



The MESSage



Newsletter of the Middlebridge Enthusiasts Scimitar Set



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October 2024

Mick's MESSage

(And this time, it is almost entirely "Mick's MESSage", enjoy. (Ed.)

I'm sat here writing and taking advantage of the weather, it's cold, wet and flooded in my village, tis the ideal time to start my next epistle. I do hope you enjoyed the content in the last MESSage, the biggest one to date. Personally, I really enjoyed Syd' s writing style but then he's an "edumacated" fella!

Middlebridge 33

No 33 has certainly put some miles under her belt already this year, I must say she is running sweet as a nut. The only work on the horizon is getting a 4 wheel alignment as I feel there is a tiny bit of wander. I also have stiffened up the rear shockers but that was just a couple of clicks on the adjusters.

During the monsoon weather in the Isle of Wight (IOW) Matt and I noted water getting into the cabin above the centre console, on

investigation the roof aerial was twisted and broken at the male / female joint and the base moved very slightly. I used a smear of silicone to stop the leak as an emergency repair on the IOW and once home I went to order a new genuine Golf aerial from VW but at £133 + vat I thought twice and said I would call back. I quickly searched eBay and found a new old stock boxed original Golf aerial for £10.00, needless to say it's on its way to me.



Reliant Themed Day - Great British Car Journey

Bruce Beauchamp, Alan Cavendish Tribe and myself booked to attend this Reliant event to fly the Middlebridge flag or so to speak. We agreed to get there early so that we could be parked together amongst the masses. Unfortunately and in spite of it being a glorious day only a handful of Reliants turned up. After looking at the cars we spent some time out of the sun in the café and also did a tour of the interactive museum. (Highly Recommended). We stayed until about 3pm and were virtually the last to leave. One nice surprise was meeting Martin North (Our webmaster) and Celine, his partner in his lovely Green Coupe.



NEC Classic Car Show

All too soon it will be November and time to head to Birmingham again. Our stand is booked in hall 2 and once again in a prime location close to the Iconic / Silverstone Auction area. Anyway, the reason for me explaining this is that should anyone have a Middlebridge that could adorn the stand from Thursday to Sunday evening please let us know as we would love to have different cars displayed on the marque stand.

PLEASE NOTE: We only sold a couple of the discounted tickets last year and it has been brought to our attention on several occasions by the NEC event organisers. Quite a few people just purchased tickets either without using our code or on the day. Please try and use the code in the advert further down the MESSage it will save you some money and it WILL help the MESS in the long run. We are by a mile the smallest club in the prime locations and our neighbours include, Jaguar, Daimler, Land Rover etc. etc. and this is the location we wish to continue to hold.

Brookhill Hall

This is a wonderfully relaxed location and the venue chosen to do the Classic & Sportscar Photo-shoot and road test of MB No 5 (formerly the Princess Royal's car) just prior to the car going into the Great British Car Journey Museum.

Once again George and I met up at Crick weigh-bridge near Rugby, after a brief chat I would follow him in his MESS support vehicle. We pulled out of Crick (J18M1) and headed North to J28 M1 with virtually no traffic on the road, what a delightful run (for a change). We made great time and waited for the others to meet us at the pre-arranged Brewers Fayre pub prior to going in convoy to Brookhill Hall which is just five minutes away.

On arrival we were guided to our location where we quickly set up a sign and some flyers and then we just relaxed for the whole day in glorious English sunshine, needless to say there was plenty of banter and laughter throughout the day. There was no competition element and a huge range of different classic cars on display.



The MESS would like to thank James for the invite and everyone there for making us feel so welcome and of course for also booking a full day of glorious sunshine to boot.

Heritage Certificates

The first batch of heritage certificates have now been completed / signed off and are with the owners, personally I'm delighted with mine and others have said the same. I'm considering laminating mine and put it in the window at shows. The document should also be a good selling tool in the future should it be needed. I think the certificates would make a great Xmas pressie for all of those that have people that have no idea what to buy them for Xmas. To get the ball rolling, please contact Alan Cavendish Tribe on the email address below.

alan.cavendish.tribe@gmail.com

Wing Walking (is a lie)

This is something I wanted to do but couldn't get anyone to take me on until now.

Previous places I tried were risk averse namby-pamby, compliance crazy outfits. "Health and Safety mate, you're too old, too fat, medical issues, get a doctors note".

If you didn't already know, the UK is one of the few places in the world where the public (i.e. non-professionals) are still allowed to wing walk; albeit this is a lie as you can't actually "walk" on the wing at all, and was even banned in USA last year. Two guys' in front of me had flown in from Dubai and the one following from Germany, just to do what we Brits take for granted.

