

Newbury



Owners Club 1023

NEWSLETTER NO. 347 – August 2023

SECRETARY'S SUMMARY AUGUST 2023

Five of our MGs made their way via various routes to The Fat Lamb Inn near Kirby Stevens in Cumbria. Some went straight there and back while others tacked on some other visits and stopovers at either end, Judith and I ended up doing nearly 900 miles in total and, I suspect, one or two others were similar. The Fat Lamb did a great job in both feeding/over feeding!!! us and providing us with some superb runs out. The countryside really is wild which many of us have seen on the popular Yorkshire Shepherdess series on TV. The area was great fun to drive with some great places to visit such as the Wensleydale Cheese Factory. I think it would be great to go back sometime although the long drive there and back does take the edge off.

Our club night was just a drink and a chat evening but very well attended, perhaps close to 30 people, including 3 MG enthusiasts who were not members but just fancied dropping in. I think we made them very welcome, indeed one of them has suggested he is considering joining.

An evening treasure hunt using the What3words App was again very popular this year with 19 people taking part, 7 cars and 5 more people joining them at the Renegade Brewery near Yattendon for necessary refreshment. Thanks to Colin & Janet for organising it, it does seem a popular event.

Finally our Lunch Bunch walk around Greenham Common ended up with tea and sandwiches at the Control Tower café instead of a pub for once. As usual, from what I gather, Brian who led the walk was a mine of information and history greatly adding to the enjoyment of the walk. I am sorry I missed it.

A final plea, please don't forget to not only read but also react to the forward notices towards the end of the newsletter; it does greatly help the organisers to get an early idea of numbers.

Kelvin

Newbury MGOC Diary 2023

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

August		
Sun 6 Aug	West Berkshire Classic Vehicle Club Show	
Sun 13 Aug	Fawley Hill Railway & Museum – Special Invitation Running Day	David
Mon 14 Aug	Club Night – our car problems: searching for solutions together	Bob
Thu 24 Aug	Lunch Bunch Walk 180 – Hungerford Tour	Trina
September		
Sun 3 Sep	Breakfast meet-up	Trina
Mon 11 Sep	Club Night	
Thu 28 Sep	Lunch Bunch Walk 181	Trina
Sat 30 Sep	MG Centenary Beaulieu – our regional MGOC's event for the centenary	Kelvin

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN AUGUST

CLUB NIGHT – 14TH AUGUST

OUR CAR PROBLEMS: SEARCHING FOR SOLUTIONS TOGETHER -

This event will be chaired by our very own MG agony uncle, Bob Owen. Please be thinking before the 14th of any (car) problems you would like to bring to him. It would be especially appreciated if some of the issues were emailed to Bob before the event.

Bob may well be able to answer any (car) problem thrown at him but it will be even more interesting if solutions are discussed and debated – many heads are better than one.

Should there be anyone who is not quite as interested in the intimate workings of our cars do feel free to organise like-minded people into a second group either in the main bar or outside.

It should be a good evening. Many thanks to Bob for agreeing to take on this event which was suggested at our last Members' Meeting.

LUNCH BUNCH WALK 180 - THURSDAY 24TH AUGUST

As stated in last month's article on the August Lunch Bunch I need to give the hotel notice of food orders a week in advance of the event so could you please look at the hotel website <https://www.greeneking.co.uk/pubs/berkshire/bear-hotel/menu> and email me your menu choices by Thursday 17th August.

The walk will be a guided walk around the historic town of Hungerford led by Drs Hugh and Lois Pihlens who are members of the Hungerford Historical Association and former GPs of the town. It will last about 90 minutes and will be just over a mile in length with frequent stops. We have it on good authority (the Boys) that it is very interesting.

The walk will start on the Town Hall steps at 10:30 and will finish by the War Memorial. Lunch at The Bear in Hungerford has been booked for 12:15 and those who wish to join us for this will be able to park in the hotel car park - **but it is important that you register your car with the hotel reception before joining the walk.** For those lunching at The Bear I suggest we assemble in the hotel car park at 10:10 and walk up to the Town Hall together. Anyone else can join at the Town Hall.

