SOUTH ESSEX MG OWNERS CLUB NEWSLETTER

Area 0906 www.southessexmgoc.net October 2026
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Last Month.

No new members to report.

Recent Events.

25th to 28th September
Weekend Away
The Beechwood Hotel, North Walsham

Please see a very full report of our weekend at the end of this newsletter.

Secretary's News

As mentioned in last month's newsletter relating to our website closing down, if any of you already hold a Facebook account and don't have access to our private page, and wish to join, you will need to email Derek Gardner

Advise Derek that you wish to join our page and he will in turn email an invitation to you to join. You merely have to accept the invitation, and you will be all set to view the page.

This is a purely private page for our club. No outsiders can see any of the details, photos or names, email addresses etc.

For those not on Facebook at all and do not wish to create an account, please contact June and the newsletter will be emailed to you if you are unable to attend any meeting.

For members who don't have an internet account or email, the newsletter will be sent to you by post. This will be by 2nd class post.

Next month is our AGM, if any of you wish to nominate a member to join our committee or wish to nominate yourself, please do so by email on info@southessexmgoc.net by no later than the 31st October.
Please ensure you to speak to anyone you may wish to nominate before putting their name forward.

On a personal note, I would like to say a huge thank to everybody for the cards and gifts for my recent 80th birthday, celebrated at our Weekend at The Beechwood Hotel.

Barry

What's on

Thursday 15th October
Coffee Morning
Meadowcroft Garden Centre, From 10am

Monday 2nd November
Meeting at The Lodge
From 8pm

LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Welcome to the October Leisure & Entertainment News.

COFFEE MORNING
Thursday 15th October from 10am - Midday
Meadowcroft Garden Centre,
Woodham Road, Battlesbridge, Wickford,
SS11 7QU

I have booked the function room for this. We have had a couple of coffee mornings there in the past.

I have initially reserved 20 places, but this can be added to if necessary. However, I am required to give final number by next Thursday the 8th.

There is a possibility I won't be able to add more after the 8th so please let me know asap if you wish to join in.

As we are not using the full capacity of 30 people in the function room, there is a small chance they may have to use the unused places if the restaurant becomes over busy. However, they will set up long tables for us.

We must vacate by midday as apparently this is their busiest time leading up to Christmas.

You don't need to pay a deposit as we have placed a refundable holding amount on the club account to secure the booking and you must pay your own bill as you leave. Payment is at the table before you leave.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH
The Six Bells
Main Road, Boreham, Chelmsford, CM3 3JE
Sunday 13th December – Midday

I am now inviting deposits for this, and I would be grateful to receive payments directly into our club account or by cheque made payable to South Essex MG Owners Club.

On payments reference please enter Xmas Deposit please.

The deposit payable is £10.00 per person.

The cost per person, including a service charge
is:-

2 Courses £34.00
3 Courses £39.50

We have also been offered, within the cost, a straightforward cup of tea or coffee.
Any variations of after dinner beverages will have to be paid for separately.
We are required to provide a pre-order list of menu choices in due course.

I have copies of the menu choices with me tonight rather than print one out for each newsletter, and a copy will be added to the newsletter on Facebook and newsletters via email or post.

Please ignore the prices and service charge at the bottom of the menu as they do not not apply to us.

When deciding, please remember the owner of the pub has advised that their portions are very generous, so please bear this in mind when considering your meal options.

You can look at their website if you aren't familiar with the pub.

This has been highly recommended by a few of our members who have dined there frequently in the past.

www.sixbellspubandrestaurantboreham.co.uk

If any of you would like to reserve places, please see me at tonight's meeting or by the other means of contact, which most of you are now aware of.

That's all for this month.

June

CLUB WEEKEND AWAY
Friday 25th to Monday 28th September
Beechwood Hotel, North Walsham
WEEKENDERS

Barry & June King, Bob & Sue Mellish, Bob & Irene Stone
Barrie & Pam Freedman, Alan & Carol Smith, Jeff & Cheryl Hodder
Keith & Alison Green, Doug Plumb & Diana Selbie

Pam Lee & Vernon Foster, Alan & Celia Howlett

FRIDAY 25th

There was no convoy but a coffee stop on the way was arranged at The White Horse Inn in Stoke Ash any time after 10.45

It was great to see Keith & Alison, Bob & Sue, Jeff & Cheryl, & Barrie & Pam.

Continuing our journey we then headed to the hotel. Check-in was 2pm.

On arrival we were treated to a complimentary cream tea by way of a welcome to the hotel. We were served with tea/coffee, and a scone with clotted cream & jam which was gratefully received, and a lovely and welcome gesture.

We all thought the rooms were good, with tea/coffee making with cups & saucers and tea pot and a cafetiere. Also, biscuits and for those with the upgraded larger rooms there was a refrigerator with bottles of water and a small bottle of fresh milk, and each day these were replaced with fresh included in the room service if selected.

