



Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders MG CLUB

www.MG-Edinburgh.co.uk



December 2023



Credits: Helen, Jamie, Craig, Neil Mac, Tony H, Jim T, Emo,

MEMBERS' CARS

New Member Jamie Garden's smart MG Metro



January 1983 MG Metro - the first car to resurrect the MG badge after MGB production ceased.

Not always well regarded by the 'purists', but it is a great car to drive with fairly few survivors now - especially of the Mk 1 models.

Parts availability is a problem - anything Mini related is plentiful, but Metro specific parts are harder to find





Mrs Grumpy's Grumble

Many thanks to Craig for filling this newsletter!

B***** IT again!! When I was faffing about trying to find a photo for December's front page (because there wasn't an event in November to take a photo of) I decided I'd use the aerial shot of Boris the Black 'B with a few Christmassy bits added on.

Duly went to my Xmas stock of pics (on the old iMac in the old version of Pages) and picked the ones I liked, copied and pasted onto a separate document of the old Pages. Transfer to the new iMac (with the new version of Pages), open it and get told the copied images "couldn't be converted". FFS, WHY NOT???? It is an Apple trait that the older version of the software can't open a newer version - but why couldn't the newer version get the copied images on the older version??? It can open the older document but the images are invisible.

As I've said before, I'll not be beaten by some recalcitrant bit of IT. So back to the old iMac, copy my images into a Word Document (Microsoft Office 2008) transfer to the new iMac, open it and there are my images!! Copied and pasted onto the front page of the newsletter no problem!!!

I'll ask, yet again, WHHHYYYYEEEE???

Now when you park in Embra, you're told it's £2 whatever per hour and so much for 20 minutes. You put in your money until you get the time required, it being pro rata. In Dundee Quayside, it's not meters but a private parking system. You look to see how much it is per hour and there's no info, so you put in £2, thinking that should get you an hour - which it does. However, you find an info post 50 yards away and it says it's £1.20 an hour, but you'd put in £2 and only got an hour. That's because to get the two hours you had to put in £2.40 - £2 only gets you the hour and not the hour plus the extra quid's worth that you'd get in Embra!! Unfair or what?

**MEMBERSHIP SUBS
ARE DUE - PLEASE
CONTACT ANDREW
TO PAY YOUR £15**

WANTED

Any old Lever Arm shock absorbers - Richard Middlemiss is reconditioning them. So if you have any old ones lying around or would like him to do yours, please contact him at richardjean@tiscali.co.uk

FOR SALE (STILL)

See Website



Ready for Touring

- Imported from California by Chic Doig
- Regularly serviced and tested (recent MOT)
- Owned by me and improved over 12 years
- Kept under cover; garaged overwinter
- Cruised and used but good Condition 2
- Nippy yet effortless long distance tourer
- Sound underneath; beautiful above

**Any realistic offer considered
(Left Hand Drive)**

**Contact Neil Macaulay
tel. 07761 288498**

ON THE BUSES!!

With the advent of social media, you are inevitably exposed to a plethora of suitable events to attend. And this is no exception. An advert popped up for an open weekend at the Glasgow Vintage Vehicle Trust (GVVT) and having a free weekend from our farming duties we decided to pop along.

However, beforehand there was some planning to deal with. Namely do we drive or take public transport. Looking at the pros and cons, the vote went to public transport for the following reasons. We can get the train right outside chez Craig, in addition GVVT were running free vintage transport through the City Centre. With the chance to ride on these vehicles it was a no brainer, and the decision was made.

Bright and early-ish, saw June and I catching the train to Glasgow Central followed by a wander up to George Square to catch our vintage bus. Having found our stop, it was evident that this was going to be a popular event. When our transport arrived, a Leyland Titan PD3/2, it was already fairly fully but thankfully June and I managed to squeeze on and found a couple of spare seats on the top deck (the best deck) for the short journey to the garage. Once we alighted, we were confronted by several vintage buses all parked at the side of the road. These were awaiting passengers to take them on several routes around the city including Kelvingrove Art Gallery and the Riverside Museum. Once again, these journeys were free as the GVVT was not allowed to charge.



Having bought our tickets we made our way into the garage and immediately bought a programme which gave us details of all the exhibits along with lots of information about the GVVT and its work.

As we wandered along the exhibits the first thing that caught our eye was a very nice 1958 Dennis F8 Fire engine. It had all its brass work polished and every item inc. axes, hammers and tools had their place securely fastened with multiple cupboards.

Further down the row was an Albion bus in Western Livery with some rather rakish Duple Bodywork and sliding door. This also had a starting handle for those who wanted to break their wrist!



As it was getting on for late morning, we decided to have a cuppa and cake at the appropriately named Clippies Café within the garage. Outside of which sat the ubiquitous Morris Marriinnaaaa.



Suitably fortified, we made our way back into the garage and continued our tour of the exhibits. We were on the lookout for an Albion FT27AN(SP) that had bodywork done by K & I Coachworks of Eskbank, but for whatever reason this was not on display. As well as all the exhibits there was a small auto jumble mainly selling die cast models and transportation literature. However, amongst the stalls there was a diorama of a small town with working buses that followed a small electrical track around the buildings.

As we continued our tour it was evident that all the double deckers had the clippie platform cordoned off to prevent unwanted guests climbing aboard. But all was not lost as we eventually found one that we could board and of course we went up to the top deck to get a birds eye view of the garage. When going around the buses we made sure to get down in between as this afforded a view of some fantastic advertising that used to be placed on the rear of these vehicles. It also gave us a chance to see some of the projects they have awaiting to be restored.





