



Newsletter April 2018

A short Newsletter this month as I have little to report, and have been struck down with a rather heavy cold

Club Weekend Away 21st - 23rd September

As you will all know by now, we are going to the Isle of Wight in September this year. The response has been terrific – Dave Barton tells me that 25 people have signed up for this, one of the most important and enjoyable events in our social calendar, and I am really looking forward to it. If you haven't signed up yet there is probably still time to do so – contact Dave Barton at: mgdavebarton@gmail.com.

Spring Breakfast Run – Saturday 21st April

We are planning a breakfast run to kick off the new season on Saturday April 21st. Clive Wayland is still finalising the arrangements, but provisionally we aim to meet up at The Waddesdon Deli at The Westcott Venture Park for breakfast at around 09.00, and then to drive to The Imperial War Museum's enormous and interesting site at Duxford, to the south of Cambridge, at the junction of the M11 and A505 (approx 63 miles from Kingswood) to arrive at around 11.30. If the weather is fine, you can bring a picnic, or you can use the extensive refreshment facilities on-site. I have been once before, and it is a very interesting day out – there is masses to see at Duxford.

The Waddesdon Deli caters for both vegetarians and coeliacs, and provide a variety of options, including a Full English (including coffee and toast) for £7.50 and a Bacon Roll for £2.50. Clive has prepared a Tulip-style Road Book for the route to Duxford, and he will give a briefing on the arrangements before we set off. If you are planning to come on this event please let Clive know of special dietary requirements, and so he also has an idea of numbers attending.

Club Night Speakers

Visiting speakers are always popular at our club nights, and we have managed to arrange a number for some of our get-togethers this year, so note the following in your diaries:

14th May – our own Brian Deacon is going to talk to us about damaged aircraft recovery in a talk entitled 'When The Passengers Have Left'. This promises to be very interesting indeed.

4th June – Club President Clive Wayland will be giving us a session on First Aid – concentrating on what we can usefully and safely do if we are the first on the scene of an accident.

3rd September – Alan Dyson and John Passmore will be talking to us about their experiences with restoring classic cars.

As always when we have visiting speakers, members of our neighbouring clubs and natters are more than welcome on the night.

Chiltern Hills Rally.

I have closed the book on club applications for this, but you can still apply direct to the organisers or just turn up on the day if you decide you want to go, but you won't be listed in the programme. You could probably join us at the club pitch if you note 'Aylesbury MG Club' on the application form.

Upcoming Events - Dates For Your Diary



Sunday April 8th - Brooklands MG Era Day.

I incorrectly gave the date for this as the 2nd of April in the last newsletter, my apologies. This annual event for all MG cars is well worth a visit. The famous Test Hill will be open, can you get up without staying in first gear? Always a very lively event with hundreds of MGs from the earliest models up to the present day. Gates open at 10:00 am and admission includes all the facilities of the Brooklands Museum.

The MGA TwinCam is featured this year, and the new aircraft factory museum hangar is open too. For further details visit <https://www.brooklandsmuseum.com/>

Monday 9th April – AMGC Club Night.

Our normal get-together in The Five Arrows, Waddesdon from 20.00.

Saturday 21st or 28th April – Spring Breakfast Run to Duxford – see above.

Sunday 22nd April - from 10.00am -Drive it Day / Bicester Heritage.

Second Sunday Scramble of the year, hopefully the weather will have warmed up a bit by then

Sunday 20th May from 10.00am- Chiltern Hills Vintage Vehicle Rally

Aylesbury – Bucks County Showground, Weedon.

Sunday 20th May – Thames Valley Sports Car Day at Hambleden

You may recall that we were going to arrange a club picnic outing to this event last year, but couldn't get any details of the arrangements and it was subsequently cancelled. I have received an e-mail from Sue Hedley of the Jaguar Enthusiasts Club reminding me that the event is on for this year. Unfortunately it clashes with the Chiltern Hills Rally, but some of you may want to go to this very good event if you weren't planning to go to the CHR. Hambleden Village really is a great location.

2nd - 3rd June - MG Live at Silverstone

The annual MG extravaganza, the biggest MG show on Earth. Visit the dedicated website as details unfold - <http://www.mgcc.co.uk/mglive/>

23rd - 24th June - Flywheel Festival, Bicester Heritage

This year the Classic and Sports Car magazine, who have in the past held their own annual show at Alexandra Palace, is combining with Bicester Heritage for a combined Flywheel Festival. Already a top event for the family, this should make the show even more feature-packed. And if you are a C&SC reader, you get 20% off the admission price! Got my ticket already

<http://bicesterheritage.co.uk/events/flywheel-festival/>

July - Buckingham Classic Car Show To be held at Gawcott (no date yet).

8th July - F1 GP BBQ - hosted by Pete & Jill Mansfield in Aylesbury

Details to be announced nearer to the event. This is not just about the British F1 GP – it is a really good social event, so please come along and join us.

4th - 5th August – Great Bucks Steam Fair Shabbington



Very good local show with multiple interest activities going on all day and which I have been to and enjoyed many times, and which we could enter as a club – more details in a future newsletter. See <http://www.greatbucks.org.uk/> for more.

26th - 27th August – Quinton Heritage Festival

This event used to be the pre-78 Classic Car show at the Bucks Rail centre. This year they are expanding the event to include all forms of heritage transport, including cars, commercial vehicles and steam locomotives. And all the attractions at the rail Centre itself. They hope to have 5 locomotives in steam on the two days. See www.bucksrailcentre.org for details.

21st - 23rd September – Club Weekend Away

To The Isle of Wight. See above.

In Closing

I naturally enough haven't used my MGs much over the winter, so in preparation for the good weather I decided to shake the dust off and give them a run. The MGA started fine – it has a battery isolator switch, so there is no current draw when this is switched off. But both the TF and the RV8 had flat batteries, so I charged them up. The TF is fine, even though I had not used it for 6 weeks or so – it starts and runs well, and the battery retains its charge. But the RV8 battery was faulty – it started and ran ok, but the charge would only last for a week, and only a couple of days if the temperatures are sub-zero. So I took the battery out to test it on the bench - fortunately it is the type with screw caps for each cell, and sure enough when I tested the specific gravity of the electrolyte in each cell, one of them was dead. New battery needed.

This sounds easy enough, but proved to be a little problematic because I knew that the dead battery wasn't the right one for the car – it was a bit too big to fit comfortably in the compartment, so the retaining bracket had gone missing at some point (and an unsecured battery is a potential MOT failure), the Unipart battery specified in the manual is no longer available and the RV8 doesn't feature in the battery catalogue of my local Halfords. A trawl round the Internet also proved confusing, with several different batteries being recommended for the RV8, none of which looked to be the right size. So in the end I took the old battery along to our local EuroCar Parts Centre here in Bicester. They were very helpful - the RV8 battery listed in their computer system was even bigger than the old one, so they rooted through their stock for a more suitable one with the right terminal positions, and came up with a choice of two. I chose the more powerful Bosch one – this is a good fit in the compartment, and I was able to firmly lash it down with a strong leather belt which needed just a couple more holes punched in it to hold the battery down really tight. Job done. And the price? At least £120 from Halfords (this is what we paid for a new battery for Jackie's LR Freelander recently), but the list price from EuroCar was £103 plus VAT - with discount, I paid just £68. Result!!

Now all I have to do is to change the bottom hose which is leaking slightly, change the coolant, and the RV8 will be ready for the Spring if it ever arrives.

Adrian Bennett

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Club Secretary