



NEWSLETTER

CHANGES AT DOWNTON MOTOR CLUB

The last few months have seen some big changes at Downton Motor Club: in late 2023 we had our Club Secretary (Dom Bishop) and Club Chairman (Steve Harris) both resign from the Club. This year we have also seen the resignation of John Hill from the DMC Committee - although John has agreed to retain his role of DMC Safeguarding Officer for the remainder of 2024. Thanks John.

As you can imagine the loss of these senior figures from the committee has caused us some headaches and concerns - but we are please to say that Adam Holland and Billy Glendinning have stepped up to the mark and taken on roles within the DMC Committee. **A big thank you to Adam and Billy.**

VACANCY

We still have a vacancy - if anyone is interested in joining the DMC Committee then please let us know. Your help and support would be much appreciated.

We need to balance the Club's finances. Currently for every £30 we take in membership fees, we spend nearly £90 on overheads.

BALANCE

STORAGE Part of our cost savings planned for 2024 is the reduction of our storage cost - if any Club member can offer some temporary storage then please get in touch. Thanks.



'Ned' being double driven by Andrew Mathis and Rob Still at the recent Clay Pigeon Test Day.

So, what's been keeping the committee busy?

A major challenge facing DMC is to ensure we reduce our overheads and spend your money wisely.

As we agreed at the last AGM, our key objective for this year has to be to *'balance the books in 2024'*. Looking back through the Club's bank account our financial performance has not been solid -

- We have consistently made a financial loss in each of the last few years (> £5,000 loss since 2020)
- A thumping financial loss of over £1,500 in 2023
- Membership numbers down by 11% in 2023
- Club overheads of nearly £3,000 a year against membership revenue of just over £1,000 a year.
- No published annual accounts

"We have a plan - we can fix this".

DOWNTON HQ

It is with some sadness that the Committee have terminated our contract for storage and Club office space at the Downton Leisure Centre.

This is part of the programme to reduce our financial overheads for 2024 - we looked at the Leisure Centre contract and quickly realised that it didn't provide sufficient value for money for our Club members. In fact many members didn't actually know we had an office.

So, we paid our last monthly standing order on the 1st March and we will vacate the office by 1st April. This will save the Club a whopping £2,172 per year in fees and a further £218 per year in insurance costs.

What is most disappointing is that our office at the leisure centre provided the Club with a physical link to the village of Downton - hence cancelling our office contract with the Leisure Centre is a sad day in the history of DMC.

Please be assured that the Committee will look for other ways regenerate our relationship with the village of Downton - maintaining our historic links. If you have any suggestions on building our future links with Downton (perhaps supporting a Downton charity?) then please get in touch with the committee.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

It is not the intention of the Committee to simply cancel the Leisure Centre contract and grow the bank balance - our thoughts are to invest the money that we save to develop / grow the Club.

We need the funds we've recovered to try to reverse our declining membership numbers - how we achieve this goal is still a key topic for discussion at every Committee meeting.

As a Committee we realise we are spending the Club's money - spending it on your behalf. Every element of expenditure is considered as to whether it provides a good investment for the Club and value for money for the members.

GOODIES

We have a number of branded T shirts and polo shirts available at bargain prices - check out our Facebook page to grab yourself a bargain.

The Committee have agreed a £100 budget to donate to the annual Marshals Draw at Wiscombe Park. A big thank you to the orange army at all our sporting venues.

WISCOMBE



DOWNTON ENGINEERING
(1947 - 1976)

DOWNTON MOTOR CLUB

2024 Speed Championship

 motorsport UK

STILL TIME TO ENTER !
Entry form at www.downtonmotor.club

2024 SPEED CHAMPIONSHIP

At the time of writing we are just days away from the first event of the 2024 Speed Championship season!

Once again our Speed Championship consists of events from some of the best hillclimb and sprint circuits in the country - a cornucopia of venues with 30 events from March right through until October.

It's still not too late to enter and join in the fun. Remember we have specific classes for road going BMW Minis, which provide a very cheap way of starting your motorsport career. Juniors are especially welcome with our own class and a lead into the junior award at Wiscombe Park.

