

Newbury



Owners Club 1023

NEWSLETTER NO. 336 – September 2022

SECRETARY'S SUMMARY September 2022

First of all let me offer my best wishes to Sue Futchter and John Soley who will be getting married later this month. I hope it's a perfect day and all goes beautifully to plan.

Last year Colin and Janet organised a treasure hunt using What3Words to guide people from one location to the next. It was very much enjoyed so they kindly organised an equally enjoyable What3Word hunt this year. It was slightly marred by a pub, recently re-opened following Covid, struggling to cope – do we really have that effect on places we visit!!!

The West Berkshire Classic Vehicle Club again organised their annual show at the Newbury Racecourse in aid of Blood Cancer which several of our members supported by adding their MGs to the massive variety of other vehicles. It was a grand day with a good public turnout hopefully resulting in a good donation to the charity.

Our club night featured our annual "Scuttles" competition, ably run by Rob and Marion who this year published the rules leaving most of us none the wiser, that didn't matter, we all had fun! Tony won and as a reward acquired a bottle of bubbly.



Our Midweek Meander was a 50 mile tulip drive devised by Ian & Sue, who unfortunately couldn't run the event on the day, so thank you Janet and Colin for stepping in. It finished as usual at a pub for lunch, the Elm Tree at Beech Hill.

Our Lunch Bunch Walk, ably led by Fran, was in and around the fascinating Harwell Science Park, but more of that later. In September we are combining our Midweek Meander and Lunch Bunch Walk by a visit to Bradford-on-Avon on 22nd September – details to follow.

Having received a copy of the Federation of British Classic Vehicles newsletter in the post (you can find a copy online <https://www.fbhvc.co.uk/newsletter-archive>) I made the time to read some of it. It was interesting to note that Llanerchindda that many of us have visited, have joined the Federation. Also

Tree-V, a classic vehicle carbon offset scheme, that some of us have signed up to has balanced 1.25 million miles worth of carbon emissions.

Finally, following the “Oscar” winning performance of Cinderella at last year’s Christmas Dinner, we decided to try something different this year, so we have booked a magician/entertainer for the evening whose speciality is doing close-up tricks in front of our very eyes as we are seated. There will be a change of venue as well to the Deanwood Golf Club, so put the evening of Saturday 10th December in your diaries now. More details in due course.

Autumn Newsletters

Please note as Carol and Mike will be away during the autumn, please will you send all content for the October, November and December Newsletters to me at kelvin.pitman@btinternet.com .
Thanks.

Kelvin

Newbury MGOC Diary 2022

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

Date	Event	Organiser
Sun 4 Sep	Picnic Lunch on Hungerford Common and Art Challenge	Jurgita
Tue 13 Sep	Club Night – cookery competition	Trina
Thu 22 Sep	Midweek Meander 66 meets Lunch Bunch Walk 170 at Bradford on Avon	Kelvin and Trina
October		
Tue 11 Oct	Club Night – members evening	Committee
<i>Date tbc</i>	<i>(Mid October)</i> Gazebo Gathering - Thatcham Car Show	Andy
Wed 19 Oct	Midweek Meander 67 - Milestones Museum	Trina
Sat 29 Oct	Lunch Bunch Walk 171 – Saturday Stroll - new date	Trina

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO SEPTEMBER

Cookery Competition – Club Night - 13th September 2022

A reminder that we are bringing back the cookery competition, and the challenge is

CHEESE SCONES

Midweek Meander 66 meets Lunch Bunch Walk 170 at Bradford on Avon Thursday 22nd September 2022

Details to follow

UPDATES ON RECENT EVENTS

What 3 Words Mystery Tour - Thursday 4th August

However many times it was explained to me I still hadn't got the hang of What 3 Words. A couple of days before the run I was spared. Andy and Tony decided to drive together and Jenny and I followed afterwards having had a tip as to the venue.

