

Newbury



Owners Club 1023

NEWSLETTER NO. 353 – February 2024

SECRETARY'S SUMMARY FEBRUARY 2024

Hopefully you have all seen our club programme for 2024 on our website – please make sure you put the dates in your diaries. Of course there is always the opportunity to squeeze in a couple of extras items if they take our fancy, if you have any ideas just let me or a committee member know.

The first activity was our usual New Year Club Night with a pasta bake and salad. As per last year the portions were quite generous and were served to us at the tables. It was very well attended with lots of chatting and laughter as people recounted the various things they got up to during Christmas and New Year festivities. Really, just a really pleasant relaxing evening with plenty of banter flying around.

Nineteen of us joined our first Lunch Bunch Walk of the year - No 184. As the weather has been so wet we decided that one of our usual country walks should be replaced by a Blue Plaque walk around Marlborough hastily researched and very well lead by Judith, but more about this later in the newsletter.

Roger recently asked me to send out a request to fill in a petition regarding tax and other benefits enjoyed by historic vehicles. As things stand a car has to be over 40 years old to attract these benefits while in most of Europe, 30 years is the required age. I am not familiar with all the detailed rules and regulations in other countries, except Switzerland where a couple of good friends of mine live. 30 years is the required age there also, but there are quite few extra restrictions. For example you can only do 3000 km p.a. which is a little under 2000 miles. This has led my friend to buy a second classic car so the he can now do 6000km. It is also a requirement that the car specification must be exactly the same as when the car was new, so upgrades are not allowed even if they make the car safer.

Last month I mentioned the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs (FBHVC), who look after our interest in government circles and whom I know would like to see the historic vehicle age reduced to 30 years, but hopefully without the Swiss restrictions. In 2020 they carried a survey

and research on the state of historic vehicles in the UK, and they are planning to do the same this year. No doubt we will be asked for our opinions. In the meantime you can find the 2020 report here <https://www.fbhvc.co.uk/2020-research-result-headlines> . The little video was fascinating to watch.

I have mentioned before that the MGCC and MGOC in the South East have been cooperating to put on a grand Finale to the MG Centenary year. It's over the weekend of 18th and 19th of May. On the Saturday there will be car runs starting from about 6 locations and all ending up at the Fairmile Hotel near Cobham where there will be a marquee with food and entertainment. Our nearest start location will be at the Bush Inn, Alresford, about half an hours drive from Newbury. I somehow seem to have got myself roped in to organising the start, so may be looking for a couple of people to help me steward it. On the Sunday the whole of Brooklands Museum has been hired with all sorts of events taking place as well of course the opportunity to see the museum at a discount rate. The website for the event is now up and running and you can already buy tickets for the various elements of the weekend. This link will take you to the website www.mgccse.co.uk/mg100-south-east or there is the same link at the bottom of the flier on our website.

A reminder please that the club subs for 2024 are now due. They have remained the same at £18 for a couple and £12 for singles. If possible please make a direct deposit into our account and email Jurgita jurgita.owen@gmail.com that you have done so. Thanks

Newbury MG Owners Club. (classified as business account)

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Finally, I have been asked a couple of times about the state of our club finances that are basically very good and have remained the same for a number of years with income and expenses more or less in balance. However it would be good to give you a little more detail, so I have asked Jurgita to prepare an end of year summary which will include the amount we have collected for Parkinsons UK our 2023 charity.

Kelvin

Newbury MGOC Diary 2024

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

FEBRUARY 2024		
Mon 12 Feb	Club Night – Chat	All
Thu 22 Feb	Lunch Bunch Walk 185	Trina
MARCH 2024		
Mon 11 Mar	Club Night – Shove MG	Trina
Wed 20 Mar	Visit to Bremont Watch factory Henley - 3 hr tour starting 13:30	Ian & Sue
Thu 28 Mar	Lunch Bunch Walk 186	Trina
APRIL 2024		
Mon 8 Apr	Club Night – Chat	
Sun 14 Apr	Shake Down Run TBC	
Thur 15 April	Lunch Bunch Walk 187	Trina

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN FEBRUARY

CLUB NIGHT – MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY

There are no activities arranged for this Club night, but it will be nice to see everyone for a drink and a chat.

LUNCH BUNCH WALK 185 – THURSDAY 22ND FEBRUARY

Get your boots out for a stroll around the Parish of Royal Bucklebury. There will be a choice of walks (according to weather and conditions underfoot) from around the popular pub, The Cottage Inn. We will meet at 10.00 to choose lunch before a 10.30 start from the pub.

The address is 'The Cottage Inn', 26 Broad Lane, RG7 6QJ.
<http://www.thecottageinnupperbucklebury.co.uk/>

Bucklebury Common covers 900 acres and is a warren of footpaths. The Lord of the Manor (via Bucklebury Estate) presides over the Common. A plan to make it more accessible is currently being implemented so we hope to see some examples. Come and join us.

