

Newbury



Owners Club 1023

NEWSLETTER NO. 382 – JULY 2026

SECRETARY'S SUMMARY JULY 2026

Well, what can we say about June, the heat wave came and drove us all under cover boy it's been hot. But better than rain, we can all get out and enjoy our classic MG cars.



The month started with a talk at the meeting at the Bowlers arms. Headway a charity for people with brain injury. Carol and Danial came from Basingstoke and gave us a good insight into to the trials and tribulations of living with a brain injury. This talk was very surprising and gave us a view into what has to happen after the trauma. A collection was held after the event which was well attended. And enjoyed by all I think I can say. I would like to add, a donation was made by the club to help them with their cause. A letter of thanks has been received and can be seen on request.

Some of our members visited West Green Gardens, the reports and pictures I have seen shows a nice relaxing visit was had.

Today is the Yattendon car show and we are all set for a good day but it's just started to rain. There are many MG cars arriving from all clubs Newbury Abingdon etc and the day will include a fly past by the Battle of Britain flight. The flight arrived, a Decota circled very low for a good view.

There are many makes and models here including MGs and of course, lots of people asking questions about the car. In fact, one of the previous owners of my vehicle was at the show and wanted full review of what has been done to the vehicle.

The Thatcham fun day is the same day as the Yattendon show and Mike and Carol were the only members who attended their local event.

Looking forward to the club barbecue in July will see you all there I hope and long may the weather continue to be good.

Paul

Newbury MGOC Diary 2026

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

Date	Event	Organiser
July		
Mon 13 th July	Cookery Competition - Rock Cakes!	Trina
Wed 15 th July	Bovingdon Tank Museum & Picnic	Peter W
Sat 18 th July	Annual BBQ	Sue/All
Thur 23 rd July	Lunch Bunch Walk	Trina
August		
Sat 8 th Aug	Retro Festival – Newbury Showground	Paul
Mon 10 th Aug	Club Night - Chat and Drinks	All
Fri 14 th Aug	RAF Benson Family Day	Carol
Thur 27 th Aug	Lunch Bunch Walk – Treasure Trail (Calne – rearranged due to heatwave in June)	Colin & Janet

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN JULY

CLUB NIGHT – MONDAY 13TH JULY 2026

We haven't had a cookery competition for a couple of years sowe are going to have one for our July Club Night meeting. Get your aprons out and look in your cook books for the best recipes for ROCK CAKES.

Can you make rock cakes?? Edible ones, I mean not actual cakes that turn out like rocks. I have made plenty of those.

Make some for judging by our trusty MG members. They can be big or small – maybe smaller is better. Bring about half a dozen so a good judgement can be made and maybe you will be appointed 'star baker' !! Good baking.

Trina

THE BOVINGTON TANK MUSEUM – 15TH JULY

The Tank Museum is about a 2 hr drive from the Newbury area and it is planned that we meet at 11.15hrs in the Tank Museum car park. The entry tickets are £24.50 per person or £19.50 if you book online, which I fully recommend. The ticket gives you unlimited free entry for a full 12 months from the purchase date of your ticket. There is a very good café on site if you don't want to bother with bringing a picnic for lunch. I strongly suggest you look at the Tank Museum website if you haven't already done so to get a feel for what its about. The full address is; The Tank Museum, Linsay Road, Bovington. Dorset BH20 6JG.

Peter

ANNUAL BBQ – 18TH JULY

What fantastic weather we're having, and hopefully it will continue for the Club BBQ. It's being hosted by Carolyn and Bob again this year. Thank you Carolyn & Bob.

Please think about whether you're able and intending to come along. As usual the club will provide the beefburgers and sausages etc but your generous contributions of salads and desserts always make it a far more exciting meal. Please let me know asap whether you're coming and if so what you think you might bring. Also if there are any dietary issues we can accommodate.

Remember to bring your own chair to sit on and your own plates, cutlery and drinks, plus glasses.

Sue

LUNCH BUNCH WALK – THURSDAY 23RD JULY

Unfortunately no walk this month.

