

November 2022

# Torque





# What a View



With an early Autumn holiday at home, we planned to decorate, unfortunately Michael sustained a sports injury in a family sack race..... and the decorating was put on hold. The weather looked promising and a trip to Upton House near Banbury was put in the diary. The Fosse is a lovely road and a gentle drive in Iris with the hood down was a real treat. I still shriek when we cross the railway track at Kineton. Michael had said this was a closed line but we have since found out that the line is used every night to bring in ammunition to the MOD site!!

Upton House was the family home of the Lord and Lady Bearsted and was their 1930's country retreat. Even though we have visited many times there is always something you have not seen before. Most of the house was open but due to shortage of guides, my favourite rooms "Lady Bearsted's bedroom and dining room were closed.

We walked the grounds and around the mirror pond, the flower beds were a ray of late roses and asters. We then took the public footpath to see where it went and followed the markers, through farm land and wooded paths and through the iron gate and "what a view", the panoramic scene of rolling hills and the site of the Battle of Edge Hill with blue skies, we were totally lost for words at such beauty. We sat on a fallen tree and just looked, if you are really lucky you can see the Malvern Hills and we were.

The walk back was just as pretty with the riding stables and wooded path, along the way. We were interested in where we had been so a visit to the entrance office and a copy of the walk was handed out.

You cannot leave without a little something and the purchase of an vibrant pink aster and some Christmas cards and we said "hasta la vista" to Upton House and thank you for a lovely day.





Car of the Month

Mr Roger Toon & Sharon  
Grimsley  
Member since 2007



MG A 1959

## MG magazine write up in the November edition:

I didn't submit a review for last month as I was on holiday and unable to connect my laptop to the internet. So here is a joint update for August and September. In August, the club were involved in several very well attended events and all enjoyed very good weather. The first of these was our annual visit to Pailton for the Trains, Boats and Teas afternoon. This is a very popular event and organised to raise money for the local Air Ambulance. We also had a day out to Rutland Water, which is becoming an annual event with a game of French Cricket after our picnic lunch. Another very popular event was a Sunday Lunch run to the beautiful Blue Lias pub near Southam. As this was close to the peak of fuel prices and during a spell of very hot weather, the planned run was cancelled and replaced by a straight run via the quickest route.

We had 2 events planned for September. These included the Pistons and Props weekend at Sywell, Northants and the Hinckley Motor Show which are both annually attended by club members. The Hinckley Motor Show was postponed by a week out of respect for the passing of Queen Elizabeth II so took place on the same day as Pistons and Props. Members had to choose which to go to. Whichever they chose, the weather continued to be kind and both events turned out to be successful. Just a few more events in the diary now before we turn our attention to indoor activities over the winter months.

Best Regards Jean



It has been a few years since we attended Pistons and Props at Sywell and so this year we signed up for the Sunday. Always a good show and as the club attended over both days, not a bad effort in club numbers ,10-12 cars over the two days.

The usual, Club events shelter, bunting and flags, bonnets up! and a rush to secure best spot in the shelter with our chairs, bit like the Germans and their beach towels in Benidorm!. Lots of great club banter and not forgetting Grahams great fry ups !

The blend of Classic Cars, racing of all classes and Vintage planes with live WW2 dog-fighting in the air with and plenty of explosions always makes for a great day. To top it all we had good weather too. For me I think it is the club and company that makes it , I do enjoy roaming the field and looking at Cars, motorbikes and planes, however it's clear as with many other events, Piston and Props are struggling to recover from over two years of the pandemic, public numbers are down as are the market stalls.

This is the first time I have been to Pistons and Props and not bought anything, not even car polish and dusters, with a pocket full of cash I am as shocked as was Gill . *There was no nagging on the way home!!*

I hope they do recover and maybe next year attract more of the brick and brack market stalls, maybe we can dress up in 40's style as in previous years and even stay over night to enjoy the 1940's Swing and Jazz party in the main hangover.

We did have a near miss shortly before packing up when we attracted a potential buyer for Iris! I have to admit I did panic a bit, reality hit home, she could be gone! Even though this has been on our mind for some time now, when it came to the crunch I felt some anxiety. Numbers were exchanged, it was to be a gift for his wife!! What! Never mind, false alarm and we never heard any more. Phew.....

