SOUTH ESSEX MG OWNERS CLUB NEWSLETTER

Area 0906 www.southessexmgoc.net October 2025
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Last Month.

No new members to welcome.

Recent Events.

CREAM TEA AT CRESSING TEMPLE BARNS
SUNDAY 21st SEPTEMBER

On a bright sunny afternoon 17 members met up at Cressing Temple Barns for a cream tea. We were all served with two fruit scones with clotted cream and a choice of jam and a drink. Afterwards, we all had a wander around the gardens and the many barns.
Keith had provided us all with a very well put together information sheet about the history of the Cressing Temple Barns & Gardens together barns. Makes very interesting reading.
By around 4pm we all gradually said our goodbyes and left.
Very many thanks for Alison & Keith for organising this for the club which was enjoyed by all.
June

We also attended our weekend away and a very full report is at the end of this Newsletter.

Secretary's News

Next month will be our AGM meeting.
This is entirely informal and doesn't involve too much but must be addressed.

I will be asking the existing members if they are willing to remain on the committee but, if any of you know someone who would like to become a committee member and are happy to be nominated, or any of you wish to put your own name forward, please contact me no later than the 31st October.

Barry

What's On

Wednesday 15th October

Final Weekday Lunch

The Royal Corinthian Yacht Club

Burnham-on-Crouch

Monday 3rd November

Meeting (including AGM) at The Lodge Country Inn

From 8pm

Sunday 14th December

Christmas Lunch

The Cherry Tree, Rochford

MESSAGE BOARD!

LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Welcome to the October Leisure & Entertainment News.

FINAL WEEKDAY LUNCH FOR 2025
The Royal Corinthian Yacht Club
The Quay, Burnham-on-Crouch Essex CM0 8AX
12.30pm for 13.00pm Lunch
Wednesday 15th October

There is still time to add your name to the list for this.

Derek will be emailing those already on the list later this week with the menu for pre-orders, full details of the venue and parking.

If you wish to add your name to the list please let Derek know tonight, or contact Derek by mobile phone or email as below:-

Derek's Mobile 01846 496062 or email to gardner.mallard@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS LUNCH
The Cherry Tree, Stambridge Rd, Rochford SS4 2AF
Sunday 14th December – Midday to 3pm

This year we are trying pastures new for our Christmas Lunch and I have secured a booking for us.

I now have menus and prices for this and will require a £10pp deposit as soon as possible.

The choices are for two courses or three courses.

The two courses, are £31 pp
The three courses are £39.50 pp.

This will not include drinks of course which you will have to order from the bar.

There is no service charge but we will arrange for a glass to be passed around towards the end of the meal.

From tonight I am inviting deposits by way of direct payment to our club account as follows:-

Account No: 50206060
Sort Code: 30-99-50
Please add reference Christmas 2025

Cheques are acceptable, made payable to South Essex MG Owners Club which should be handed or posted to me to my address at the foot of this newsletter.

I will be taking names at tonight's meeting and please advise me when you have paid the deposit if paying direct into the club account.

I will require balances by no later than our the 28th November.

I will not be able to do a seating plan, as I am not sure how the tables will be laid up but I'm sure this will all work out fine if you just seat yourselves on arrival.

Please view the Festive Menu overleaf to select your choices.

That's all for this month.

June

The Cherry Tree Festive Menu

2 Courses £31.00 per person
3 Courses £39.50 per person

STARTERS

Prawn & Avocado Cocktail (GFA)
Marie Rose sauce, Iceberg, brown bread & Butter

Chicken Liver & Brandy Parfait (GFA)
Onion marmalade, toast

Roasted Parsnip, Apple & Thyme Soup (V:VEA:GFA)
Parsnip crisps, chives, sourdough, butter

Baked Camembert (V:GFA)
Fig jam, walnuts, baked ciabatta

MAINS

Roast Turkey & Bacon Roulade
Roast Potatoes, maple-glazed parsnips, thyme-roaster carrots, Brussels Sprouts, pigs-in-blankets, Red Wine Gravy

Roasted Sea Bream (GF)
Crushed Skin-on potatoes, tenderstem broccoli, lobster & white wine sauce

24-Hour Cooked Beef Bourguignon (GFA)
Mashed potato, curly kale, crispy onions

Butternut Squash, Lentil & Almond Wellington (VE)
Roast potatoes, thyme roaster carrots, Brussels sprouts, caramelised onion gravy

DESSERTS

Christmas Pudding (V:VEA)
Custard or brandy sauce

Chocolate, Vanilla & Cherry Cheesecake (V:VEA:GF)
Vanilla Ice Cream

Sticky Toffee Pudding (V)
Clotted Cream, Salted Caramel sauce

Lemon Tart (V)
Raspberries, crème fraiche, raspberry compote.

Weekend at The Holt Hotel, Steeple Aston, Nr. Bicester, Oxfordshire
Friday 26th September to Monday 29th September 2025

Our 22 Weekenders were:-

Barry & June King, Bob & Irene Stone, Alec & Jean Suttling, Derek & Hilary Gardner, Bob & Sue Mellish, Barrie & Pam Freedman, Pam Lee & Vernon Foster, Doug Plumb & Diana Selbie, Carol & Alan Smith, Jeff & Cheryl Hodder, Alan & Celia Howlett.

