

Newbury



Owners Club 1023

NEWSLETTER NO. 356 – May 2024

SECRETARY'S SUMMARY MAY 2024

Things have certainly started to liven up in April. Although our club night was just a chat and a drink it was well attended. Apart from that we visited the Bremont Watch factory nr, Henley, the Cobweb Spin to the Rural Life Living Museum nr. Farnham, the KW Special Projects and Museum visit to Silverstone all of which have reports elsewhere in the newsletter. Although not



part of our local programme as such, several of us also took part in the Drive-It day on 21st April. Some went to a MGCC event at Cogges Farm nr. Witney (photo of two MGs), while others of us went to an event at the Crofton Beam Engine Museum. Where Peter D took a photo of a massive Fiat that was similar to the Beast of Turin, but we decided was not.

Two of these events, Belmont Watch and KWSP were both organised as extra events by Ian D. and Barry respectively. Ian is also organising a trip to Moonroast Coffee Co which is fully subscribed. It is great when we can add these sorts of events in during the year, so many thanks to both of them and do let me know if anyone one else has any suggestions.



There are quite a few activities planned for May, the first being the Lunch at Newbury College lunch on the 1st which is also fully subscribed. Our Club night features a talk about traditional Coaches and Coach horns that once plied their trade along the Great West Road (A4). All the details are in last month's Newsletter. **However**, as this is a bit of a special and will be held in the larger upper room at the Cricket club, we have decided to suggest members bring guests. We are asking for a donation of £5 for each guest that will go towards our charity this year, Melanoma UK.

I would like to draw your attention to the Pangbourne Classic Car Show. This is run by our very own Tom Cheney, whom we don't often see at meetings as he often has evening duties at Pangbourne School. Please sign up and support the schools charities and let me know if you do. In the past we have been assigned a pitch just for us, if there is enough of us. More details later in the Newsletter. Other activities this month also appear later.

FINALLY, now the weather is improving, please do consider arranging a Lunch Bunch Walk. It will encourage Trina who like the rest of us has been frustrated by the very wet conditions recently.

Kelvin

Newbury MGOC Diary 2024

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

Date	Event	Organiser
May		
Wed 1 May	Lunch at Newbury College	Janet
Fri 3 May	Trip to Moon Roast Coffee	Ian & Sue
Mon 13 May	Club Night - Traditional Coach and Coach-horns – An audio visual talk – Please note it's a 7.30pm start for this event	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
June		
Sat 1 Jun	Pangbourne Classic Car show – See website for details	Tom/Kelvin
Mon 10 Jun	Club Night – Chat	All
Sun 23 Jun	BBQ – date	Sue
Thu 27 Jun	Lunch Bunch Walk 189	Brian T/ Trina
July		
Date to be confirmed	Picnic run to Mottisfont National Trust	Andy and Angela
Sun 7 Jul	Mike's Car's 70th – Tulip Route	Mike
Mon 8 Jul	Club Night - Drive village to village – treasure hunt on foot in village	
Thu 25 Jul	Lunch Bunch Walk 190	Trina

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN MAY

VISIT & TOUR OF MOONROAST COFFEE – FRIDAY 3rd MAY

Pleased to report that we have the maximum allowed for the the tour of Moonroast Coffee, with a wait list! The tour will commence at 11am – the postcode is SO24 9TX, and the what3words are supper.caravans.orbited. There is a delightful road taking you through lovely villages and scenery which eventually takes you all the way to Arlesford. After you've gone through Preston Candover you drive a few miles and approach the village of Chilton Candover. Just before you go into the village, Moonroast can be found on your right. Look out for the sign as its set back off the road. Drive up the drive and the car park is at the top on the right. We can assemble in the car park and walk along to the entrance, which is in The Yard, on the right. For those approaching from the B3046, the first entrance on the left is to Moonroast The Kiosk – don't take that – take the second on the left, but the sign is more difficult to see.