**Michael**



# Part 1 - The Great White Continent

In Feb 2022, against all odds, Paul and I eventually got to take our covid delayed holiday to Antarctica, South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. Getting through the entry rules for Chile was a major achievement. There were so many hurdles to jump from 3 months before until 3 days into the voyage as only then did we find out that everyone had received a 100% negative results from the 5 PCR tests that we had undertaken since leaving home. This meant we could visit Grytviken on South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. Both places would only host ships that had sailed for 10 days covid-free and only a very small number of voyages this season had managed it.

We first took a 14 hour flight to Santiago where we had an overnight stay, in quarantine followed by a 3.5 hour flight to Punta Arenas at the very south of Patagonia the following morning. The last flight involved going over the very dramatic scenery of the Torres de Paine national park with snow covered mountains, lakes and glaciers in full view.

We were then driven to the MS Fram, which would be our home for the next 3 weeks and she set sail later that evening in a southerly direction down the Strait of Magellan with just over 100 guests on board. As well as the regular crew there were 2 photographers, a historian, a glaciologist, 3 marine biologists, an ornithologist and other scientists carrying out important research in the Antarctic Waters.

We awoke on the first morning to find ourselves sailing the Beagle Channel and later passed through the spectacular “Glacier Alley” where huge glaciers, named after European countries, run down from the Darwin Ice Cap. Towards the evening we left Chilean waters for the 2 day sailing across the notorious Drake Passage, which was rough but we were told it could have been a lot worse. During these days, and following days spent at sea, there were plenty of on board scientific activities and lectures where we were able to learn more about the areas we were visiting.



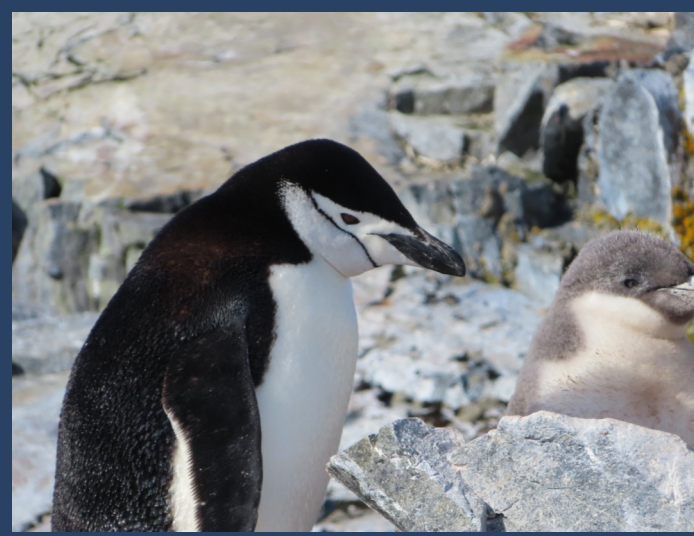
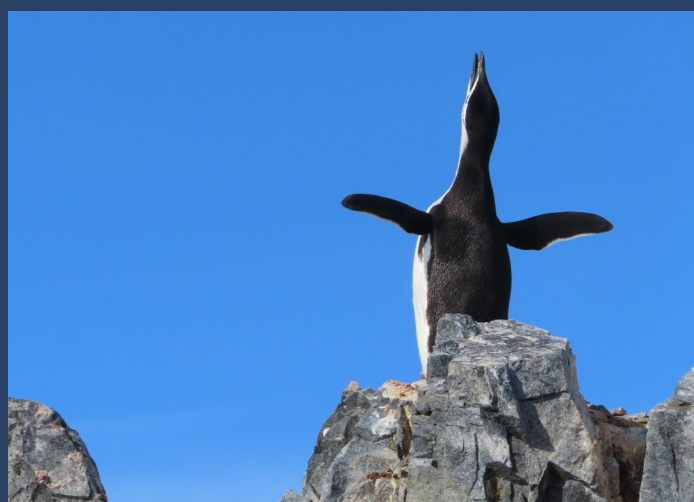
On the fourth morning we awoke to see land and knew we had arrived at the Antarctic Peninsula. I don't think anything prepares you for what you will see, hear and experience here. Many of the passengers, including us, were on deck early to take in this black and white landscape. Huge cliffs just appeared from the sea and rose to 300 feet or more in height. Some were just black bare rock but most of the land was completely covered in ice and snow.