Now it being lunch time we opted to try the hot food van on site and as it was run by the staff at GVVT we didn't feel we were being ripped off at £3:50 for a cheeseburger. Those of us who have been to car shows know it can be at least £5:00!!!

As well as all the vehicles they have a garage area that allows them to work on at least 8 buses complete with full-length pits that allow full access underneath. One of the projects they are working on is an interactive bus. This consists of just the front third cab off a bus, and they have plans to add some sensory equipment along with a VR screen so 'children' can have the experience of driving a bus. In addition, they also run a 20-week program - 'Back on the Road (BotR)'. This aims to support individuals in addiction recovery through vehicle restoration, workshops, and training. The program equips them with skills to enhance their employability and lead them towards achieving positive outcomes.

With our tour complete we headed into the small but interesting museum where there were all manner of transportation-related items including an honesty box for those who hadn't paid their fare and more interestingly a first aid box. One of the GVVT volunteers informed us that they had two first aid boxes - a good one which was fully stocked and shown to the conductor for audit and the one used day to day!!!! In addition, we came across the front clip of a bus that had all been rewired so you could switch on the lights etc. including directional indicators much like on the MG Cyberster!!!



With our tour complete we took the vintage bus back into town as June had some shopping to do. If you want to go please check out their website www.gvvt.org for opening times etc.

And some more pics below. **Craig Fotheringham**



MY FIRST DRIVING LESSON

No this is not a reminisce about when I started driving nor is it about the first time, I got behind the wheel of an MG.

As many of you know, June and I have been giving the neighbour's a hand with their small holding. Initially it was just to look after the horse, and slowly it graduated into sheep herding, feeding all the animals and any small jobs around the place.

And as we are all aware (hopefully!,,) the festive season is rapidly approaching, and our neighbour makes all her own wreaths and has a few spare to sell - approx 500!!! As part of this process once she has the moss rings and ribbons made up, she needs some greenery. I.e. Holly and Leylandii.

Our neighbours are quite fortunate in that they have both in abundance lining their driveway, the only issue is the bushes /trees are approx. 20ft plus high! However, there is a solution. Namely one person gets themselves into an IBC container, (Google it) in other words a 4' x 4' cage and another person uses the tractor with the fork attachment to lift the cage up to the required height.

Unlike your driving lesson when the instructor takes you out and around for several lessons before your test, I was dropped in at the deep end. Namely shown the controls to lift and lower the arms and adjust the level of the cage.

Fortunately, I had some time to familiarise myself with this. As you raise the arms it has a tendency to tip the forks/cage back and as you lower the arms it tends to tip forward. So, it is a matter of constantly adjusting both to keep the cage level and at the required height. With practice it became evident that controls were quite sensitive and it was easy to make fine adjustments. If that wasn't enough, we agreed it would be easier(!!!!) if I reversed the tractor down the narrow driveway to give us the angle to do the trimming. In addition, I had to constantly reposition the tractor as we made our way along the top. Added to that there were four sheep dogs running around and our neighbour was in the cage (he was doing the cutting) added up to quite an experience.

However, all was well as we managed to get the greenery cut and more importantly, I didn't tip our neighbour out of the cage. I am led to believe that more modern tractors have a self levelling loader that will keep the load level irrespective of the height.

Back on the farm. [Craig Fotheringham](#)



MY GARAGE

I have got my new Clarke Garage up and it is now sheltering my US spec MGB - which will allow me to start work on the GT. I have sent in a before and after photo of the garage and the MGB is still for sale. [Neil Macaulay](#)



INTERESTING CAR



INTERESTING CAR
Sunbeam Roadster

INTERESTING SNIPPET 2

A 2CV swimming pool conversion!! Spotted by Tony H



Area Secretary

Allan Digance
0131 667 8587
allan.digance@blueyonder.co.uk

Membership Secretary

Andrew McGill
0131 445 2025
andrewmcgill@blueyonder.co.uk

Newsletter Editor

Helen Kirkness
0131 440 2462
mrsgrumpy@aol.com

Webmaster

David Turner
0131 441 1468
dm.turner270@gmail.com

Please feel free to contact the committee if you have any queries.

Martin Fraser

07774 857058
martinfraser51@icloud.com

Steve Hastwell

07770 161675
steve.hastwell@blueyonder.co.uk

Fraser Watt

07980 614940
frasergbwatt@gmail.com

Peter Woodham

prwoodham@gmail.com

Tony Woods

0131 445 2908
twoods.mg@btinternet.com

Monthly meetings have resumed at the rugby cub, second Thursday 7.30 for 8pm

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All provisional

December 14 **Open Club Meeting**

December 15 **Christmas Dinner at
The Steading, Hillend.
£25 for two courses,
£30 for three courses
Please give your menu
choices to Allan ASAP**

January 11 **Raffle & Quiz**

January 21 **Carvery Lunch at 12 pm
Lauriston Farm Carvery,
69 Lauriston Farm Road,
EH4 5EX. Please let Martin
know if you wish to come**

February 8 **AGM**

February 14 **Skittles evening at the
Sheep Heid Inn, The
Causeway, Duddingston,
EH15 3QA. 7-9 pm. £6 per
person for the skittles plus
£14 for the buffet supper.
Please contact Martin.**

March 8 **Meeting & Raffle**

March tbc **Technical Day. Contact
Helen**

April 11 **Meeting**

April 21 **Drive It Day Run. Contact
Helen**

May 9 **Meeting & Raffle**