Ian and Sue

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



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

MG100 SOUTH EAST CENTENARY – 18-19 MAY

Can I remind you of the MG100 South East Centenary which will be the Finale to the various 100 year celebrations. It's being run by both the MGCCs and MGOs in the South East.



Details are on our website but here is a [Link](#) It is over two days on the 18th and 19th May. On the Saturday there are road runs from various locations in the South East congregating at the Fairmile hotel, Cobham where there will be both a buffet meal and entertainment in the late afternoon and

evening. On the Sunday there will be a full day of MG activities at Brooklands Museum. Of course all the museum normal activities will also be available. If you wish you may want to book yourself into a local Cobham hotel for Saturday night. There is a smorgasbord of activities to sign up for which can be a little confusing as they are available separately as well as via various combined tickets. The price of the various tickets can be found [here](#). Please note that you do not need "Parking at Fairmile" if you buy a ticket to the Road Run or Fairmile Buffet as it is included. Please also note that some items are per person and others are per car, so be careful!! Once you have decided what you want, click on "Book Your Tickets Here" towards the top. This will take you to a page where you can pick either the Saturday or Sunday events. If you want to go on the road run, order this separately on the Saturday page. If you also want the Saturday entertainment, buffet and Sunday entry there is a combined ticket (excluding the road run) for £37.80 per person. On the Sunday there are various competitions you can enter, most of which are free, except the famous hill climb, if you fancy doing that. Finally there is a competition for the fastest team to pull an MG midget 100m along the Brooklands track. So if you fancy putting up a team of 4 to 6 people, male and or female, tell your local secretary.

You may also like to join the [cavalcade](#) which although journeying from John O'Groats to Lands End will be travelling Brooklands to Beaulieu on Sunday 19th.

Kelvin

LUNCH BUNCH WALK 188 – THURSDAY 23rd May

I am sorry we have had to abandon our Lunch Bunch walks, but conditions have just not been conducive to comfortable and safe walking. Sadly, I have not had time to re-visit the walks I have had in mind for the end of next month, but I will endeavour to do so ASAP, so look out for any Lunch Bunch e-mails (sorry Colin & Kelvin!)

However, I am fresh out of walks!! Our next scheduled walk is for October!! when Andy & Angela have volunteered to lead us 'into the unknown'! So, how about it guys and gals – got any good walks, not too long and with flat inclines! Please!

Trina

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN JUNE

PANGBOURNE CLASSIC CAR SHOW – SATURDAY 1st JUNE

PANGBOURNE



Dear Classic Car Show Supporter,

I am pleased to release the booking form for next year's Classic Car Show at Pangbourne College on Saturday 1 June. Exhibitor booking is now open. If you would like to display a vehicle, please complete [This Form](#)

Sporting Bears will be in attendance again this year. We hope to again have a flyover from the Battle of Britain Memorial team. We have booked extra food vans this year as we were let down on the day last year so will have bacon rolls available upon arrival. The day will run from 1000 till 1600 as in previous years. Please do feel free to share this information with anyone who you think would be interested in attending.

We are thrilled to announce that this year we have partnered with the Fine Car Company who will be holding a 40 car auction at the show this year and will be donating a portion of the proceeds from the sales to our Charities which is fantastic.

Kind Regards
Tom Cheney

ANNUAL BBQ – SUNDAY 23rd JUNE

I've taken on the role of organizing the food for the summer BBQ, which is being held at Carolyn & Bob's as usual on Sunday 23rd June. The committee will organize the supply of burgers, sausages and rolls but we need everything else to make it a perfect meal. We will need a range of salads and desserts, so if you could let me know what you would be willing to bring along I would be grateful.

Sue & Brian

UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

MIDWEEK MEANDER 2ND APRIL 2024 – Bremont Watches

Established in 2002 by brothers Nick and Giles English, Bremont is an award-winning British company producing beautifully engineered chronometers at their state of the art Manufacturing & Technology Centre just outside Henley on Thames, which they opened in 2021. All their watches are mechanical, chronometer certified and built in limited numbers.

