

# Newbury



# Owners Club 1023

## NEWSLETTER NO. 370 – July 2025

### SECRETARY'S SUMMARY JULY 2025

June carried on as May finished. Wall to wall sunshine great to be around.

Good to see all who attended the monthly meeting at the Bowlers Arms, a good chat and drink, and hello to Ian a new member look forward to seeing you next time.

The month carried on people going places in the good weather myself and Alison included.

A really good turn out at Bob and Carolyn's abode for the annual barbecue, well cooked meat thanks to the chefs and the array of salads etc mouth watering. A nice day of weather again everyone trying not to get sun burned. A good chat was had about cars and all other things in general. And again thanks Rob and Carolyn for letting us use their home.

The trip to Laycock, it appeared did not happen although perhaps this can be rearranged at some stage?

The weekend of the 29th was the Yattendon show, 12 cars from our Club attended this great event, this grows year on year and the village location is really nice. Look forward to seeing a report on the event in next months Newsletter.



*Paul*

# Newbury MGOC Diary 2025

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

Date	Event	Organiser
<b>JULY</b>		
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Club Night	All
Thu 24 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Lunch Bunch Walk	Phil & Karen
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Tulip route to Stourhead	Roger
Thur 31 <sup>st</sup> Jul	Evening Drive Out	Tony
<b>AUGUST</b>		
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Club Night _ Chat	
Thu 14 <sup>th</sup> Aug	RAF Benson Family Day	Carol
Thu 28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Lunch Bunch Walk	Barry & Penny

## EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN JULY

### **CLUB NIGHT – MONDAY 14 JULY – 7.30PM – GENERAL CHAT**

Club night this month will be a general chat, looking forward to seeing you there.

### **LUNCH BUNCH WALK -THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

July's walk is based in Oxfordshire, a circular walk visiting 2 pretty villages and some lovely countryside in between. It's a 4 mile flat walk, however, we will stop for lunch half way round. We will walk for an hour, have lunch and then walk another hour to return.

Starting (and finishing) from: the village stores, High Street, East Hendred (OX12 8JY)  
what3words: behalf.forum.discrepancy

Lunch stop: the Grocer Chef, High Street, Ardington (OX12 8PS)  
what3words: acid.recitals.player

Please meet at 11:00am for an 11:15am start. Lunch will be booked for 12:15pm.

For those interested, can you please email: [karen.winning@icloud.com](mailto:karen.winning@icloud.com) We can then ensure to book a table for lunchtime and send you a pdf of the walk.

*Phil and Karen*

## **BRIAN HAY MEMORIAN RUN TO STOURHEAD – SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

Many of you will recall the brilliant road run that Brian Hay organised almost 20 years ago to Stourhead; well we would like to do it again. Unfortunately the original route we suspect will be too long and a little complex for our requirement. Hence we have revised it a bit but retaining the interesting drive, with spectacular views over Salisbury plain.

We plan to picnic in the Car Park at Stourhead at approximately 12.30, then break up and go and explore this beautiful National Trust location. There is the House and Gardens and the magnificent lake walk, shop and café all available to be explored. Nicky and I plan to complete the lake walk and adjourn to the café for a cream tea!

Remember its free entry for members, but there is a charge of £22pp for non-members. The café, shops and toilets are open to non-members.

There are two alternative routes to get there, the easiest is via the A34 and the A303 to Mere in Wiltshire then follow the brown signs. The second route is to follow the Tulip Route that Nicky and I have put together for you, much more exciting! This starts from Hungerford along the A4 from Newbury. Set your milometer to zero at the lay-by opposite the Dobbie Garden Centre, which is on the right hand side of the road as you enter Hungerford, and then follow the Tulip Direction for the 57 miles. If you would like a copy of the Tulip Route, please get in touch and I will email it to you for printing at home.

When you arrive at Stourhead you will need to follow the signpost to the Car Park, drive through the ranks of parked cars on the hardstanding and look for Over Flow carpark called COCKERELS car park. Hopefully we will then all meet up!

Stourhead Postcode = BA12 6QD

What3words = hampers.degrading.upset

Roger Mobile 07966 132295

Email rogerview91@gmail.com

Nicky Mobile 07958 273515

If you have any questions please contact us and we will do our best to provide an answer. Look forward to a beautiful sunny day out!

