



# WOLSELEY WORLD

*The Journal of the Wolseley Register*

ISSUE 233 • JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2025



*Let us put a little light in your life*

[www.wolseleyregister.co.uk](http://www.wolseleyregister.co.uk)



# Editor's Corner

Amy Egan, Editor [6547]

It's been nice to see classic cars getting out over the winter (including these lovely photos from Stuart on the front cover and below), but the frost and snow we've had since the New Year has probably kept most cars in their garages.

At this time of year, it's hard to think about car shows in the summer, but events are starting to be confirmed and listed in the Regional pages. Please suggest others to your local rep so that they are well-supported.



**Cover:** Taking advantage of a dry day at the end of December, new member Stuart Carey [7829] took his MkIII 1500 for a run to the village of Nun Monkton, north of York.

**'Wolseley Register' and 'Wolseley World' are registered trademarks of the Wolseley Register.** Copyright of all articles, pictures and other material in *Wolseley World* is with the named author of the material or by default the Wolseley Register. No unauthorised reproduction, in part or in whole, is permitted without express permission. Permission should be sought from the Editor in the first instance.

**ISSUE 233:  
JAN / FEB 2025**

- 04 Chairman's Report
- 05 Contact Details
- 08 Welcome Aboard
- 10 Letters and Emails
- 13 Chris Arnold: 1953-2024
- 16 1,000 miles across Bavaria
- 18 National Rally 2025
- 22 New info on early Wolseleys
- 27 Wolseley Register Regalia
- 30 Restoration Show 2025
- 32 Classifieds
- 34 Regional Contacts
- 35 Out and About
- 44 Morris Fest 2025
- 45 Trials and Tribulations



[/wolseleyregister](#)

**OVER 1,800 FOLLOWERS!**

### Magazine deadlines:

7 March, 9 May, 4 July,

5 September, 7 November

**PRINTER: The Lavenham Press Ltd** [www.lavenhampress.co.uk](http://www.lavenhampress.co.uk) ☎ 01787 247436

# Letters and Emails

## Christmas messages

Amy Egan, Editor [6547]

We received a number of creative Wolseley Christmas images from Register members this year, so I thought I would share them here.



Dick Peters [3566]



Henk Schuurung [0485]



Andrea Wallis [7216]

## My Wolseley story Bernard Crockford [7063]

I am an only child, born in 1944 into a family of general builders based in very rural north Suffolk. Mains electricity did not arrive until the mid-1950s, but this did not restrict my resourceful father from modernising the business. As a small boy (pre health and safety), I was allowed to be closely involved while the Lister generator was installed. Even then I could see what a leap forward this was – hand-sawing and planing that took days could be done in minutes.

This was the second improvement for the business, as nearly 30 years earlier (before my time), my father had replaced my grandfather's horse and cart with a Morris one-ton lorry. East Suffolk Council provided him with a licence – no test required – and it covered all groups. Motor vehicle changes happened while I was at primary school, with the purchase of a Fordson Thames ET6 V8 four-ton lorry from Bussey and Saberton of Norwich (now Busseys). Then it was time for my father's aged Morris 12 car to be replaced with a Wolseley 6/80.

I well remember our trips out in the 6/80 to see the sights of London where we could park anywhere (about 100 miles) and locally to The Firs Stadium, Norwich to see speedway (long gone). As a boy, I was intrigued to see a line of similar black police 6/80s parked at the entrance to the stadium. When I was about 13 or 14, on dark winter nights my father would let me drive the 6/80 on our almost deserted country roads. His only gripe was its habit of burning out exhaust valves, hence he replaced it with a Humber Hawk in 1958.

Some 30 years later, when I became a seasoned car enthusiast, I was told that all those police Wolseleys in Norwich had suffered the same trouble and that Kennings, who maintained them, had fitted hardened valve seats to overcome the problem – done today for unleaded petrol use. This information came all too late for my dad.

I now have a Wolseley 15/50, which I enjoy driving, but I still have dreams of owning a 6/80 – too late now I fear.



## Calling Six-Ninety owners! Jeffrey Bridges [0569]

From time to time, items of interest come to light concerning Six-Ninety cars. As a Technical Adviser for this model, I hoped to set up an email group for Six-Ninety owners, whereby we can ask each other questions and exchange information relevant to our cars.



I envisage only occasional emails, and one could opt out at any time. I only had a few responses when this notice was printed in the previous magazine.

