

**Newbury**



**Owners  
Club 1023**

## **NEWSLETTER NO. 380 – MAY 2026**

### **SECRETARY'S SUMMARY MAY 2026**

Hi all

Well the weather has picked up and Easter is out of the way and I know some of you are using your much loved classics already. And so you should enjoy.

A group of our members attended the Merchant house at Marlborough, the reports I have seen indicate it was very much enjoyed. Well done Richard and Jenny. Also some of you are going to the Battle of Britain bunker in Uxbridge on the 29th, and I hope this was enjoyed as much as I write this on the day before you all attend. I am sure it will be great, look forward to pictures and comments. Sorry I can't attend work commitments.

The last meeting was well attended and a good chat was had by all. The next meeting on the 11th May is the once a year shove MG contest, I know this goes down well and is normally a very good laugh. I wonder who will take the prestigious trophy home this year? And at the end of the month the Pangbourne classic cars show takes place, I hope the weather holds out for this one it normally does. So lets enjoy May and make some memories.

*Paul*

# Newbury MGOC Diary 2026

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

| Date                       | Event                                       | Organiser     |
|----------------------------|---|---------------|
| May                        |   |               |
| Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> May    | Breakfast at Browns                         | Kelvin        |
| Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> May    | Shakedown Run - Cobweb Spin with Winchester | Paul          |
| Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> May   | Club Night - Shove MG                       | Kelvin        |
| Thur 21 <sup>st</sup> May  | Lunch Bunch Walk – No walk confirmed        | Trina         |
| Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> May   | Pangbourne Car Show                         | Tom Cheney    |
| June                       |   |               |
| Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> June   | Club Night - Chat and drinks                | All           |
| Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> June  | West Green Gardens                          | Brian         |
| Thur 25 <sup>th</sup> June | Lunch Bunch Walk – Treasure Trail           | Colin & Janet |
| End of June?               | Yattendon Car Show                          | Paul          |
| Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> June  | Thatcham Carnival and Classic Car Show      | All           |

## EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN MAY

### CLUB NIGHT – MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026

Shove MG Night, always an interesting meeting and for some the competitiveness just comes to the fore. Who will be our worthy winner? Look forward to seeing you on the start line.

### 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 to charity and charitable activities*



### PANGBOURNE CAR SHOW – SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY

This year is the 10<sup>th</sup> Classic Car Show at Pangbourne College all in aid of the childrens charity Footsteps Foundation. Last year we had around 500 vehicles and raised nearly £14,000 for the charity. If you haven't yet booked your Car in to the display you have until the 15<sup>th</sup> of May to do so at the link here. <https://www.pangbourne.com/our-community/community-events/classic-car-show>

This year's show will see the return of the farmers market with a range of stalls and also there will be 4 food trucks on site all day as well as Hops in a Box if you want an alcoholic refreshment.

## EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

### CLUB NIGHT - MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

Good news - we've managed to find a speaker for our Club night in June, so, sorry folks only a quick time for 'drinks and chat'!! But do come for 'drinks and chat' and meet friends and colleagues and listen to an interesting talk by 'Headway' a brain injury association in Basingstoke. Judith heard this talk with her Women's Institute (who also meet here at the Bowler's Arms!) and, although they had no particular brain injuries! – as I don't think we have!! - Judith said it was interesting and thought we might find it so as well.



So, Headway is booked to come to our Club Night on Monday 8th June 2026. I do hope you will all join us from 7.30.pm.as I do think it will be – or maybe?? a useful talk despite the fact that we don't have any particular brain 'injuries' – maybe minor malfunctions from time to time.

Hope to see you there - as the evenings are getting lighter for longer.

*Trina*

### TREASURE TRAIL WALK – THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

The club will once again be attempting a Treasure Trail – this time in Calne, Wiltshire. For those who have not done a Treasure Trail before this is one of a series of commercially available hunts described as 'a fun way to explore.' Participants are directed around towns looking for clues which will enable them to eliminate suspects and, in this case, find out who has murdered Chris P Bacon.

This is a 1.5 mile trail which can be completed in around 1.5 hours (it took us a bit longer!). We have previously tried to introduce an extra competitive element but this year will just be setting you off in small groups as you arrive. We will be having lunch at Fay's Bistro, which you will pass en route, so you can report back to us there with your conclusions - and maybe join us in a meal.