How long before it's deemed too much fun in the UK and banned by the "elf'n safety" killjoys? If you want to do it at all then get it done now is my advice.

Eventually I found a gang that said 'Self Certify' is our thing. Fill in the form, sign it and up you go. Terrific! A few white lies later, pass over the readies and I'm booked to stand atop a Boeing Stearman with it's 450 hp Pratt & Whitney lump to provide the up and away.



The car journey to and from Cirencester (Areosuperbatics airfield) was unforgettable for all the wrong reasons. Shear volume of traffic and road works of epic proportions in our crowded little island have taken the joy out of motoring. However, the excellent MB50 was, as ever, nonplussed and delivered us in comfort to our destination. I'm so grateful for the comfort of a Middlebridge over long and tedious journeys.

Much of the obligatory medical compliance document seemed OK (ish) so I closed my eyes, made sign of the cross and signed the lot. Then, struggling with arthritic knees, I found myself on the top wing of a sky chariot being tied up by the lovely Emma (calm down lads this is no bondage trip!).

Dave (chariot pilot/ jockey) gives the engine the OK and we taxi across a rather lumpy field.

A word to about this taxiing lark. Each time the chariot wheel hits a small bump at ground level it is exaggerated at head height and your head will move unexpectedly and rather quickly left/right a foot or more. This is alright if you're happy standing on tall ladders which are erratically being shaken to throw you off.

Facing down the runway (what runway? It's the same lumpy field!). Dave gives the engine loads of juice and we bounce merrily along until lift off at which point movement stability is gratefully attained. From here on it's a breeze, literally.

The first banking turn was exciting (am I going to fall off the side?) but with each one thereafter I get more used to it and am able to enjoy the beautiful Cotswold countryside below. Ah, this green and pleasant land. Well spaced pretty villages, fine houses in commodious grounds, all very pricey. Good luck, Angela Raynor, in persuading people down there to vote for your house building programme in their backyard.

At one point we passed within yards of two Buzzards (possibly Kites I'm advised) and I'm sure I heard them comment on how crowded their patch was becoming nowadays. "Bugger off tourists" I think they said.

The done thing for these events is to hold arms out, wave to the audience and generally fool around. Be warned. If you hold arms out with thumbs pointing down the chariot jockey will take that to mean you've had enough and you'll be back on the lumpy field, toot-suite.

Anyway, holding arms out for long against 120 mph draught reminded me I have arthritic shoulder joints as well as dodgy knees so I soon packed that up.

After too short a time we touch down and bumpy-bump back to the taxi rank for the waiting German thrill seeker/nutter to try his luck.

An after event examination of the underpants showed no brown stains (surprise?), so I rated it a glorious success and recommend to one and all.

Syd.

Graeme MB 78

I'm delighted to see MB 78 (Numerically, the last Scimitar ever built) now in the safe hands of Graeme Conway and he is already taking her to shows. We really look forward to meeting up with Graeme and his new steed at events in the near future if we can twist his arm.



Graeme is also restoring MB No 37, the question / quandary is will he find time to complete the body-off restoration of his other MB or will enjoying his new toy further delay his guards red one. Guess that's a question for you Graeme??

Isle of Wight Foray 2024

How time flies, it only seems a short time since we last headed for the IOW, Most of the mob headed south on Tuesday / Wednesday 3rd & 4th September and stayed in Portsmouth whilst Alan Cavendish Tribe, his son James, myself and Matt went for an early start on the Friday to meet with them prior to heading to the Ferry in convoy. Last year we had a heat wave but this year we had monsoon weather both on the A34 heading south and on the IOW as well.

On the Saturday and post breakfast we all headed to Newport Quay, however when we arrived there was no room left at the quayside and we were directed to an emergency overflow car-park along with many others, the location was okay and a lot of the locals use the car-park route to get to the town centre. I felt very sorry for a couple in a Granada that arrived straight from the ferry and were refused entry and turned away.



Weather wise there was sporadic rain in the morning with it

deteriorating dreadfully by lunchtime. We had words with the organisers and were promised our usual sea front location at Ryde for the Sunday. We made the decision to drive from our hotel on the Ryde Seafront, park up and walk back to the hotel for breakfast at 08.00. Our spot was however long since taken but we did manage to park on the front but much further down the seafront. Once again the weather was intermittent rain

with the odd huge downpour, in the afternoon about 3.30 we were suddenly blessed with blazing sun and even though the event officially closed at 4pm us and the bulk of the exhibitors were still there enjoying the sun at gone 5pm.





