



WOLSELEY WORLD

The Journal of the Wolseley Register

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Editor's Corner

Amy Egan, Editor [6547]

This month marks 15 years since I took on the Editor role. I love receiving a wide variety of articles and making them fit together to fill the pages.

I almost used every article I had 'in stock' to complete the Jan/Feb issue, so please keep sharing your photos and stories of restorations, memories, shows and holidays.

Certainly I am hoping to receive reports and photos from your Drive it Day activities. I am Secretary of the Birmingham branch of the Morris Minor Owners Club, so have organised a show on Bournville Green on that date to show our cars off to the locals. Wolseleys are always welcome!

Cover:

A 1934 Wolseley Hornet belonging to Bill Russell. Graham and Jenny Ryder visited Bill's Hornetworks collection near Melbourne, Australia in January. Read part 1 of their 'World Tour' on pages 24-27.

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Magazine deadlines:

8 May, 10 Jul, 4 Sept, 6 Nov 2026

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Chairman's Report

Graham Ryder, Chairman [4746]

We now have the second magazine for 2026 and the events calendar is rapidly filling up. I do hope you have had an opportunity to do those little jobs on the list you made last year.

By the time this magazine reaches you, we will have had our 2026 AGM. Changes of Officers will be published in the next magazine and on the website.

The National Rally application form is enclosed with this issue (for UK members) or can be completed on our website. Several members have already applied for their hotel accommodation at the rally weekend base.

Jenny and I have had a spectacular holiday meeting up with some Wolseley enthusiasts in Australia and New Zealand. They proudly showed us their cars and some of their Spares sheds, which were very impressive. They are a generous bunch and we were made very welcome. We look forward to returning their hospitality in the future.

The start of the rally season for us is in April, with the Pride of Longbridge event closely followed by Drive it Day. The latter is promoted by the FBHVC with rally plaques supporting the Childline charity, which can be purchased through their website.

I would encourage you all to seek out local events and take photos which can be shared through our Facebook page or sent to Amy for inclusion in *Wolseley World*.

As always, I do hope to meet up with many of you during the year.

Happy Wolseleying!

VACANCY – SCRIBE

We are seeking a volunteer to take the minutes at the Management Committee meetings, which take place approximately five times a year and are now usually held on Zoom for a few hours each time, plus the Annual General Meeting. Please contact the Chairman to find out more (☎ 0121 445 1872).

Out and About in the Wolseley World

NORTH WEST REGION John Platt [135]

We are looking forward to our first major, outdoor, static event of the season – **Gawsworth Hall Classic Car Show** on Bank Holiday **Monday 4 May**. This popular show is now a well-established annual event in our calendar and attracts a wide range of vehicles. Open to pre-1990 cars and others by special invitation, our display always attracts a great deal of attention. We have been allocated the usual ‘corner plot’ where we like to be. [Photo from last year].



Gawsworth Hall has long been associated with motoring – the first recorded rally taking place in the village in 1902, held by the Manchester Automobile Club. Exhibitor entry is £6 per person, including driver, in an eligible car, and is by advance booking only. For more details and to book a place on our stand, contact John Platt (☎ 07831 119046 ✉ john.a.platt@hotmail.co.uk).

Bookings are also now open for the **Oulton Park Gold Cup**, held over the **29-31 August** Bank Holiday weekend. We have reserved space for the Wolseley Register in the classic car display area on the main event day – Monday 31 August. Always a brilliant, action-packed day filled with classic car racing including the Historic Gold Cup Race, together with car club displays, trade stands, classic car auction, “Cheshire Steamers” miniature steam engines, and a great deal more, this is definitely an event not to be missed.



To apply, you will first need create an account with MSV (MotorSport Vision), if you don’t already have one, and submit a photo of your vehicle. Contact John Platt (same details as above) for full details and the Wolseley Register booking code.

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

Midlands meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month. 'North' meetings are held at The Parson and Clerk, Streetly and 'South' meetings are held at The Nailers Arms, Bournheath. Both venues offer Carvery meals but other menu options are available.

The next meeting at Bournheath will be at 7pm on Thursday 9 April. The next meeting at Streetly will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 14 May. Midlands members are welcome to attend either or both locations. Please let us know in advance so that enough table space can be booked. Pre-ordering of non-carvery meals would help with service times. Non-diners welcome.

Heavy snow forced a last-minute cancellation of the 8 January meeting at Streetly, but a small group enjoyed a tasty meal at Bromsgrove on 12 February. The 12 March meeting was back at Streetly where arrangements were made for the NEC Restoration Show later in the month.

