

Newbury



Owners Club 1023

NEWSLETTER NO. 378 – March 2026

SECRETARY'S SUMMARY MARCH 2026

Hi all,

Well, the New Year has certainly treated us all to a wet start, constant rain wetting the already soaked ground. I hope you all have kept warm and dry and dreaming of the better weather ahead.

The first fixture on the diary was a great success, Brian and Sue's Trip around India. Very interesting and informative I think we all agree. I know that a few have trod the same grounds, but I am sure it brought back fond memories of your time in India. Thanks to them both for taking the time and effort to produce the talk.

Next club night is the belated quiz night, this was blighted last year through ill health. I will try my luck at producing the event don't expect too much folks, Roger is a hard act to-follow, a born showman.

There has been some talk regarding a drive out instead of chat at some of the meetings. This I feel is a good idea in essence, I hope we can rely on someone to arrange at short notice. As it would be weather permitting, I am sure we all agree.

I am still after takers for the Basingstoke Transport Day so far only 2 have come forward. Please let me know if you are interested in the event as the organisers have asked us to attend. I also need a list for the shake down run as the time draws near and you will need to register your Vehicle etc to attend. I will find out more and get the flyers out as necessary.

A note about the club bank account, Brian has done all the ground work and it looks as though we are getting a new account with Metro Bank. They seem much friendlier to do business with. Will keep you posted.

A new member came to the last meeting Martin and Partner, very nice to see new faces. I hope you had an enjoyable time and please return. Hope to see you all at the quiz.

Paul

Newbury MGOC Diary 2026

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

Date	Event	Organiser
March		
Mon 9 th Mar	Club Night - Quiz Night	Paul
Thur 26 th Mar	Lunch Bunch Walk - Salisbury	Judith and Kelvin
April		
Sun 12 th Apr	Shakedown Run - Cobweb Spin with Winchester	Paul
Mon 13 th Apr	Club Night - Chat and drinks	All
Thur 16 th Apr	Marchant House, Marlborough	Richard & Jenny
Thur 23 rd Apr	Lunch Bunch Walk?	Trina
Wed 29 th Apr	Battle of Britain Bunker - Uxbridge	Carol & Mike

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN MARCH

CLUB NIGHT – MONDAY 9TH MARCH 2026

Re-arranged Quiz night, due to illness. Look forward to seeing everyone at 7.30pm.

Sue

LUNCH BUNCH WALKS

Hooray! There is a walk this month – thanks to Judith and Kelvin. It is one postponed several times because of weather, and is now set to take place (hopefully!!) this month on Thursday 26th March. More details elsewhere in Newsletter from Judith.

Future walks!! Will there be future walks?? I hope so. I will contrive to manufacture one around Tadley and I think one or two other members have mentioned walks; BUT they will only be achieved with the help of members. Do you have any walks tucked into your boots?? I have asked this before, I know; but even repeat walks are good or walks starting from the same place but going the other way around. The scenery is always different from the other way around.

See you all on Club Night – Monday 9th March.

Trina

LUNCH BUNCH WALK – THURSDAY 26TH MARCH 2026 - SALISBURY

So you think you know Salisbury? Can I tempt you to explore with Kelvin and myself a little history and fun facts – including a brothel, Turkish Baths a mummified hand and a doom painting amongst others.

Directions:

Approach Salisbury either on the A30 or A338. These will join the A36 a dual carriage way. Follow this until you see signs to Central car park which you should follow and park up (note this is split into short and long stay).

Follow the path alongside the river Avon towards city centre, crossing over the Avon via Bridge Market Walk.

We will meet inside Jenny's Bistro Café on the right just over the bridge at 11:00 a.m. or earlier if you want a coffee.

Other parking options are Old George Mall or Park and ride – bus pass holders free after 9.30am, busses every ½ hour.

The walk will take approximately 1.5 hours - the town is compact and flat so the overall distance walked is fairly short with opportunities to slope off for a coffee!

We have not booked anywhere for lunch as there are a lot of possibilities.

After lunch you may wish to visit the Cathedral or Arundel- Edward Heath's house – both in the Cathedral close. Unfortunately, Mompesson House (NT) is closed on Thursdays.

Looking forward to exploring some lesser known facts and areas of Salisbury with you all.

PS The A343 Salisbury Road at Lopcombe Corner, will be closed from 2nd March for several weeks (water mains replacement), diversions will be in place but it might be worth finding an alternative route if you can.

Judith

UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

CLUB NIGHT (A TRIP ROUND INDIA)

We had an marvelous 'trip round India' on Monday at Club Night, with Sue and Brian!! Lots of people had been to India and it brought back memories for them; for others it was truly an awesome trip.

