

**Newbury**



**Owners  
Club 1023**

## **NEWSLETTER NO. 368 – May 2025**

### **SECRETARY'S SUMMARY MAY 2025**

I would like to take this opportunity to apologise for the break in communication due to unforeseen circumstances. I add that all now seems to be going ok and improvement is evident daily.

April seemed to be a good start to the show season. We were all invited to the Winchester shake down run in Verwood Dorset. A good day was had by all who attended, with a good view of the past and the role of the Heavy Horse in daily life. Very surprising what and where used, sometimes sad due to war time activity. The weather was very good and enjoyed by all I have spoken to. Especially one of our members who won third prize in the raffle enjoy.

Looking forward to all activities in May let's enjoy our MGs.

*Paul*

# Newbury MGOC Diary 2025

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

Date	Event	Organiser
<b>MAY</b>		
Mon 5 May	Hungerford Rotary Classic Car show	Paul Owen
Mon 12 May	Club Night – illustrated talk of a historic post card collection – Jonathan Edwards	Kelvin
Thu 15 May	Afternoon Drive to The Chocolate Frog – Alton	Roger
Sun 18 May	Ramble to Hambledon	Ian & Sue
Thu 22 May	Lunch Bunch Walk – Harwell	Graham & Fran
Sat 31 May	Pangbourne Car show	Tom Cheney
<b>JUNE</b>		
Mon 9 Jun	Club Night - Chat	All
Sat 14 Jun	BBQ (reverted to usual date)	Sue
Thu 19 Jun	Lacock Abbey	Brian
Thu 26 Jun	<sup>^</sup> Lunch Bunch Walk	
Sun 29 Jun	Yattendon Car show	Paul

## EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN MAY

### **CLUB NIGHT – MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY – 7.30PM** **JONATHAN EDWARDS' POST CARD TALK**

Jonathan Edwards has been an avid post card collector ever since he discovered some old albums in the bottom of an elderly aunt's cupboard as a boy. He was fascinated by them and eventually given them. Ever since then he has both collected them and traded them at collectors' fairs and elsewhere. Old post cards can often give a fascinating glimpse into social history especially at a local level. Jonathan was President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain for several years, but is now semi-retired. As you might expect, his post card collection includes some of a religious nature but often those that gently poke fun at the church. As you would expect with his background, he is an excellent speaker, both interesting and amusing. He has promised to treat us to a selection of his cards coverings some featuring cars, fascinating social history as well as a good sprinkling of comical ones. It will be a real treat!

*Kelvin*

## CHOCOLATE FROG VISIT – THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY



Nicky and I are planning to visit The Chocolate Frog Café at Oakhanger Farm Business Park, Oakhanger, Bordon Nr Alton **GU35 9JA** on **15<sup>th</sup> May in the afternoon**. It's a very pleasant drive of approximately an hour from Newbury either via A roads or more fun by avoiding the A roads. We plan to be there at 3.00 to take tea outdoors in the sunshine! There has been no firm booking made, but I will advise the Café Manager that we are coming, so please let me know if you plan to join us. There is plenty of parking on site just park anywhere on site as there are no reserved places.

The what3words code is – **cucumber.ballparks.grape** (sorry Trina, had to be included as it might help some).

We have not produced a route but suggest if you go via Basingstoke take the A339 via Lasham and pop the Postcode into your Sat Nav or Phone and you can't go wrong. There are also a few brown signs to help you when you get closer.

This establishment is an interesting place. Their family-run business incorporates a pleasant tearoom offering afternoon teas with boutique style shopping, spread across three shopping barns. You might find just what you have been looking for. The Chocolate Frog is set in the Hampshire countryside; in the tearoom they have a range of seating available, including outdoor seating for the summer!



If you think it sounds fun please join us, as it just might be! Again, please let me know if you intend to join us.

*Roger & Nicky*

## RAMBLE TO HAMBLEDON – SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY

As mentioned previously we have planned a short run to Hambleden which coincides with Jaguar Enthusiasts Club annual gathering on the sports field. All makes of cars are welcome.

The run commences at The Woodpecker Washwater RG20 0LU, (our old meeting venue) and is about 36 miles long.

We have arranged with Emma, the landlady at the Woodpecker, to be there from 10.00am where she has agreed to lay on coffee. Members are responsible for settling their own bills with Emma.

We plan to flag the first cars off at 10.30am which will give you all sufficient time to arrive at Hambleden around lunchtime where we can meet up for a picnic. Fingers crossed for a sunny day.

Cakes and teas are usually available in the cricket pavilion.

