



VILLAGE NEWS

WEST END

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SPRING 2020
THE VILLAGE CLUB
SPECIAL



WEST END MOTOR CLUB

The Motoring Section of the Village Club continues to meet for a noggin (or two) during the winter floods, as if we are not moist enough already. At least one or two automotive souls are to be found in the warmth of the Club at around 8 pm on a Thursday, and newcomers are always welcome if they 'stand their corner', and have remotest interest in 'The Automobile' and its many connections.

We normally try for a 'Cobweb Run' in May to a local place of interest combined with a pub lunch. so do e-mail me if you wish details <davidjrolfe@hotmail.com>.

Folk often ask who is your Chairman ? The short answer is that we have no officers, no subscription, no rules (other than obvious camaraderie and decency) and no committee, as we prefer our horses to not resemble camels and to be confined to their bonnets, or hoods as the yanks will say.

As previous editions of this organ exhibited details of the cars of a couple of our members, one of our number is currently preparing a treatise on the intricacies of an Austin 7 crankshaft, connecting rods and pistons for your delectation. He swears he will use simple English words to see if our readers are awake/interested. It is also a way of filling this column during the slack (and wet) Winter dark days when garages are cold but hopefully not damp, whereas Clubs and hearths are dry and warm. See Little Car article alongside.

So let us look forward with good old British optimism in these days of new freedom, with or without political and environmental madness, to the joys of motoring in the Spring warmth and Summer heat and enjoy, whilst we can, the wonders of the not-so-open road. We submit two photographs depicting past jollies.



Left:

Two members in sombre mood at a Spring event



Left:

.....and similar Summer non-sense!

Whilst regrettably our cars will not be present at the village Flower Show in this our fallow year, we shall be travelling far and wide (virus permitting) and holding *inter alia*, as usual, our September charity silly-old-car rally in aid of Macmillan. Keep your plugs dry and Buy British !

David Rolfe

LITTLE CAR SUMMER ADVENTURE

West Enders used to my little car's visiting the Club over the last few years may have missed it lately. We go to several Austin 7 rallies and events most years. Last year July 2nd we went to the 750 Motor Club National Rally in Beaulieu, then July 7th to the Austin 7 Owners' Club 50th Anniversary event at Tilford. For some time the engine had a rattle which neither I nor my friends could identify.



On the way home, at the Shepherd and Flock Roundabout, Farnham, it went rattle-clatter-bang in a big way, and we limped to the first lay-by on the Hog's Back. It's a really nice safe lay-by on what is a bit of a race track should you ever need one, well guarded with Armco. Clearly it was not going to be a roadside fix, AA were called and on site in 45 minutes, followed by a flat-back recovery truck 20 minutes later.



Stripping the engine revealed the crankshaft had broken.

(See pic below) Car engines usually have bits which go up and down, connected to another bit that goes round and round. That's what had broken, not unusual in hard driven Austin 7s, after all it was older than me (just). A replacement has been sourced, after delays caused by me trying to keep costs down. An engine is now being assembled and we hope to be back in business soon. The broken engine was reconditioned in the early 1990s. My rebuilt engine is using some parts that were in the car at least as early as 1980 when DVLA records were digitised, and a new crankshaft.



Roger Brown



Esher & District
RPC



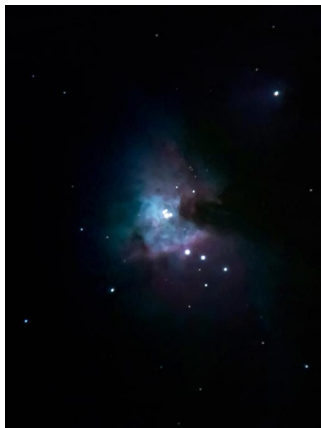
WALTON ASTRONOMY GROUP

WAG stays afloat.....

It has been slim pickings for the WAG crew lately; the weather has continued to be appalling with no end to the rain in sight. That said, we have had a few well attended meetings in the pub recently with a number of new members swelling our ranks.