Trina

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

RAF BENSON FAMILIES DAY – FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST

Last year was our first attendance at the Family day, so we weren't sure what to expect. Last year the cars were in a hanger with the Benson Cycle Club – bikes older than our cars. Coffee, cake and cars aside there was still plenty to absorb. Parked on the apron were many small planes and an open Chinook to explore. At Noon, in a blaze of red, white and blue the Red Arrows zoomed overhead, followed by a Lancaster bomber, announcing the start of the air displays. Parachutists descended from high above to land in an orderly queue in front of us. All aircraft were flying antiques, long beyond present service, but still very impressive. The air-show concluded with a simulated attack by a pair of Chinook helicopters, which rapidly deployed troops and equipment on the ground and collected them on completion of their mission.

I have contacted RAF Benson again as past attendees should be emailed with details. So far I haven't heard back. Hopefully I will have more information before club night. If you are interested in attending, please let me know as soon as possible as we will have to submit our details to RAF Benson prior to the event.

Carol

TREASURE TRAIL WALK – THURSDAY 27TH AUGUST (REARRANGED FROM JUNE DUE TO HEAT)

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 we found the townspeople to be exceptionally friendly.

Colin and Janet

MG EUROPEAN EVENT OF THE YEAR 2026

Three cars from our Club attended this annual event, and Brive-La-Gaillarde in France was the venue for 2026.



Bob and Carolyn were the first to head over the Channel as they were attending the MG 'T' Type event in the Ardennes, apart from an issue with nuts! Prior to the trip he had changed his exhaust along with the imperial nuts to metric size. Second day in a loud noise like a machine gun coming from the front of the car – only 1 of the 3 nuts was holding the exhaust in place. Luckily a Frenchman stopped and offered his help, he only lived 200 metres away and got the nuts from his neighbour, they were on our way in less than 10 minutes. They returned the following day with thank you flowers and a bottle of wine left on his doorstep.

Ian and Sue were having a leisurely drive down to Brive, with one night in Portsmouth, an 8am ferry then 4 nights on the road before arriving in Brive. However, Nellie wasn't aware of this and refused to board the 8am ferry, a little persuasion and she left Portsmouth on the slightly later ferry to France. Everything else went well, but perhaps the weather could have been better on their drive down!



Mike and I left a couple of days later (in torrential rain) overnight in Portsmouth and the 8am ferry to Caen (still pouring). However, we took the opportunity whilst waiting to dock to put the roof down, and despite signs of rain we arrived in Alençon dry!



The following night we were staying in Chauvigny, as we were driving south somehow we missed the rain but it was definitely warming up. When we arrived at the hotel around 2.30, the priority was to find out where the football was! We'd put Bella to bed and put the roof up (in case of rain) when Mike decided we ought to get petrol before checking out the town, it was less than a mile away so off we went. Mike couldn't understand why the truck behind was flashing and beeping at us – until it suddenly clicked and I said what did you do with your man bag? Oh dear it was still on the roof!!! Luckily it was still on the roof and we thanked the truck driver. You should have heard Ian and Bob's hoots of laughter when we told them this at dinner a few days later! Chauvigny is a really pretty town with two Romanesque churches and castle ruins.

We had a perfect evening in Chauvigny, the restaurant tables in the square were packed with locals enjoying the beautiful evening, we joined them for dinner, but just before kick-off at 9pm we went into the bar. Nor surprisingly we were the only ones interested in the football. As far as Mike was concerned this was probably the highlight of the trip. Up the Villa!



We arrived in Brive-La-Gaillarde early afternoon, Ian and Sue had arrived earlier and registered at the venue, we registered at the event and came away with a nice boxed bottle of red wine and other goodies – which needless to say didn't travel home and were left for the hotel staff to dispose of! No room for them!

For the next two days we had roadbooks to follow around Perigord, our routes included caves with prehistoric drawings, picturesque villages and a slate mine, Bob's included a trip to Rocamadour. Lunches were included on the runs and we were not disappointed. Dinners were catered for at the conference centre, which was an experience – although the food was okay, pud being served on the first night at 10.45 was a bit late. It was better the next night.