*Roger & Nicky*

## **EVENING DRIVE OUT THURSDAY 31ST JULY**

The drive out will be to THE HATCHET at Lower Chute north of Andover. It is a lovely thatched pub with ample seating inside and out with plenty of parking. The food is excellent at relatively reasonable prices. The best route is initially down the A343. The drive should take 45mins from where the A34 crosses the A343 at the Highclere junction, from this point it is approximately 15 miles. There are two approaches to Lower Chute. Turning right off the A343 in Hurstbourne Tarrant to Upton and on to Vernham Deane is probably favourite but there is a right hand turn at the top of the hill out of Hurstbourne Tarrant which will take you there. It is easy to miss and leads on to very narrow roads. A Sat Nav will find the pub.

I have booked us in at 7.00 pm. Jerry the landlord has asked if we can pre book so if you intend to have an evening meal the Sample Evening Menu is available at the link below.

[Sample Evening Menu – The Hatchet Inn](#)

Please let me know if you are coming along and your menu choices by e mail or telephone (details in the newsletter) or on club night 14th July.



Please let me know by Friday 25th July. Hope that you can join us.

The Hatchet Post code SP11 9DX. What 3 Words trapdoor.spoiler.modes Tel 01264 730229

*Tony*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **RAF BENSON FAMILY DAY – THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

RAF Benson have confirmed Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August as the Family Day. I have had interest from 3 members, and I will need to send details of the cars to the organiser, if we go ahead and attend.

I have been unable to obtain any further information about the day, I know there are various exhibitors, local and crafts, as it's a family day, the usual kiddie delights! There are also aircraft on display and a flying display. However, I can't guarantee any of this until they send out more information – I have tried!! I do know that we will be parked in a hanger, and we don't have to stay with our cars. Our group will be given an entry time so that everyone isn't arriving together, sometime from 10am.

This is a closed event, you can't just drive in as it is a military base, but I have heard from friends who have attended that it is a very good day.

If you think you would like to attend, please let me know as soon as possible, so I can give an indication of numbers, if I get more information, I will also contact Winchester and Basingstoke MG clubs to see if they are interested in attending.

*Carol*

### **LUNCH BUNCH WALK – 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER – RESERVE THE DATE**

So you think you know Salisbury?

Can I tempt you to explore with Kelvin & myself a little history and fun facts – including a brothel, Turkish baths, a mummified hand and Doom painting amongst others

Details to Follow.

*Judith & Kelvin*

# UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

## ANNUAL BBQ

Well, who believes the weather forecast. The end of the week – rain, thunder storms, when can we get the marquee up?? We could have done it on schedule on Thursday, but we postponed and in the end Bob, Carolyn and Bob's two Poles did it – probably in a trice without argument about where bits went!

After all that it was a beautiful day. Warm sun and (some) blue sky, with a cooling breeze that did cool a bit more later in the afternoon. But that did not detract from the fact that it was a great event as one would expect of Newbury MG Owner's Club. The line up of MG cars was impressive; hoods down, sunroofs opened (except mine too hard on my own!!) The barbeque was brilliant – big burgers to fill a lunchtime hole, superb salads and delectable and delightful desserts, all perfectly presented to entice one's appetite.



We arranged ourselves, under the marquee, in the usual Club circle! swapping places from time to time to chat with all; catching up with news and enjoying time with those not met with recently, and admire Roger's shirt and matching trainers! It was a wonderful afternoon. Then the breeze became a bit more lively and we began to pack up our belongings to wind our way home.

A huge thanks must go to Bob and Carolyn for letting us use their garden for this event. Not a building in site, except for their house!! But the trees and views are great, no noise from the modern world, except from mall aeroplanes buzzing overhead from time to time. Thank you too, to all those who provided such delicious salads and desserts and Roger (H) and Peter (D) for their hot work with the barbeque and everyone for coming and making it such a lovely afternoon.

Well done to us all.

*Trina*

## EVENTS OF INTEREST

### CHARITY RIDE – HELPING HOMELESS VETERANS

I've been lucky enough to have been driving cars since the age of 10, I learnt on amongst other things a 1954 Austin Princess Sheerline looking out between the steering wheel rim and the top of the dashboard, for the health and safety brigade now panicking, it was on private land. I've had several classic cars over the years the current being a red 72' B GT. I've also been riding motorbikes since I was 15 and always had a bike and car but for a majority of the years the bike was a tool for commuting etc and not the means to an adventure. So it was when I turned 60 and the commuting days were over that I realised time was passing by and quickly and that I needed to push my motorcycling and personal boundaries. In 2023 my Royal Enfield Himalayan 411 became my only bike and with encouragement from my motorcycle club colleagues I have been on, in 2023 a 10 day group trip to France (Battlefields etc) followed by a club trip to mid Wales. I then did a lone trip to the Lake District. I had a great time and on the group trips and club meets I re found that blokey banter thing that was missing from retirement. In 2024 besides another club trip and a lone trip to Wales (Top Gear road) my touring colleague and I planned a ride into Europe, we rode together to just beyond Munich where he turned left and carried on down to the Royal Enfield gathering in Greece and I turned right and rode through Austria, Switzerland and France.

