

## NEWSLETTER NO. 361 – October 2024

### SECRETARY’S SUMMARY October 2024

September saw only two event although both very special in their way. Before the start of our club meeting members could attend a talk about Prostrate Cancer given by Prof Richard Hindley in a meeting room above ours. One in 8 males are likely to suffer with this problem during their life so of interest to many of our men.

The real stars of our main meeting were Barry and Penny who were celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary and kindly offered to buy us all a drink in recognition of the occasion. The club responded with a suitably decorated cake arranged by Trina to accompany a toast to our special couple.



The other big event was a trip by 12 of us to the Isle of Man festival of motoring entitled “The Best of British”. There were about 330 cars, all British ranging from modern supercars to classics of which MGs were probably dominant. But more about that later.

*Kelvin*

### Newbury MGOC Diary 2024

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

Date	Event	Organiser
October		
1 Oct	<b>*DATE TO BE DECIDED</b> Stonehenge	Roger
Mon 14 Oct	Club Night - Members Evening	All
Thu 24 Oct	Lunch Bunch Walk 193	Andy and Angela
November		
Sat & Sun 2/3	London to Brighton Veteran Car Run – give tips but members self organise	Members
Mon 11 Nov	Club Night - Quiz	Roger
Thu 28 Nov	Lunch Bunch Walk 194	Trina
December		
Sat 7 Dec	Christmas Dinner	All
Mon 9 Dec	Club Night – Chat and Naff Christmas Pullovers	All

# FORWARD TO OCTOBER

## VISIT TO STONEHENGE – DATE TO BE DECIDED

Roger and Nicky will lead a drive out to Stonehenge – They will decide on a date when it looks as if the weather will be reasonable and we will let you know a few days beforehand. Bring a picnic that we can all eat together outside, then those that wish to go in can do so. There may be a charge for parking or entrance if you are not a National Trust or English Heritage member. More details later

## NEXT CLUB NIGHT 14<sup>th</sup> October

As in the past couple of years the October Club Night will start with a very short review of this year's highlights, mainly to give you the chance to consider the sort of thing you really enjoyed. Hopefully this will stimulate some ideas as to what you might like to do next year which you can discuss and refine in small groups. We will aim to capture these ideas and then the committee will try and blend them into a varied and balanced programme that we hope most will find enjoyable with something to suit all tastes.

*Kelvin*

## LUNCH BUNCH WALK 192 - THURSDAY 24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2024

The walk will start and finish at The Carpenters Arms at Burghclere (RG20 9JY). The walk is approx 4 miles across the countryside south of Burghclere, taking roughly 2 hrs and classified as 'Easy' in difficulty though a bit marshy in places after wet weather.

For those who prefer not to walk Angela will lead a group to The National Trust's Sandham Memorial Chapel, opposite The Carpenters Arms. It contains Stanley Spencer's iconic paintings based on his experiences while serving in the First World War in Macedonia. The adult entry fee for non-NT members is £10.

The Carpenters Arms is a popular pub serving a range of food from light bites and baguettes to traditional pub grub main meals. We have not yet spoken to them about reserving a table but it would be helpful if members could let us know if they are interested in the walk prior to booking. If the weather is atrocious on the day we can always just opt for a lunch and perhaps a Chapel tour.

*Andy and Angela*

## London to Brighton Veteran Car Run 2nd and 3rd November



Although the club is not organising anything specific, we promised to give you some tips. Roger and Nicky usually go as long as the weather is not too bad. Judith and I went with a couple of our Swiss friends who flew over especially. There are two elements displays of many of the partaking veteran cars in London on the Saturday then the actual run on the Sunday. The display last year was in street down the side of St James Palace between Pall Mall and The Mall. But this year it seems to be much grander in Pall Mall itself. We

of course went up by train not by car.

The run itself is on Sunday starting at Hyde Park Corner and ending in Brighton. Roger and others advise against going to Brighton as it is so crowded and you can't get close to the cars.

The route and all the details about the Saturday event can be found via this link

<https://www.veterancarrun.com/route-guide> . On the Sunday we headed to Reigate where we could park fairly easily and could see the cars struggling up Reigate Hill. There were even a

couple of Penny Farthing bicycles struggling up. We then took the motorway to quickly get to Roger and Nicky's favourite spot with a Post Code RH17 6HD which is where the route follows the B2114 close to Handcross. There are lay-bys and easy parking there. It is probably best to take a picnic as all the restaurants close to the route get booked up.

We won't be able to make it this year as we will be driving back from Greece, but I can certainly recommend either or both days as a good outing.

## UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

### Thank you

Dear Club Members ,

Thanks to those that were able to attend our Drinks Celebration on 9th Sept at Bowlers Arms, it was great to see so many there, special thanks to Trina for organising the lovely cake.

Thanks to so many members who have become friends over the last 20 years for their cards and good wishes .

