Thank you so much Kelvin for all your endeavours in arranging this holiday which should have taken place two years ago. Postponing and re-arranging hotel requirements; making sure everyone had the right information – re covid!! – to sail. THANK YOU!

Trina

Evening Pub Run – The May Fly – Friday 1st July

The second of these events took us to the Flying Maggot (The Mayfly) on the road to Stockbridge from Andover. This is a lovely pub set on the banks of the River Test and it’s possible to see the trout swim by in the fast flowing waters if you are patient. There are plenty of birds swooping for flies, sometimes there is also a Heron sitting very still hoping to catch his supper.

It was a chilly evening with a little sun occasionally. However this did not deter us tough Newbury MG Members. Twenty people turned up for drinks and some had a meal sat outside by the river in the garden. The pub has gone high tech since reopening following the pandemic and table service outside for drinks and food is all completed reasonably efficiently by the waiters wielding a tablet! There is a facility to request a blanket if sitting outside, a few members took advantage of this in an attempt to keep warm. Remember the date was 1st July, height of the English Summer!

There was lots of chatter and laughter as we enjoyed the company of likeminded people. We broke up at about 9.00 as the wind had got up and the summer temperature was dropping. The brave ones drove home with roof down and the heater on if the car had one.

Thanks to everyone who turned up, it proved to be a fun evening if a cold one. I am sure if anyone else has a favourite pub and would like to organise one of these events your committee would be pleased to hear from you.

Roger + Nicky