The only other colour to be seen was blue, from the sky when there was a break in the clouds and also from icebergs where pressure in the glacier had removed all air from the frozen water and from which only blue light reflects. As we moved further south this blue became more intense and more beautiful.

We saw more colours when we went on land including pink and green snow caused by algae that grows in the Antarctic summer months. During our 4 days in this part of the world we had many landings on the frozen continent. We saw Gentoo, Adelie and Chinstrap penguins but getting to the colonies involved some very long steep climbs through deep snow.

The penguins and other birds were not at all frightened of us and we were able to get very close to them.



We also saw Crabeater and Leopard Seals, Humpback Whales and numerous birds including Albatross, Skuas and Petrels. As this was in early February the days were very long. There was an eerie silence when on deck but this was often broken by icebergs calving from the glaciers or from cracking ice in the sea or the whale blows. There was also the occasional metallic clunking sound when the ship hit a large piece of ice. Some of the icebergs were huge, even bigger than the ship but the captain sailed cautiously around them.





Other optional activities were on offer. One of these was kayaking amongst the icebergs in the Lemaire Channel<sup>9</sup> which we took part in. We were given plenty of thermal protective clothing under a dry suit in case we capsized but fortunately this didn't happen. We did seem to paddle a long way from the ship and when we stopped the silence was really profound.



I also took the opportunity to take a “Polar Plunge” which involved swimming in the Antarctic Ocean which was 2 degrees C. Well there would never be another chance to do this, so I took the challenge, along with other passengers and crew. Paul didn't take part – well someone had to take the photos!! At first the water felt icy cold and really took my breath away but once I had got my shoulders under I couldn't feel anything and just swam about.

We were not allowed to stay in for more than a minute on the orders of the ships doctor who was in attendance in case of emergencies. Once out, I felt very warm in the sunshine but I had no sensation at all in my arms and legs at first but it gradually came back and I then felt the intense cold so had to hurry up and get dressed.



**Jean**

After 4 full days on the Antarctic Peninsular we set sail for South Georgia. On the way the ship stopped briefly just off Elephant Island so that we could see, in the distance, the monument to the Shackleton Party who landed here after escaping the sea ice in the Weddell Sea and where most of the crew were stranded for over 2 months while Ernest Shackleton and a few others successfully attempted to get to South Georgia where they were able to get help.

## Tammy. A retirement Project

Having decided to retire I looked around for an organisation in which I could use my skills and I contacted the National Guide Dogs organisation. I loved dogs and when they suggested I become a Tour Guide at the national breeding centre it seemed a good match. Little did David or I know that one volunteer role is never enough for Guide Dogs and within a year we found ourselves on the guide dog mum programme and the proud possessors of



### Tammy our yellow Labrador guide dog mum.

She came fully trained because only the very best dogs are selected for the breeding programme. A happy dog who had been born in the Leamington Spa area and puppy raised in Aberdeen.

At the end of the first year living with us she delivered 7 healthy puppies. It was December and we're going away to the Caribbean on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January but as in all things Guide Dogs Helen our supervisor had a sneaky plan and found Tammy a boarding home for the last two weeks before the puppies leave. Well, it's Christmas and out of the blue we get a phone call would you like to look after two more the voice enquired? Another mum was very ill, and her puppies need to be fostered. So along came numbers 8 & 9! Our dining room filled up with puppies who live with the guide dog mum for the first 6 weeks.

At the end of this they go to the National Centre for checks vaccinations and microchipping before they are transported to their puppy raisers.

Tammy returned to being our dog but trained to be an ambassador dog too. Being invited to prestige fund or awareness raising events country wide. She has coped with crowds, pop groups in Birmingham, flower shows in London travelled happily on the train.

After a quiet year due to COVID Tammy was mated again and 8 puppies appeared. Nearly all puppies are born in peoples homes Guide Dogs providing a supervisor who checks the pups gives advice and support. They also have a 24-hour help line. These pups eventually left us and went to the north of England and Scotland. Being Guide Dogs, you are encouraged to make a link with the puppy raisers and over the year exchange news of your puppies. So far we have learned that 7 of the 8 have gone into training.



Now we are back to square one with 6 delightful yellow Labrador puppies once more living in our dining room and rearranging the grass and earth in our garden. They will also shortly leave us to begin their own journeys learning to become Guide Dogs.