All the Middlebridge cars ran spot-on with no issues and it was great to have James, Alan Cavendish Tribe's son join us in his Mustang on his first run in a car that he is still fettling but it sounded lovely. Matt also deserved a well done as he sourced the new hotel and it was perfect with the ideal promenade facing location and lovely rooms to boot.

The 'Lost on a small Island' theme simply won't go away and keeps rearing it's head much to everyone's amusement. It was Peter's turn to drop a clanger.

We have been to the IOW several times with Peter taking the initiative and booking us in to our usual Indian Restaurant for an evening meal and drinks. On arrival, there was no booking, no food and no drinks, they were fully booked!! Apparently Peter had booked the meal with the local take away, we headed down the road to it.



It made a transport café look posh! (I should know) No drinks licence, no soft drinks, not even a toilet, they did have seating on wooden benches with wooden tables, the tables were so sticky a fly wouldn't be able to take off from them and you certainly would not knock anything over! Nervously, the food was ordered, along with two trips up the hill to Sainsburys for booze which we now thought a must!

Well, we all had a great laugh and the food was actually awesome, we all agreed on that point. We later found out that all the locals use this restaurant because the food is so good. Personally, there was so much food I wish I had not had a starter as I could not possibly finish the meal and I wasn't the only one.

Sywell 'Pistons n Props' (Monsoon Season Me thinks)

21/22 September 2024

We normally look forward to this relaxed end of season outdoor show with aerial displays, wing walking, dragsters, bikes, lots of classic clubs and a nice 40's/50's feel, what's not to like.

Eventually the organisers managed to confirm our site and with Bruce's help we quickly marked out our boundaries and started erecting Bruce's igloo tent, with the stand sorted, we started to enjoy the event and the morning sunshine.



We noted that visitor numbers were down on last year and there seemed to be less clubs in attendance and put this down to the price hike. We were there to enjoy the weekend and have lots of banter.

We had a huge surprise when Will and Jane suddenly appeared out of the blue, it was great to see them and have a little chin-wag. I think they were enjoying our Southern Sunshine and seeing many southern softies in shorts soaking up the rays.

It was just after lunchtime when suddenly the heavens opened up and we had instant huge deluge of hail stones, rain and wind so heavy that many of the tents and gazebos were simply destroyed and left on the floor.



As you will see, we just all stayed in the igloo which I'm delighted to say stood the test. (mind you at one point we were all supporting the internal frame on all four sides) . We were also concerned about the huge hail stones damaging our cars but thankfully no damage was

done. The rain continued until we packed up to call it a day and start again on the Sunday. On leaving the site the first hurdle encountered in our cars was a flooded road forcing us on a long detour through a slightly less flooded road.

This is my local event and I live on a hilltop, we noted that the rain had not stopped all night. I made the decision to take my 4x4 as widespread floods were reported on local radio. On arrival no classics had attempted to go 'thank god' George was there sat munching away in his 4 wheel drive VW.



Suddenly it was announced on Facebook etc. that the event was cancelled. We set about packing up as much as possible prior to Bruce and Ali arriving from the hotel to load his trailer, needless to say the final item stripped was the igloo tent that had done an



awesome job. We left the site about 11.00 hrs Sunday and I can confirm that it continued to rain all day Sunday and all day Monday too.

Once again, there was another bizarre Middlebridge moment, Bruce, Ali and Syd 'n Sandra went back to their hotel thinking, dry out, warm up, nice meal and a drink to help it down. However they were told that there was NO chef that evening and they would have to go elsewhere to eat. A taxi was duly summoned and a trip to the nearest Wetherspoons had to suffice. We have suffered bizarre incidents at all of our recent events, god knows what's in store for our next event (The NEC) at least the rain won't stop play there, or have I spoken to soon.

MB 40th Expression of Interest only.

While we were on the boat heading home our 40th Anniversary was mentioned and a road-trip was discussed, I will detail below but remember everyone has 4 years to prepare for this and an awful lot of organising / grovelling would be required to pull any of the site visits mentioned below. Should we get some interest we would start looking into the event feasibility. Here we go and remember we will be celebrating free road tax and turning it into fuel money.