On arrival at the sports field, which is accessed through the public car park, you will be directed to a parking spot.

We would be grateful if you could let us know if you are joining us so that we can email you a route, (tulip sections) and give Emma an idea of the numbers she has to cater for with coffee. Our contact details are on the membership list.

We look forward to you joining us.

*Ian & Sue*

## **LUNCH BUNCH WALK -THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY**

If we could all meet at The Dish, Curie Avenue, Second Street OX11 0GDT Harwell Campus at 10.45 for an 11am start. What 3 Words: escalated.asleep.share

Take the Marie Curie Entrance and you will see The Dish and a teepee on the left. Turn left and left again for parking at The Dish.

Walk: An easy, flat 2 mile walk, which can be made shorter or longer, around the Campus.

Lunch: At the Dish: Street food from around the world. <https://harwell.noggroup.com/dish>

We look forward to seeing you there.

*Fran & Graham*

## **PANGBOURNE CLASSIC CAR SHOW - SATURDAY 31 MAY 10.00-16.00**

If you haven't booked your tickets to attend the Classic Car Show at Pangbourne College, you can still attend as a spectator. Admission is free to spectators, but there is a £10 parking fee – the event will enable us to continue support of two important local charities - Footsteps Foundation Charity. They assist children with neurological disorders in Dorchester-on-Thames, and also the Pangbourne Community Fund supporting local charities in the area.

There will be a Battle of Britain flyover from the Dakota at 1530 on the day which will be an amazing sight. New, this year we will have a full farmers market at the show on the quad with a wide range of stalls. There will be around 500 vehicles on display so the site will be very busy.

There will be live music entertainment provided by the Pangbourne Silver Band and The Roy Bailey Big Band. Kingdom Coffee or long standing supporters will be supplying hot and cold drinks, and in addition we will have four food vans, Hops in a box serving local beers and wines and an ice cream van on site.

## UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

### CLUB NIGHT – 14 APRIL FLAPJACKS!! (how do you flap a jack??)

Club Night and it is competition night to see who, in the considered opinion of the expert Newbury M.G. Owners, can make the best Flapjacks! Sue Totham and Jan Cover had been asked to be judges for this competition. Then I realised we were ALL judges. So apologies and thank you to Sue and Jan for agreeing and being part of the judging too. The scene was set; table laid, discreetly numbered plates were displayed with an assortment of flapjacks from ginger, to fruit, to plain – nine anonymous offerings to be tasted (only Trina knew who were the individual bakers). And, so the tasting commenced; choices noted; then, with trusted pencil and paper, computed! and finally, there was a winner – **A STAR BAKER !!** And it was.....



**Anne** (Matthews) - closely followed by  
**Roger** (House) - just a smidgen ahead of  
**Judith** (Pitman)

And all that was left were a few crumbs of the Newbury MG Owners Flapjacks

Thank you to all those who baked delicious offerings for us to taste. What shall we bake next time??

*Trina*

### BREAKFAST MEET UP No 2 – HILLIERS GARDEN CENTRE – 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

Not so popular this time round with the numbers slightly down on last month as 9 of us met up to enjoy individual versions of breakfast. Some went the whole hog choosing the full Monty fry up with tea or coffee, some were more refined selecting avocado and egg on toast. Others went for a cake from the interesting choice available from an excellent selection of cakes or pastries on offer.

It was surprising that a camera crew from the BBC did not turn up, as we discussed what was wrong with the world currently and naturally came up with some diverse answers but most importantly we all left as friends.

We have not set a date for the next opportunity to enjoy breakfast together but will announce it on the WhatsApp group, so please watch this space.

*Roger and Nicky*

## APRIL LUNCH BUNCH (NOT WALK)

This was a great walk! Down incline on the way and slight upward on the way home! This was from the car park into The Angel at Woolhampton. We needed a drink by the time we arrived!!

There were 14 of us stalwarts, enjoying good food and good company at The Angel. We had very attentive service and it was well worth the walk.

Maybe we shall do it again ! Possibly at The Angel possibly somewhere else – any suggestions. May be the Craven Arms, we haven't been there for sometime!

The next Lunch Bunch WALK, on Thursday 22nd May, is led by Graham and Fran and is at Harwell with lunch at the Dish – again good food there too. Look out in the May Newsletter for details.