The name of the company has a fascinating story of its own - In the late 1990s, Nick & Giles were flying across France in their

1930's biplane. The weather was closing in and a rough-running engine forced them to make an emergency landing. Keen to avoid the French authorities, the brothers were more than happy to accept the gracious help of the farmer whose field they had landed in. They stayed in his home and the aircraft took cover in the barn. It transpired their host had flown aircraft during the war, as well as being a gifted engineer. Half-restored wall clocks lay everywhere, together with numerous engine parts. The farmer still even wore his own father's wristwatch. The brothers promised that his warm hospitality would never be forgotten. His name was Antoine Bremont.

The company's aviation heritage is visible everywhere in their beautiful Centre, "The Wing", where a small (but clearly select!) group of 6 club members met for a guided tour.

Our host for the 3 hour tour, Luke, started by offering us tea or coffee in their swish bar and then gave us a fascinating talk on the history, construction and workings of mechanical watches, which, apart from the use of more modern alloys and other materials has not fundamentally changed since the first examples appeared in the 1500's. Interestingly, although Switzerland is renowned as the watch centre of the world, almost all the important advances in watchmaking over the past 500 years were made in England.

Following the talk, we were shown many of the Limited Edition and Special Project watches that Bremont are known for and were able to see how watches are serviced as well as the area where new watches are built. Finally we were neatly shepherded to the Wing Boutique where we could purchase a souvenir watch of our choice (prices start around £3500).

I didn't actually see how many were bought!! - but we did have a fascinating, enjoyable and rather different afternoon out. Many thanks to Ian Deverall, who organised the tour.

Brian



VISIT TO KW SPECIAL PROJECT AND SILVERSTONE MUSEUM – SILVERSTONE TECHNOLOGY CLUSTER – WEDNESDAY 17th APRIL

KW special projects have evolved over the last few years as Specialists in 3D printing and more recently in high performance sports car development for major racing car firms such as McLaren. Members were given the opportunity to visit their new "state of the art" technology centre in the new Silverstone Park adjacent to the famous Motor Racing circuit in Northamptonshire. A family connection with the owner Kieran Salter (Penny's Nephew) enabled us to set up this rare opportunity for a visit where production development methods are mostly very confidential.

The drive up from Newbury took little over an hour with Oxford road works seeming to be better controlled. The New Technology Park covers a huge area outside the circuit off the Stowe road, with many Motor Sports companies now established there, including Aston Martin. We started our visit at 10.30 having met our contact Alison Miller, Company PA and Matt the Manager of the Production Facility. Work was underway on completing two of probably eight cars being built to owners' specifications and colour schemes. Two were in traditional McLaren colours of Gulf Oil Blue and Orange. New owners will spend up to two and three quarters million dollars on a car only to be driven on a track for fun but not raced or just for show - some hobby car!!! Other projects we saw were the making of copies of current F1 cars for display and making facsimile fully detailed steering wheels for promotional work, all in carbon fibre.



We then walked down the road to the Digital Manufacturing Centre where components are 3D printed enabling very complex shapes to be made from various metals, resins and plastics. Although expensive, for small quantities the cost is cheaper than using traditional methods that focus on larger quantities. The printing machines are in region of £20K each, but can work 24 hours a day 7 days a week. This is fast developing and rapidly expanding area of the business.



After an interesting 2 hour tour we drove across to the New Museum which is on the edge of the track near the Brooklands corner complex. There were some very interesting displays including much about the history of the original site, a WW2 airfield. Many cars were displayed covering the period from 1940 up to the present day. We sampled the food at the Cafe, Colin and Kelvin were mystified as to why their food was so much delayed despite having a No 1 flag. Barry and Penny stuck to the plain sandwiches which were instant!

We (B and P) were thinking of taking the trackside heritage walk, but by that time 3:00pm, the Silverstone weather turned to a sub-artic blast. We remember many a visit in the 60s when we got caught in the huge storms that swept across the circuit, at least there are better facilities now and toilets!