There is a total charge of £40 for the walk which I will send off before the event so, to make things easier, we will make an individual charge of £4 and donate any excess to our charity for this year, Parkinson's UK. I will collect this on the day, so please remember to bring cash with you.

Janet

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN SEPTEMBER

Saddleback Farm Shop, Sunday Morning Breakfast! 3rd September, 2023

What do you think of when you consider Sunday morning breakfast? boring ole' coffee and toast, maybe fruit juice for good measure! Well, just give a thought to sizzling bacon you don't have to cook yourself; poached eggs (not fried if bacon is sizzling!!) maybe a sausage, tomatoes, mushrooms, perhaps even black pudding!! or beans – is your mouth watering? followed then, by toast and coffee or tea – well you can have all this – or just your usual! on Sunday 3rd September, at the Saddleback Farm Shop from 9.30.am. onwards for as long as you like. Saddleback is part of the Honesty Group where all the produce is locally sourced, where possible, and it appears eggs can be served in multitudinous, tasty ways. We did have a Breakfast date back in May, but some other national event got in the way!! so it was postponed and the venue is not available on the date we chose of 3rd September so Saddleback it is.

Come and join us at Saddleback (California Farm, RG20 7HR) and get fired up for the day. Enjoy the drive on that wonderful Wantage road the B4494 and then enjoy your breakfast in the company of good friends.

BUT, as seems to be the case now, they need numbers and pre-orders!! so Please, look at the website (google Saddleback farm shop!) and let me know your breakfast desires!! I need to know numbers and choices by Monday 28th August at the latest – earlier please!! so they can be ready for us!

See you there
Trina

MG Centenary Beaulieu – Saturday 30 September

Members of the Home Counties South region of the MG Owners Club are hosting a major gathering of MGs in the picturesque parkland surrounding the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, to celebrate 100 years of the MG marque on Saturday 30 September 2023. The event is being supported by Hampshire based Discount MG Rover Spares, a family run business that specialises in parts and accessories for MGs from 1995 to 2005. Clubs taking part represent the region covering Dorset, Hampshire, Sussex, Hampshire, Berkshire and Wiltshire with individual cars already booked from as far away as Cornwall. The first 100 cars through the gates on the day (MGs can arrive from 9am) will receive a limited-edition commemorative linen tote bag and the first 200 will be given a centenary commemorative windscreen sticker and a mug. There will be a 'Car of the Day' competition voted on by fellow MG owners and members of the public with prizes in three categories: Pre-1960; 1960 to 1995 and 1995 to 2023 – there will be a special prize for the car that receives the most overall votes. The event will also feature: MGOC displays, a Centenary Timeline of MGs & Trade Stands Advance tickets now available for MG owners priced at £18 per person Visit: <https://www.beaulieu.co.uk/day-events/mg-rally/> Tickets include access to the event and all the Beaulieu attractions including the National Motor Museum, Palace House, World of Top Gear and Beaulieu Abbey. Tickets will also be available on the day at £18 per person for those arriving in an MG If you would like more information contact: Chris Adamson on email: chris@1020mg.org.uk or tel: 01202 424781

UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

Newbury went to Cumbria

Over the weekend of 1st/2nd July, four MGs made their way north in various directions, aiming eventually for the Fat Lamb Hotel in Ravonstonedale in Cumbria, while one



MG made its way directly up the M6 on Monday 3rd July, where we all arrived at the Fat Lamb in good shape. The Fat Lamb certainly lived up to its name as the food was excellent and there was certainly a plentiful sufficiency and more – we even had a breakfast menu, as well as the usual fruit, cereals, yoghurt and toast. Lunch was meagre, by choice, to compensate. The Fat Lamb has an



incredible display of motoring memorabilia ranging from a full petrol pump just inside the Lobby to numerous plaques, photos, model cars, a parking meter (fortunately not in use) oil cans of all types, makes and sizes and shapes; even a tax disc from 1932 and the essential – a jar of dog biscuits!

