



## Newsletter September 2015



### Roger Skinner 1942 -2015

As you will all be aware by now, Roger Skinner sadly passed away quietly in hospital on Monday 10th August after a short illness, surrounded by Mary and his family. His funeral was held in the Amersham Crematorium on 25<sup>th</sup> August, and as you would expect of such a popular chap, there was standing room only at the very moving service, and our club was well represented. It is clear from the eulogies that he had crammed so much into his life - he leaves a huge gap in the lives of many, including those in our club, that will be very difficult indeed to fill. On behalf of the club, Clive Wayland gave an address at the wake at Ellesborough Golf Club and proposed a toast to Roger's memory – Clive's words sum up all of our feelings, I'm sure, so I can do no better than to repeat them here:

*"Mary has asked me to thank you all for coming, it means a great deal and is a testimony to how loved Roger was. I am here to speak on behalf of Aylesbury MG Club. Roger was our friend. He was passionate about the Aylesbury MG club, and devoted many many hours over many years to serving on the committee and as Chairman, holding the reins, directing the club, organising events and lots more too. Even right up till he went into hospital he was helping organise yet another weekend away for the benefit of club members. His experience and wisdom benefitted us greatly, and his dry humour, always with the twinkle in his eye, often made us laugh and sometimes broke into a heavy conversation or debate and alleviated the atmosphere. He was a warm-hearted and generous man, never shy to offer help or advice, whether it was asked for or not, and his efforts were finally recognised and rewarded earlier this year when I had the pleasure and honour at our annual dinner of presenting Roger with the 2014 Aylesbury MG Club President's Shield, so richly deserved. Roger, along with Mary,*



*supported and contributed enormously to our club, helping shape it, overseeing the relocation to The Chequers in Weston Turville and then later helping when we moved to the Lion in Waddesdon, the Crooked Billet in Kingswood and finally back to Waddesdon to the Five Arrows, where we are now. Can you spot the trend there? He loved to get involved in the detail and we were very fortunate to have him in that role, as he often found things we'd missed or forgotten. I think he liked the Arrows too as they do do a nice red! Roger will be sorely missed in so many ways, our club is the poorer without him, we have lost a friend. So, let's raise a glass in his memory - to Roger."*



The Club's floral tribute to Roger



Roger as we will remember him – having a good time with friends

Hear! Hear! Rest in Peace, mate.

My thanks to Clive for the words and to Pete Mansfield for the photos.



## On A Happier Note - Other News.

**Dave and Heather have a new MG!** Having fettled his Midget to his satisfaction over the last two years, Dave Barton has a yearning for a new project, and has consequently found a very nice RV8 to play with. The car is a Japanese re-import, which means it has very low miles and air conditioning! The result of this new addition to the Barton household is that there is a very nice and well-sorted MG Midget currently on the market – see below for details.



Happy motoring Dave and Heather!

**Upcoming Events.** The season is now drawing to a close, so there are less events to choose from, but a selection follows:

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August – Classic Car Day at the Sow & Pigs, Poundon.** I hope to take both my MGs up to this, my local pub, and Jack and Debs, who go there too, have promised to take the TD along if it isn't raining!! Worth going just to see that!!! First time on the road for 10 years .....

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August – Classic Car Day at the Bucks Railway Centre in Quainton.** This event is worth a visit not only for the classics on display – and there is usually a large selection of these, in all shapes and sizes, but also for the attractions of the Railway Centre itself, which alone is worth a visit. The Visitor Centre Building is the old LMS railway station building which stood for many years in Oxford, alongside the GWR station, and which has been relocated to Quainton and restored and now contains some magnificent coaches including Royal coaches and the wartime one used by Sir Winston Churchill, and a beautifully restored Castle class GWR express locomotive. <http://bucksrailcentre.org/> for more details.

**7<sup>th</sup> September – September Natter.** Our normal monthly meet at the Five Arrows. Unfortunately I will be in Sicily, so will miss it.

**13<sup>th</sup> September -Chearsley Classic.** Classic Car meet at Chearsley near Aylesbury - see [vehicles@ccvfd.co.uk](mailto:vehicles@ccvfd.co.uk). I went last year, and it was a thoroughly enjoyable day – good selection of classic cars, plenty of things going on, and an air display by the Lancaster and my favourite Battle of Britain fighter, the Hawker Hurricane. A display by a Spitfire is promised for this year.

**19/20<sup>th</sup> September – Kop Hill Climb.** This is now sold out for drives up the hill – but you



can still turn up and spectate on either day. Kop Hill Climb is at Princes Risborough – [www.kophillclimb.org.uk](http://www.kophillclimb.org.uk) for full details of this interesting and exciting event, and a chance to see Clive drive the hill. What more could you ask for?

**26/27<sup>th</sup> September – Weekend Away.** I think everyone who put their name down for this event has now confirmed with the hotel – The Hollies Hotel at Bower Hinton -, but anyone else who wishes to join us for a weekend in Somerset, a visit to the Haynes Motor Museum and a variety of other attractions in the area, can still contact Dave Barton for more information - [davebarton1@virginmedia.com](mailto:davebarton1@virginmedia.com) , who is the organiser of this event. Happily, Mary Skinner has decided to come along with us for this weekend.

**30<sup>th</sup> October/1<sup>st</sup> November – Classic & Sports Car – The London Show.** The Ticket office for this new event at Alexandra Palace is now open, details on [www.classicandsportscarshow.com](http://www.classicandsportscarshow.com). I'm going – anyone else?

**Advertisement: For Sale – 1976 MG Midget 1500**



Dave Barton is selling his very tidy MG Midget. This car has had much work done over the last 2 years in Dave's hands, including an engine and carburettor rebuild, new steering rack and column, new rear springs, partial respray and new carpets and trim, new wheels and tyres and a new hood. The car is now properly sorted and is in superb condition, and ready to enjoy an Indian Summer in!

Contact either Dave on [davebarton1@virginmedia.com](mailto:davebarton1@virginmedia.com) or me for more details, including more



photos. Asking Price is £4000.



**Adrian Bennett**  
([adrian.mg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adrian.mg@hotmail.co.uk))  
Club Secretary

**PS – I hve now had the exhaust of my V8 modified by the addition of a centre silencer box – it is much quieter, smoother and less tiring as a result, and altogether more of a pleasure to drive! Antony Olley of ARO Exhausts in Hogshaw (nr Quainton) not only supplied and fitted the centre box for me, but he managed to swage the existing pipes up sufficiently to ensure that there is no loss of ground clearance. A great job, go and see**



**him if you need exhaust work done.**