So where is this story going ? Well I spent 23 yrs in the RAF, leaving in 2002, I have donated to the RAF Benevolent fund every month since I joined up aged 17 1/2. I have had a comfortable life since leaving the RAF and was even head hunted for my first Civvy St job ! and I've made donations to service related charities over the years. So in May as one of my trips this year I thought I'd do a lone LEJOG (Land's End to John O'Groats) and tie in with a charity. I know there are people who leave the services and find it very hard to re-integrate into Civvy St and end up on hard times, homeless and not helped so I am hoping through the kind members of the MGOC (others will be badgered too) to raise some money for 'Helping Homeless Veterans UK' check them out here [100% volunteer powered](#) they have helped over 700 people so far and the team are all volunteers. Please consider a donation through my JustGiving page: [Phil Winning is fundraising for Helping Homeless Veterans UK](#)



Thankyou.

*Phil Winning*

## Trip to Agios Nikolaos in Genny MG – Part 2

The bus trip into Venice took about 40 minutes. The terminus was fairly chaotic as buses, trains and boats of various shapes and sizes all congregated there. Our first port of call was the Tourist Information Office. Not as helpful as we had hoped but provided us with a map and persuaded us to buy a two day pass covering all the water buses etc. As it happened we only used it twice and then it didn't register properly with the automatic readers which meant we missed our boat a couple of times as we had to board via the manual lane. After some other tourists bus the long way



Mark's Piazza which gave us a good enjoy the Venice atmosphere from the



time we arrived at St Mark's Piazza we were both thirsty and in need of a comfort stop. The problem was that there were no public conveniences anywhere, so knowing we were going to be stung price wise we opted to buy a coffee at one of the Piazza cafes. It cost us €12 or (£10) each which I calculated was 2400 times more than spending a penny in old money. Never mind we did get a very nice coffee which is always served with water

and enjoyed just watching everyone stroll by. The cafe also had a delightful quartet serenading us while we people watched, so perhaps worth the money after all. We strolled over to the Basilica Di San Marco where the queue for tickets was surprisingly short and we were inside in under 15 minutes, it also only cost a few Euros to get in. We really enjoyed looking round and paid another couple of Euros to see a fantastic gilded frieze. A picture is worth a thousand words so I will leave them to tell the story. On coming out Judith purchased some lovely silk scarves as gifts for when we got home and managed to negotiate a discount for quantity. The next surprise was to be treated to a Welsh choir singing outside the front of the Basilica. We don't think it was official, just impromptu as they soon moved on but lovely while it lasted. Our next stop was the Palazzo Ducale. Again no queue of any consequence to get in. Very much a museum but giving us a good historic overview. They also had a handy restaurant so had a snack for lunch and free WCs (hurrah!). By this time we were shattered so we took a water bus back but had to wait ages and again frustrated that the automated ticket reader didn't work.



Once back at the hotel the manager pointed out that my front left tyre was flat. It had been OK when we arrived so assume we had a slow puncture. Fortunately I had a spare inner tube but struggled to jack the car up. I had a very stubby hydraulic jack that fitted very nicely inside the spare wheel. It was normally OK but having a flat tyre the car was 7 or 8 cms lower. I eventually found a less than ideal jacking point that with great care sufficed. Although I had a spare wheel,

we still had nearly 1000 miles to do before we got home so I was keen to get the puncture fixed. The hotel manager rang round several tyre places for me but none were open as it was a bank holiday weekend. He then tried his father in law who although retired had been in the motor trade. He kindly came and picked up the flat tyre and promised to get it fixed somehow and bring it back the following evening.

For our second day in Venice we decided we just wanted to wander around seeing where the fancy took us.



Neither of us could tell you where we went but it was fascinating just to explore. We came across a shop that was selling all sorts of masks very similar to the ones that decorated the B&B in San Martino in Strada. You could either buy ready made ones or the elements to make your own. We also found a lovely little restaurant down a narrow alley for a bite to eat. We did eventually find our way to the famous Ponte so Rialto which was very crowded. We could have taken a boat back but decided rather than queue



we would find our own way back which we managed with out too much trouble.

The next day we were supposed to meet Mark and Maureen off their ferry to drive to a hotel



Maureen had booked in Stresa by Lago Maggiore. However, their ferry was stuck outside Venice waiting for the fog to lift. It was too thick to allow the ferry to safely navigate the long narrow channel into the Port. By lunchtime it still showed no sign of lifting so Mark suggested we head off by ourselves. This was the third leg of the four we had originally planned to travel together. So much for our original plan and the main "excuse" for undertaking the trip!!!