Our first run on **Tuesday** was to Alston returning by High Force Waterfall. The tulip route set us off at intervals and Marian and I were 'geographically disorientated' (new expression, courtesy of Janet, for 'getting lost') by the third direction, but we quickly righted ourselves and were soon swooping and up and down the wonderful curves of the fell roads. It was magic and the scenery is awesome. Hills, cliffs, fields flat and sloping, hedges and trees in all shades of green and brown. The roads were as one might expect in such places and it was good to often be able to see for miles, and if there was on-coming traffic to be accommodated, and to prepare not to be landed in a rocky edge or ditch! We swooped up and down and round and round in switchback



mode one minute and flat the next. We were instructed to pull in at the Hartside Café – car park on the right – to admire the view. This café burnt down a little while ago and there is now no trace of the building! But there is a large open space where lorries could effect repairs! and



motorists stop for a breather and the view at this very high point. However, you can see it was July -summer- by our zipped-up jackets, hats etc. It was windy and a bit chilly. We were almost at Alston our first stopping place. After gathering and admiring the all-round views and commenting on the sheep - of which there were a very great many; some shorn and skinny looking, some fat lambs, some exceedingly scruffy specimens with fleece hanging off; all different but all there; everywhere and indignant at having to move off the tarmac as apparently it is quite tasty (salt it is thought!). They were often reluctant to do so, which meant edging carefully around them. They even invaded the Fat Lamb Inn. The coffee lounge was entirely decorated with sheep! you just could not count them without falling asleep!

We arrived in Alston and went into the Alston Inn. Some had a soup lunch, some simply coffee, before a little meander around the 'town' and on to High Force – an amazingly high waterfall tumbling and crashing over high cliffs and landing on rocks, swirling into pools before flowing on into the river. We walked down the path to the Waterfall and it was so imposing, like a mini Niagara. The water is a beautiful dark amber colour and crashing over the falls in a lovely creamy colour. It is wonderful. We walked back up through a wooded area with some lovely figures sculpted out of fallen trees. And finally back to the Fat Lamb for tea and chat, then dinner and chat, then coffee and chat. However, between tea and dinner Carol and Colin went for a walk; Ian & Lorna, Janet and Trina went for a stroll; Mike read his newspaper! Kelvin & Judith and Marian relaxed!



Wednesday started bright and sunny and was a bit warmer. After a good breakfast we set off again. This time to Hawes to the Wensleydale Creamery – beloved of Wallace and Gromit. The route today was on similar roads and terrain as yesterday with the addition of amazing views of the Ribbleshead Viaduct. This incredible structure spans Batty Moss (or Batty Green) in the dale of the 3 peaks. It is 440 yds. long and 104ft. high and took 5 yrs to construct, and is featured in several films and TV series! and is an astonishing feat of engineering. Its What3words are merely hopeless plodded; so perhaps someone merely hopelessly plodded over it in vain!! It carries the Settle to Carlisle railway and can be traversed by steam train at certain times as well as the regular trains. Just before our first view of this viaduct we had to go over the narrowest bridge I have ever encountered; it must be a huge skill to drive a regular or 4 by 4 vehicle over it without damaging the paintwork! And so on a round route to Hawes.



The Creamery is a big tourist attraction and was rather busy. But we managed to park and made our way to the inevitable 'gift shop' and café where fruit cake was served with a slice of Wensleydale cheese – yum. Cheese can also enhance mince pies and apple pie!! – the lady said so! We watched a demonstration of cheese making and went into the tasting gallery where we did taste fruit cake and cheese– yum yum - and the viewing gallery to see the 'real' manufacturing area and process – it takes four and a half hours to make this Wensleydale cheese. We had photos with Wallace and Gromit and



then to taste more cheese and purchase same. Some wandered into Hawes, and others simply returned, via the tulip route still, to the Fat Lamb for more tea and chat; then dinner and chat; then coffee and chat. The scenery on the route today included some fields which had strange oblong areas which, from afar, looked as if they had been 'shaved' or cleared in some way. Unfortunately, we did not really find out why; but they were large regular areas – any ideas? Carol was wanting to go for a walk but there were no takers.