If you would be interested, please email me: ✉ [j.bridges815@btinternet.com](mailto:j.bridges815@btinternet.com)

---

## The Register's List of Recorded Vehicles

Colin Briggs [5005]

During 2024, I added 55 cars to the LoRV – two more than in 2023. Most were spotted on eBay by Chris Arnold, and others will have been added from the membership updates.

- 1x Wedge, Six, Hornet MkI, 4/44, 6/80, Hornet Special 1932, Hornet Special 1934, 21/60 County, E3 Ten, Nine 1934, Hornet 1933
- 2x 6/90, 15/50, SIII 12/48, Eight, New Fourteen, Hornet Special 1933
- 3x 18/85 Landcrab, 1300, 16/60, 6/110, 1500 MkIII
- 5x 1500 MkI
- 6x Hornet Mk II, Hornet MkIII.

Register members can view the List of Recorded Vehicles when logged into our website: [www.wolseleyregister.co.uk/wolseley-history/lorv-1](http://www.wolseleyregister.co.uk/wolseley-history/lorv-1).

Please email ✉ [registrar@thewolseleyregister.com](mailto:registrar@thewolseleyregister.com) or complete the online form on the above webpage if you are aware of any Wolseleys not on our list, or know of any listed cars with incorrect or incomplete data.

---

# Out and About in the Wolseley World

**SOUTH WEST REGION** Kevin Sweet [7516] and Chris Moore [1223]

**W**e would like to thank Geoff Bennett for his support over the years. Even though we have taken over as South West contacts, Geoff can still be contacted for technical advice on 4/44s and 15/50s. We hope we can become an active Region in the Register, and to meet many of you over the coming months. Here's a few words about us:



**Kevin (Gloucestershire, Dorset, Wiltshire, Avon & Somerset):** At the age of 17, my first car was a Wolseley 4/44. I still have it today, but it needs a full restoration – a retirement project not yet started. I took early retirement during COVID, but as I wanted to join in the classic car scene straight away, I bought a very original 4/44 with a low mileage and a large history file.

I'm also a member of Norton Radstock Classic Vehicle Club who meet every second Thursday at 8pm in the Radstock Working Men's Club near Bath. If anyone would like to come to a meeting, they are most welcome. It would be nice to have a meet up in the spring with other SW members. Does anyone have any suggestions for a central meeting place?



**Chris (Devon & Cornwall):** My father joined the Register in 1981 when he bought a 1936 10/40. I took over in 1988 when he passed away. In 2018 I moved from Leicestershire to Cornwall. We've attended many national rallies over 40 years of membership.

My 10/40 and John Cooper's 1500 [shown on the next page] were at a pre-Christmas gathering on 22 December: 'Wheels at Wheal Martyn' is now going to be a regular event on the last Sunday of every month at the clay works museum at Saint Austell. Hopefully we can better represent Wolseley at this show in future? →

The Beaulieu Spring Autojumble is also one for your to consider. Held on 17-18 May, the Register has been invited to join the Dorset Morris Minor Owners Club branch rally. However, you must pre-book by 31 March.

For more details on this event, please see page 37.



## NORTHERN IRELAND REGION

Philip Preen [7561]

I'd like to thank the Register for asking me to be the local representative for Northern Ireland. I've been a member of the Register since the purchase of my Wolseley 1500 three years ago [pictured below at the 2024 National Rally].



I'm no stranger to BMC or BL vehicles, having looked after my late mother's Mini Thirty from new in 1989, and my first car a 1968 a Morris Minor 1000 since 1990. Both of these vehicles share garage space with two Mini Clubman models (1974 and 1979), a 1978 Vanden Plas 1500, a 1974 3500 Rover P6, and of course the Wolseley 1500.

My 1500 was built in Sept 1958 and registered new in Feb 1959 to its first owners in Newport, South Wales. It remained in the family for many years passing from father to son and then granddaughter. It had been off the road for a number of years when I purchased it. The Register were most helpful in supplying parts and advice to help with recommissioning. The car is in very good condition, with all original panels and no welding to the body shell.

I travelled over last year for the National Rally at Shuttleworth, adding 800 trouble-free miles to the 22k already on the odometer. I'm looking forward to my second National Rally at Beamish in August. While we don't have many members in NI, it would be great to get together either at an established event or even just a chat over a coffee and a few tray bakes! I hope to be in touch with you all shortly. Safe motoring everyone.

## **EAST MIDLANDS GROUP**

A couple of local events have been announced for 2025. Both have FREE entry and FREE camping for exhibitors, who must be in place for the duration of the show on whichever day(s) they attend.