We all made our own way to the hotel and some met up at The Buckingham Garden Centre in Buckinghamshire, for a light lunch and chat.

Check in was from 3pm and everyone checked in on arrival.

A full itinerary for the break was emailed to all along with general notes relating to meal times, trips out and general information about the hotel.

Each evening we met in the bar/lounge for pre-dinner drinks and a chat.

We were served our evening meals in the Barton Room at the Hotel which was nice for us. There were two long tables, comprising one of 12 seats and the other of 10 and close enough together to chat across the tables.

We all had to pre-order our meal choices for each evening which were given to the Hotel Chef.

We had 3 courses each evening and all the meals were delicious and just the right portions for us. All drinks had to be ordered separately at the bar and either paid for at the time or charged to each individual's rooms.

During our first meal on Friday, Irene Stone had prepared a table quiz of pictures of close-up objects which we all had to work out what they were.
The table with the most correct answers were rewarded with a box of After Eight Mints, and as usual after the winners had enjoyed some of the mints the box was passed to those on the runner up table.
After dinner we all returned to the lounge where we re-organised all the furniture, so that we could all sit close together and enjoy drinks and chats until it was time for bed.

Saturday 27th

Breakfast was served in the breakfast room along with other guests staying at the hotel. This comprised a buffet with a hot breakfast selection, cereals, toast, yogurts, fruit, pastries etc. with serve yourself teas, coffees, & fresh fruit juice.

We all met up in the car park at 10.00 am for our visit to the Cotswolds Motor & Toy Museum in the centre of Bourton-on-the-Water.
Parking at the museum was only for classic cars 30 years or older and a maximum of 8 cars could park up at the front of the museum. We had three cars in that category, so we had just three cars consisting of our MGB GT, Bob & Sue's MGB Roadster and Alan & Celia's MGA and they drew a great deal of interest. We were given an A4 notice saying DO NOT TOUCH under our windscreen wipers.
The remaining cars consisting of 3 MG TF's, 1 MG F, 1 MG ZS and 3non-MG's were parked in the car park for the Royal British Legion a short walk away from the museum. This was free of charge but there was a donation box on site.
We all paid for our own tickets on arrival, enjoying a group discount.
The museum seemed to look so small from the outside but inside it was packed, on the ground and hanging off the walls and ceilings. It was absolutely amazing. See the photos on the website to get a full impression of just how packed tight it was with everything on display.

We were able to leave our cars parked for as long as we wanted so after looking around the museum, we all had a wander around the centre of Bourton-on-the-Water. Such a lovely place. It was very busy but enjoyable.
We all headed off at different times, either somewhere else or back to the hotel for a chill and refreshments in the bar.

In the evening we all met up in the lounge and after rearranging all the neatly laid out seating, we all sat and chatted for about an hour before dinner was served.
After we were all seated orders were taken for drinks at the table and then the starters.
No quiz this time, instead we had one of Bob Stone's special caption competitions. The subjects were Bob & Sue Mellish taken at the Hyde Hall Car Show. The winning caption, chosen by Bob & Sue was by Irene Stone.
Once again another box of After Eight Mints were passed around the tables.

After the meal, we had to vacate the tables so the staff could set up the breakfast tables.
On returning to the lounge, once again we rearranged the seating area so we could all sit and chat into the evening. Some gradually made their way to their rooms for the night while other night owls stayed up until past 11pm.

Sunday 28th
Today's agenda was a free morning, and an afternoon visit to Broughton Castle, near Banbury.

Doug had planned a morning visit to the National Trust property at Upton House, also near Banbury and a few of us also decided to tag along.
The house was very interesting, and we all enjoyed a wander around the different rooms, learning all about the history of the house and gardens. The House dates back to the'1500's and each of rooms had many paintings.

In the afternoon we all made our way to Broughton Castle, which was about a 15 minute drive. The Tea Room opened at 1.30pm and the Castle & Gardens opened at 2.00pm.
The Castle was a meeting place of the leading Parliamentary opponents of Charles I including John Pym, John Hampden, Lord Brooke and Lord Saye's son Nathaniel.
The Castle is now home to Martin Fiennes (22nd Lord Saye & Sele). The ownership of the Castle has remained in the same family since 1377.
The Castle & Gardens closed at 5.00pm and this was actually the last day for the season, so a lucky find.

Back at the Hotel, Barry and I spotted Barrie, Pam, Jeff & Cheryl from our room sitting in the sunshine in the garden, so we went down and joined them for a leisurely natter.

Once again, at 6.30 we all gathered in the Lounge enjoying each others' company with pre-dinner drinks. Dinner was served on the dot of 7.30.
Celia had prepared a table quiz this time, which were photos of celebrities whose names began with Mc or Mac. The winning table took the prize of yet another box of After Eight Mints and duly shared with the losing table.

The day ended with drinks and chat in the Lounge.

Monday 29th
After our final hearty breakfast, it was time to start thinking about heading home.

It was a beautiful sunny day, which would have been nice during our stay, but we weren't hampered by the weather even though we had cloudy/overcast skies with some sunshine.

We all got together outside the hotel for a group photo.

Another great weekend with wonderful friends.
Where will we go next year????
June & Barry