

# Newbury



# Owners Club 1023

## NEWSLETTER NO. 351 – December 2023

### SECRETARY'S SUMMARY DECEMBER 2023

I have two main subjects to write about in this last newsletter of 2023. Both are reflections but also thankful celebrations, one sad and the other encouraging.

The sad one is of course the passing of Andy Wood following his valiant fight with Myeloma. We are all aware of how tragic this is for Jenny in particular who has been bearing much of the pain and strain over the last year and so our hearts go out to her. I am particularly thankful to Andy who was one of my key go-to people for his wisdom and advice when I took over as NMGOC Secretary 3 years ago as I had very little idea of the inner workings of the club. Judith and I have only been in the club seven years, so many of you will know much more about all that Andy has contributed to the club than I do, so I am not going to attempt to list them but we can all be thankful and celebrate his magnificent input over many years.

On a much happier note that is also a cause for celebration, looking back over the last year since November 2022 it's amazing to see just what we have done as a club. We have attended three local car shows at Thatcham, Pangbourne and Newbury Show Ground. We have had a Lunch Bunch Walk most months usually with very good attendance; to highlight just a few were Steventon, Silchester, Welford Park snow drops, Newbury Blue Plaque walk, Luggershall Castle and Hungerford with Dr Philens. Throughout the year we had many of our standard favourites, our Christmas Dinner with Mr Muddles, a magician, to entertain us in December. A Shakedown drive in April along the Valley of the White Horse, Drive it day was to the Hinton Arms and of course the BBQ at Bob and Carolyn's which was probably our best attended event. This was followed by Trina's favourite, What3words, and of course the The Quiz in November led by Pauline.

Our club evenings were varied with some just being a chat and a drink. Others had themes so that in January we started with our traditional Pasta supper, then an excellent talk by Dr Christine Hill-Williams, the High Sheriff of Berkshire in March, Blag a ride in June and discussing car problems in August. We had a few midweek meanders to Milestones, the Oxford Bus Museum, The D day Museum and Fawley Railway Museum. We also had a few extras such as an excellent lunch at Newbury College, a fish and chip supper on Hungerford Common an evening drive out to the Abbots Mitre and a breakfast at Saddleback Farm Shop.

Two longer and further afield events were a trip down to Epernay in France to join MG France for their MG centenary celebration, which was excellent and a shame only 3 cars could make it although we did meet up with some friends down there. The other was a trip up to Cumbria where we stayed at the Fat Lamb Inn from where we did several day trips such as to the Wensleydale cheese factory. Finally many of us enjoyed a great day out at Beaulieu as part of the Home Counties South MGOC MG Centenary celebration. The famous Darracq that appeared as Genevieve in the 1953 film was on display as was the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang car. Talking of Genevieve it was again on display at St James together with the Spyker it raced against at the Concourse show before the London to Brighton Veteran Car run on 4th November. With some advice from Roger B of where to watch, Judith and I also saw the Run itself on Sunday 5th, bumping into Ian and Sue at the Pease Pottage services.



Looking forward to seeing you all at our Christmas Dinner and wishing everyone a Fantastic and happy Christmas.

*Kelvin*

### **Club Charity for 2024**

As a tribute to Andy and in grateful recognition of all he did for NMGOC the committee have decided that we would like to support **Myeloma UK** as our chosen charity for 2024. We very much hope our members will get behind the various opportunities we get to raise some money for the charity during the year.

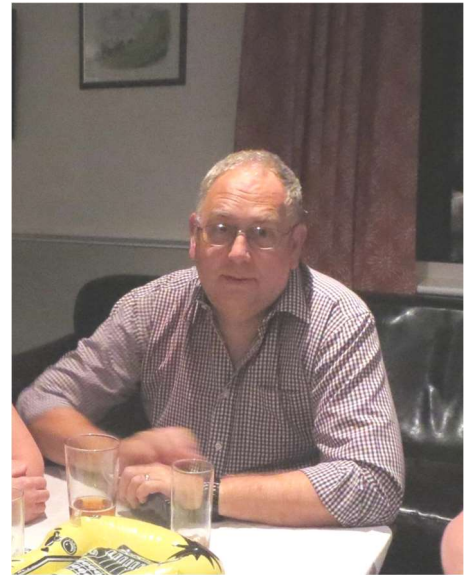
## ANDY WOOD

Andy sadly died on the 21st November after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Andy was born in Leeds and lived there until his parents moved their lighting business to the south in the 70s. On leaving school Andy was already developing a love of cars and desperately wanted to be a car mechanic but his father discouraged him and consequently Andy worked in his father's business.



Later he attended Art College and trained as a Graphic Designer. To this day the walls of his study display skilful and beautifully executed examples of his work on cars trucks and motor cycles. Alongside here is his stunning illustration of his and Jenny's MGB .