**Friday 3, Saturday 4 and Bank Holiday Monday 5 May: East Midlands Steam and Country Fair**, Lancaster Farm, Higham Ferrers NN10 8LB. 10am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday; 10am to 4pm on Monday. Alongside a range of classic and vintage vehicles, there will be trade stalls, a fun fair, arena events, a bar and food stands, model and craft tent, and a 'wall of death' display. For details, visit [www.eastmidlandssteam.co.uk](http://www.eastmidlandssteam.co.uk), or email Graham Ryder (✉ [midlands@thewolseleyregister.com](mailto:midlands@thewolseleyregister.com)) for an entry form. Please note: the closing date is 28 February.

**Friday 23, Saturday 24, and Bank Holiday Monday 25 August: Earls Barton Transport Show**, Whites Nurseries, Earls Barton NN6 0EP (just off Junction 10 A45). 10am to 5pm. There will be the usual array of vehicles, trade and craft stands, beer tent, amusements and arena displays. Bookings are taken on a first come, first served basis. See [www.earlsbartontransportshow.co.uk](http://www.earlsbartontransportshow.co.uk).

---

## **BEAULIEU SPRING AUTOJUMBLE: 17-18 May 2025**

Following on from the South East Region's 60th Anniversary celebrations, the Register has been invited to again join the Dorset Branch of the Morris Minor Owners Club at 'Moggyfest' – their annual gathering at the Beaulieu Spring Autojumble. The location is on the borders of the SE and SW Regions, but all members are very welcome.

Cars can be displayed on either or both days, but should be in place by 8:30am, with no vehicle movement during the public opening times. Our dedicated area will have space for several vehicles and an event shelter selling Regalia.

£25 per car covers entry into the autojumble and museum complex for two adults and up to three children on both days – a great saving on standard admission rates. Additional adults £15pp. Camping available at no extra charge (with basic facilities) in the autojumble exhibitors' car park for Friday and Saturday nights, but must be pre-booked. A Saturday evening meal is bookable at £16pp (choice of scampi, sausage or fish and chips, plus a dessert).

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE PRE-BOOKED THROUGH DORSET MMOC BY 31 MARCH AT THE LATEST. Forms are available from Graham Ryder (✉ [midlands@thewolseleyregister.com](mailto:midlands@thewolseleyregister.com)) or from [www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk/wordpress/admin/RALENT25.pdf](http://www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk/wordpress/admin/RALENT25.pdf). Passes are issued in late April.



## MIDLANDS REGION Stan Hogg [2991] and Jenny Ryder [4747]

Midlands monthly meetings north and south of Birmingham welcome local members on the second Thursday of the month. We are trying out a change of venue for our next meeting which will be at 7:30 for 8pm on Thursday 13 February at The Nailers Arms, 62 Doctors Hill, Bournheath, Bromsgrove, B61 9JE. They are famed for their carvery (evening price £10.95), but other choices are available from the menu.

The next meeting at The Parson & Clerk Toby Carvery, 50 Chester Road North, Streetly, B73 6SP will be on Thursday 13 March. Midlands members are welcome to attend either location. Just let us know in advance so that enough table space can be booked.

A party of 17 enjoyed a festive meal at the Royal Oak, Catshill on 14 December when a Christmas anagram quiz taxed the brains.



**The following regular meets are available during the rally season, but will not necessarily involve an official club presence:**

- **Sundays 11 May & 7 Sept, 9.30am:** Stratford Autojumble, Stratford Racecourse, CV37 9SE: No advance bookings or club stands offered for classic cars – pay on day £5 for driver and £7 each pre-booked passenger. Public entry is bookable in advance at £5 or pay on day £7.
- **Bank Holiday Mondays 21 Apr, 5 & 26 May, 25 Aug, 9am to 4pm:** A47 Autojumble/Classic Vehicle Show, Thurlaston Showground, LE9 9JE. No pre-booking – free for classic car driver and one passenger. Public £5.
- **Sundays 6 Apr, 4 May, 1 Jun, 6 Jul, 3 Aug, 7 Sept, 5 Oct, 9.30am to 4pm:** Middleton Motors Monthly: No pre-booking – £5 per classic vehicle allows access to the Hall, gardens, grounds and Courtyard outlets. Opens to public from 11am, who pay £9.95 (children £5, under-2s free).
- **Sun 6 Apr, 10am to 4pm:** Hammerwich Pre-War Car Gathering at Hammerwich Cricket Club, Burntwood, WS7 0JQ. Pre-WWII vehicles only. FREE to enter but you must register beforehand (☎ 07850 799791 ✉ [klaxonhoard@gmail.com](mailto:klaxonhoard@gmail.com)). Organised by the Austin Seven Online Club in collaboration with the Lions Club who will be happy to receive donations.

