



Newsletter October 2017

September Club Night

The September Club Night was something of a special occasion. We had been ousted from our usual haunt, The Five Arrows, by a large wedding party, so we assembled in The Akeman, where our web designer, Justin Dutton, presented our new website, which he had been working on for some months. Justin has done a very impressive job; the new website is very modern and fresh, a complete contrast to our clunky old original site, which, whilst using the technology available at the time, had become very out of date. The new website was very well received by the club members present, and the challenge now is for us to make the site a valuable resource for members by keeping the content relevant and up to date, as well as providing an inviting window into the club and its activities for prospective new members. A big thank you to Justin for his efforts, and also to John Plant, who has acted as web master for the old site.

If you haven't done so already, visit the new site www.aylesburymgclub.org.



Alex and tumblers Photo: Pete Thomas

A big thank you was also extended to Alex McEwen, the manager of the Five Arrows, who is moving on to a new position as the manager of the Thurstlestone Hotel in South Devon. Alex has looked after us very well over the years, and so it was a real pleasure to invite him along to the September Club Night to present him with a gift of a set of engraved tumblers as a thank you from the club for all he has done for us. We plan to keep in touch with Alex, not the least because his new hotel could be a perfect venue for a future club weekend away...

Chearsley Village Classic Cars and Fun Day

I was not around for this event, but our roving reporter Roger Withers was, and sent this report: "A cool even cold, blustery day which threatened rain. Perhaps 200 cars there including 12-15 MGs, as well as a real cross section of Porsche, Jaguar, Triumph, Morris Minors and MX5, all in numbers. A good band, excellent burgers and cakes, bouncy castle, coconut shy and coach rides.



I think Brian Rainbow and I were the only club members. Well worth the trip."



Angela & Patricia shelter from the cold!



Nice line-up of MGs – is that Mike Serjeant's red MGB?

Photos – Roger Withers

Footnote: It's been a couple of years since I attended this event, and from Roger's report and photos it seems to have grown in the meantime. Must try and get there next year. Hope Roger and Brian enjoyed the bouncy castleAB

Kop Hill Climb

Again, I was away for this event, but I know that some of our members went, and that Clive and Roger both drove the Hill. I understand that the weather wasn't as good as last year, but this does not seem to have lessened the enjoyment of the event for those that went.



Roger waits to go



....Halfway up the Hill photos – R Withers

Weekend Away in Canterbury

The weather again looked as though it might spoil our weekend away, but in fact Friday dawned bright and sunny, and the weather was kind to us for the three days. It did not start out auspiciously for some of us – those who had chosen the southern route around the M25. There had been a fatal accident on the M25 overnight, and this had resulted in the motorway being closed between junctions 5 and 4, but as Jackie and I planned to leave at J5 and then onto the M26, we pressed on, only to find that the as we were approaching the M26, that was closed at J5 too, so we languished in stationery traffic for 45 minutes until the M26 was reopened, and we continued on our way. Jake and Viv fared even worse – they were trapped in the same traffic with a broken fanbelt which meant they dare not switch off the engine, and to add insult to injury had a coming-together with a large 4 x 4 that left their nearside front wing and door rather the worse for wear.



But eventually all six couples got to the Falstaff Hotel safely. We all checked in and then wandered around the town to get our bearings. Canterbury is a very attractive and lively city, so we spent an enjoyable afternoon sauntering around the town, until it was time to meet up in the bar (except Viv, who naturally wasn't feeling too well after the journey) for a drink before repairing next door to the Bishop's Finger for dinner – excellent pub grub that everyone enjoyed, accompanied by superb Kentish beer.



We foregather before dinner

The plan for Saturday was to visit the Dover Transport Museum, on the outskirts of Dover. However, two of the girls, Jackie and Debs, decided that the shops on Canterbury were going to hold more attractions than the transport museum exhibits, so they announced that they were off shopping, so Jack had the spare seat in my TF, and we were ready to go nearly. Clive's MGB, which had made the journey from Westcott to Canterbury with no trouble at all, decided that the Falstaff car park was nice and cosy, and it was going to have a lie-in. However, with a little coaxing and a jump start from Debs' MG3, it was persuaded to come out and play, and we set off to Dover, despite my satnav, and encountering a surprise unforecast rain shower on the way.



Upon arrival, an official at the museum directed us onto the grass in front of the main entrance, where the cars immediately attracted attention from the arriving customers. The museum itself,



We line up outside the museum which on their website looked very interesting but quite small, actually proved to be an Aladdin's Cave, and not just a museum of transport, but to have lots of interesting lifestyle exhibits as well, so what we thought might be a morning's event took us until mid afternoon to go around.



