



Newsletter December 2017

Quiz Night - 4th December at 20.00

The annual quiz is coming up on the Monday 4th December Club night. This will be held at 20.00 in the Coach House at The Five Arrows, and our quizmaster is Clive, with the help of his glamorous assistant, Helen. The arrangements for the quiz are as follows:

- Teams will be of no more than 6 members, self selecting
- Teams can provide their own nibbles for ongoing refreshment and brain stimulation, but drinks must be purchased at the bar
- The prize for the winning team will be a half-case of wine (six bottles, one for each team member)
- Wooden spoon for the team scoring least points!
- Guest are more than welcome, so bring a friend!
- There will be a raffle after the quiz, so donation of prizes from club members would be greatly appreciated
- If the winning team are club members, as an additional prize they will be invited to compile next year's quiz.
- And lastly, please be in place with teams chosen and drinks bought promptly for a start at 20.00, so that we don't finish too late!

This should be a very enjoyable evening, so please try your very best to come along and support it.

Booker T and The M.G.s – The MG Connection

Referring back to last month's newsletter, our team at the Chesham Quiz called itself 'Booker T', presumably after Booker T and The M.G.s the house band of Stax Records in Memphis. I always understood "M.G." in this context stood for Memphis Group, as Stax always maintained. However, it seems that this is not so. The name was coined by another Stax musician and record producer, Chips Moman, who had played with two of the M.G.s (Booker T Jones and Lewie Steinberg) in an earlier Stax backing group called The Triumphs, which he had named after his car. When Jones and Steinberg teamed up with Al Jackson jr and Steve Cropper, they named the new backing group after the car Moman was then running, which was an MG. Historians maintain that the reason the label obscured the story of the meaning of name *M.G.s* (and concocted the "Memphis Group" explanation) was to avoid claims of trademark infringement from the manufacturers of the car!

Dave Barton's Road Trip To Dieppe

As promised last month, here is Dave's report of his road trip to France in his RV8:

"Ever since owning a classic MG it has been an ambition of mine to do a trip abroad, especially to France as this was a favourite for the motor biking trips of the past. The roads are so good and quiet. Since Heather was away visiting her sister in Switzerland, a friend and I decided that the time was right.

The morning of 27th August dawned, the RV8 was covered in a light mist, the sun was making an effort to split the clouds and we were ready for our trip to France, destination Dieppe.



The first leg of the journey from Aylesbury to Newhaven was without event and with the top up as the temperature and the time dictated thus. We arrived at Newhaven in good time for the ferry, which was due to sail at 10.00am. Boarding time approached and the gates opened, as we moved forward we could see the customs officers looking at the cars as they drove through and yes you guessed it we were signalled to pull into the customs sheds. The two young customs officers had a quick cursory glance in the boot but then wanted to know about the car, asking to see under the bonnet, not the least bit suspicious just wanted to know all about the car.

Due to the early start from home we were looking forward to a good old full English on board for breakfast. Imagine our surprise when getting to the restaurant to be told that breakfast was finished as according to French time it was 11.30am, first time I have had spag bol for breakfast but hey ho!

The crossing was just under four hours and went very smoothly. On arrival in Dieppe we had just a short drive to our hotel, right on the sea front with parking outside. After a quick freshen up we took a stroll into the town and Harbour, which was very picturesque and well populated with café's and bars and restaurants.



Arrived at Hotel



Well-deserved beer

Day two, top down and via a country route planned we decided to visit the town of Sainte-Mere-Eglise, which was the location of a major American invasion in June 1944, and the scene of some very heavy fighting. It was hard to imagine it as it was such a beautiful and peaceful place but with the museum and the parachutist hanging from the Church steeple it soon came alive. In the afternoon we went to the world war two beaches, Utah and Omaha and again hard to imagine the conditions which the troops went through, and feeling gratitude to them for our lives now.

Day Three, we stayed local and looked at the museum and castle in Dieppe and the memorial for the disastrous Canadian invasion of Dieppe in 1942 which was a total failure.



Day Four we went to the Somme Museum and the Thiepval Memorial Gardens and Cemetery. It was a very thought-provoking experience to think about the sacrifices made and to see all the thousands of names on the memorial, including a number of Bartons and Tomkins amongst them.



Paying respects to the Fallen

During each evening we would eat at one of the restaurants around the harbour and on the way there and often on the way back stopped off at a small wine bar where, by the end of our trip were regarded as members of the family, and on our last night were invited to the staff get together finally staggering home very late.

The journey back was a leisurely affair although as we were the first on we had to wait some time to get off and on our way home. No other route to take but the main roads, traffic and potholes, welcome back to the UK.

The car ran well throughout the five days and it was great to use it for the trip as usually we only do a few miles at a time. By the time we reached home we had covered 850 miles and the car seems to run the better for it.

It was a great trip and although Dieppe is not usually a destination town I would thoroughly recommend it for a long weekend away. With your MG of course."



Er – too big for the garage, Dave



Skinner Trophy Points 2017 – current position

=1 st	Dave Barton	40 points
=1 st	Clive Wayland	40 points
3 rd	Adrian Bennett	38 points
4 th	Heather Barton	34 points
5 th	Jack Martin	32 points
6 th	Peter Mansfield	30 points

Full listing available on the night, or by contacting me. Very close at the top with just one more point-scoring opportunity to go

Upcoming Events (more on our website: www.aylesburymgclub.org.uk)

26th December – MGCC AWC Boxing Day Run.

Meet on the Market Square, Abingdon from 10.00 onwards. Contact for the event is Mike Parker 01235 525555.

1st January 2018 – Vintage Stony

This traditional meet is held on the Market Square and the surrounding streets from 10.00 onwards. Admission is free, but donations to The Willen Hospice would be greatly appreciated. If the weather is good, should be a superb day out.

2nd February 2018 – Annual Dinner and Prizegiving

Advanced notice that The Annual Dinner will be held at The Five Arrows on Friday 2nd February – we expect to be in the Coach House for this event. If you intend to come along to the dinner, please put this date in your diaries, and let Clive know asap, as he is in charge of the organisations and is in liaison with Holly at The Arrows, and he will need to let her know the numbers attending. Please also look at the menu, which is on our website, so you have plenty of time to select your menu choices – Clive will want to know these closer to the event. It would also be helpful if you would pay for your meals in advance by transferring the money to the Club bank account: this will simplify the payment procedure on the night. I will publish the account details, along with more information, in the next newsletter. There will be no organised seating plan on the night, so that you can sit where you like, with your friends.

And Lastly:

The committee members join me in wishing all our MG members, family and friends a very happy and peaceful time over the Christmas period, and a prosperous and happy new year. And, of course, good weather next year to enjoy our cars and comradeship to the full.

Adrian Bennett

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Club Secretary