

# Newbury



# Owners Club 1023

## NEWSLETTER NO. 357 – June 2024

### SECRETARY'S SUMMARY JUNE 2024



We had another very busy month with lots of activities. We started off with an excellent lunch at Newbury College the cuisine and service was of a standard usually only found in top restaurants and all at a very reasonable price. Thanks Janet for arranging it.



It was Richard and Jenny to thank for arranging our very well attended club night speaker who treated us to a presentation about the traditional horse drawn coaches that used to ply along the Great West Road (A4) spawning many coaching inns along the way including Newbury.

Many of the MGCC and MGOc in the South East worked together to celebrate the end of the 100 year MG centenary. On the Saturday there were car runs from all over the South East, ours was a 58 mile run from the Bush Inn at Alresford through lovely countryside barely touching any A roads. Many thanks to Trina who helped Judith Nigel and I steward the start and see 23 cars



safely off having had their coffee and bacon butty. About 100 cars arrived later in the afternoon for an enjoyable buffet meal and



MG Centenary - Brooklands Museum  
Sunday 19th May 2024



entertainment at the Fairmile Hotel in Cobham. On Sunday there was a major event at the old Brooklands racetrack, now a transport and plane museum. Three cars from Newbury arrived along with several hundred other MGs to enjoy the many activities including a hill climb competition up the famous Brooklands hill climb course. I wish I had entered the hill climb as it looked great fun, but having never done one, I chickened out. There was a time line of MGs from the earliest in existence (1923) to the latest Cyberster (2023). Some of the "Pride of Ownership" cars were fantastically kept from all ages. Of course the regular museum exhibits were also available to see, although there was not much time for that as well. Finally a Cavalcade from John O'Groats to Lands End, passed through Brooklands on its way and I believe Roger and Nicky caught up with them on the Monday.

Finally, several cars met for a picnic at the National Trust Chedworth Roman Villa between Cirencester and Cheltenham. Thank you Brian for arranging this event.

I have had two requests to pass on to the club members. Firstly Jill Shepherd from the Devizes and District Motor Club was at the Bowlers Arms hoping to meet the West Berks Classic Vehicle Club (thinking we were them) who have promised that their Newbury Classic Car Show <https://www.newburycarshow.co.uk/> (many of us attend) could be the location for DDMC classic car tour lunch stopover. Here is a link if you are interested in the tour <https://www.ddmc.co.uk/classic-tour/>.



The second request is from Mike Mulholland, Peter and Jane Richards' son-in-law. He is restoring their MGA but has come across another one being offered for restoration at a very reasonable price of £10k. It's a RHD MGA Roadster 1600 together with at least another MGA donor roadster (including chassis, engine, axle body (in poor condition)) and more spare wings, doors, and other essential components than he cares to recount. All of which has been in dry storage for the past 12 years locally in Cold Ash. The gentleman who is selling all this is sadly in poor and deteriorating health, and is down-sizing. He already has a fully restored MGA that he will retain, but is looking to off-load the other project cars to another local enthusiast. A photo is attached, but I have more photos and contact detail if you know of anyone who may be interested.

*Kelvin*

## Sad News

I am sorry to report that Jeff Becks has recently died. He was taken ill while on a cruise with Jan and was taken to hospital at their next port of call in Spain. Sadly, he died a few days later.

The funeral cannot be arranged until his body has been repatriated. Jan will let us know the details in due course. We extend our condolences to Jan and his son Roger.



*Kelvin*

# Newbury MGOC Diary 2024

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

Date	Event	Organiser
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	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
August		
Fri 2 Aug	Evening Drive out (possibly The Bush Inn Ovington, Alresford)	Brian T
Tue/Wed/Thu	Great Chalfield Manor Picnic	Janet
Mon 12 Aug	Club Night - Chat	All
Thu 22 Aug	Lunch Bunch Walk 191	Trina

## EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN JUNE

### CLUB EVENING MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE, NEW START TIME OF 7.30 PM

No specific activities planned for this evening, but it will be nice to see everyone for a drink and a chat.

