

Winchester MG Owners Club



June 2015 www.winchestermgoc.co.uk

Winchester MGOC

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Chat

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I was 'tail end charlie' for our club night run to the Farmers Home at Durley due to that 'work' thing getting in the way and delaying my start. This was confirmed for me by a patron of the Brushmaker's Arms in Upham. He was enjoying a pint in the garden as I approached the road junction carefully studying my 'Tulip' route map. "Blimey, you're late!" he exclaimed, confirming that I was at least on the right road and suggesting a good many MGs had already passed by. Being heckled while on a run is certainly a new one on me! I counted about 20 MGs in the car park when I eventually arrived, so a good show and an exceptionally good route on a lovely sunny evening.

Our June club night will feature Mike Lane's popular Steeple Chase, so let's see how many churches he can include in this year's route.

The June edition of Enjoying MG has a good two page spread on the Cobweb Spin with many club cars and even a few members featuring in the photos. An autographing session could be a feature of our next club night.

The Magnette is currently under-going the equivalent of brain surgery as I am part way through replacing the wiring harness. Several odd quirks, like the ignition light coming on when braking, led me to suspect there may be a few 'shorts' or crossed wires. The wiring is now all but 50 years old and the insulation braiding is starting to crumble when flexed. A brand new replacement at a very reasonable cost looks the sensible and safe way to go. It's a bit of a daunting task at the outset but I am told pretty straight-forward if you take your time. I am reminded of working on aircraft final assembly at BAE where there was much rivalry between the mechanics and the 'sparkies' over who had the hardest job. The 'sparkies' (also known as A to B boys) were reminded that their drawings had only straight lines, numbers on every wire and even had to be marked with colours to make it easier. How hard can it be? I will let you know!

STEVE

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Winchester MGOC meet on the last Tuesday of the month at:
The King Charles, Lovedon Lane, King's Worthy, SO23 7NU

NB. We are an active group and may sometimes meet at some far off pub, so please check with the Secretary and join us... somewhere.)



Classics in the Cotswolds

Debbie & I recently spent a week at a holiday cottage in the Cotswolds and I was pleasantly surprised to find that the locals seem to enjoy their classic motoring. Our Saturday arrival seemed to coincide with an Austin-Healey club run with several seen around Burford.

In Stow-on-the-Wold we saw a 1920s Blower Bentley, several Jaguar XK120s, a Bull nosed Morris and umpteen more modern Jaguars, Mercedes, Porsche, Caterham and TVR sports cars. It carried on all week with everything from little A35s to massive 1920s Rolls-Royces. Our proximity to Prescott probably drew some of them in at the weekend, but they did seem to be in evidence all week.

For those that haven't been, I can thoroughly recommend a visit to the little Cotswold Motoring Museum at Bourton-on-the-water. This is not your organised and well lit display with explanatory story boards and videos to aid interpretation, but a rather fantastic eclectic mix of old cars and motoring ephemera that just oozes charm and evokes nostalgia. Each shed like building that you pass through is piled to the rafters with cars, old enamel signs, petrol pumps and motoring paraphernalia. MGs are well represented with a couple of TDs a Y type and a rally version MG1300. Toys also feature heavily with everything from pedal cars through clockwork boats to meccano aeroplanes. You go from one small building to the next wondering how long it goes on for. There is a 1960-70s themed room that includes a caravan kitted out with 'trendy' accessories and a mock-up Radio Caroline studio where you are tempted to linger just to listen to the music.

The Museum is home to 'Brum' the toy car from the 1990s children's TV series and 'Brum' of course features among the displays. Having had the opportunity to sit in a 'Brum' and ogle over 'Brum' toys in the display cabinets, our three year old grandson was not too impressed that this was the only thing they didn't sell in the souvenir shop!