The place to meet is Church Street Car Park SN11 0SQ and we are asking you to arrive any time between 10:15 and 10:45. Finding the car park is a test in itself. It is not accessed off Church Steet! It is accessed to the right off the main road through Calne when travelling from the east, but the entrance is cunningly concealed, albeit with a big IN sign, between houses.

We hope you will be able to join us. The town is interesting (in a poignant sort of way) and when we re-attempted the trail this week we found the townspeople to be exceptionally friendly.

*Colin and Janet*

### THE BOVINGTON TANK MUSEUM – 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY

Can you please let Peter Williams know if you will be taking part in the visit to The Bovington Tank Museum on the 15th July 2026 as he needs to inform the museum of numbers by end of May 2026.

*Peter*

## UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

### MERCHANT HOUSE, MARLBOROUGH

Organised by Richard and Jenny this was an impressive visit to this 17th-century silk merchants house located right in the centre of Marlborough. It has been here for over 300 years and survived a 1653 fire that burned the centre of the High Street houses down and later war and been home to families throughout the centuries and seen different trades flourish within its walls.



Marlborough suffered the disastrous fire in 1653 when one morning a worker was drying oak bark at his tannery further down the High Street. As all properties had thatched roofs, these caught alight on both sides of the street. 224 houses were either damaged or destroyed. It was this occurrence that gave Marlborough its very wide High Street, today, one of the largest in the country.



Oliver Cromwell made a generous donation of over £2,000 to renovate the Merchant House, as Marlborough had sided with Parliament during the Civil War.

Following restoration in 1991 the building was reimagined as the house of Thomas Bayly, a prosperous silk merchant who worked and lived here with his wife and nine children during the later years of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

We saw the Great Staircase where the balustrade on the right side going up was in fact painted on the wall to save costs! The large footsteps rose gently to allow the Ladies wearing wide dresses unhindered access.

In the dining room we saw the walls had been painted to mimic silk hangings. This painting was on top of smoothed lime.

The floorboards throughout the house are about 12" wide and were cut from the nearby Savernake Forest. We then visited the 'kitchen bed chamber' which over the kitchen was the warmest and most desirable. The bed was about 12" to 18" shorter than what we are used to because not only were people at the time generally shorter than us today but were prompted to sit up more when sleeping! Here we are also viewed a pair of 17c shoes that were identical in shape for the right and left feet.



We also viewed the historic kitchen which contained a very large fireplace for all the cooking that was required.

Right at the top of the house, we saw a children's bed. As elsewhere the mantle of the fireplace contained various nails fixed in place to ward off evil spirits.

We saw Mr Bayly's study and Mrs Bayly's reading room and then the Panelled Room, the grandest of the interior spaces with its tall carved-stone fireplace. One part of the oak floor has risen up notably in a great wave shape betraying the course of a later brick wall beneath.



The tour finished with a visit to the beautiful garden at the back of the house.

*Peter D*

Many thanks to everybody who supported the recent tour of the House and were able to join us at Ask for lunch beforehand. On the day the service and food were excellent and we would recommend it as a simple lunch venue. The logistics for a party of 15 people were complicated but thanks to Nicky and Janet who helped by booking tables, all to avoid preordering several days in advance, we got there. We even had time for a short wander before meeting up for the tour.

*Jenny and Richard*

## **BATTLE OF BRITAIN BUNKER, UXBRIDGE – WEDNESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

We had 8 members in our group at The Bunker. Although the Bunker has remained the same the museum and café are welcome additions. The Bunker was one of 4 built around the UK, in case of hostilities – it was started in February 1939 and completed by August 1939. Fully operational 10 days before war began and saw its first action 6 days after the outbreak of hostilities. 18m below ground, 76 steps down and with concrete walls 1.2m thick. The Germans took pictures of the area and decided it was no threat.



We arrived early, spent 30-45 minutes browsing the museum ready for the tour. Our guide was very enthusiastic and full of knowledge, but the tour of 60 minutes was nearer to 90. Some may say value for money (others not)!

*Carol*