Regards and Best Wishes ,Happy MG ing

*Barry and Penny*

## THE BEST of BRITISH - ISLE OF MAN TRIP FESTIVAL of MOTORING 18<sup>th</sup> to 23rd SEPTEMBER



Back in March, Colin & Janet noticed that Scenic Car Tours were running an event on the Isle of Man in the middle of September and wondered if anyone else would be interested. It seemed that quite a few of us fancied the idea as well, so I contacted the organisers and found that we could all book separately using a special club number which meant that as far as possible they would keep us together as a group for the

various activities which worked really well. In the end six couples with cars booked up so we joined 330 other cars, all British, ranging from modern super cars to classics of which MGs were probably dominant although Triumphs had a good showing as well. There was also a good sprinkling of cars I had never heard of, to add a bit of spice to the mix.



The first day we were free to explore the island but given a very comprehensive tulip route to follow if we wished. Judith and I decided to follow the suggested route ending up at a delightful



if somewhat crowded café for coffee at the Sound where we caught glimpses of seal. We then followed the coastal road to Peel Castle for lunch meeting up with a couple of other cars from our group. We then crossed the middle of the island via the Sloc to Snaefell (more of these later), on to Ramsey and so back to Douglas. For evening meals there was a lot of mixing and matching with different combinations of our couples meeting up each night which was very pleasant.

In order to make numbers manageable for the organisers we were split up into groups of about fifty. All our club were in the first group which usually meant an early start most days. Friday was the Sloc run which meant meeting 20 minutes drive away from our hotel in Douglas by 08.45. We were led in groups to the bottom of the Sloc, a mountain road that was specially closed for us. No speed limit and we could use the whole road taking a racing line as nothing was coming the other way. It was very hilly with many sharp bends. We all set off at 30 second intervals for about a 10 minute run. Having done one run we could carry on down the mountain and drive round again for a second go. The second time I was first to go as the lead dropped out with an oil leak and the guy in front of me the first time let me go ahead of him as I nearly caught him up. I did the steep twisty section almost entirely in second gear and hit 6000rpm briefly, but most of the time between 4000 and 5500rpm. Also hit over 70mph on a couple of straight sections. Really exciting and the B did fabulously well considering I have never pushed her that hard before.



On Saturday, we all lined up along the promenade for the public to come and see all the lovely cars. Our Snoopy mascot was a firm favourite with the children one of whom promised to look out for him on the Sunday. Having parked the car on the promenade we had the opportunity to have a look

around Douglas and visited the island museum. I must say Judith and I were blown away by the museum, one of the best we have seen for superb displays and presentations, we wish we had longer. That evening, most of us had signed up for "Pie in the Sky". This was a mountain tram ride up to a restaurant at the top of the Snaefell pass where we had a choice of, you have guessed it, pies for supper.



On Sunday we started off at the TT grandstand then had a cavalcade around the TT course ending back at the Grandstand for a photo shoot in the pit lane. We started off with a police escort through Douglas so we didn't have to stop for traffic lights or anything. Obviously, the locals knew all about it as they were out lining the streets and waving along the entire route. As we drove through the village of Crosby, our little girl who had made friends with Snoopy on

the Promenade was there again waving with her dad. We then did the mountain section of the TT race, again the road was closed for us so we could take a racing line at the corners etc. We were not allowed to overtake but could still drive very fast.



The finale was a Gala Dinner at the Palace hotel, 10 minutes walk from the Sefton hotel where most of us stayed. On Monday, it was yet another very early start to catch the ferry back to Heysham. The weather whilst we

were on the island was completely dry and mainly sunny but the drive home was horrendous with heavy rain much of the time. Everyone agreed it had been incredibly well organised and one of the most enjoyable events we had ever attended.

*Kelvin*

## **THE LUNCH BUNCH WALK THAT WASN'T**

Well, this was another cancelled walk because of distinct lack of takers! Maybe it was too close on the heels of the Isle of Man trip or maybe because it was cast as a 'pavement plod'. But we have done several 'pavement plods' in Newbury and Marlborough for the Blue Plaques and Hungerford for an interesting history walk.

Tadley has a few interesting and rather old buildings – some up to 200+ years old. I must admit I was a bit surprised. But ..... I can hold this walk in abeyance and maybe bring it out again (oh I hope not I can hear mutterings?)

However, if members would like these Lunch Bunch walks to continue, leaders need to come forward with some creative ideas!! I know lunch at pubs is not as easy as it was before covid when we simply gave menu choices on the day before our walk. Now they want them 3/4 days before, and our walking distances have shortened. So, please, as I always ask, has anyone got a good walk tucked in their boots (or up their sleeve!!) Please let me know ASAP. October is covered by Andy & Angela – thank you both - November is under question – it could be the dreaded pavement plod around Tadley!! Happily, we then have a respite in December! So, I am begging for walks for 2025. Gosh, a quarter of a century since we all celebrated the new millennium – that seems only like a few years ago!!

*Trina*

## **FINALLY**

### **CHRISTMAS DINNER – SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER**

Although everyone that came last year really enjoyed it and the service was superb, we do know that many people were disappointed with not having a choice of a traditional Christmas meal. We were told that last years menu was an experiment, but we weren't convinced it worked. We are requesting that a traditional Christmas dinner is one of the choices this year.

*Kelvin*