As for us David is now a Guide Dog driver and fund raiser travelling country wide when needed delivering dogs and clients to where they need to go. I still enjoy being a tour guide, speaker, and fund raiser too.

Christine

The picnic hamper is the Chairman's snap for the day !!



Pistons and Props



Graham P



# facebook

**MG : SOUTH LEICS. MG CLUB**

## Event Information Page

Meeting place ~ departure times

## Member event programme

All you need to know about up & coming events.

Booking available in the comment section

## Club car of the month

A look at members & their cars within the club

## Your photos

Been taking photos of events & shows you have attended, Then send them into the clubs facebook page and we will show the best.

# CLUB INFORMATION



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Graham Dorman  
01455 289383



**Secretary**  
Jean Dalby  
07730 051368

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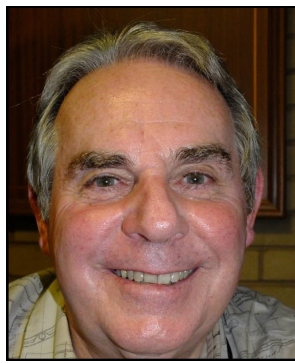
**Treasurer**  
Stuart Armston  
01455 271064.



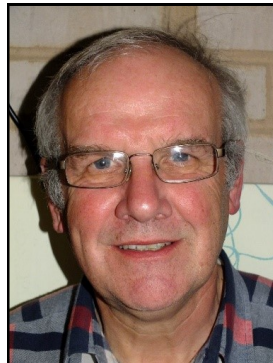
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## South Leicester Monthly Meetings

Membership open to all, so why not come along and meet like-minded people and enjoy the magic of the marque.

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at the White Horse Inn, Station Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire. Family membership is £10.00 p/a, payable in January. For further details contact the Secretary.

Meetings are held from 7.30pm with members forum 8pm.

# Club Events, Car meets & shows

Date	Event	Details	Cost
November			
Tuesday 1st	Club meeting 8pm or come early to have food and a natter	White Horse, Broughton Astley.	
Thursday 24th	Social afternoon Event. Crazy Golf at Leicester High Cross centre.	See Notice Board	£8.25pp(60+)
December			
Tuesday 6th	Club meeting 8pm or come early to have food and a natter	White Horse, Broughton Astley.	
Saturday 17th	Christmas Dinner dance, Ullesthorpe Court Hotel.	See Stuart or Graham Poole	£38.95 pp

## Vintage & Craft Fair Melton Mowbray 2022 Dates

April 3rd  
 May 1st  
 June 5th (Jubilee celebration market)  
 July 3rd  
 August 7th  
 September 4th  
 October 2nd  
 November 6th

All dates are weather permitting

Market Place  
 Melton Mowbray  
 LE13 1XD  
 For more info you can contact  
 Shelagh info@meltonbid.co.uk  
 Sharon 07837398610  
 You can find us on Facebook/Twitter/Instagram

Trade stalls, Craft stalls, Vintage, Steam Punk, Music, Dancing, Classic Cars, Jeeps and Bikes Plus Much More

10am-4pm

- THE BARN
- BREWERY BAR AND RESTAURANT
- 01788833810
- CLASSIC CAR MEET

• Vintage, Post Vintage, Classic car, Motorcycle & Light Commercial Meet. A general get together of like minded enthusiasts to chat, show vehicle and have Sunday lunch and enjoy this lovely venue.

• Entry is free and it's a pleasant drive from anywhere.

November 27th

- 2023
- THE BARN RESTAURANT & BAR
- COALPIT LANE
- WILLEY RUGBY
- CV23 0SL
- 11.30 am

- January 15th
- February 26th
- March 26th



Coming soon !!

### Harborough Sports Classic & Vintage Vehicle Meet

Entrance £3.00 per vehicle

EVERY 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

AT THE HARBOROUGH INNOVATION CTR

For more information 01858 469903

Harborough Sports, Classic & Vintage

Cars Lorries Bikes Trikes ALL VEHICLES WELCOME

We're Back



NEC Classic Car Show  
11 November @ 10:00 am – 13 November @ 5:00 pm



Deadline for next Torque is 26th November 2022

Send your articles to Gillian - [mgricketts@btinternet.com](mailto:mgricketts@btinternet.com)