Each evening, we had arranged to meet in the bar at 5.30pm for pre-dinner drinks.

Today it was Barry's 80th Birthday and he had arranged a celebration glass of Prosecco for us all to enjoy.

We were all offered canapes which was a pleasant surprise.

Barry was given many presents, mostly wine & chocolates and birthday cards which were gratefully received. He then gave a short speech recalling his past years as our Area Secretary, how it came about and more.

Our evening meal each night had been set at 7pm and two long tables of 10 were set up for us in a section of the restaurant.

We had to find our place names on another table, and on the reverse were our meal choices.

The food at the hotel throughout the entire weekend was excellent.

During the meal Irene had prepared a short quiz of photographs of people born in 1946, Barry's birth year. Cheekily, Irene had slotted in a photo of Barry, which thankfully, we all got right. The winner was awarded a box of After Eight Mints which, as is usual, after first dibs, was passed around for everyone to enjoy.
There were delightful extras served each evening. These included the canapes in the bar, as already mentioned, and we were all served each evening prior to the starters, a small teacup on a saucer and spoon containing a delicious soup, and finally petit fours with our tea/coffee.

We all gathered back in the bar each evening, where a lot of chat and banter ensued before retiring to bed after a very long but enjoyable day.

SATURDAY 26th

Our first breakfast of the weekend was served from 8am but we had been asked to stagger arrival in the restaurant because all hot meals were cooked to order.

Breakfast was plentiful, with cereals, freshly made porridge, yogurt & fruit, pastries, and of course the full English breakfast or a personal selection from it.

Also, we were given a menu for the evening meal and a form to add our selection.

Our trip out was to East Ruston Old Vicarage Gardens. Barry and I had visited the gardens a few years before and thought it a nice place to visit.

Barrie & Pam decided to visit a Motorcycle Museum near the hotel.

It was a lovely sunny and warm day, so we all parked in the car park of the gardens.

We all split up into small random groups. Barry and I accompanied Keith & Alison. Alison had bought a booklet at the entrance with a lot of information about the gardens and Keith had the garden layout plan.

Keith was brilliant at following the garden plan and we managed to see most of the different garden designs.

The gardens were beautiful and set out in different sections (or rooms).

We all visited the tearoom at different times and enjoyed a light snack or lunch in the sunshine.

Eventually by mid-afternoon we felt we had seen all we could and headed back to the hotel.

There was a small garden with tables and chairs, at the back of all the rooms, and we often gathered there for a chat and drinks, either purchased at the bar or brought from our rooms.

Once again, we all met in the bar at 5.30 for pre-dinner drinks and a natter.

At the dinner tables, Irene handed out a caption competition, the subject being Diana Selbie sitting at a table having an afternoon tea.

The winner was awarded another box of After Eights
After more chat in the bar, it was time to say goodnight.

SUNDAY 27th

Today's outing was a Boat Trip on the Wroxham Broad.

The trip was booked for 1.00pm with a duration of an hour and a half.

We all met by the boarding area in good time for our booking, after enjoying a stroll around Wroxham and coffee overlooking some stunning boats.

We boarded The Queen of the Broads, which had an upper deck, partially undercover and a lower deck where we could by snacks and drinks.

We had a very full and interesting commentary during the entire trip, and the views of houses along both sides of the broad. We also visited Salhouse Broad before turning round to head back to Wroxham. We were also encouraged to wave to those enjoying their own boat rides along the way and advised not to throw anything or anyone overboard, which caused quite a laugh!

It was another beautiful, sunny day which meant we could all take some excellent photos.

Afterwards, some enjoyed a bit of retail therapy in the famous Roy's of Wroxham Store and eventually everyone headed back to the hotel. By the time we arrived back at the hotel the clouds had gathered and, dare I say, a few drops of rain, but nevertheless, some were spotted sitting in the small garden, enjoying snacks and drinks and a good chat.

For the last time we gathered in the bar at 5.30pm prior to our evening meal.

Just before we were called in to dinner, Irene handed an envelope to Barry and I, which contained a very generous garden gift voucher, as a thank you for organising the weekend, which would go towards plants for our current garden refurbishment which we are having done at the moment. Also, a lovely thank you card with such lovely messages from all.

After drinking and chatting in the bar we retired to bed.

Monday 28th

Sadly, it was time for us all to enjoy our final breakfast together at this great hotel.

Some were travelling on for an extended holiday and others headed home,

Thank you all for your company. We look forward to seeing you all at next year's weekend away, and of course any other members of the club who have never ventured out with us for the weekend. We will always choose the last long weekend in September, purely because, so far, we have had fantastic weather for most of them.

Until next year.

Barry & June