### ANNUAL BBQ – SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE

Just a reminder of the annual 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*

## **LUNCH BUNCH WALK 189 – THURSDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

Once again, I am very sorry to say that I am cancelling the June walk at this point in time. It may be re-instated if the weather improves, so keep an eye out for e-mails. The walk I have had prepared for a couple of months is still very muddy and wet and I deem uncomfortable for walking and, indeed, could almost be a health and safety risk!! So, watch this space.

I am very sorry to have to do this AGAIN, but do feel that the safety and comfort of our members is paramount.

And, Again, I need walks and leaders!! if Lunch Bunch Walks are to continue. July is covered but August and September available, and November!! So Please, look to see if you have a good walk tucked into the toe of your boots and drag it out so we can all enjoy it. Thank you.

*Trina*

## **EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN JULY**

### **MIKE'S CAR (BELLA) 70<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY PICNIC RUN – SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JULY**

The run will start from the headquarters of the MG Car Club, Kimber House, 12 Cemetery Road, Abingdon, OX14 1AS or What3words: Resettle.keepers.toned, formerly the site of the MG factory where Bella was built! Tea and coffee will be available in the John Thornley Room from 10am, followed by a short walk to the MG History Garden. The run will then follow a tulip route to Nuffield House (National Trust) (approximately 25 miles), where we can enjoy our picnic. MG cars of a certain age will be able to park up in front of the house. The café is no longer there, but there is a coffee/cake van on site by the picnic benches.

*Mike*

## UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

### VISIT & TOUR OF MOONROAST COFFEE – FRIDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MAY

Love it or hate it coffee has become a very popular every day beverage and has led to the creation of numerous new coffee outlets which have become continental style meeting places. Parallel to the commercial coffee shops are the much sought after specialist coffee vendors who serve only the highest quality coffee and these are the markets into which Moonroast successfully supply. 15 of our members were to have a unique insight into this world.

The company Moonroast was started by one man in 2012. Francis Bradshaw with a heritage in tea and coffee installed a small coffee roaster in his barn in the village of Cranford and after a day's work he spent evenings roasting his own brand of coffee, frequently looking out at moonlight and being aware that the village owl was close by. Hence the name Moonroast and the image of an owl is the company logo. Moonroast now has two large capacity roasters installed in repurposed farm buildings and this is where we started our tour.

We were firstly given a talk by Dan one of the very knowledgeable coffee



roasters on the types of coffee beans which they like to use, Arabica and Robusta in particular. Arabica is seen as the quality product whereas Robusta is a more commercial bean. The bean itself is the seed of a cherry like fruit that is skilfully grown by farmers across the world along the “coffee belt” which is between the



tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Brazil being the largest producer. The cherries are dried and the seeds extracted. The Moonroast process starts by them receiving a small sample from their known growers all over the world which leads to them ordering in bulk if they are happy with the quality. The qualities of the bean vary according to the care the farmer has shown and other factors including the altitude at which they were grown. The beans are roasted in a revolving oven which tumbles the beans to ensure an even roast.

(photos from Roger)



Jimbo the other roaster on duty invited us to sample various strengths and tastes of coffees ranging from a dark Brazilian to lighter flavours and character. Sampling is done by inhaling the flavour and “slurping” the coffee off a table spoon. There was some amusement and even embarrassment over the “slurping” but Trina was judged to be the best “slurper.” The taste, strength and caffeine content of the coffee will vary according to the country of origin of the bean and the length of time and temperature at which it is roasted. A long roast will produce a dark coloured bean with a strong and slightly bitter flavour. The roasting process very much relies on the skill and timing of the roaster aided by computer monitoring.

Coffee roasting is a relatively quick process and we were privileged to watch a batch roasted from start to finish and as you can imagine enjoy the aromas. The tour was an excellent experience enhanced by the obvious passion of the staff for their chosen career and for their very friendly reception.

