



## Newsletter November 2016

### **Introduction**

Very little to report this month, since the show season is over and most of us will probably be thinking of putting our older MGs away and preparing them for the winter ahead. I like to start my cars up and run them for a while at least once a month until they are thoroughly warmed up so that nothing seizes up, and this has stood me in good stead in the past. Also, I periodically charge up the batteries, even though the two old MGs both have battery isolator switches fitted. I have thought of fitting an isolator to the TF, but I intend to carry on using it during the winter when the weather isn't too bad, and besides, the radio is coded, and I would have to reinput the code each time I switched the battery on, which would be a bit of a pain. My guide to laying up your car appears below.

### **Changes to MOT and Road Tax**

Both the MG Car Club and the Owner's Club have sent us a notification of some impending Government changes to the Tax and MOT rules. Current legislation exempts historic vehicles registered before 1960 from having to undergo the MOT test, and a new EU directive to come into effect in 2018 will require a change to UK legislation to ensure that these vehicles have not been substantially modified. But the UK Government is proposing to adopt wider changes, in essence to see a 40 year rule introduced to exempt historic vehicles from the annual MOT test, in line with the rolling status for exemption from the road tax, which is currently pre-1977, so that both can in future be rolled forward together.

There are several other options suggested by HMG, and they are looking for responses to these from interested parties by 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Information and a survey are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/roadworthiness-testing-for-vehicles-of-historic-interest>

I believe that it is in our interests to consider and comment on these changes, so please go to the website, take the time to read the guidance and respond.

### **Colin Gent – Singapore to Bangkok**

Our October Natter featured a talk by Colin Gent about a road (and rail) trip from Singapore to Bangkok and back again in an MG TD whilst he was serving in the Royal Navy in the 1960s.



Colin Gent talks to us about his epic journey



The ship on which he was serving at the time was in Singapore for a refit, and so, having time on their hands, he and a friend decided to drive their MG TD to Bangkok while the ship was out of action. The roads between Singapore and Bangkok were pretty basic in the 1960s, and in some places non-existent, so this was a major undertaking. From the Thai border and for some way towards Bangkok the car had to be sent by rail – the car in an open goods wagon, the crew in the guards van! On the way back they actually sat in the car on the goods wagon, much to the amusement of people they passed - true open-top motoring! Naturally, they had their share of incidents on the way, including a hole in the sump requiring sump removal and temporary repair, a rickety bridge damaged by a lorry falling through it and a passport that proved to be out of date when produced at the border post. Interestingly, despite the, in places, appalling road surfaces, the TD proved to be very reliable – well done Abingdon! A most enjoyable and entertaining evening, for which many thanks to Colin.

### **Annual Dinner and Prizegiving**

We are planning to hold this event in the Five Arrows as in previous years, and the provisional date for this is: **3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017**. This is a sociable and enjoyable event, the food is excellent and The Five Arrows always look after us well, so please note this date in your diary and make every effort to attend. Clive has been in liaison with Hollie Barr at the Arrows to produce the Menu, which is attached to this newsletter for your information. For planning purposes Hollie would like an early indication of numbers, so if you are likely to attend, please let either myself or Clive know as soon as you can. I will be asking for confirmed numbers, special dietary requirements and menu choices in the New Year.

### **MGCC Car Of The Month**

Malcolm Bailey, the Abingdon Works Centre of the MG Car Club's WebMaster, has sent me an urgent plea for entries for the website's Car Of The Month feature – he's running short of candidates! If you are an MGCC member and you haven't yet submitted your car to be the AWC's Car Of The Month, he would very much like you to do so. Look at the website to see the format, take some pics of your car and prepare a snappy write-up about it, and send it off to him. I'm going to do so for my TF.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October - Classic Car Restoration Show**

At Stoneleigh Park, Warks.

#### **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November – Natter Night.**

Our normal Natter at the Five Arrows in Waddesdon, at 20.00.

#### **13 / 15 November - Classic Motor Show**

At the NEC, Birmingham

#### **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Natter Quiz.**

This is our annual quiz, at the Five Arrows at 20.00, Pete and Lesley Thomas will be officiating. A quiz takes a lot of work to organise, so let's have a good turnout for this!