Obituary – Ian Webb [7622]

Local members will be saddened to hear of the death of Ian Webb in January. Ian had worked tirelessly on completing the restoration of the 1957 Wolseley 1500 Mk I which his brother had acquired in 2017 but then sadly passed away in 2019.

As a tribute to his brother, Ian lovingly restored the car to a very high standard including changing the original Yukon Grey colour scheme to two-tone Burgundy/Old English White. The body was professionally restored, while Ian restored or replaced the engine, electrics, interior, brightwork, wheels and brakes himself. *Pictured: Ian on the right, with the professional restorer on the left.*



Ian and his wife Ellen took the car to local shows and proudly exhibited it on the Wolseley Register stand at the 2023 Classic Motor Show. Our deepest condolences go to Ellen and all the family.

The following regular meets are available:

- **Sundays 26 Apr (DRIVE IT DAY), 21 Jun, 19 Jul, 16 Aug, 20 Sept, 18 Oct:** Monthly breakfast meetings with *Classic Car Weekly*, 9am to 12 noon at Wythall Transport Museum (B47 6JA). Drivers free, passengers £5. Normal admission for public. Free copy of CCW magazine and meet the team.
- **First Sunday (5 Apr to 4 Oct):** Middleton Motors Monthly, Middleton Hall and Gardens, Tamworth (B78 2AE). Show vehicles enter from 9:30am before opens to the public 11am to 4pm. No pre-booking required. £5 per car allows access to the Hall, gardens, grounds and Courtyard outlets. Non-exhibitors Adult £9.95, Child £5. Dogs welcome on leads. Refreshments sold.
- **Second Tuesday (12 May to 8 Sept):** Stoke Prior Sports and Social Club, Bromsgrove (B60 4AL) organised by Shakespeare Rally Promotions.
- **Second Saturday of every month:** Rev's Enville Car and Bike Meet, St Mary's Church, Bridgnorth Road, Enville, Stourbridge (DY7 5LB). Free informal meet all year round on hardstanding and grass. Bacon/sausage sandwiches and beverages served in the church.

Other local events of interest:

- **Sat 18 April:** Pride of Longbridge, Cofton Park, Birmingham (B31 2BQ). Club space requested at this free to enter, all-day event which celebrates the Longbridge factory, its workers and the cars they produced. Please advise Graham Ryder if you wish to be included in the club stand.
- **Sun 26 April (DRIVE IT DAY):** Birmingham Morris Minor Owners Club branch rally, Bournville Green (B30 2AA). An opportunity to display your car on this idyllic site which is near to Selly Manor Museum and Cadbury World (separate fees apply). Rally fee payable on arrival, but all profits go to a local charity. Contact ✉ birmingham.branch@mmoc.org.uk
- **Sun 14 June:** Crafts and Cars, 11am to 4pm at Stoke Prior Sports and Social Club, Bromsgrove (B60 4AL) organised by Shakespeare Rally Promotions.

National events being held in the Midlands Region:

- **Sun 14 June:** Morris Day at Great British Car Journey, Derbyshire. See page 10.
- **Sun 12 July:** BMC & Leyland Show at British Motor Museum, Gaydon. See page 10.
- **Sun 16 August:** Wolseley Register National Rally at Statfold Country Park near Tamworth. See pages 21-23.

Details of 2026 events are constantly being added to the Midlands Programme of Events page on the club website at www.wolseleyregister.co.uk/midlands-region-programme-of-events where further information and any application forms may be downloaded. Alternatively, contact Jenny and Graham Ryder (☎ 0121 445 1872) for more information and/or for application forms by post.

NORTH EAST REGION

Steve Edwards [7930]

We were waiting in the queue of anonymous SUVs and hatchbacks at traffic lights on the approach to Bawtry in South Yorkshire a few weeks ago when a Wolseley 6/80 Police car came around the corner. Here was a characterful and interesting car, evoking memories of life – especially films – of the 1950s. The occupants of nearly every car in front of us turned their heads and followed it as it went past us, like a crowd at Wimbledon.

A few days later, driving my 14/56, I called in at a motor spares shop locally outside of which was a mechanic having some fresh air (Embassy, I think). At my arrival he stood up and said “Now there’s a proper car. You don’t see many of them on the roads these days.” People appear to like seeing cars like ours being driven on the road and enjoy the informal chat which can occur at stopping points like shops or fuel stations. Below is a list of events to tempt your Wolseley out onto the roads for the enjoyment of driver, passengers and public alike.