On the first day's run, all was well until after lunch and we couldn't find the turn, after driving up and down for about 15 minutes (and the temperature over 35) we gave up and returned to the hotel for a cold shower! We didn't get lost on the second day but after a late lunch and then the visit to the slate mine, we headed back to the hotel as the heat was just getting too much!

Overall, a good experience, it's in Sweden next year, I think that might be a bit too complicated!

Ian and Sue headed north on the Monday, Bob and Carolyn headed to the Pyrenees with us. When I booked this part of the trip in January it was just Mike and I and the Cols in the Pyrenees were closed, when we left the UK they were still closed! However, an email arrived from one of our hotels saying the Cols were open in their area - phew just in time!

The drive through the Pyrenees was spectacular, snow-covered peaks, green mountains, beautiful villages, hairpin bends, cyclists, cows with their bells ringing. When we stopped at the top to enjoy the views, we were always drawn into conversations about the cars, Bob even found some cyclists from Newbury who were with a Winchester cycling club!

In total we drove 7 Cols, with one being closed which meant a detour of about 40 miles. Driving into Saint-Mamet from Toulouse we drove Col de Portet d'Aspet and Col Des Ares, a nice gentle introduction to the mountains.

The next day was the highlight for Mike as we would be driving over Col du Tourmalet (often part of the Tour de France), before then we had to tackle Col de Peyresourde and Col d'Aspin. A days drive of 50 miles – which took us about 7 hours in total! For the majority of the drive up Tourmalet Mike was slow and in 2nd gear. Bob, however, had the opposite he had to be slow coming down to protect his brakes (not disc brakes).



Col de Peyresourde



Col d'Aspin



Col Du Tourmalet



The final day in the Pyrenees should have been a 98 mile drive to Jaca, but the Col du Aubisque was still closed so we had an extra 37 miles to travel, and despite being in the mountains it was still extremely hot. The final col of the day was the Col du Pourtalet, with the France/Spain border at the top.

Jaca was my favourite stop so far, it has a cathedral and a castle and just a wonderful, relaxed feel. We ate at a restaurant by the cathedral and all agreed best meal so far.



Our final day was the drive to Vitoria Gasteiz, I have to admit I had a few blips with satnav and google maps, but we eventually arrived. Bob and Carolyn had been there 10 minutes as they were following us and their navigation got them there, whilst we went around the block a few times. A very fancy hotel for our last night but chosen as it wasn't too far to walk to the centre of town. As usual, Mike and I were keen to get exploring, had a cup of coffee, showers and we were ready to hit the town. B&C were going to rest a bit longer then join us in town. We explored the cathedral, the old town, and the very old cathedral. Numerous conversations with B&C about where we were but they had turned the wrong way out of the hotel and were totally in the wrong direction. They ended up having dinner in the hotel, whilst we had dinner in a bar, which wasn't the best! But it was Friday night, there was entertainment in the main square, everyone was promenading and we were lucky we actually got to eat!



Final day was a 50 mile drive to Bilbao, we debated using the N road, but motorway won. The weather had changed, no rain but it felt about 10 deg colder. Apart from the first two nights in France (when we were worried about rain) the roof was down for the duration

I had a really relaxing journey (mostly), but Bob and Mike both stressed how challenging and exhausting the driving was particularly with the heat. We discussed our mileage and hotels at great length before we booked anything, what we didn't take into account was the heat (mid 30s), so maybe we should have taken a few extra days for our time in the Pyrenees and Spain.

We left Portsmouth on Tuesday 19th May and returned on Sunday 31st May, our total trip mileage was 1288. Bella performed really well and didn't suffer from the heat, unlike the driver!

Home again, car unpacked, washing done, Mike can't find his house keys. Just before we set off he decided no point in carrying two sets, I'll put them in a safe place (not where he usually leaves them). My words where 'will you remember where you put them when we get home' 'of course' was the response. We still haven't found them!! Ian had a similar issue, he thought he'd left them at home, safer than being in his jean's pocket – after searching the house, he found them - in his jean's pocket, where they had been safe all this time.

Carol