'Janet's locked Colin in their room so he couldn't go' – was the comment!! But then Colin appeared with the map/leaflet in his hand and off they went; while Mike read his newspaper!

Thursday - dull, dull to start, but it did clear later and was lovely and sunny and warm!! Bowes Museum today. Shortish route to Barnard Castle and somehow, we all managed to catch up with



each other and we drove in (sort of) convoy stopping at the highest Inn in Great Britain – the Tan Hill Inn. Here some of us stopped for coffee before going on to Barnard Castle and the Bowes Museum. Imposing edifice for what was built by John and Josephine Bowes as a Museum, not a home to display their art and ceramics collections. John was a

collector and Josephine an actress and latterly an artist and patron of the Arts and her art is displayed at the Museum. The most amazing display is a silver swan which is an automaton, and there is a fascinating video of its construction, showing its movement on a seemingly flowing river and catching and swallowing a fish – all in silver. Sadly, it was not working on our visit; but just to see it was wonderful. It was a lovely day by now, and Marian and I lunched outside in the sunshine.



As it was our last day before the journey home, we then had the option of a direct, main road route or the tulip route, back to the Fat Lamb. The tulip routes were composed by Paul, Head Shepherd at the Fat Lamb and were good to follow, although one or two of us did get geographically disorientated! The direct route was favoured, but not by all! for a quick return to the Fat Lamb to start our packing for a rapid departure in the morning. We discovered our numbers had increased by the arrival of some members of a Honda NSX club. Cars nearly as impressive as MGs! drivers of a similar era. One car was painted with the face and dates etc. of Ayrton Senna and flying a large Ayrton Senna flag. It seems Ayrton Senna was involved in the design etc! of the NSX (so I learned from one of the guys).



Friday. Departure day. Again, some going straight home. Ian & Lorna journeying on to Scotland to visit Lorna's Mother; Colin & Janet to Donnington to stay overnight and enjoy the racing on Saturday. It was hot and sunny and the M6 was as one would imagine – **awful**. 'Incidents' causing tail-back and stop/start situations which older cars don't like and tend to overheat – at least one did – seriously – and the journey home was long and stressful.

But we did all arrive home safely after a wonderful, few days away in totally different environments and landscapes. It was superb and many thanks go to Kelvin for organising this wonderful time away.

THANK YOU KELVIN AND JUDITH.

Trina

Lunch Bunch Walk, 27th July – Greenham Common

We have been here before – 4yrs. ago, but who can remember back that far, especially when we have had a strange time in between with lockdown restrictions. It was different, last time it was spring, this time it was summer with everything in high bloom and leaf. Brian was an amazing leader with his knowledge and history of Greenham which, apparently has been a notable military ground since the Civil War in the 1600's. But is probably most notable for its wartime airfield, at one time having the longest runway in order to accommodate the big American B52 bombers – which actually did not come!! But the B.47s did. President Eisenhower made a 'famous speech'! here when he apparently told the men 'The eyes of the world are upon you', on June 5th 1944, just before the take-off of fighters for Normandy. There are bunkers so impenetrable as to withstand an attack, but not the file crews of Star Wars (The Force Awakens); the fire plane used to train fire crews and, of course, The Greenham Women's Camp at Gate 8 – where Mike & Carol very kindly donated their old 3 piece suite to the women, instead of taking it to the tip!!! The walk was flat and on gravel paths and we met lots of walkers and runners taking their regular exercise, despite the dull and, from time to time, slightly damp weather. There is so much history here it is fascinating so you can learn and exercise at the same time – and then have coffee and cake at the excellent Café to make up for it all!



Another Great Walk – Thank you Brian.

Trina