## Other events with Wolseley Register club presence:

- **Sat 19 - Bank Holiday Mon 21 Apr:** Easter Vintage Gathering and Model Show, Stoke Prior, Worcestershire (Shakespeare Rally Promotions).
- **Sat 26 Apr:** Pride of Longbridge, Cofton Park, Birmingham B31 2BQ. Celebrating the Longbridge factory, its workers and the cars they produced. Please advise if you wish to be included in the club stand.
- **Sun 27 Apr (Drive it Day), 10am to 4pm:** Invitation to attend the Birmingham Morris Minor Owners Club Rally at Statfold Country Park, Tamworth. Book direct with Statfold ([www.statfold.com/whats-on](http://www.statfold.com/whats-on)), then choose Exhibitors and Drive it Day event). £5 per car gives driver and one passenger access to museum, railway, diner, etc. Additional passengers pay full admission to access areas other than the car display. £1 payable on the day for your rally pack is in aid of Warwickshire Search and Rescue. For more details and queries: ✉ [birmingham.branch@mmoc.org.uk](mailto:birmingham.branch@mmoc.org.uk).
- **Sun 8 Jun:** Morris Minor and Nuffield Day at Great British Car Journey, Derbyshire. Details on page 21.
- **Sun 15 Jun:** Father's Day Rally at Belbroughton Cricket Club. £5 per car goes to Mary Stevens Hospice. To book: ☎ 07805 161063 or contact Graham.
- **Sun 13 Jul:** BMC Day at British Motor Museum, Gaydon. Club space booked – entries will be co-ordinated by Graham and passes issued in early July.

For the most up-to-date listings of local events, please see our webpage: [www.wolseleyregister.co.uk/midlands-region-programme-of-events](http://www.wolseleyregister.co.uk/midlands-region-programme-of-events). Alternatively, ring Jenny and Graham Ryder (☎ 0121 445 1872) for more information on any events.

---

## NORTH EAST REGION

Peter Seaward [237]

**A**t the time of writing, we are looking forward to our New Year lunch. Sadly I will not be restarting the lunchtime 12:30 meetings UNLESS there is a confirmed demand.

I would appreciate any support from local members to suggest activities, and to act as Regional contact.

We will probably have a Register stand at the Thornton le Dale show on Sunday 25 May, which we have done for the past couple of years.

Forms will be available soon for the Ripon Old Cars gathering on Sunday 27 July at Ripon Racecourse.

---

## EAST ANGLIA REGION

From the December East Anglia newsletter by Chris Arnold [6441]

**W**e enjoyed our Christmas ‘Noggin and Natter’ at The Bell at Murrow. John and Janice stepped in at the last moment to lay on a wonderful home-cooked meal when a family crisis meant The Chequers was unable to host our meeting. The atmosphere was as friendly, and the conversation interesting as ever. I really would recommend you make a New Year’s resolution to come along to at least a couple of our meetings at The Chequers in 2025... you won’t regret it.

Paul’s skills extend beyond the spreadsheet for the Wolseley Register’s accounts and into the kitchen. He produced the Christmas cake (including a huge amount of brandy) which Terry iced and we enjoyed.

We have long believed that the two Wolseleys on the top were Paul and Jackie’s erstwhile 4/44 and 15/50, but a bright-eyed natterer noticed that they had split windscreens – making them a pair of 6/80s. Curses!



Since we visited Chain Forge in Spalding about 10 years ago and commissioned its manufacture, our ‘Flying W’ award has been given a new home at our Christmas meal. Terry presented the award to Kevin and Bridget for their continued support of our little group (when they’re not on holiday!) They must have clocked up quite a few miles driving over from Peterborough nearly every month.

---

## WILTSHIRE GROUP Steve Grimes [7338]

**W**e are currently meeting on the third Thursday of each month from 12.00 noon. Whether you bring a classic or something modern, it does not matter. The important thing is to get out and chat with like-minded friends. Sign up to our mailing list to make sure you get the latest updates.

---

## SOUTH EAST REGION Stewart Payne [1612]

I begin with a tale of a near-catastrophe. And I will let SE member Nelson Ferreira tell the story of how this was narrowly averted with the help of Andrew Bull, Andy Bradley, the AA and a large dose of good fortune.

“Just before Christmas, I was asked to drive my 1935 New 14 car for my friend’s wedding day. This involved collecting them from home, taking them to the church, followed by getting them to the venue, at which I was a guest. The matter nearly ended in disaster.