We really enjoyed the drive to Lago Maggiore with the beautiful scenery along the southern side of the Alps. We arrived in good time at a beautiful 4 star hotel at Stresa



overlooking the lake. Our room had two windows overlooking the lake each with a small balcony, table and chairs. Mark and Maureen's ferry had eventually been guided along the channel still in the fog by a pilot but they would not arrive at the hotel until 11:00pm so we agreed to meet for breakfast in the morning. We strolled around the grounds and found a grotto that had a musical fountain and light display every half hour. We turned in after a light meal and drink in the bar while listening to a pianist's extensive repertoire. It was a very



elegant old hotel, but with modern facilities. It seemed that anything that didn't move had been painted gold. The next morning we had a very relaxed buffet breakfast with an enormous choice. We had already decided to stay an extra night as it seemed a shame not to enjoy the hotel and location or rush breakfast. We spent the day walking along the lake side, through the

town of Stresa, exploring some of the shops and of course giving the cars a once over for the return journey to Switzerland.

Our route to Switzerland was via the Simplon and Lotschberg tunnels. Both are railway tunnels so the cars are driven onto the end of a series of connected rail wagons, open at the sides and simple corrugated steel roof. You stay in the car for the whole journey. Quite an experience if you have never done it before. The onward journey was via Bern and Basel but Judith and I turned off before to cut across country via our old village of Bubendorf where we lived for 15 years. Most of the route after that was over the mountain to Mark and Maureen's house much of which followed my old route to work via many hairpin bends, again great fun in an MG.



We decided to stay at Mark and Maureen's house for two nights enjoying their hospitality and of course drinking the champagne we had bought in Sainte-Menehould on the journey out.

Our final journey home retraced our outward route simply taking the autoroute through France with the MG happily cruising along at 130kph most of the way. We caught an earlier shuttle under the channel arriving home in good time

having driven 2700 miles in 3 weeks. Despite the worry right at the beginning, the car didn't miss a beat under any of the very wide range of driving conditions we encountered throughout the trip. The only problem being the puncture. So I was well pleased with Genny MG's performance.

*Kelvin & Judith*

## CRICKET ST THOMAS ADVENTURE – MAY 23RD TO MAY 26<sup>TH</sup>

It is a while ago that we were all invited by the Joint Area Secretaries of the South West Area of MGOC to join them on a weekend at Warner's Hotel at Cricket St Thomas in Somerset. Our Party consisted of 16 people in 8 MGs who joined with others to make the group of up to 92 cars and approximately 190 people, all MG enthusiasts from around the country, out to enjoy ourselves.



We all made our way by varying routes to the venue on the Friday in glorious weather conditions, not knowing what to expect. When we arrived we were welcomed with a glass of champagne to enjoy, then issued with our room keys and invited to explore the facilities. It's an enormous place with plenty to keep you occupied. It was soon time to meet up for another champagne reception in the Manor House with the opportunity to meet the rest of the party. Our group were all friends that we had made from owning MGs, Derek and Anne from Newbury MGOC were the last to join us as introductions were made. It was then off to our evening meal Warner's style. There was a bit of confusion regarding the seating plan, which was soon resolved and the laughter began. After dinner we discovered the theatre and were entertained by an excellent singer featuring the songs of the divas from the last 30 years or so.

After an excellent choice for breakfast the following day, there were numerous activities available including archery, shooting, axe throwing, laser pistols, swimming, spa, garden tours,



treasure hunt in the grounds and oh yes three MG tours to enjoy, what you chose to do was entirely up to you. That evening was the themed event, which was a celebration of VE80 with the theme Dad's Army. We were invited to dress up if we wished to and a

high percentage decided to so with some imaginative costumes on display.

Time simply flew by and it was soon the Gala Dinner for the last night, again the with the optional dress code being suggested of DJs and posh frocks. We met up again in the Manor House for champagne reception with the presentation of the prizes for the various competitions held over the weekend. Derek and Anne were announced as the winners of the treasure hunt and John Watson received the prize for the laser shooting challenge, so our party was well represented. We did not do so well with the raffle prizes or the silent auction.



During the weekend money was being raised for a charity that helps army veterans. Sadly I cannot recall their name or the amount raised but I am confident it will be in Enjoying Magazine.

The last morning during breakfast we reminisced on what a great weekend we had had visiting some interesting places such as Forde Abbey, Glastonbury, Street Outlet Centre, Abbotsbury Swan Sanctuary and the Dorset coast among other places. We met some great people, ate too much and laughed in the sunshine, what more could we ask for.

*Roger & Nicky*