It turned out to be a very successful evening, a lovely pub garden attended by 15 cars, drivers and passengers, all who had obviously thoroughly enjoyed the drive. The White Hart at Hamstead Marshall made us very welcome and we had a very lively evening. We are now looking forward to the next evening event.

Thank you Janet and Colin for a really good event.

Elm Tree Midweek Meander Tulip Route on Wednesday 17th August

Nicky decided she had something better to do and Eileen agreed, hence Tony and I were allowed out on our own for this midweek meander. This was an event originally planned by Ian and Sue but then handed over to Colin and Janet.

It was an enjoyable 52 mile jaunt around the lanes surrounding Basingstoke. We met up at the Elm Tree Pub at 10.00 and chatted over coffee provided by the club. The day threatened rain and this might have been the reason that only 6 cars took part. We set out at approximately 11.00 without encountering any rain. I had to teach Tony how Nicky's Monet Navigation System worked. It's really very easy and he mastered it in a few minutes. So off we went, the threat of rain came true after a few miles and we had to stop and put up the roof. The navigator agreed that this was the driver's job so I put it up. In less than ten minutes it had to come down again as the sun came out and the temperature rose quickly. This procedure was repeated a couple of more times on the run. The roads and the scenery were excellent, we have to



admit making a mistake and heading off into the hinterland but quickly realised and turned round and joined the route again in Old Basing. No further errors were made and Nicky's machine ensured Tony didn't have to do any mental arithmetic! The only other incident was that Tony suddenly got his left and rights confused, which gave us a good laugh, as

we returned to the pub almost at the same time as all the other cars.

We sat outside to enjoy our meal, Ian, Sue and Brian joined us and we all chatted on a variety of subjects as friends do. Then the rain came in biblical proportions with the temporary tarpaulin cover magnifying the noise to the degree that conversation stopped. Vast puddles began to form in the roof and the waiting staff had to use brooms to carefully push the water to the side to avoid a cascade of water soaking the diners. Then the rain stopped!!

An excellent day out thanks to everyone involved in organising. I promised Nicky we would do the run again when the route book dried out!

Lunch Bunch Walk around Harwell Science Park

Following weeks of dry weather our Lunch Bunch Walk promised to be a washout, with heavy rain overnight and most of the morning, until 12 hardy souls arrived for a walking tour of the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, when the rain miraculously stopped. Having spent 6 months there as a student some 50 years ago, I was particularly keen to go on this walk that had been cancelled in March due to bad weather.

When I was there, it consisted of just three elements, Rutherford High Energy Lab where I worked, Atlas Computer Lab and the Atomic Energy Research Establishment. Now according to their website [Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Oxfordshire, UK \(harwellcampus.com\)](http://harwellscienceandinnovationcampus.oxfordshire.uk) there are over 200 organisations many of them private, employing 6000 people. Nevertheless there are still significant elements of those original 3 organisations.

Fran has sent me this link with a short of history of the site: [Microsoft Word - lander \(neutronsources.org\)](http://neutronsources.org)

Unusual for these walks we were on pavements and tarmac most of the way but this certainly did not matter as Fran whetted our appetite to learn more about the incredible science that goes on there with regular stops to give us interesting snippets of information. For example we stopped outside the Diamond Light Source that perhaps could be considered a follow-on from the Rutherford Lab using high energy light beams to study anything from microbes to jet engines, a bit like an incredibly powerful microscope. Apparently you can sign up for tours that Richard and



Jenny would certainly recommend. There were fascinating photos of some of the work they do paraded around the perimeter fence and similar information elsewhere, hence the walk took somewhat longer than planned but no one minded.

The site is served by little driverless mini buses. An amusing incident was when one mistook us for vehicle on the wrong side of the road. As pedestrians are supposed to, where there is no pavement, we were walking single file on the right facing oncoming traffic. It stopped and politely indicated we should drive on the other side of the road.

We finally ended up having lunch at the site's "Tuck Trucks". This was a small complex of shipping containers converted to fast food stands surrounding a covered seating area. The food and company was excellent. Thank you Fran for organising it.

Kelvin