By Steve

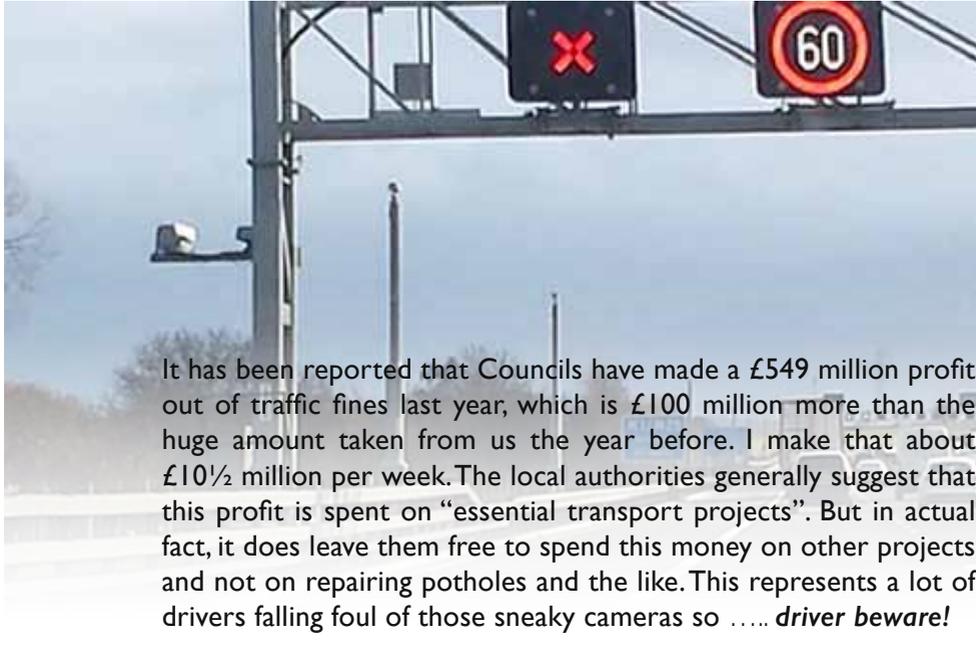


Can anyone tell us the make of the brown doctor's coupé shown above?

Just stand at the roadside between Stow and Moreton-in-the-Marsh and you could be pretty much certain that something interesting would come along shortly.



Cameras With a Difference



It has been reported that Councils have made a £549 million profit out of traffic fines last year, which is £100 million more than the huge amount taken from us the year before. I make that about £10½ million per week. The local authorities generally suggest that this profit is spent on “essential transport projects”. But in actual fact, it does leave them free to spend this money on other projects and not on repairing potholes and the like. This represents a lot of drivers falling foul of those sneaky cameras so **driver beware!**

There are also some new latest technology ones on the Hertfordshire sections of the M25. (And around Clacket's Lane - Ed.) I recently counted 8 pairs on the clockwise and 6 pairs on the anti-clockwise directions. They are due to be extended to other regions soon and can be spotted positioned on new cantilevered framework overhanging the inside of existing gantries. They are painted a dull grey (not yellow) and are generally in pairs with one pair on each side of the motorway per gantry, so if you first see them on the opposite side, you can bet that there are a pair on your side too!

I also spotted these nasty grey boxes hung on new framework positioned on the inside of a couple of those large single column supported electronic traffic warning display signs. So they are not just on the gantries and they do not need those white marker lines in the centre of each carriageway to determine speed and then read and photograph the rear number plates of speeding motorists.

I was overtaken on the inside whilst travelling past one of these cameras at 70mph and that camera flashed that driver therefore, beware of braking motorists in front of you as they **do** work so **driver beware!**

By Mike Lane

Simply the Best

By Steve Wills

The weather was kind and once again Awbridge Fete and Car show attracted a large crowd and some wonderful vehicles of all shapes and sizes. In particular a Bedford fire engine affectionally known as a “Green Goddess” a collection of ex F1 and rally cars courtesy of WDK Motor Sport and a variety of tractors as you might expect for a country show.

After great deliberation by the judges the best car of the show was announced, a beautiful MG TA owned by our very own David Williams. David saw off some stiff competition from over eighty vehicles such as a Mk2 Jaguar, Studebaker Hawk a Jensen Interceptor and many more well prepared vehicles.

After spotting one or two dark clouds earlier in the day and convinced the heavens would open sometime during the afternoon your roving reporter for this event decided his little B should stay tucked up in the garage, big mistake!! With the sun shinning most of the afternoon I missed the opportunity to support a fellow club member.

However, family honour was upheld by my son David Wills who drove to the event on his recently restored 1970 Massey Ferguson 135.

Needless to say I was greeted with the words:

“I think you’ve got it wrong again Dad”

Oh well there is always next year!!



Events for 2015

June	13 - 14	Weekend coastal run – Niall Fitzgerald
	14	'Cwm to Coast Run' Bridgend MGOc
	26 - 28	Goodwood Festival of Speed
	30	WMGOc Club night run – Mike Lane's Steeple Chase
July	4	Blackmore Vale Revival, Henstridge Somerset
	5	CCOTP at Highcliffe castle
	5	Cotswold Caper – Gloucestershire MGOc
	tba	WMGOc summer picnic run
	19	Alton Bus Rally & Car Show – Anstey Park
	26	Classics in the park – Upton Park – Dorset Midget & Sprite Club
	28	WMGOc Club night run – Mike & Lorna
August	9	Athelhampton gathering, B'mouth MGOc
	16	MGB 50th Anniversary gathering Shelsley Walsh organised by MGB Register
	22	Simply Classics, Beaulieu
	23	CCOTP at Christchurch Quay
	25	WMGOc Club night run – Rosie Sheppherd
Sept	6	The Concorde Club classic & sports car show, Eastleigh
	11-13	Goodwood revival
		Doughnut Delight charity day – Beech Hill MG Garage (BMGOc)
	18	MG Cricket St Thomas Regional event 18th – 21st
	20	CCOTP at Christchurch Quay
	29	WMGOc Club night