*Trina*

## WINCHESTER MGOC COBWEB SPIN – HEAVY HORSE CENTRE

What a brilliant day we had at this event on Sunday 27th April. Eight cars from Newbury took part in this gathering to celebrate Drive it Day, when all owners of classic car are encouraged to show their vehicles to the general public. Winchester MGOC invited all local clubs to join them at the Dorset Heavy Horse Farm Park located near Verwood, Dorset. It was a pleasant drive of about 55 miles to the farm from Newbury via Salisbury on what must be described as a beautiful morning for open top motoring.



We all arrived between 10.30 and 11.15 on this glorious sunny day and joined the other MGs, bringing the total in attendance to approximately 84 cars. Our Club flag was on display fluttering proudly to mark our meeting point. The first demonstration was due to take place in the main yard shortly after we arrived. Before the talk started we were able to briefly explore the site and see ten of the enormous horses peering out from their stables looking for food, flicking there large heads to attract our attention. Here in the yard the lecture informed us how to dress a Heavy Horse, I believe the technical term is Tack Up, it's complicated and has a definite order if you want avoid getting trodden on! They are enormous creatures particularly when we were so close up to them! I was somewhat nervous myself they have very large feet and large teeth. Hence I was careful not to get too close.



It was great to see Malcom Sayers who had driven up from his new home just outside Lyme Regis and also a member from the past, Nigel Pratt who join us. Lots of our members then took advantage of the Ride in a Cart trips that were available behind a beautifully turned out Heavy Horse. It was fascinating to hear the stories from the driver about the farm and the training of the horses who enjoy working. It was impressive to see the skill shown when the horse with little or no direction from the driver executed the tight turn with lots of sideways movement, almost dance steps, to turn himself and the cart around for the return journey in a very restricted space. Some of our group purchased coffees and spent some time kicking tyres as we wandered round meeting old friends and admired the MGs lined up for inspection.



This took us to lunch when the Newbury Members met up again to form the familiar circle to eat our sandwiches and natter about our day so far. Mike and Carol were the last to join up with the group as they had stayed in the main yard to hear the talk on the Romani People in front of a Gypsy Caravan which was on display; these of course were pulled by their heavy horses during their travels. We hoped that Mike



would bring us all up to date with the story but he had been unable to hear the presentation too well so we were disappointed! However we did learn that they probably originated from North-western India, they began their migrating to the west around the 5th century. It was soon time to pack our chairs away and return to the main square to learn more about the individual horses. It is a fascinating story. The farm is dedicated to providing an opportunity for the general public to understand how man once relied upon these powerful working animals and remember the millions of faithful horses, which were lost during battle. Each of the different horses was



introduced to us and their role was explained along with their origins. Sadly lots of the individual breeds are struggling to survive as obviously they are no longer required to work now that farming has been mechanised. The sheer size of these horses is reflected in the cost of their upkeep which contributes to why few Heavy Horse sanctuaries are now in existence and consequently their numbers are rapidly declining. The farm which is a charity runs a successful breeding programme; it is helped in this by the donations provided and open days. We were able to see one of their success stories, as we saw three generations of Suffolk Punch horses. Foal, Lilly Rose, Mum, Abby Rose and Grandma (whose name I've forgotten.) happily sharing a stable.

Some of us then sorted out a cream tea before we said our goodbyes and thanks to the organisers and staff and set off for the drive home. The consensus of opinion was that it had been a brilliant day out to a super venue where we were made very welcome

*Roger and Nicky*

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS & EVENTS OF INTEREST**

### **ANNUAL BBQ – SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

It's our summer BBQ on Saturday the 14th June, ~12:00 pm - 5:00 pm and Carolyn and Bob have offered to host again this year. Please let me ([suetotham@btinternet.com](mailto:suetotham@btinternet.com)) know if you're attending and what you will bring as your contribution. As usual the club will provide the meats i.e. burgers and sausages.

*Sue*

### **LACOCK ABBEY VISIT & PICNIC – THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 10:30**

NT property and village, also home of the Fox Talbot Photography Museum. Fascinating village and Abbey with extensive grounds with large picnic area, so you can either bring a picnic for lunch or there is a café if you prefer, on the edge of the village

Meet in the Stables Café (just up from the NT car park) around 10:30 for coffee and/or meet up for picnic lunch in the Orchard within the Abbey from 1300 on.

Lacock is about 50 miles/1 hours drive from Newbury, postcode SN15 2LG.

*Brian*

### **MUSIC EVENING IN ANDOVER – FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

Our daughter Charlotte is performing with her Band at The Forresters Pub , 2 London Street, Andover SP10 2PA on Friday 4th of July at 8.00 pm ,there is plenty of car parking close by. The Group called the "Skandalizers" perform a variety of music from Ska to Blues, their music can be viewed on Google.