- **Sun 26 April (DRIVE IT DAY):** I plan to take my 14/56 up onto the Wolds to Field House Coffee Barn, Driffield Road, near Huggate village (YO25 9JZ) and it would be great for others to come. A good range of meals, snacks and drinks available. Arrival time about 12 noon. No booking necessary.
- **Sun 26 April (DRIVE IT DAY):** An alternative option! York Historic Vehicle Club has a drive from Knavesmire Road (YO23 1EX) to Sherburn Aero Club (LS25 6JE). 9.30am for a 10am start, or meet us at the Aero Club.
- **Sun 24 May:** Thornton le Dale Car Show (YO18 7LF). Enter through me for a place on our club stand. Show starts at 9am but vehicles only need be on site before 12 noon. £10 entry fee (£17 to include a rally plaque).
- **Sat 18 July:** Bishop Wilton Village Show (YO42 1TD). This small traditional country show has been taking place annually since 1897. I have to go back this year to return the Best Car (of four) award from last year, but it would be nice to see other Wolseleys there. No booking necessary, free entry.
- **Sun 26 July:** Ripon Classic Car Gathering. Big event on Ripon Racecourse (HG4 1UG). Entry fee £5, but book through me for our club stand.
- **8-9 August:** Driffield Steam Fair at Driffield Showground (YO25 9DN). One of the largest agricultural shows in Yorkshire, which dates back more than 145 years. There has been a steady increase in the number and quality of old cars on display over the four years I have been showing, and entry is free via the show’s website. I hope to arrange a club stand for this year.

Meanwhile enjoy driving your Wolseley. Any interesting Drive it Day anecdotes and pictures from our North East region would be gratefully received.

EAST ANGLIA REGION

Terry Arnold [6441]

Due to The Chequers being unavailable, we have held our last few monthly meetings at the Sports and Community Centre in Wisbech St Mary, and are booked there again for April. We recommend joining our mailing list so you don't miss any announcements about our monthly meeting venues.

- **Sun 26 April (DRIVE IT DAY):** Paul is organising a run to Denny Abbey and Farmland Working Museum at Waterbeach Cambridge (CB25 9PQ). This is towards the South of our area and we are hoping that a few people from down that way may be able to meet up with us at the Abbey. We may be looking at having a picnic or finding somewhere to get a Sunday lunch, so please let Terry know if you want to join us (☎ 07973 273059)
- **3-4 May:** Stradsett Park Vintage Rally (PE33 9HA). Located where the A134 crosses the A1122 – three miles east of Downham Market. Held on the Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday, we understand it gets booked up very quickly so see www.NVTEC-EA.org.uk/rally for an entry form ASAP!
- **Sun 10 May:** Tydd St Mary Classic Car and Family Day. I have been told that booking is now required, but I don't have any details yet.
- **Sun 31 May:** Fenland Classic Vehicle Show at Ramsey Rural Muaeum & 1940s Camp (PE26 2XD). Contact Tom Mortlock (✉ fevsramsey@gmail.com ☎ 07563 920526).
- **Sun 7 June:** Christchurch Classic Car and Motorbike Show. No booking required, just turn up.
- **Sat 13 June:** Cars and Coffee for men's health at Fenland Crematorium, March (PE15 0YJ). Contact Scott (☎ 07513 426007).

Other shows we hope to have details of soon for this year are Gorefield, Parson Drove, Wings and Wheels, and Holt. We also hope to have regular Sunday lunch drives – details will be shared as soon as possible.

EAST MIDLANDS EVENTS

A reminder to apply for the Earls Barton Transport Show in Northampton on the Bank Holiday weekend **29-31 August**. Exhibitors can benefit from free entry and camping, but must apply before 17 July and must be in place by 10am on show days to ensure the safety of the general public.

Visit www.earlsbartontransportshow.co.uk or phone ☎ 01604 811633 for a booking form. Please quote 'Wolseley Register' so that the organisers can park us together.

SOUTH EAST REGION Stewart Payne [1612]

I am always grateful to South East Region members who help me to fill my Wolseley World report – even at a time of year when little is going on. With little to reflect back on during the lean months of winter, it is good to look forward to the spring and summer, when there is much to encourage us out in our classic cars.