Not finding employment in graphics Andy turned to what he loved best which was driving. He drove vans, trucks and tried chauffeuring for a while finally settling for work with Securicor and subsequently becoming a transport manager. He mixed this work with working weekends with his friend repairing cars and commercial vehicles. He met Jenny in the early days of his work with Securicor when she visited next door to baby sit. As many of you know when he retired from Securicor Andy and Jenny opened a shop in Newbury specialising in Asian foodstuffs where they worked alongside each other for 7 years serving a niche so successfully that they needed to expand but could not. Andy often told me about the friends which he made among the Asian wholesalers in Southall and it was very easy to imagine Andy's easy jovial nature making him popular with them.

We best know Andy as being a dedicated member of our MG club. He and Jenny joined in 2009 shortly after buying a 1972 MGB roadster in Racing Green which he and Jenny loved and cherished maintaining it to a very high standard. They attended as many MG events as they could but had limited time when running the shop. Andy and Jenny enjoyed all our Club events and in particular Andy supported attendance at car shows as could see their special value in raising the profile of the club and attracting new members. On joining the committee he was one of the prime movers in us obtaining a Club Flag and Gazebo.

He also set himself the task of building a stock of club regalia and arranged for a local company to embroider the club's existing logo on to a range of clothing.

Andy set himself a more arduous task by volunteering to design and set up a club website despite not being an expert in IT. Jenny will vouch for the number of hours he spent on this project but he arrived at a working and useable outcome. Andy would happily take on any task required in the club's activities and in return he very much appreciated the friendship born out of common interests. He stood down from the committee due to his failing health. In recent months he revisited his love of 'wheels' by taking on building huge Lego model trucks and machinery with working parts to add to his previously built models.

He will be sadly missed as a loving husband, father and grandfather who fought courageously against this particularly cruel cancer with its hopes and disappointments. He also will be sadly missed as a Club member and good friend.

*Tony*

# Newbury MGOC Diary 2023

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

December		
Sat 9 Dec	Christmas Party	Committee
Mon 11 Dec	Club Night – bar chat	
JANUARY 2024		
Mon 8 Jan	Club Night – Pasta Bake	Trina
Thu 25 Jan	Lunch Bunch Walk 184	Trina

## EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN DECEMBER

### CLUB NIGHT – 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

The final club night of the year will be a general chat and, as usual, we look forward to seeing everyone in their Christmas jumpers.

## EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN JANUARY 2024

### CLUB NIGHT – 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

As has been our custom for many years our January meeting has been ‘Lasagne Night’ or as it is now – Pasta Night. We shall be celebrating the beginning of the New Year on Monday 8th January 2024 with a Pasta Supper at the Bowlers Arms.

As has also been the custom within the Club, this event is subsidised by the Club (which probably means you pay for it indirectly!!! But just makes it sound better on the night!) So this year the cost will be £7.00. per head for a pasta bake with a small side salad.

As usual - PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP – whether you would like to come and pay your £7 per head into the club account. Your name will then go on the ‘official’ list and if your name is not on the list - starvation evening!!!

Hope to hear ASAP.

*Trina*

### LUNCH BUNCH WALKS 2024

I am in dire need to suggestions for our monthly Lunch Bunch Walks!! I think I can cover January, but after that we may well be wandering around aimlessly hoping it’s time to go to the Pub!!

Anyone got any ideas?

*Trina*

## UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

### Club Night – 13<sup>th</sup> November – Annual Quiz

At the November Meeting at the Bowlers Arms a select few members were treated to Pauline's quiz. It proved to be again an excellent evening's entertainment. 21 members took part in the quiz, giving us 5 teams with Trina acting as Pauline's right-hand woman.

There were three rounds and the team I was in shot into the lead after the first round, as we did really well on the general knowledge questions. A raucous rendition of 'Nellie the Elephant' greatly added to the annual quiz held on Club Night, believe me, you had to be there. There was the normal level of banter and laughter when teams realised that they knew the answer but simply were unable to recall the information. An obvious sign of age perhaps.

The five teams of four were keen to catch the leaders as we started the second round of general knowledge, made more difficult by the screams of laughter coming from Eileen and Penny, who were having a brilliant time, not sure if it was because they knew the answers or that they didn't. This caused the questions to have to be repeated by Pauline whose voice was beginning to falter. When the results were collected by Trina, who was rushing around picking up the marked sheets, in her role of quiz master's assistant, it became apparent our team had dropped to second place. So it was on to the final round where we were determined to retake the lead. The questions were right up our street as they were cryptic clues to identify confectionary. Sounds easy but proved to be more difficult than anticipated and we slipped to third place! The worthy winners Pesky Punters, the brains of Bob, Gordon, Barry with a starring role played by Jen.



It was a very enjoyable evening, and everyone who took part thanked Pauline and Trina for their efforts. Pauline has been our quiz master for a number of years and would love to pass the mantle on to someone else for next year. Perhaps that could be YOU. Please come forward and let Pauline know if you are up to the challenge!

*Roger Boys*