

Newbury



Owners Club 1023

NEWSLETTER NO. 341 – February 2023

SECRETARY'S SUMMARY February 2023

It seems everyone really enjoyed our first club night of the New Year, from the feedback I received. It has always traditionally been a Lasagne evening with garlic bread and a little salad to compliment it. However the Bowlers Arms offered us a slight variation this year of savoury mince pasta bake, served to us rather than serve yourself. The evening proved equally popular to previous years with an excellent turnout of our membership, for the “nosh” and a natter. A very pleasant way to start our MG year.

Our only other activity this month was our Lunch Bunch Walk, arranged and led by Trina. She decided that her planned walk may be rather too wet underfoot, so we stayed mainly on very quiet country roads and paved footpaths around the outskirts of Tadley ending up for lunch at the Pelican Pub.

Apart from our regular monthly events we are looking forward to Lunch at Newbury College Training Restaurant, that has a good name for excellent food and service from the catering students at a very reasonable price. Thanks David for suggesting and arranging it. If you haven't done so already do book up, details elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Many of you will be aware that 2023 is MG's Centenary. I am sure you will start to see all sorts of celebrations of one sort or another being announced. Indeed at least 3 cars from our club will join MG France in Epernay (Champagne area) for their celebration in June. Closer to home, the MGO Home Counties South Section is planning a celebration on September 30th at Beaulieu. I have been involved in a couple of planning Zoom meetings with other area secretaries, more details coming out soon. MGCC and MGO in the South East are combining their efforts to arrange a Finale celebration at Brooklands at Brooklands on 18th and 19th May Next year. Why not put these dates in your diary?

Kelvin

Newbury MGOC Diary 2023

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

February		
Wed 8 Feb	Lunch at Newbury College Training Restaurant	David
Mon 13 Feb	Club Night	
Thur 23 Feb	Lunch Bunch Walk 174 - Welford Park snowdrops	Brian T
March		
Mon 13 Mar	Club Night – Talk by former Sheriff of Berkshire Dr Christina Hill Williams	Jan C & Trina
Wed 15 Mar	Oxford Bus Museum	Derek
Thur 23 Mar	Lunch Bunch Walk 175	Trina

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN FEBRUARY

Newbury College Lunch – Wednesday 8th February

A booking has been made at the above for lunch on 8th February to which you are invited.

The College hosts periodic lunches when the food is prepared by catering students under the supervision of trained chefs. I have had previous experience of excellent lunches there.

The price is £14.95 for a three course lunch including a soft drink and tea or coffee.

Ample parking is available at the College. Meet in the college reception area at 12:00.

If you are interested, please contact me as soon as possible. (email address at end of Members Address List).

David Griffiths

Lunch Bunch Walk 174 - Thursday 23rd February – Welford Park Snowdrops

The plan is to meet in the car park of Welford Park by 10:45 am (park opens at 11:00am)
(Postcode RG20 8HU What 3 words : fully.executive.mailbox)

Please note there is an entrance fee (concessions) of £10 or £18 for a couple.

We will visit the snowdrops first and then walk around the grounds – there is a woodland walk, boardwalk, bamboo walk, river and extensive lawns, with a pretty Norman church in one corner of the estate. I have not walked it recently, but we have allowed around 1.5 hours to do this.

There is the old Laundry tearoom and a heated marquee which serve homemade cakes, scones, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and juices. The marquee is especially suitable for those with dogs, which must be kept on a lead at all times whilst in the park.

I have booked a 1.00pm table for lunch at the Five Bells in Wickham village (RG20 8HH). It is on the main road through Wickham and is less than a 5 minute drive from Welford. I do not need numbers for Welford, but do need numbers and menu choices for those dining, a week prior to the walk. The Five Bells are currently revising their menu and I will circulate it as soon as I have it.

We ate there last week with Tony & Eileen – (a sacrifice on behalf of the club!), the ambience is very good and the food was excellent.

Weather permitting, it should be an enjoyable trip out.