Richard and Jenny

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

BREMONT VISIT - 20th MARCH 2024

Nick and Giles English started their watch making business 21 years ago in a farm north of Henley.

Initially they had fierce opposition as well as competition from the major luxury international watch making companies, but specifically, as you can imagine, the Swiss.

However, over the years they have managed to get the respect of the Swiss who to start with supplied some of the components that went into their watches.

They are now a recognised name in the field of luxury watch makers and their successful achievement has led to them building a new state of the art factory at The Wing, Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 4GE.

Sue and I have both had a tour of the factory in October last year and thoroughly enjoyed our very interesting visit.

On the basis of our experience we thought it might be of interest to our club members and have therefore organised a tour. Unfortunately it's not cheap as they are asking for a £25 donation each from those wishing to visit. Donations are given to the London Air Ambulance. We are limited to 10 people and so far 5 have let me know they would like to attend.

I would be grateful if anyone else wishing to attend would let me know by the 29th February so that if we have a shortfall we can let Bremont know so they can make up the numbers. My contact details can be found on the MG Newbury address list.

Jan

NEWBURY COLLEGE LUNCH – 1ST MAY 2024

Unfortunately it was not possible to book a date in February for a meal at the Newbury College Training Restaurant.

I have instead made a booking for Wednesday 1st May. This will be at 12 noon and there will be a package price of £21.95 which includes a three-course meal, wine or another drink with your meal and coffee after the meal.

I will be looking for numbers and payment nearer the event but I just wanted to advise you of the date change.

Janet

**CLUB EVENING MONDAY MAY 13TH, 7.15 for 7.45
ILLUSTRATED AND SONIC TALK**



Reserve this date in your diary when Colin Pawson, a.k.a. The Tootler will entertain us with his illustrated stories from the golden age of coaching through to the present day. There will also be a demonstration of how horns were used to communicate, which is why we will be upstairs at The Bowlers Arms after you have bought your drinks.

Newbury, straddling the old Bath Road, has many connections with coaching, from the early Royal Mail coaches at the end of the 18th Century, through the 1800s including the colourful public coaches and the elaborate private coaches of the well-to-do, - past its ending with the coming of the Railways and then its revival as a sporting activity at the end of the Century and to its unexpected popularity today.

Richard and Jenny

UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

Lunch Bunch Walk 184 – Marlborough Guided Tour

This was another different Lunch Bunch 'walk' and an interesting and successful outing. About 20 Club members met at the Castle and Ball Hotel in the middle of the High Street in Marlborough, and we enjoyed a coffee before we set off on another Blue Plaque walk led magnificently by Judith.

It is amazing how many interesting historical buildings, events, and people populate some of our towns.

William Golding – Lord of the Flies author – lived on



The Green. The inventor of vulcanized rubber – Thomas Hancock lived here. It is thought Shakespeare might have visited as did Samuel Pepys. The founder of Save the Children Fund – Eglantyne Jebb – taught here when the Library was a village school. It is absolutely fascinating and well worth a stop to explore the town and its hidden alley ways, rather nice shops!!, the Merchant's House – now a shop and Museum, the College. However, the best bit was Kelvin's puppeteer expertise. There was once a puppet maker here – Bob Pelham – and Judith had a Pelham puppet – the sort on strings attached to wooden cross pieces to manipulate the hands, legs, head etc. and Kelvin managed to make it bow to us and wave and dance, it was fun.

We then enjoyed lunch at the Castle & Ball.

Thank you so much, Kelvin & Judith for a great start to our Lunch Bunch year.

Trina



OTHER NEWS

John Hayes

It is very sad to report that John Hayes has died. John was a club member for a number of years, along with his wife Cilla. They enjoyed their early Midget, which John had rebuilt to a high standard. They had a number of adventures on our runs which they always found to be amusing, as Cilla was not the greatest navigator and tulip routes were a challenge therefore getting lost was almost guaranteed but they always made it to the finish somehow, with Cilla laughing and John surprised. Those of you who have been members for a number of years will recall how John and Cilla spent a lot of time talking with David and Barbara, we managed to separate them on Quiz night and he would join my team and enjoyed displaying his knowledge of sport particularly cricket. John was a keen cricketer and played for many years alongside Malcolm for their village team.



Another memory I have is a visit to the Dog House at Frilford on our Shakedown Run. It was the most beautiful day and we were able to sit outside in the Spring sunshine. When John arrived he was



experiencing a technical problem with the Midget, which numerous members went out to help him resolve. Sadly despite the efforts of Terry, Tony and Alan it could not be fixed. The AA was called and a very young man pitched up who knew less than our experts, but he did have a coil in his van which Terry fitted and the



problem was resolved. John then spent a long time reminiscing with the AA man. It turned out that John had been an AA man himself, which none of us had known.

As a club we were unaware that John had died and his funeral has already taken place.

Roger