

Newbury



Owners Club 1023

NEWSLETTER NO. 349 – October 2023

SECRETARY'S SUMMARY OCTOBER 2023

At the beginning of the month a few people met for slap up breakfast at the delightful Saddleback farm shop and café a very pleasant Sunday morning run out. Our lunch bunch walk was led by Mike and Carol around Cold Ash. It was billed as 3 miles, but as we were going strong and had plenty of time it got extended with everyone's agreement to nearly 5 miles according to my phone. It started and finished at the lovely Spotted Dog pub and it was even warm enough for 13 of us to sit outside to eat, probably the last time this year.

The highlight this month was the MG 100 at Beaulieu event at the National Motor Museum in the New Forest. This was brilliantly organised by the Home Counties South MGOs with Bournemouth and Poole MGO taking the lead. More about this event below.



As in the past couple of years the October Club Night will start with a very short review of this year's highlights, mainly to give you the chance to consider the sort of thing you really enjoyed. Hopefully this will stimulate some ideas as to what you might like to do next year which you can discuss and refine in small groups. We will aim to capture these ideas and then the committee will try and blend them into a varied and balanced programme that we hope most will find enjoyable with something to suit all tastes.

As most of you know Janet has decided to take a well-deserved break and so is stepping down from the committee after 6 years. Several club members have run a few activities this year taking a big load off the committee. We would really appreciate a few more doing so this year as we will be one committee member down.

Kevin

Newbury MGOC Diary 2023

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

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 OCTOBER

LUNCH BUNCH WALK 182 - THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER

At the moment we don't have a walk for October, so are suggesting a gentle drive out to a nice pub, The Queens Arms <https://www.queensarmseastgarston.co.uk/>, at East Garston near Lambourne. There is a very pleasant drive from Donnington in the north of Newbury following the river Lambourne through Boxford, Welford and Great Shefford. There is a potential short walk of about 2 miles from the pub following the river Lambourne for a bit before heading into open countryside and back to East Garston. We haven't tried out the route so would update the lunch details to include this for those interested in due course if the route suitable.

Kelvin

UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

Lunch Bunch Walk 181 - Thursday 28th September

A good turnout supported the Cold Ash walk led by Carol and Mike. We started and finished at the Spotted Dog Pub for a country walk, mainly on tracks of about 4 miles. No rain, wind and about 19 degrees so nothing to complain about and a good menu to choose from.



Brian T. made Jenny's Day by greeting her with a mug of coffee, knowing full well she would be having withdrawal symptoms and needing caffeine. The others had to look on!

Shortly after starting we arrived at the former St Gabriel's Convent, opened in 1920 and now closed. The Nun's cemetery was peacefully situated on the hillside. Nearby, we admired 5 newly built houses, sold for circa £1.8 million each with superb views over open countryside to Thatcham and beyond. Next stop was through a kissing gate where Peter W gallantly kissed Carol and was not allowed to forget it!

From open fields we entered the woods leading to the top of the Pang Valley and followed numerous well-defined tracks but without our leaders we would have been lost. A large acreage of the rows and rows of tall trees in the straightest rows ever! But we couldn't identify the type, not enough naturalists among us and we did wonder on their purpose. One uphill slope only and a bit of road work and we were back at the pub where we were joined by Pauline and Brian H. The weather was good enough to sit outside, enjoy a chat, a laugh and excellent food. Thanks Carol and Mike for organising a really enjoyable morning.



Jenny and Richard

MG Centenary Beaulieu – Sunday 30 September

The highlight this month was the MG 100 at Beaulieu event at the National Motor Museum in the New Forest. This was brilliantly organised by the Home Counties South MGOCs with



Bournemouth and Poole MGOC taking the lead. It really was a fantastic event with 427 MGs of all shapes and sizes from 15 fairly local MGOCs. We had 9 cars present and decided to show how to properly celebrate 100 years of MG by popping the corks on a couple of bottles of bubbly. Naturally this was accompanied by a birthday cake with candle showing “100”. Of course we also had to sing “Happy Birthday MG” but didn’t need to blow the candles out as the wind beat us to it.

Apart from looking at the marvellous array of MGs, we all went our own ways to explore what The Beaulieu National Car Museum had to offer as well.



Pride of place as you entered the Motor Museum were the two cars that featured in the old 1950s film Genevieve together again for the first time since the film was made. The other film “star” to feature was of course Chitty Chitty Bang Bang which was being driven around



outside. The house was also open not only with the usual stately home paintings and furniture but also some fascinating sculptures by modern artists. Larger sculptures also adorned the gardens greatly adding to the interest.



Paul O managed to get a photo of his car adjacent to the ruined abbey. A fitting closure to a great day out, I thought.