At the start of December, the New 14 was ready for duty. She had been tested with a few local runs, and ran perfectly. Come the morning of the big day, I went to do my final check. She would not start! I thought it was the cold or damp, but after a few hours of trying she still wouldn’t start. I called for AA assistance (they were quick and amazing) and we came to the conclusion that the spring holding the pin in the centre of the rotor arm had broken. So, it turned out to be an electrical fault.

I phoned Andrew Bull (a friend and Register member) who lives in the area and asked him to put his 1500 on standby, just in case. The alternative was my Volvo V70 estate which I’m sure would not have pleased the couple. With just hours to spare, I called Andy Bradley. He took a look at the distributor cap, and was able to do a repair. I took the cap back home, popped it in, and she started on the button.

To say I was stressed was an understatement. And on top of this, it rained all day. I collected the bride with minutes to spare. In the end, my car (known as Lady AJ) didn’t let me down. I should never have doubted her! I always say ‘this is my last wedding job’, but I can never say no. What couple don’t want to be driven in a Wolseley?”

The photo shows Lady AJ at the venue, next to a VW beetle which was used to convey the bridesmaids. Thanks Nelson, and it seems you were just one of a few that have stories to tell about their Wolseleys at this time of year. Most remain tucked away during the winter months, and SE members have little to report.



However, John Worth, who many will know for his splendid collection of classic cars at his home at Beesonend, Harpenden, Herts, has been in touch. Many Register members will recall he and his wife Sarah opened up their collection, including several rare Wolseleys, during last year's National Rally. He has also staged an annual event which raised money on Drive it Day for NSPCC's Childline. My wife and I took part in this in our 4/44 three years ago and it was a memorable occasion.

But all good things come to an end. John will not be staging the event again, but instead, he is helping to run Classics In The Walled Garden on the Luton Hoo Estate, Herts. Now in its 16th year, this charity gathering of vintage and classic cars, owners, family and friends, is something a bit out of the ordinary. It is held on a July midweek summer's evening, with food, drink and live music in an historic, five-acre 18th-century garden, designed by Capability Brown.

The date for this year is Wednesday 2 July, starting at 4pm. My wife and I hope to go, and would be delighted to meet with other SE members and arrange local accommodation. Please let me know if you are interested.

SE member Jeff Bridges continues to organise lunchtime get-togethers of the Register's Kent and East Sussex Group, at the Halfway House pub at Brenchley, Kent. The next will be on 5 February. Please contact him if you plan to attend this, or any future meetings (✉ [j.bridges815@btinternet.com](mailto:j.bridges815@btinternet.com)).

Roly Turner, from Stoke Poges, Bucks, has been staying close to home, but his Wolseleys continue to travel far and wide for use on film locations. His 16/65 was taken to Liverpool for a three-week murder mystery shoot, and his 6/80 is to feature in an episode of *Grantchester*.



At the time of writing, the SE Committee, and any others who wished to join us, were holding our Festive Season lunch in early January at a pub near to Dorking, Surrey. I will let you know next time if my 4/44, just back on the road after a head gasket replacement, makes the journey without incident. If it rains, it will remain in the garage anyway.

We plan to hold a committee meeting in March, looking at what rallies and events to hold or attend in 2025. If you have any ideas, please contact me (✉ [spayne444@btinternet.com](mailto:spayne444@btinternet.com)). **Please see page 37 for details of a Register stand at the Beaulieu Spring Autojumble, 17-18 May.**

## NORTH WEST REGION

Mike Stanley [1234]

**S**torm Darragh couldn't keep 32 members and guests from attending our North West Christmas meal on 7 December. A very tasty meal was had, despite some minor confusion from the staff as to which tables meal selections were expected (causing some mild amusement amongst us). Everyone received the meals they had chosen in good time.

Colin was delighted with the turnout and was busy circulating round the tables talking to everyone. A great afternoon was had by everyone, and thanks must go to Colin for organising the meal.



Following last year's efforts by all of our members throughout the country in celebration of our anniversary, I hope we can continue this into the New Year.

We are already gathering information on which shows we can include in our calendar as club stands, along with any others we can find across the NW. We will again be including various outings and excursions. All we ask is the supply of good weather, and we'll do the rest!

We look forward to catching up with our fellow members, wherever. As always, Happy Wolseley-ing !

---

## SCOTTISH GROUP

Michael Seaward [7273] & Dick Peters [3566]

**T**his year marks the 35th anniversary of the foundation of our Group and we are hoping to organise a special gathering to mark this event.

35

Work is ongoing to identify a date and venue, and members will be notified as soon as we have this confirmed.