My wife and I plan to attend the National Rally in Staffordshire, taking our 1956 Wolseley 4/44. The venue looks excellent and, being a bit of a steam engine enthusiast, it has the added attraction of several narrow gauge railway lines and an impressive number of locomotives. I know some classic car owners are understandably reluctant to take their ageing motors any great distance but for us, a car is to be driven. Having covered tens of thousands of miles in mine since I acquired it for £15 when aged 17 in 1971, I am not going to be put off by a 300-mile round trip, although we will steer clear of motorways. Breakdowns? Well, I've had a few!

But there are many local rallies worth checking out, as Simon Todd, from Tillingham, Essex, points out. He will be attending the **Langham Classic Car Show on Saturday 9 May**: “This is a lovely little show, put on for the first time in 2024 in a super location, and not far from the A12 north of Colchester.” For details, visit www.langhamparishcouncil.co.uk/classics-at-langham.

We have a similar small-scale event in my village as do many others. It is certainly worth looking around to see what is happening on your own doorstep, especially if you prefer to stay local but still provide members of the public the opportunity to see our classic Wolseley cars.

And we should not forget the FBHVC's annual season-opener **DRIVE IT DAY**, this year on **Sunday 26 April**. We plan to mark the event by gathering at the National Trust's **Sheffield Park Gardens** and the nearby **Bluebell Railway** in East Sussex. Geoff Hunt has secured a parking area for our cars. Please contact him if you would like to take part (✉ geoffhunt51@yahoo.com).

We are also planning to attend these events:

- **Sun 19 July**: Bromley Pageant of Motoring at the South of England Showground in West Sussex
- **Sun 16 August**: Classics at Penshurst Place and Gardens, Tonbridge, Kent.

In addition we are looking at arranging a one-day rally in the Box Hill area of the Surrey Hills in July, and maybe a weekend event based around Amberley Museum, near Arundel, West Sussex, in early October. More details to follow.

Also on our radar is the Spring Autojumble in the New Forest at Beaulieu, Hampshire. And a must for Wolseley enthusiasts is Nuffield Place, Oxfordshire, home of the celebrated motor manufacturing pioneer Lord Nuffield. His historic property, now belonging to the National Trust, reopened for 2026 on 6 March.

SE Region member Pat Carroll and friend Brian Holdsworth were there in his 1952 Wolseley 4/50 to take a look at Lady Nuffield's Wolseley Eight, which is garaged there and well cared-for by volunteers. Pat said: "I was able to show my Wolseley off in front of the house and visitors appreciated seeing it. There was a 6/99 Police car there, but I didn't get to meet the owner."



Jeffrey Bridges decided to investigate a squeak emitting from the offside front suspension of his 6/90 – knowing that the torsion bars needed resetting. "This is a trial and error job and, with the weight of everything, it is now more than I want to tackle, being just a year older than the car!" He booked it in to Just Historic Cars, a specialist company near Hastings. Once the old torsion bar bushes were removed, the reason for the squeaking became evident. "They had all but worn through. They did a good job replacing all the bushes and took good care of the car. But the whole thing was not cheap".

Roland Turner's 16/65 has once again been on a filming location in London. He reported: "It did me proud, and put some of the other vehicles to shame.



It kept on working well when others faded away with running problems.

He added: "Sadly due to my age and health I will have to downsize the fleet, so it will be for sale in about three months."

SCOTLAND

Dick Peters [3566] & Michael Seaward [7273]

The Group is planning to be represented at the following events in the forthcoming year:

- **Sun 16 August:** Biggar Vintage Rally. Contact Dick Peters (☎ 07900 675410 ✉ dicky3600@hotmail.co.uk).
- **Sun 23 August:** Fife Association of Vintage Vehicles Annual Rally, at Ladybank. Contact Dick Peters (as per previous bullet point)
- **Sun 6 September:** We have arranged a private visit to the highly recommended Cumnock Heritage Centre, Ayrshire. Contact Michael Seaward (✉ mermot72@hotmail.com ☎ 07958 007107).

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME TO SPEND A WEEKEND IN WALES!

SOUTH & WEST WALES

Ernest Jones [6955] & John Manning [7474]

It's classic Wolseley driving season, and the fine weather is here at last. We are planning a few local shows and drive outs in the coming months. Is there anybody interested in a weekend of two or three days' outing in our Cardiff / Swansea area, to include some scenic drives out in the coming months? Accommodation etc can be arranged.

Contact John Manning (☎ 07544 056315 ✉ john.f1manning@ymail.com)



Picture from the Register's 60th anniversary event in Wales.