Kelvin

Rose McMonigall

Many of you will remember fondly the Duck Racing events that were organised by the club for a number of years prior to Covid. Particularly enjoyable were the three that were held in the splendid gardens of Diple Mill near Hartley Wintney. Here we were the guests of Rose McMonigall who along with her father John welcomed us to the magnificent gardens brilliantly designed by Rose. It is with great sadness that we have to report that Rose died on 23rd January 2023 in Antigua where she spent the winters.



Here is an extract from the obituary published in Pro Landscape Magazine 3rd April:-

“Rose McMonigall, designer of three RHS Hampton Court show gardens, has passed away at the age of 46. She had been suffering from an eating disorder for many years.

McMonigall studied Classics at Oxford University, followed by Fine Art at The University for the Creative Arts at Farnham. This background complemented a lifelong passion for garden design, landscape and horticulture.



Rose’s passion project was her family home at Diple Mill, near Hook. Listed in the Domesday Book, Diple Mill’s 35-acre garden was part of the National Gardens Scheme and has been described by Alan Titchmarsh as ‘one of the most beautiful gardens in Hampshire’.

Other gardens designed by Rose included a private garden in Antigua and an award-winning residential project Number One Oxshott. She was renowned for her modern romantic style.”

None of us who met her will forget the welcome we received to play silly games using her waterways and the generosity of the afternoon tea she provided for our presentation ceremony, all at no cost to us but we always gave a donation for the charity she supported.

Roger B

Hadrian's Wall Walk and Sycamore Gap

Not sure if I mentioned to you that Mike and I (and my brother) walked Hadrian's Wall in July!! It's been on our bucket list for a number of years but with other commitments in the north we hadn't got around to it. And we aren't getting any younger! We decided on 6 days walking to cover the 84 miles.

We set off from Wallsend early on the Saturday morning, the weather looked good and the sun was shining so that was a promising start. We had spent time exploring the fort of Segedunum over the years, so we stamped our passports there and set off.

There really isn't much of Hadrian's Wall to see after that, until we reach our destination on today's walk, which was at Heddon on the Wall. However, it would take us along the banks of the Tyne and Newcastle's Quayside.



As you can see from the pics, the first few hours were glorious and as we approached the Quayside it poured. Then we dried out in sunshine, and it poured again. We did manage to dash into the pub at the Riverside Park before the worst downpour of the day, by the time the pint was downed the rain had cleared. Luckily we knew the pub was there as Mike often meets his mate there. After a nice gentle walk along the river, the last section was a killer out of the valley up the hill to Heddon.

Day 2 was Heddon to Chollerford, more wall to see and nice views across the valley.

I was looking forward to Day 3, Chollerford to Steel Rigg even though we knew it would be more



challenging. We've often done the circular walk from Housesteads, through Sycamore Gap, over Steel Rigg, through the car park, turn right up the road to walk along the footpath beyond Crag Lough, with fantastic views of Steel Rigg and the Wall, then back on the wall to Housesteads, it is always special. We didn't think the pics we took this time would be the last! Every time we have walked this route we take pics of the Gap. It really is a special place and so sad that the tree has gone.



Day 4 was Steel Rigg car park to Walton. It started off well, the weather was good, miles of wall, a lot of ups and then downs, great views. Absolutely loved this day – even when the rain came down again - 6 miles in.



We were starting to get a bit weary when we tackled Walton to Carlisle on Day 5. This was a pleasant day, quite a nice walk, but the miles of wall were now mostly wall ditches and earthworks. The last few miles into Carlisle were along the River Eden, nice easy walking in the sunshine. We were staying in Carlisle overnight so that we'd get an early start on our last day as the bus left Bowness around 5pm and we wanted to eat before the 2 hour bus journey back to Haydon Bridge, which we'd used as our base.

Carlisle to Bowness was a strange day. Not much sign of the Roman wall or forts, but lots of information about the Normans using the stone from the forts and wall to build churches. Then we reached the section of road bordering the salt marshes and the sandbanks, it seemed to go on for as far as the eye could see. Thankfully we reached the Solway Firth and Port Carlisle. Port Carlisle was established in 1819 as a means of avoiding the difficult waters of the Solway Firth and was linked to Carlisle by Canal. It had a short life as the shifting sands made the port unusable, and luckily trains were introduced. Back walking on the road into Bowness to Banks Promenade, the finish or start of the walk. On the other side of the shelter if you are starting the walk, are the words "Wallsend 84 miles Good Luck Go with you". We then headed off to the pub, where we enjoyed our dinner and another pint, before hopping on the bus with another 8 walkers, some of whom we had met along the way.



HURRAH FINISHED – exhausted, sporting a couple of blisters, but well worth it.

On getting home, one of my brother's phoned me to tell me a 10 year old boy had done this walk in 4 days! Maybe 15 years ago we would have done so also. Special thanks go to my youngest brother, David, coming along with us. He is a keen walker and has climbed all the Munro Mountains in Scotland, he would have also done this walk in 4 days.

Carol and Mike