On 20th February there was a clear spell forecast and with an early departure from the pub we did manage to observe for a while. The Green was pretty waterlogged, with some major puddles (lakes!) to avoid, but being made of stern stuff we found an island of dry ground and setup a few scopes. At this time of year, the constellation of Orion the Hunter is still well placed and easily identifiable, with the Great Orion Nebula showing very nicely even under the relatively light polluted skies around here. This image was a ten second exposure taken using a smartphone attached to a telescope on a mount with a simple tracking motor. With your eye you do not see the range of colours seen here, but there is still plenty of detail visible, including the four tiny stars in the centre in an arrangement called the Trapezium.

The Moon was full on 9th of March; the somewhat bizarrely named Super Worm Moon!



The term 'Super' relates to the fact that the full Moon coincides with the lunar perigee, which is when the Moon is closest to the Earth and appears slightly larger in the sky. The differences are quite small, approximately 7% larger than normal so the effect is subtle. The term 'Worm' originates from the fact that around this time of year, the ground softens enough for worm casts to reappear and for birds to start feeding on them. As a typical 'grumpy old man', I will confess to not being a fan of such names, to me it is just a nice full Moon, but if you enjoy them, then all the better!

The skies were cloudy on the night of all this worminess, but the 8th was clear, and I managed a good observing session from my garden, taking the shot reproduced here. At this point, the Moon was 98.9% illuminated ie not quite full, and you can still see the terminator at the bottom of the image; this is where the sunlight casts long shadows on the lunar craters showing them in sharper relief. At a full Moon, these shadows disappear completely.

We remain in hope of some clear skies, and look forward to the planets Jupiter, Saturn and Mars putting on a show later in the Summer and Autumn. Mars should be very good in October, so do come and find us if you fancy a look!

Stuart Davis, Chairman



AFC WESTEND FOOTBALL CLUB



Well it should seem daft that I am writing my latest Spring report whilst being self-isolated at home for a 14 day period as I developed some of the C-Virus symptoms after my recent Walking Football trip to Portugal. Fortunately, I am not as bad as some of the guys that went and touch wood I seem to be on the mend now.

So back to the matter in hand and football, or should I say the lack of it and for us and everyone else involved in grassroots football, the rest of the season could well be over for us due to the recent outbreak of the Covid-19 virus. At the time of writing, the latest news is that all further league games have been cancelled by the FA until further notice, which as you can imagine is a real blow for us as our First team have just gained top spot in their league going 3 points clear after beating the joint top team by 6 - 3 in their last league game played on Saturday 7th March.

After speaking to First team manager George Nixey, he said that he is naturally disappointed that we may not be able to finish the season as the team are firing on all cylinders and his lads were gearing up to the final run in and hoping that they would finish up as league champions, what will happen now is very much up in the air and anyone's guess!

As it stands, our Saturday Reserve team may be glad of the enforced break as they are still holding up in last place in Division 2 of their respective league and have had a hard time of things, despite being under the guidance of new manager Pash Barbato, who agreed to take over the team until the end of season. They have struggled with their results, even though they are playing much better now and are certainly more organised than they were.

Our Sunday First team have fared a lot better in their first season with us and when I spoke to team manager Rob Wade he said that all things considered, the team were holding their own in the league, despite going through a lot of team changes they now have a very good squad and are currently sitting in 4th place in the league.

So, there we are and who knows at this stage where we go next. Certainly football wise the end of the season could well be over, this is a period of uncertainty in time for all of us and all we can hope and pray for is that this whole virus business can be put behind us very soon, until then, everyone at AFCWE wish you all well, stay safe and take care.

Eric, Keith, George, Pash, Joe, Rob & Liam

FIRE AT THE VILLAGE CLUB

In the early hours of New Year's Day a fire started in one of the large waste bins behind the club. The fire destroyed the bins and caught the back of the building alight.

Thankfully the fire retardant materials in the wall and prompt work from the Fire Service minimised the damage. Many thanks to those who raised the alarm, helped clear up the mess and replaced the bins. We were lucky this time and we ask all members to be extra careful what they put into the bins.



Repairs are in hand and the parts effected will soon be restored.

Roger Newman, Chairman
Photos: Angela Stockbridge

WEST END GOLF SOCIETY

Any person wishing to join the WEWS can call

Dave Morgan on 07956 129987

or

Allistar Goff on 07958 221566



THE VILLAGE CLUB

PLEASE VISIT THE WESSC WEBSITE FOR THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS



www.WESSC.org