



WC READING MATTER

West Cheshire MG Owner's Club Newsletter



August 2018

Area Secretary Welcome by Angie Haughton

The run of Summer sunshine had to end at some point, and this last weekend of July meant that the much anticipated show at Bodelwyddan Castle was subject to rain. That didn't put many off, though, with the stand fielding 12 cars, and the sun did try to make an appearance later in the day. In fairness, we cannot complain, the season has been one of glorious sunshine, with wonderful weekend events and our monthly Summer evening runs all in superb conditions for the many cars turning up.

The committee also met this month to sort out club activities and as usual we'll be looking at a weekend away again, as well as another museum visit, more club runs, and possibly even a technical workshop for members.

More importantly, please note the change of venue which we hope will be for the better with our own meeting room and good quality food and excellent choice of beer. From the August Meeting we will be at The Shrewsbury Arms on the Warrington Road (A56) in Mickle Trafford, CH2 4EB.

The first of the cheques from the May Candles Run was handed over to the Clwyd Special Riding Centre, the £2,000 being well received, and we've now adopted Harry and Brian, two lovely ponies helping the disabled.

Please check the website for more information on all the upcoming events, monthly meeting dates and for the monthly newsletter, "WC Reading Matter" which can be downloaded as a PDF. A printed, colour copy of the newsletter is also provided at the monthly meetings.



Clwyd Special Riding Centre- photo by Steve Brace



"Nice these foreign tours..."

Mike Haughton reporting from Switzerland.



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MG and the Coventry Connection. By Steve Brace

We are all aware the MG is ultimately linked with Abingdon and the Oxford area. However, being a true Coventrian, I thought it would be good to see if there was any MG link to Coventry; another great, car building city in its day.

The first MG interest I came across was **Carbodies of Coventry**. At the time it was fashionable for car producers to contract out the building of car bodies to more specialised coachbuilding firms rather than building them in house.

Carbodies was founded by Robert Jones. In 1921 he moved a business he had helped to set up and had now purchased to Hill Street in Coventry. It was here that the company first started trading as Carbodies. Carbodies first supplied bodies to MG in 1924. In 1928 the business again moved, this time to Holyhead Road in Coventry. Body shells supplied to MG included those for the MG Super Sports, 18/80s and the original MG Midget. Carbodies supplied MG with almost all bodies for their models right up until the P-Type and N-Type in 1934. Coachbuilding work then started to be produced in house.

Carbodies now operates under the control of Manganese Bronze and is world famous for making the London Taxi. The Carbodies factory still remains as one of their sites in Coventry. I do have a family link to the firm as my mother used to silver serve the directors in the factory's directors' restaurant - but not at the time when they were making bodies for MG, I hasten to add!

The other Coventry link to MG was through **Morris Engines Ltd**. In May 1923 Morris Motors acquired a firm in Coventry called Hotchkiss. This was renamed as Morris Engines Limited. The old factory, called The William Morris Building, can still be seen in Gosford Street, Coventry. However the site was too small for continued expansion and production was moved to a brand new factory at Courthouse Green, Coventry from 1927 onwards. The Gosford Street factory stayed in Morris ownership, but became Nuffield Mechanisations and produced armaments throughout World War II. The building later became offices for the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance. In 2000, the building was acquired by Coventry University and is still in use.



The Morris Engines Plant Gosford Street Coventry. Now owned by Coventry University.

The Courthouse Green factory in Coventry then specialised in making power units for cars made by the entire Morris group of companies; notably, The MG Car Company Limited, Morris Motors Limited, Morris Commercial Cars Limited, and Wolseley Motors Limited. Throughout World War II, it was working flat-out making engines for emergency and military vehicles. After the War, it reverted back to making power units for vehicles made by the Nuffield Organisation and became part of British Motor Corporation in 1952. The old factory site is now part of a modern retail park.

Morris Motors Limited also established a second plant in Durbar Avenue, Coventry in 1948. This was known as The Morris Engines Number 2 Plant and was used for the reconditioning of Morris Engines, including those for MGs. The factory had originally been the Riley Motor company's main home in, Coventry from 1919. However in 1938 the company was purchased and became part of Morris Motors. Production of Riley cars continued here until 1948 when it was then moved to Abingdon. Part of the factory has since been demolished but some of the original sheds are still there and now occupied by Unipart.

So when someone now says: you're from Coventry, you should have bought a Coventry made classic car, I can say, "ha, but"...

Club branded Merchandise

We're using a local firm and are adding a small mark up to go towards the club funds. Orders will be taken at each monthly meeting along with payment (we've decided to avoid PayPal owing to the charges) and the items will be delivered at the following meeting.

Please visit the website for more detail on colours and sizes.



**Long Sleeved
Polo Shirts by
B&C Safran**

£15.00 each.
A variety of
colours and
sizes available.



Tee-Shirts by Kariban

£12.00 each
A variety of colours and
sizes available.



**Fleece Jacket
by Uneek**

£18.00 each
Variety of
colours and
sizes available.



**Sweat Shirts (Long
Sleeved) by AWDiS**

£15.00 each
Variety of colours and
sizes available.

**Short Sleeved
Polo Shirts by
Uneek.**

£12.00 each.
A variety of
colours and sizes
available.



**Base Ball Cap by
Beechfield**

£10 each
Variety of colours
available.



2018 Club Events

Visit the club website for online information and details.

August:

- Tues, 14th - Club night at The Shrewsbury Arms.
- Sun, 19th—South Cheshire Moggies annual rally at Blakemere
- Wed, 22nd - Evening run.
- Sat - Mon, 25th - 27th - Gold Cup weekend at Oulton Park with club stand

September:

- Sat, 1st - MG Car Club Race meeting at Oulton Park.
- Sun, 2nd - Fest. Of 1000 Classics, Cholmondeley Castle.
- Tues, 11th - Club night at The Shrewsbury Arms.
- Sat - Sun, 15th - 16th - FJ Classic Show at Event City, Manchester
- Sun, 16th - Cars & Coffee Cheshire - 7.30am Wrexham Road P&R
- Sun, 23rd - Candles Charity Classic Car Show at Chester Lakes

More dates to follow in the next issue and keep an eye on the website.

Contact Us

Send us an email for more information about the club's activities or to join us.

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Volunteers:

Steven Brace, Rob Fryer, Neil Gray, and Neil Kennedy.

Visit us on the web at:
www.westcheshiremgoc.club



Join us for our inaugural charity Classic Car and Bike show at Chester Lakes!

Sunday, 23rd September, 2018

- Supporting the Fire Fighters Charity in its 75th year!
- Supported by the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service!
- Supported by Cheshire Constabulary!
- All makes of cars and bikes welcome!
- Club stands and individual entries available!
- No entry fee, just donate generously on the day!
- Entertainment and onsite catering and bar!
- Everyone welcome to display, view and have a good time!

Book now at...

www.candlesshow.org

www.westcheshiremgoc.club