For those interested in Motor Sports there is plenty to do at the Museum and perhaps a visit to a Grand Prix would be nice if the weather and budgets held up!

All in all a very interesting day and good to see the improvements at the Circuit as well as to witness the massive technological developments going on under our noses!

Barry and Penny

COBWEB SPIN - SUNDAY 14th APRIL 2024

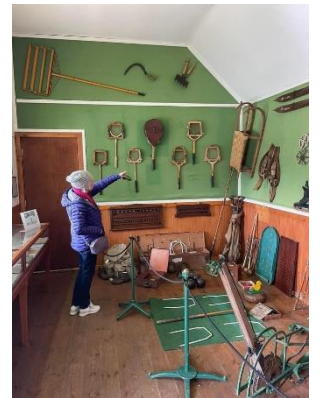
All those years ago when Nicky and I first joined Newbury MGOC this was the very first event that we attended. So as it was again among the season's opening events that our Club, at the invitation of Winchester MGOC, were able to join in we were interested.



This time it was a gentle drive over to Tilford near Farnham to visit the interesting Farnham Rural Life Living Museum. We joined about 80 other classic cars in parking up in the grounds and setting out to explore the various exhibit areas as well as to admire the splendid array of cars. But first it was tea and a bacon roll to build up our strength!



There is an amazing collection of items on display, which took us back to when we were young! The display of woodworking equipment was fascinating along with the old cycle shop, so many memories. Then into the cricket pavilion with its display of sports equipment we treasured way back when. Children today with their £200 lightweight football boots and fancy plastic coated footballs would wonder how we managed with heavy leather boots and balls that soaked up water and weighed so much. But we did and I loved the timely reminders. Exploring



the old shops Nicky discovered old remedies unavailable now, outlawed today by the safety squad, such as Iodine and Collis Brown. Then it was lunch, forming a circle outside the cricket pavilion in the sunshine we enjoyed our picnics, the company of friends and the banter that always ensues. Time for the raffle and prizes were dominated by Newbury, Mike getting an enormous box of chocolates which he lovingly gave to Carol for her birthday. My Nicky came back with a very nice bottle of champagne, which went straight into the car boot. At 3.00 some people began to leave and this started a mass exit with a traffic jam to get, out bit different this! No idea quite why 3 pm was the



witching hour, so we continued our exploring and finished up taking a cup of tea and cake with Nigel and Jan Pratt ex members who have moved on.



An excellent day out. Thanks Kelvin for coordinating our involvement and to the Winchester Club for putting the event on.



Roger and Nicky

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

ST GEORGE'S DAY & DRIVE IT DAY RUN – SUNDAY 21ST APRIL

The events are coming thick and fast this year it's a job to keep up. We assembled at Miele Factory on Sunday morning and enjoyed their hospitality, while signing on to the event organised by Pete & Sarah Davies on behalf of MGCC Abingdon Works. The coffee and cake was most welcome as we chatted to Mike & Carol, Derek & Anne, Mac & Kate along with Ian & Sue. All too soon it was time to set off for our 40 mile drive through the countryside to Cogges Farm near Witney, along with 25 other cars. What a splendid drive it proved to be with some excellent roads, (except for the potholes), which we had not travelled before with brilliant views appearing left and right in the cool sunshine along with remote villages with mellow sandstone houses to admire.



We arrived at Cogges Farm to a warm welcome by the owner and directed to a parking area where the usual discussions about the route took place. Which,



despite a couple of errors in the interim mileage, we all followed without getting lost, having enjoyed the challenge. Lunch called, some formed a circle others chose to eat in the splendid little café on site. Shelter from the wind was important because



despite the sunshine, a rare sight so far this year, the wind was cold.



We set out after lunch to explore the fascinating Farm steeped in history, having been listed in the Domesday Book.

Some recognising that it was the setting for the Yorkshire farm featured in Downton Abbey. Cup of tea and cake was shared in the sheltered garden and it was time to wander back home. Enjoyable day out celebrating classic cars for Drive it Day.

Roger and Nicky