Download an entry form from our website www.downtonmotor.club - if you have any queries then please drop Andrew (our competition Secretary) an email at speed.downton@outlook.com

STOVBOLT SPECIAL

One of our new 2024 Speed Championship entrants is Simon Taylor in the famous 'Stovebolt Special' - one of the rarest classic cars in the country. It started life in the 1950s as an HWM Formula 2 works car - crashed by Sterling Moss in the Naples Grand Prix. It was also driven by Kirk Douglas in the 1955 Hollywood film 'The Racers'.

It was rebuilt in Seattle during 1955 with a V8 Chevrolet small-block engine, where it got its nickname from the bolts used during the rebuild. After a long and successful racing career in the USA, Simon reimported the car back to the UK some 24 years ago. The car is road legal and driven to each event - over 150 events and more than 40,000 miles.

What a fantastic car - we all look forward to seeing it in action with Downton Motor Club.



DOWNTON MEMORIES

Simon Taylor: "In the early 1960s my father got Daniel Richmond to build up a Morris 1100 with full-house Downton road engine as his everyday road car. Whenever my father took the car to Downton for a service Daniel and Bunty would welcome him with a large gin-and-tonic, even if it was 10.30 in the morning".

2024 CAR SHOWS / EVENTS

We were disappointed to read that the Downton Cuckoo Fair would not be held in 2024 - our main Classic Car Show was always held as part of this fair. The decision not to run the Cuckoo Fair has obviously left a bit of a hole in our 2024 calendar.

The Club are looking at what shows and events we can support. If you have any recommendations of suitable classic car shows or events then please pass the details on to the committee.

Do you have a passion for Classic Cars?

Do you want to display your car at shows?

Know a good show that DMC should attend?

if 'yes' then we have a vacancy for you on the Downton Motor Club Committee. We believe that as a Club with a famous, classical heritage then it is important we support a wide range of events - including classic car shows and static displays. Contact the committee if you want to help with developing this area of the Club.

PILFORD HEATH
TRANSPORT & HERITAGE SHOW
2024

COLEHILL, WIMBORNE
12TH, 13TH & 14TH JULY

STEAM ENGINES - MOTORBIKES - CARS - TRACTORS - COMMERCIALS
 STEAM ENGINE TRAILER RIDES - TRACTOR TRAILER RIDES - SATURDAY VEHICLE RUN
 MILITARY - MAIN ARENA EVENTS - TRADE STANDS
 CRAFT TENT - RURAL DISPLAYS - BIRDS OF PREY
 CIRCUS WORKSHOP - CHILDRENS AMUSEMENTS
 BEER TENT WITH EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

SUPPORTING LOCAL CHARITIES

DIRECTIONS: UDDENS DRIVE, BH21 7BD GOOGLE: PILFORD HEATH
 @PILFORDGROUP @PILFORDSHOW WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PILFORDGROUP

ADMISSION PRICES: ADULT £12/UNDER 16 FREE
WWW.PILFORDHEATHTRANSPORTHERITAGE.COM

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT.....

LOCAL....

WESSEX TRUCK GATHERING

- Bar.
- Stalls.
- Auction.
- Live Music.
- Lots of shiny Trucks.
- Lights at Night Convoy! - 6pm start.

Saturday 6th April 2024
Frome Cattle Market, BA11 2QB
 Public Gates open 09:30am

Buy Tickets!

NATIONAL

Beaulieu Getting Here FAQs Contact Us **READY TO GO!** YOUR BASKET

OPEN TODAY: 10AM-5PM 01590 612345 SEARCH THE SITE

WHAT'S TO SEE? EVENTS PLAN YOUR VISIT NEWS GROUPS CORPORATE & WED

MINI COOPER REGISTER NATIONAL MINI DAY

BUY TICKETS

KEY EVENT INFORMATION

Taking place on: **09** Jun 2024
 Time: 10:00am-5:00pm

Let us know what shows you are attending - photographs for the Downton website most welcome