**Tuesday 27 December - Classic Cars on the Market Place**, Brackley on from 10.00 to



2.00pm. This is a free event – no need to book.

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January - Vintage Stony.**

Stony Stratford town centre, from 10.30 to 2.00pm.

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017.**

January Natter at The Five Arrows – the Club's Annual General Meeting, where the Committee members are elected and policy discussed. It is important for members to attend and give their views on the way the club is run. Starts at 20.00.

**3<sup>rd</sup> February – Annual Dinner and Prizegiving.**

See above. Put this in your diary!!! Nuff Said.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February – MG Spares Day at the NAC.**

The annual pilgrimage to purchase those hard-to-find greasy and oily bits for your MG.

And lastly:

**Laying Up your Classic Car.**

This is my guide on what to do if you do not intend to use your car regularly during the winter. It comes with a health warning: the guide is based on my own experience and best practice that I have read about over the years -I am not an automotive expert so this guidance may not be definitive - but I reckon I have my fair share of common sense, so here goes. Remember, any machinery will deteriorate if it is not used, so starting your car periodically and driving it around until it is thoroughly warm is probably the best thing you can do to prevent corrosion and items such as the clutch and brakes from seizing.

1. The car should ideally be stored in an environment where there is circulation of air. Waterproof wooden barns are ideal, but brick or wood garages are a good second best. Concrete is porous, sweats and tends to retain moisture and so is not ideal for long term storage unless you have an airtight car cocoon inside, in which you can condition the airflow. Use of dehumidifiers is always a good idea. I cover my cars with a light cotton dust sheet - polythene dust sheets are a definite no-no since they will trap condensation moisture and accelerate corrosion.
2. Change the oil, and possibly also the coolant, or if fairly recent, check the strength of the coolant.
3. Wash and thoroughly dry the paintwork and wax it to give a layer of protection. Clean and feed leather upholstery to prevent mould, and wipe wooden trim and steering wheels with a linseed oil impregnated cloth. Leave the windows slightly open if in secure storage.
4. Charge the battery and either leave it on a permanent trickle charge or periodically connect to trickle. If possible, disconnect the battery and coat the terminals with petroleum jelly, but beware if you have a security-coded radio – make sure you have a note of the code. (Battery isolator switches are a convenient and easy way to disconnect a battery).



5. Start the car every month on a dry day and run until thoroughly warmed as above. If you cannot do this remove the plugs and pour a tablespoon of RedEx into each of the bores, turn the engine over slowly by hand to coat all bearing surfaces, and replace the plugs. Periodically turn the engine over to recoat and prevent seizing.
6. Fuel is a volatile substance and will deteriorate if left for long periods, and the inside of the tank will corrode if moisture forms inside, but there are fuel preservatives which will help to prevent this. I have never used these myself since I periodically drive the cars on days in winter, but it could be worthwhile to investigate these if you intend to store your car for lengthy periods in less than ideal conditions.
7. Over-inflate tyres to around 50 psi to prevent flat spots, but remember to correct this before you take the car out for a drive! A reminder note attached to the steering wheel is a good idea!

If you follow these steps you should be able to enjoy your car next spring with the minimum of remedial work!



Two of my MGs tucked up for Winter!

That's it for now,

*Adrian Bennett*

([adrian.mg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adrian.mg@hotmail.co.uk)),

Club Secretary



THE FIVE ARROWS  
Waddesdon

## MG Club Dinner

£30.50 per person

Balsamic roasted tomato soup, homemade ricotta, pesto

Confit rabbit and hazelnut terrine, foie gras butter, quail eggs & pickled red cabbage

Pan seared scallops, sweet potato & papaya puree, crisp pancetta, cumin oil



Grilled Hake, mustard & herb butter, salt baked celeriac, pomme anna

Slow cooked blade of beef & roasted sirloin, smoked mash, pearl onions, bacon lardons, savoy cabbage & thyme jus

Beetroot risotto, oxford blue cheese, roasted hazelnuts, wild rocket



Honey iced parfait, cinnamon granola, salted caramel popcorn ice cream

Chocolate delice, banana ice cream, glazed banana, griottine cherries soaked in kirsch

Selection of British Cheeses, Five Arrows chutney, oat biscuits



Tea and coffee



All prices include VAT. A 10% Discretionary Service Charge will be added to your bill