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN MARCH

MIDWEEK MEANDER:

OXFORD BUS MUSEUM - WEDNESDAY 15th MARCH

The general plan is to arrive at the Museum at 11 am. It is not necessary, but would be helpful if you could email me if you plan to attend.

Firstly, you need to know that the Museum is not in Oxford, but at Long Hanborough, next to station, about five miles north west of Oxford. The post code is **OX29 6LA**.

To assist I have described two routes from the Newbury direction. A quick one and a scenic route. You will need some small change if you choose the latter!

Hopefully I have reserved a convenient parking place in front of one of the sheds.

There is a small cafe, and toilets on site.

Entrance to the Museum is £7.00. But most of us will benefit from the concessionary rate of £6.00!

Once you have explored the exhibits, and are fully refreshed you can find your own way home.

THE ROUTES

Pass through the M4/A34 Chieveley Junction and proceed north on A34 towards Oxford.

QUICK

Leave Chieveley to the NORTH on the A34. After about 22 miles take left slip off at Peartree Junction.

Keep left at roundabout onto A44 continue through YARNTON & BEGBROKE.

At second roundabout before Blenheim Park, take 1st exit, A4095 towards Long Hanborough. Pass through BLADON (Winston Churchill is buried in the church here).

In another 2 miles the Museum is on your left.

SCENIC

Leave Chieveley to the NORTH on the A34. After about 15 miles take left slip off at Abingdon junction.

Keep left at roundabout onto A415 continue through MARCHAM to Frilford T junction. (BP petrol).

Turn right onto A338, straight across at traffic lights and continue on A338 towards Oxford.

After 3 miles join A420 towards Oxford.

After 2.5 miles take the left slip through CUMNOR and continue north to FARMOOR.

(The Farmoor Reservoir is on your left)

At T junction turn left on B 4044 towards EYNSHAM.

After the toll bridge, at the roundabout, take the 3rd exit B4449 to LONG HANBOROUGH.

Straight over 2 roundabouts, ignore left turn to Church Hanborough.

Pass under railway bridge and you are at the Museum.

Derek Matthews

UPDATES ON RECENT EVENTS

Lunch Bunch Walk 173 - Thursday 26th January

Well, I walked the walk and, not surprisingly, found it extremely wet and muddy; so I warned members at Club Night and asked 'should I cancel?' 'No' came a firm reply, so I sent out details. We then had several days of continuous rain and then freezing temperatures! I then decided the cross country open ground would be too uncomfortable for walking – wet and rutted and maybe even still frozen – so I re-arranged the route for a rustic road ramble instead. Organised the Pelican for lunch for 12+ (maybe) people from the MG Car Club, asking members to register menu choices with the Pelican as we were starting from my house not the pub. A few days before I enquired at the Pelican if any MG members had contacted them - two 'men' and a dog had. O.K. just a walk for the dog then.

However, eventually 6 members went walking the environs of the old part of Tadley, spying out the Hannington Mast and noting the rather (still) icy conditions on part of Church Road, which we followed round into Church Brook – no we didn't walk in the water or on it!!! We passed Tadley Pottery Stables – used to be livery but now pottery painting and much used by local families and from father afield too. We sauntered along, yelling 'car' from time to time as we magnanimously let them pass; and on to a more residential area but with wide grassy verges and hidden pavement. Passed the swimming pool – do I go there regularly as it is just 5 mins away from me? - NO!! onward and slightly upward to a footpath, on to The Green. We had a peek at the lovely east window in St.Paul's Church and back to my house to change boots and drive to the Pelican in Pamber Heath where Brian H – a Tadley/Baughhurst local – and Ian & Sue joined us for lunch, and where we probably disrupted the locals in their avid cricket watching on the TV! But the food was good.

Sadly, I forgot to take photos – but it was a dull, rather dismal rain in the wind sort of morning so no beautiful sun shining through silhouetted trees or smiling through clenched teeth for warmth faces. Sorry! A different walk but fun (think/hope) !