

Newbury



Owners Club 1023

NEWSLETTER NO. 348 – September 2023

SECRETARY'S SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 2023

There was plenty going on at Newbury MGOc in August for members to fit in around their summer's holidays. There was the West Berkshire Classic Vehicle Show at its new more extensive venue of the Newbury Show Ground. A large range of vehicles of all shapes and sizes with plenty of MGs on show, boosted by several from some of our members.

There was a special invitation for classic vehicle owners to Fawley Hill Railway Museum that we very much enjoyed with plenty to see and rides on steam drawn trains, a great day out.



Those less interested enjoyed a drink and a chat at our club night, while the petrol heads amongst us focused on such issues as the ideal carburetion for an MGB and the pro and cons of LED lights ably led by Bob with support from guest Malcolm.

Finally our Lunch Bunch Walk was an historic amble around the pretty town of Hungerford led by a retired doctor and his wife. This was extremely popular ending at the Bear Hotel that once was a coaching inn on the Great West Road. This also raised a good sum for our charity this year, Alzheimer UK. A special thanks to Colin and Janet, who seem to have borne the lion's share of organising things in August.

While on the subject of organising activities, we will again dedicate our October club night to seeking our members' ideas for next year, so please put your thinking caps on. If an idea does

come to mind just drop me an email, text or WhatsApp with your thoughts before you forget. Suggesting an idea does not mean you have to organise it, however, please don't expect the committee to organise everything, we would like to spread the load out amongst members a little more next year.

With the 100 year anniversary of MG this year spreading into next, there are many opportunities to celebrate. I would especially like to draw your attention to **MG100 at Beaulieu** <https://www.beaulieu.co.uk/day-events/mg-rally/> which is being organised by the MGOC Home Counties South of which we are part. You will find more information on our website under "News" if you scroll down a little. If you turn up in your MG on the 30th September, you will only be charged £18 instead of the normal on the day price of £27.50 per person. Not only will you be able to access the MG Centenary event but also all the other Beaulieu attractions, so please support this if you can and consider pre-booking to ensure a place. Also under "News" you will find details of **MG100 Not Out** being run by the Oxfordshire NMGOC with the MGCC on 10th September at the Abingdon Works.

Finally, our close MGOC neighbours at Basingstoke are running their annual Doughnut run on 17th September. You will find details of this under "Events Calendar>Other Events" many of us have supported this excellent event over the years, so please consider it if you can.

Kelvin

Newbury MGOC Diary 2023

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

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
October		
Mon 9 Oct	Club Night – members' evening	Committee
Thu 26 Oct	Lunch Bunch Walk 182	Trina
November		
Mon 13 Nov	Club Night – Quiz	Pauline
Thu 23 Nov	Lunch Bunch Walk 183	Trina

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN SEPTEMBER

LUNCH BUNCH WALK 181 - THURSDAY 28th SEPTEMBER

The walk is through Cold Ash and the surrounding woodland. Meet at 10.15 to choose lunch before a 10.45 start at [The Spotted Dog Gladstone Lane, Newbury RG18 9PR](#)

The walk is about 4 miles, but there is an option for a slightly shorter walk of about 3 miles. We can select the best route on the day according to weather and ground conditions. There are no stiles.

The menu at the pub will be changing slightly mid September, and there is an option for sandwiches, which are served with crisps and salad garnish for £8.95.

Carol and Mike

MG Centenary Beaulieu – Sunday 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

Lunch Bunch Walk, 27th August – Hungerford



Wow, I can't remember when we last had 25 people on a Lunch Bunch Walk! or even on any Club outing for the last couple of years! Well done Janet for organising such a popular event. Maybe it was the fact that it was not a country walk on uneven ground but a pavement parade. And such an interesting pavement parade.

We met on the steps of the Town Hall where we were introduced to our extremely interesting and knowledgeable guide Hugh Pihlens and his wife, Lois, for the walk, who produced appropriate photographs of events and buildings at the right moment; and although he had notes, his wealth of knowledge was incredible and fascinating. He told us about the early history of Hungerford and the manors and market place and why the church was not obviously in the centre of what is now Hungerford. We walked up the High Street looking at the buildings (and blocking the pavements!) each different in its history and construction. We then walked back down again looking at the buildings and particularly what is now a solicitor's office but was once a school where useful things were taught like woodwork, metal work, cookery etc. AND where Barry attended!!

We then wandered through a little alleyway out onto a road where there was an enormous fire in the late 50's which destroyed a huge mill and where there is now a shop, house, library, car park, and Fire Station. We stopped under the bridge over the railway which was once a single line with arches shown on the bridge supports, but the new line had no such decoration, just plain bricks; and into an almost hidden area close to the canal, where the Church was, built of Bath sandstone brought up from Bath by canal which had just been completed to Hungerford. We clambered over the clapper gate – something I had not seen before – where the bars of the gate could be pressed down to climb over and then spring back up. I wonder how a bride would manage!! Then on to the canal towpath back to the lower part of Hungerford high street to the War Memorial which is apparently on an island – not obviously, but there is apparently water all around!! And so back to the Bear. Here we partook of a splendid lunch – at least mine was!

This was another different walk from what we usually do – does anyone have any other suggestions for different walks? We enjoyed the Blue Plaque walk in Newbury, The Harwell Campus and now this one; any others?

Thank you, Janet for organising this walk and for overcoming the hassle with lunches at the Bear! It was most successful.

AND if anyone has any walks up their sleeve – or in their boots – and would like to share, PLEASE let me know – we need a walk for October and November. Or, do you have an idea for a different type of walk like the above?

Trina