Sue & Brian went to India at the end of October/beginning of November, saying this was a good time to go as the monsoons were over and it was just about the right temperature – not too hot and humidity was better, although they did have a chilly time in the Tiger Reserve and Sue, in particular, was disappointed not to actually see any tigers. But they did see some interesting birds, including a rare Stork billed kingfisher. There were two safaris in the Reserve – but Brian spent the second one having an aromatherapy massage and sitting by the pool!



The architecture of the buildings most usually seen, is amazing - and we have probably all seen pictures etc. - but to see it in such detail in Sue's wonderful photographs was truly astonishing. The colours of the stones and brickwork; the intricacy of the carvings was almost beyond belief, when considering the age of some of the buildings – we have some great constructions in this country, but they really cannot quite compare to some of those in India. The 'decoration' is not painted but inlaid with precious and semi-precious stones. We saw a huge brick tower 5 stories high in diminishing size with 379 steps to reach the top – and no Brian didn't climb the steps!! There was an 'Iron Pillar' dating from the 4th century, made of pure wrought iron and 7 metres high and there is not a speck of rust on it – except where it is underground!!

Sue was able to show us some wonderful pictures of the inside of the monuments that we just don't get to see unless we are there. Of course, everyone thinks of the Taj Mahal! but Brian preferred the Baby Taj a smaller monument to a dead 'wife'! We saw Ghandi in his gardens, and the fact that all the 'monuments' were kept so clean and tidy, gardens manicured and free from mess, constantly being swept was a sharp contrast to the busy and packed streets. Packed with vehicles – mainly of the two-wheeled variety and not with just two people aboard either, sometime with a child or two snuggled between the two adults. Also motor vehicles of various descriptions but mainly 'high-end' and, apparently going in all directions – literally! The street vendors with their stalls also packed the streets and with parked vehicles, progress was often slow and complex, even without the volume of traffic. Health & Safety appears to be disregarded! If the shortest way is along the railway track then that's the way to go. If a train comes along, just get out of the way until it has passed, then carry on your way!



Brian was really looking forward to going on the 'Toy Train' – a UNESCO tourist attraction. However, he was somewhat disappointed!! It seems it was almost a 'toy'. Not very wide, hard wooden seats, and no loo – on a 5hr. journey!! And the loo at the one station stop was not open!!! (oh dear! How uncomfy!). Views and scenery purported to be spectacular but often was hidden by tree/shrubbery growth along the track, and 'views' not able to be 'viewed'. However, there was some splendid scenery and views of the Himalayas from their hotel in Shimla.

They brought back some mementos, as we all do on such holidays – in their case, a beautiful ruby and diamond ring, a solid marble inlaid dish and a 100% cashmere rug that, apparently, will still look like it does today in 100 years time! Will you be there to see it, Brian!!



A truly wonderful way to celebrate (with many cakes!) a Golden Wedding anniversary and a special birthday, thank you for sharing that with us, it was a fantastic talk.

Trina

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

Private Tour of the Merchants House - Marlborough 16 April 2pm

Our private tour of the above is now confirmed subject to there being a minimum of 10 preferably 12 attendees. The cost as mentioned is £17.60pp including gift aid or £16pp without. The Tour including the House, Museum and garden, will last approximately 90 minutes. Historical details of the property can be found online but it has a fascinating past right in the centre of Marlborough.

For those wanting it we can also book a table for a simple early lunch such as at Ask, Italian just down the road or indeed just a coffee. We can sort that out later.

The House administrators would like to know our numbers as early as possible so please let us know if you are joining us by say 28 February. Payment being made to the Club who can then issue one group payment.

Marlborough is a lovely little town to visit so we hope you will join us.

Richard and Jenny

Battle of Britain Bunker, Uxbridge – Wednesday 29th April

I am aware that we visited the Bunker (maybe 2017) – but since that visit there has been a major refurbishment including a brand new museum (which I think was underway on our last visit). We did have a date in the diary for a re-visit following the refurbishment but Covid happened. So thought we could try again!

As we need to book to visit the Bunker, and as most of us are over 65, the cost is £10 per person. The tours of the main bunker are timed and 12 noon would work well as we could browse in the museum before and after, have lunch and still avoid rush hours! I have attached the website so you have further information [Battle of Britain Bunker |](#)

Please let me know if you are interested and I can book our places on the tour, which is 60 minutes in length and involves a 45-minute talk in the Operations Room. The Bunker said that if I book the slots, we could pay on the day to make it easier.

Carol and Mike

Basingstoke Festival of Transport - Sunday 10th May 2026

Always a great day out for all the family, whether you're a keen motor buff or you just want an interesting and enjoyable Sunday. Bookings for exhibitors now open.



Basingstoke Festival of Transport
Sunday 10th May 2026
11am to 4pm at the Basingstoke War Memorial Park

*This is a charity run event put on entirely by unpaid volunteers,
funds raised go charity and charitable activities*