

Newbury



Owners Club 1023

NEWSLETTER NO. 354 – March 2024

SECRETARY'S SUMMARY MARCH 2024

A few months ago, I was given some back copies of Enjoying MG from the early 80s with the suggestion that I could include occasional interesting articles from 40+ years ago. I was intrigued to see that they all have a contact list for MG Owners Club "Spares Secretaries" It looks as if most of them were garages that offered not only spares but advice and workshop facilities. I can find no mention of MGOC's own spares department, I assume that came later. It was also interesting to note that there was a comment that most Spares Secretaries had started offering sales over the telephone using Access (now Mastercard) and Barclaycard. It would be great if one of our members who has had an MG for many more years than myself could reminisce a little about their experience in those days. Incidentally, our local secretary was Peter Nightingale and we met in the Woodpecker Pub on the second Friday of each month.

In April we usually have a "Shake Down Run" as the first club car outing of the year. This year we thought we would try something different and piggyback on a neighbouring club's event. I contacted Chris Favell, Winchester's Secretary a while ago and he would be delighted for us to join them. You will find all the details via a link on the front page of our Website. Winchester call it their "Cobweb Spin" and it is on Sunday 14th April at the Rural Life Museum near Farnham. The important thing is that you must Register by 24th March, The form can be found via the link to the details on our website, which is a PDF but I also have a Word version that I have emailed out separately for those that prefer that format. The fee is £7.50 per person which is a very considerable discount on the normal price of entry. The Museum opens between 10:00 and 16:00, but will be open for us from 08:00 but you must be there by 09:45 to take your car in. I am assuming most people will make their own way there which takes about an hour by the most direct route from Newbury. The most direct route is quite pleasant but I have looked at a couple of more scenic routes that are likely to take about 1 ½ hours. If you would prefer such a route let me know. Please can you also let me know if you intend to go, perhaps I can arrange with Steve for us to be parked close to each other.

Kelvin

Newbury MGOC Diary 2024

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

Date	Event	Organiser
March		
Mon 11 Mar	Club Night – Shove MG	Kelvin
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		
Mon 8 Apr	Club Night - Chat	All
Sun 14th	Shake Down Run – joining Winchester MGOC at Rural Life Living Museum	Kelvin
Thu 25 Apr	Lunch Bunch Walk 187	Trina
May		
Wed 1 May	Lunch at Newbury College	Janet
Mon 13 May	Club Night - Traditional Coach and Coach-horns – An audio visual talk TBC	Richard & Jenny
18 & 19 May	MG100 South East Centenary Finale – see website flyer	Kelvin
Thu 23 May	Lunch Bunch Walk 188	Trina
Wed 29 May	Chedworth Roman Villa NT Picnic	Brian T

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN MARCH

CLUB NIGHT – MONDAY 11TH MARCH

Our next club meeting is our well loved “Shove MG” evening. Richard Ainsworth has won it for the last two years, so let’s make sure he doesn’t make it a hat-trick. For those that don’t know, we have a three meter straight track with a downhill shoot at one end from which to launch dinky toy MGs. The further down the track you go the more points you score unless you hit the end when you score zero. The “tuning” and maintenance on some cars leaves a little bit to be desired, which adds to the challenge and also the fun. The challenge is on, Richard!

BREMONT VISIT – WEDNESDAY 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, it may be late, but 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

LUNCH BUNCH WALK 186 – THURSDAY 28th MARCH

This walk has been rather tricky to define and organize. The weather conditions during the last few weeks have not exactly been conducive to firm footpaths on rustic rambles. Indeed, last week we had to make a few detours! I have tried two local rustic rambles and both times returned up to my armpits in mud – it is very wet and muddy around here.

So Tadley has a conservation area!! A bit like a Blue Plaque walk without the Blue plaques and not particularly involving people, more buildings. It is a short walk, a rustic pavement plod on firm, flat roads – not pavements except in a short burst half way through and at the end. Unfortunately, the last short part is up the A340 and so can be a bit busy – there is pavement, but great care need to be taken here.

As it is quite a short walk, we can meet here at my house – address in the members list – at 10.00.am. to set off at 10.30.am. Comfy walking shoes, boots not needed. Lunch has yet to be organized, probably at the Pelican in Pamber Heath, at 12.00 noon, so look out for an e-mail later.

I do not have any other offers for walks until October! The sheet is blank. I have looked over some of our previous walks but we are now not covering as much ground as we did!! and previous walks are a bit longish. I do have one to two ideas, if the weather gets a bit drier, but I really would appreciate some ideas old or new and previous guides or new people!! (please note I did not say 'Old' or new guides!!)

Do you want to continue with Lunch Bunch Walks??

Trina

EVENTS IN MAY TO LOOK FORWARD TO

NEWBURY COLLEGE LUNCH – 1ST MAY 2024

A reminder that the new date for our lunch at Newbury College is the 1st May. The booking is for 12 noon, provisionally for 25 people. I am hoping that the new menus will be out just before the Easter weekend but as soon as they do come out I will send an email and ask for money and menu choices at that point. I have been quoted a cost of £21.95 to include three courses, a drink with the meal and a hot drink to follow.

I know how much everyone enjoyed our meal at the college in 2023, appreciating the skills of both the cooks- and waiters-in-training and I am looking forward to another great lunch experience.

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 185 – February's Wet Lunch Bunk Walk

Yellow weather warnings of heavy rain did not dampen the spirits of 9 hardy MG souls who met up for a walk around Bucklebury Common starting from the Cottage Inn on 22 February.



The walk kept to tracks or quiet lanes through the Common, never enclosed thanks to a local preacher who successfully contested the Enclosures Act in the 19th century. In earlier times cattle and pigs roamed across the Common hence the Churchyard we passed being walled to keep the animals out. Although the going was a “wee bit muddy” we managed to divert and miss flooded sections and paths; appreciating the concrete tracks, relics of army use for vehicles and huts during WW2.

Skirting Bucklebury Farm Park and its views across the Pang Valley, unfortunately difficult to appreciate in the drizzle, we headed across lanes ending up in Turners Green, famous in more recent times for its wood turning and bowl making businesses. Whilst passing we disturbed Guinea Fowl and a couple of toads close-up and personal, it's that time of year!

From there we hastened to the Pub where open fires and a warm welcome awaited us. The walkers were joined by Carol, Mike, Sue and Ian and we all enjoyed an excellent lunch at very reasonable prices. The Cottage deserves its very good reputation and is highly recommended. So, a memorable end to a soggy but good walk amongst friends of just under 4 miles.



Richard and Jenny