- 1, Initial Meet in Beeston, Lilac Grove, where our cars were made for a tour. (Now Crouches Recovery) to start our tour with a good chin-wag. (Park up for a photo-shoot).
- 2, Head South down the M1 to Milton Keynes to visit the MB headquarters and the homebase for the F1 adventure.
- 3, Drive South to Ford Dagenham where our cars, namely the Prototype Middlebridge was tested prior to MB being allowed to use Ford's then flagship running gear. (Park up for a tour and photo-shoot)
- 4, A visit to the Cologne factory where our engines were built and hopefully show off our cars. (Park up for a tour and photo-shoot)
- 5, Essen, only if possible, arrange for a few cars to be on display at the show and in Europe for the 1st time.
- 6, The above is just an idea but we would be delighted if anyone could make any suggestions on how to mark the Middlebridge 40th Anniversary. Suggestions already put forward below: -

A, Silverstone Classic Weekend (This event had an awesome turnout last time out).

B, Goodwood Revival weekend (If we can pull this off)

C, Bring on the ideas.....

Coming and Going

We currently have one car for sale on the Middlebridge website, the Pre-Production Middlebridge, a owner car, manual and in excellent condition

We also have a waiting list for people wanting automatic cars.

We have also had good news about MB21. The new owner did, in fact, get in touch and we are pleased to welcome Pete to Middlebridge ownership. Pete is a long term RSSOC member and Scimitar owner based in Fife. Having a couple of six series projects he was looking for a car to run while working on these. He was not specifically looking for a Middlebridge but the opportunity was too good to miss.

We had a chat about how the car came to be in the Errol auction and it looks like (and we are piecing this together so it is not gospel) the car sold it on eBay and it appears a gentleman near Crieff in Scotland bought it. Unfortunately, it looks like he passed away and his family wanted rid of the car so put it through the auction.

Pete has already started fettling it and sorting out the niggles but intends to run the car with the paint in the condition it is as he is not into concours. However, if he likes the car and it is reliable he might change his mind!

Light hearted banter

I thought I would once again finish off my epistle with either a look back to better times or something a little light hearted. Hope you like the two pictures.



Middlebridge Calendar 2024

(Please note events highlighted in blue already have MESS members attending)

Date	Date	Event
06/07/2024	07/07/2024	Hollowell Steam Rally
23/06/2024		GBCJ Reliant Themed Day incl. Middlebridge
28/06/2024	30/06/2024	Three Counties Show Ground Classic Car Show
29/06/2024	30/06/2024	Bloxham
13/07/2024	14/07/2024	Powderham
17/08/2024	18/08/2024	Scimfest
06/09/2024	08/09/2024	Goodwood Revival
06/09/2024	09/09/2024	Isle of Wight Classic Car Extravaganza
21/09/2024	22/09/2024	Sywell Piston & Props
08/11/2024	10/11/2024	NEC Classic Car Show
T.B.C	Work in progress	Caffine & Machine
T.B.C.	Work in progress	Dagenham, Cologne, Essen Road Trip
T.B.C.	Work in progress	Middlebridge 600

!!URGENT APPEAL!!

The latest MESSembly confirmed the urgent need for more funds. Apart from rising costs, such as the carpet for the NEC, this year donations have been less than previous years.

Our 'Birthday' usually benefits from member's generosity, not so this time, sadly. The last issue of 'The MESSage' also had an appeal which also failed to generate much money.

Cheques have been issued tonight to the fellow members who have lent their own money to The MESS for lanyards, frames, carpet, etc, however they have been asked not to present them until there are sufficient funds in the Lloyd's Bank Account.

As you all know, The MESS is funded entirely from voluntary donations, so, please, please, donate whatever you can, to keep this unique Club buoyant.

MESSEMBLY

In person. The monthly MESS meeting has resumed and be held on the Second Tuesday of each month at 7pm in The Brewers Fayre, Central Park, CV23 0WE. Every enthusiast is welcome to join us, owner or not. Banter expected and encouraged.

Virtual MESSEMBLIES will continue with the invitations sent to members by email.

MIDDLEBRIDGE ACCOUNT

Lloyds Bank, Lewisham (309089)
120 Lewisham High Street, Lewisham
London SE13 6JG .

Sort Code: 30-90-89.

Account No: 49350668.

BIC: LOYDGB21256.

IBAN: GB79 LOYD 3090 8949 3506 68.



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8-10 NOVEMBER | NEC, BIRMINGHAM

Join MIDDLEBRIDGE ENTHUSIASTS SCIMITAR SET on stand 2-755 at the UK's premier classic motor event, the Lancaster Insurance Classic Motor Show at the NEC Birmingham from Friday 8 - Sunday 10 November. Club members, friends and followers can book tickets at www.necclassicmotorshow.com quoting our club code **CCCN0V487** to save £4 off single-day adult tickets or £2 off family, child or multi-day tickets Book by 17 October and you'll help us earn additional benefits!