They usually perform in the Brighton area, but are coming to Andover to give family and friends a chance to see them, we hope music loving MG club Members will be able to come and support, there is no charge but just buy a drink!

Any queries please let us know. Thanks.

*Barry & Penny*

### **YATTENDON CLASSIC VEHICLE DAY - 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

Please read the message below about the Yattendon Classic Vehicle Day. If you are attending please make sure you indicate that you are with Newbury MG owners club:

Following last June's very successful event, we are looking forward to welcoming you again at this year's 'Day'. Some Club Secretaries will have been included in the mailing, since they may have taken on, or relinquished roles in the last twelve months – I would be grateful if you could 'disseminate the date.' As before, we are raising money for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance (c £4,400 raised during the 2024 'Day'), and other local charities.

Since the number of display vehicles attending continues to increase, we now have a Public Address system to convey messages across the site. Additionally, a 'roving mike' held by Mr Peter Card ('The Automobile' magazine) will be on hand to gather first-hand insights on vehicles from exhibitors.

Inevitably, our fixed costs have increased. We have continued to resist charging exhibitors, but, as last year, we are now asking for a £5 entrance charge for visitors' cars.

As in previous years, there will be prizes on offer for 'Best vehicle' in various categories, as well as a 'Best in Show'.

Apart from food and drink of various kinds, a diverse selection of non-vehicle 'attractions' will be on offer, in and around the village and the Renegade Brewery.

In order to register the details of your vehicle(s), please visit: <https://ycvd.co.uk/ycvd-entry-form/>

We look forward to seeing you on 29<sup>th</sup> June. Any updates will be placed on the YCVD website closer to the date.

Best wishes

**Philip Bickford Smith** *Entries Co-Ordinator, Yattendon Classic Vehicle Day (YCVD)*

## ADVANCE PLANNING NOTIFICATION

### BRIAN HAY MEMORIAL DRIVE OUT TO STOURHEAD NATIONAL TRUST SUNDAY JULY 27<sup>th</sup>

Many of you will recall the brilliant route that Brian produced for us approximately 10 years ago. We thought it would be a fitting tribute to Brian to visit this location again in his memory.

This we plan to do on **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July**. The new route will be 57 miles from Hungerford using mainly A roads, therefore it will not follow Brian's original 80 miles road run, which was quite complicated. Many of us are not so skilled at the navigating anymore and no longer keen to travel so many miles on twisty country roads. Age has its draw backs as Nicky and I know so well! Therefore there are two routes suggested, one being to make your own way there via the direct route of the A303 into Wiltshire past Stonehenge and then follow the B3092 to Stourton and on to Stourhead National Trust venue. **The post code is BA12 6QD**. The National Trust has changed its policy and dogs are now permitted in most of the venue.



As an alternative we have produced a Tulip Route which starts in Hungerford and takes us to the same venue via a more attractive route over Salisbury plain of 57 miles. At Stourhead we will hopefully all be able to meet up for a picnic lunch before exploring this gem of an estate by visiting the House and Gardens not forgetting the Lake 2 mile walk.

For National Trust members everything is free of charge but don't forget you have to obtain a Carpark ticket. For Non Members the charge is £22 per head for entry into the house and gardens and £4.50 for the Carpark. Access from the Carpark allows entry only to the loos, café, and shop and the zig zag path down to the Spread Eagle Inn.



*Roger and Nicky*

## **RAF BENSON DAY – 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

Thanks to those who have responded that they are interested in attending the Family Day at AF Benson. I have been unable to get any information, apart from the date, I was asked to phone back in a month! I am on the distribution list so will distribute the info when I receive it.

*Carol*

## **CHRISTMAS MEAL!!**

Following the email sent out recently, I did not have a great many replies, but those I did receive veered towards a Christmas Lunch. Where?? Newbury College was suggested. We have had a couple of very good meals at the College and I have been assured that the Christmas event is just as good if not better. So I contacted the College – and on a recommendation from Roger – to ask to make a booking but was told it was too early!!! I contacted Anthony Millon, Head Chef Lecturer, who assured me the College would get in touch with me when bookings could be made.

I do hope this would be acceptable to members as some did still want an evening event, perhaps with a bit more Christmas pzazz!! I, therefore wonder if, when we have our naff Christmas jumper evening in December, we could add a bit more pzazz to the evening. I am sure the committee could decorate the room up a bit more and perhaps we could have a bit of Christmas music and even dancing. I will approach Richard, at the Bowlers Arms, and ask if this would be possible, if that would then perhaps satisfy those that would prefer an evening event.

Thoughts???

*Trina*