

Newbury



Owners Club 1023

NEWSLETTER NO. 344 – May 2023

SECRETARY'S SUMMARY May 2023

As I write this month's summary, it's only halfway through the month as Judith and I are off to visit friends in Greece for the latter half of the month, so there is not much I can say about April's activities. You should find a report "A Wet Dry Run" elsewhere in this newsletter about our successful Shakedown Run that Colin and I devised. Colin & Janet will again be in the "driving seat" for the Drive-it-Day which sadly Judith and I will miss as well as the Lunch Bunch Walk. Hopefully someone will be inspired to give a report on these activities.

As most of you will know by now it is with great sadness that Lynnette Williams passed away earlier this month having suffered from Parkinson's disease for the last 10 years, declining rapidly over the last two. I know from some of our older members that both Peter and Lynnette were great supporters of the club over many years often helping to organise events. Hopefully those that want to will have had the opportunity to attend her funeral. As a tribute to Lynnette we have decided to make the Parkinson's UK our club charity for this year.

Looking much further ahead, we are arranging, via Scenic Car Tours, to attend the Isle of Man Festival in September 2024 [2024 The Best of British | IOM \(iomfm.com\)](https://www.iomfm.com). You should have received an email a couple of weeks ago with all the details. You can find more specific information including how to book via this LINK (Colin can you put the PDF that Scenic car Tours sent us on the website that is reached via this link – thanks)

Kelvin

Newbury MGOC Diary 2023

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

May		
Sat 6 May	Planned NMGOC meet-up cancelled because of Coronation	
Mon 15 May!!	Club Night – MGBettle Drive (moved to third Monday due to extra Bank Holiday)	Trina
Wed 17 May	Midweek Meander 68 – D-Day Museum, Southsea - picnic by the sea	Kelvin
Thu 25 May	Lunch Bunch Walk 177	
June		
Thu 1-Sun 4 Jun	NMGOC members to French MG Centenary event, Eperney	Kelvin
Sat 3 Jun	Pangbourne College Classic Car Show	
Mon 12 Jun	Club Night - Blag-a-Ride	Paul
Fri 16 Jun	Evening Drive-out	Brian T
Thu 22 Jun	Lunch Bunch Walk 178	Trina
Sat 24 Jun	BBQ at Bob and Carolyn's	Committee
July		
Mon 3-Fri 7 Jul	NMGOC goes North – touring from the Fat Lamb, Ravenstonedale	Kelvin
Mon 10 Jul	Club Night	
Wed 12 July	Midweek Meander 69- tulip run to Snowhill Manor (picnic event)	Trina
Wed 19 July	Evening Drive-Out – What3words mystery route	Colin and Janet
Thu 27 Jul	Lunch Bunch Walk 179	

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN MAY

MIDWEEK MEANDER 68 – WEDNESDAY 17th MAY

D-Day Museum, Southsea – Picnic by the Sea

For those that have not been to the D-day museum it is a fabulous collection of information and memorabilia about the D-Day landings and if you have not been recently they have now added the last remaining tank landing craft capable of holding 10 tanks. The Operation Overload Embroidery tells the story in a somewhat modern day version of the Bayeux Tapestry (Battle of Hastings), plus lots lots more. For more information see <https://thedaystory.com/>

It is situated on the seafront at Southsea and has a large grassy area in front, ideal for a picnic or otherwise the Museum has its own Café as well as others not far away. If it's a nice day we can extend our stay as it is a very pleasant walk along the esplanade with Southsea Castle only a couple of hundred yards away.

A large public car park is right next to the museum (£4.20 for 3 hours or £5.20 for 4 hours) Assuming there are 15 of us the group rate for museum entrance will be £10.80 per person or £8.64 for over 60s.

It's about a 1hr 30 min drive from Newbury via the fastest route or may be 2 hrs via a more scenic route. So, aiming to arrive at about 11:00 should work well.

Kelvin

LUNCH BUNCH WALK 177 - THURSDAY 25th MAY

Directions to the meeting point are: A343 just before Enham Alamein take left to Weyhill then, after 3 miles, right to Ludgershall, Castle & Collingbourne Wood.

We plan on leaving Ludgershall Car park at 10.30, toilets are available here. The St James car park is just past the War Memorial and the car park is free.

You may like to shop at the Butchers, where sausages for BBQ come from. Great, and very near the car park.

Lunch after at Hare & Hounds Charlton SP11 0JA, 1 mile from the Newbury road, booked for 12.30.

Menu good price - look on line for both. <https://www.hareandhounds.pub/>

We will walk to the Old Castle first then walk on to Collingbourne Wood that would take about 2hrs. Scenery is great.

I first tried The Queens Head & Car park but they don't do food midday.

Sylvia and Roger

EVENT TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN AUGUST

Sir William McAlpine's Fawley Hill Railway and Museum Invitation Running Day Sunday 13th August

An initial booking has been made by David for our club to attend this invitation running day, an outline of which is in the flyer below. The museum is near Henley-on-Thames. They ask us to note that although they aim to have steam traction on all running days this cannot be guaranteed.