We then enjoyed an excellent lunch in The Yard a restaurant in an adjacent building. From all a big Thank you to Ian for the organisation.

*Tony*

## **CHEDWORTH VILLA MIDWEEK MEANDER – WEDNESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> MAY**

Weather forecast for the 29<sup>th</sup> May trip to Chedworth Roman Villa was a bit iffy, but 8 people set out for the event, with 6 arriving (Rob & Marion unfortunately had a breakdown and couldn't make it.) Those that did had to contend with the signposted road to the villa being closed! But we all managed to find another way round.



Being half-term, the place was packed, with parking decidedly difficult, but we all found a space somewhere. The mosaics at Chedworth are truly special (and vast) – I did not appreciate the sheer scale of the villa and its mosaics beforehand. Despite a gloomy forecast in the run up to Wednesday, the rain held off all day until about 4pm on our way home, so we had a pleasant walk around and a picnic on the lawns.



All in all a pleasant day out.

*Brian and Sue*



## BLAST FROM THE PAST

Who remembers this brilliant night when Paul and Jurgita recreated their wedding for us. We shared one of Brenda's beautiful cakes in June 2018. Our first club wedding.



*Roger*

# OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 17 MAY 2024

## **DVLA consultation on historic vehicle registration processes, how to answer it and ensure your voice makes a difference.**

The Department for Transport (DfT) and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) have launched a call for evidence around the existing policies and registration processes for historic, classic, and rebuilt vehicles.

The move follows 18 months of dialogue between the FBHVC (Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs) and representatives of the Department for Transport and DVLA, which sought to draw attention to the current challenges and inconsistencies surrounding the historic vehicle community's interaction with their policies.

The announcement was made at Bicester Heritage on 9<sup>th</sup> May, and the DfT and DVLA say they aim *“To seek expertise and knowledge about whether these policies need updating to reflect evolving technologies that support the restoration and rebuilding of these vehicles.”*

The consultation now offers the FBHVC's member clubs the opportunity to shape the creation and evolution of policies to preserve our ability to restore, register, and use historic vehicles efficiently and fairly for tomorrow's roads.

The document is complex, and the questions cover many topics that require a detailed understanding of the issues and technicalities involved. Furthermore, the historic vehicle community must work together to create a consensus that accurately reflects the community's requirements.

Therefore, the FBHVC will be innovatively publishing our positioning statement to give everyone a voice and make completing the consultation document less onerous.

The positioning statement will be split into sections relating to each part of the official consultation document that we will complete on behalf of the community.

The Federation's team, led by Chairman David Whale; IT Director Tim Jarrett and his team, Legislation Director Lindsay Irvine and DVLA Liaison Manager Ian Edmunds, have formed a provisional response to each section and question, that all members of the historic vehicle community can now read and indicate support for through an electronic survey. If you disagree, a further box requests more details to incorporate those views into the final response.

Once the feedback is collated, a formal consultation response document will be published and submitted, representing the responses received. As submissions are judged on the number of people the views represent, this will ensure a more impactful and consensus-driven response than would be possible if submissions were all made by individual people or clubs.

David Whale, Chairman of the FBHVC, said, *“This is a unique and hard-won opportunity after our many months of dialogue with DVLA and DfT to address our challenges around the current systems once and for all. We welcome this opportunity to create and evolve a policy that will have a long-lasting impact on our freedoms and abilities to preserve and use transport heritage.*

*“But it's imperative that we put forward a consensus and make our needs clearly understood; this is why we have chosen to address the consultation via a questionnaire in this way to represent as many voices from our community as possible in a single, consistent response is essential for success.”*

The more views the FBHVC can capture and represent, the higher our chance of genuinely shaping the future for historic vehicles and evolving flawed registration and licensing systems, so we encourage everyone to respond via the FBHVC mechanism in the first instance.

**Complete the consultation response here: [Evidence Form - FBHVC - Call For Evidence](#) and ensure your voice makes a difference.**