A selection of exhibits in the museum

A really interesting museum with lovely people, well worth the visit. We then dispersed, some to visit Dover Castle or other attractions in the area, and some to return to Canterbury.

Having decided that the drinks in the Falstaff were expensive, and that the beer in the Finger next door was much better, we all met up there in the evening before wandering into town to Deeson's Restaurant near the cathedral for our pre-booked evening meal. Deeson's was packed out, but we had a good table, and the service was excellent, as was the food (and wine!). We had pre-ordered our meal selections to simplify the service, and it all came up together, and so everyone was happy. A very good and sociable evening.

Next morning, over breakfast, we planned our day. The schedule was to visit Leeds Castle in the way home, but Jackie and I had already been there some years previously, and we wanted to visit The Red House in Bexleyheath, the one-time home of William Morris of Arts And Crafts Movement fame. And Bill and Lyn wanted to visit Chartwell, Sir Winston Churchill's home, so we checked out, loaded up the cars and said our farewells before we set out in different directions.....almost. Clive's car decided to have another lie-in, so this time my TF provided the impetus to get it moving. Helen then put firmly her foot down and decided that they would take



the car straight home, and not risk stopping it at Leeds Castle. The car had been faultless before the weekend so we all hope it is just a loose connection that is draining the battery.

The Leeds Castle contingent thoroughly enjoyed their day there, although it was apparently extremely busy. There was a Flower Festival in full swing, with every room tastefully decorated.



Flower Festival at Leeds Castle

Photos – Heather Barton

Footnote – The Red House in Bexleyheath is an absolute delight. If you are in the area, and you are interested in the Arts and Crafts movement and the Pre-Raphaelites, I suggest that you visit. It is a National Trust property.



The Red House at Bexleyheath

This is the second weekend away Jackie and I have attended with the club, and they have been extremely enjoyable and sociable, with everyone getting on really well together. I shall look forward to the next one with eager anticipation. Dave Barton had done a fine job of organising this event, (even down to the weather), so a huge thank you to him for his efforts.



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

Sunday 1st October – BH Sunday Scramble

Last one of the season!

Monday 2nd October – Club Night

We should be back at the Five Arrows for this one! I have a leave of absence for this, holidaying in Portugal.... A chance to overtake me on the Skinner Trophy scoring? – details of which are currently:

Skinner Trophy Points

1 st	Dave Barton	38 points
2 nd =	Adrian Bennett	36 points
2 nd =	Clive Wayland	36 points
4 th	Heather Barton	32 points
5 th	Jackie Bennett	29 points

Start saving for the bottle of port, Dave! The full points table can be seen at each Club Night, or by contacting me.

Tuesday 24th October -Chesham Natter Quiz Night

The Chesham Natter Quiz Night is being held at the Chartridge Park Golf Club, Chartridge Lane, Chesham, HP5 2TF, beginning promptly at 19.00. There is a subsidised meal, menu choices are: Sausage & Mash, Chicken Curry or Veggie Lasagne, all at £5 per Head. You will need to book your place and menu choice with Richard Colston at r.colston@btinternet.com by 17th October.

Friday 10th to Sunday 12th November – Lancaster Insurance Classic Motor Show

At The NEC - Information and tickets: <http://www.necclassicmotorshow.com/>.

Monday 4th December - AMGC Annual Quiz Night.

Advanced warning – we shall be inviting neighbouring Natters to this, so eat plenty of fish!

And Lastly:

Club Clothing Items. Another reminder that Dave Barton will be putting together another order for club-branded clothing soon, so if you would like to participate in this order, fill in the order form attached to last month's newsletter (or mail Dave or I for one) and email it to Dave on mgdavebarton@gmail.com

Club Engraved Tumblers.

When we presented the tumblers to Alex McEwen (see above), several members mentioned that they would like a set too. The ones we presented to Alex had the MG logo on two, and an MGB on the other two (Alex has an MGB). We could have these engravings, or our club logo put on the glasses, or possible other images. The cost of the tumblers is £10 each, with a small extra cost for couriering them. So, if you are interested, please let Dave Barton or myself know, and we will arrange it. The company we dealt with also sells wine glasses, but the curved surface means we can't engrave logos or designs on them without distorting.

Adrian Bennett

adrian.mg@hotmail.co.uk,
Club Secretary