Sunday 13th August may seem a long way away but the museum needs to know exact numbers two months ahead so we need to get moving on this. They have a limit of 350 visitors per running day and if we do not take up our full booking number they have a waiting list of individuals to approach.

We agreed a provisional number for the booking of 20 so I will deal with responses in strict order of receipt and keep a waiting list if the number exceeds 20.

Although there is no formal admission fee for the invitation running days there is a suggested minimum voluntary donation of £15 per person towards maintenance and running costs so I will be dealing with this once we have submitted the numbers.

Please would you get back to me **by the end of May** if you wish to join this club event.

Janet Price

Fawley Hill Railway and Museum

This unique private museum and railway in rural Oxfordshire is maintained and operated by the Fawley Museum Society Ltd. The railway is around 1¼ miles in length and features the steepest adhesion-worked, standard gauge steam railway in the country with a ruling gradient of 1:13 so you can be assured of some spectacular steam action.

Visitors

The museum is private and not open to the Public.

Admittance is strictly by invitation only.

Visitors dogs must be kept on a lead at all times and are not allowed in the museum building itself.

Opening Times and Car Parking

Car Parking is free. The Museum opens at 12:00 Noon.

To make the most of your visit we encourage visitors to arrive between 11:30 and 13:00.

Trains run at regular intervals throughout the day until around 16:30



Train Rides -

You are welcome to ride the train as often as you like.

Museum

Most of the museum is upstairs. Please take care on the stairs and be aware that the upper gallery can become very hot on sunny days.

Catering

Culinary delights are available from a pop-up café at the rear of the station building or visitors are welcome to bring a picnic. There are several picnic locations around the station area plus a large grassy bank over-looking the railway line where one can sit and watch the train go by.

An ice-cream van is usually on site.

UPDATES ON RECENT EVENTS

Shakedown Run Sunday 2nd April 2023 - A Rather Wet Dry Run!!!

Our first major run this year was a combined effort by Colin and Kelvin, the latter drafted out an initial route while Colin fine tuned and filled in the details. The idea was to start at the Saddleback Farm shop/café on the B9954 then work our way over via the pretty villages of Brightwalton, Letchcombe Regis and Letchcombe Bassett to the B 4507 that runs parallel to the Ridgeway but along the lower southern edge of the Vale of the White Horse to the White Horse itself. Then work our way via the quaint villages, such as Uffington, Charney Bassett and Lyford that are dotted across the lower levels of the Vale to Frilford and the Dog House Pub for lunch. You may remember that a couple of days before the run we had a lot of torrential rain, so Colin decided to do a “dry run” on the Saturday afternoon. However, it turned out to be more of a “wet run” with several roads after Uffington closed or impassable in a low sprung sports car due to flooding. That evening Colin and I spent some time poring over OS and Google maps to find an alternative route that avoided the network of streams and brooks that crisscross the Vale’s low ground, with no time to check it out.

Fortunately, our revised route via Ashbury, Shrivenham, Farringdon and Kingston Baguize, proved to be spot on, so all was well and everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves. Even the weather behaved itself.



The Dog House reserved a lovely area all laid out just for the 20 of us. The food was both good and plentiful as was the attentive service, allowing us plenty of time to mix and chatter after the meal. The lovely run with hoods down over the Lambourne Downs on the way home was a real bonus.

Judith and kelvin

Drive It Day - Sunday 23rd April, 2023 – St. George's Day!

On a slightly dull St. George's Day Sunday morning 8 intrepid Tulip route drivers and 8 experienced navigators met at the Honesty Café on The Base at Greenham. We supped coffee/tea to sustain us for the drive to come; which was great. Despite the dull weather some cars bravely had their soft tops neatly rolled! The others were GT's!! We did get a few drops of rain, however.



It was not a hugely long drive – just right! And took us on roads where Jan and I kept saying – “Oh I remember this road, I haven't been here for ages” So it was good to get out again. We also admired the hazy green manifesting itself on the trees and hedges lining the roads and the white blossom of the hawthorn, indicating Spring is here. Once through Overton the roads seemed to be long and straight and almost completely free from other traffic – it was great and I dearly wanted to press my right foot to the floor but restrained myself as I'm still 'running in' my MGC after it's engine and gear box rebuild. We then encountered some lovely curves through Cheriton, almost at the end of the run. Jan and I were the back markers as I had to get some petrol at the start of the drive, but we did manage to catch up and arrive at the Hinton Arms in good time for lunch, where Tony and Brian H were awaiting us. It was good to see Chris & Carol out with us along with Ian & Sue, Paul & Jurgita, Phil & Karen, Andy & Angela & 4 footed friend (sorry doggie can't remember your name!) Avis & John, and of course, our successful organisers Colin & Janet, and me & Jan, all supporting our wonderful Club on it's second main driving event.

The Hinton Arms was lovely; the food was lovely, it was a lovely day out!!

Some then went on to Hinton Ampner but Jan and I came straight home and discovered where all the traffic was - on the A 34 - it was very busy.

BUT in the car park at the Hinton Arms was THE MOST BEAUTIFUL Jaguar E Type! Dark blue, hard top with sun roof – it would have made Peter drool!

Thank You, Janet & Colin for such a good outing, the drive and the pub. It was lovely!

Trina