



Autumn Tour 2011

The MG Car Club Tour for MGV8s and MGCs Sept 23 – 26th



This year's tour is centered in Hampshire and is based at the **Norton Park Hotel**, Sutton Scotney, near Winchester.

This is a 4 star hotel in the countryside but easily reached from the M3 and A34. We are booked into the new extension (not the Manor House) and the hotel has all the usual facilities including swimming pool, sauna, beauty treatments and free wifi. We will be having the use of a private dining room for our evening meals and there will be a choice of three dishes for each course, including a vegetarian option.

<http://www.qhotels.co.uk/hotels/norton-park-winchester.aspx>

Provisional programme

Friday 23rd We shall be welcoming you from 2.30pm onwards. Dinner and briefing in the evening.

Saturday 24th We are planning a scenic drive around part of North Hampshire and ending at the **Whitchurch Silk Mill**. This mill still produces bespoke silk for Country house restoration, for new commissions and also for Film and TV use. Some of you may have worn their silk, as hoods for academic or legal gowns. Others will have seen it as dresses in Downton Abbey or other costume dramas. After a guided tour we will have a sandwich lunch in the mill garden by the river Test, weather permitting, otherwise in the mill tea rooms. The mill has a gift shop selling some items produced from it's own silk. www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk

In the afternoon you can choose one of three options:-

- A. We are continuing our scenic route through Northwest Hampshire and into Berkshire and Wiltshire passing through attractive small villages and having stunning views from the Downs. The route will take us to Avebury passing numerous Neolithic monuments, many of which can be visited. The odd white horse or two will be spotted and if you are very, very lucky perhaps a Great Bustard as we return over the edge of Salisbury Plain to the hotel.
- B. If you would prefer a shorter drive then there will be a route which includes **The Living Rainforest** in Hampstead Norreys. There are two zones, a smaller subtropical area and a larger tropical house containing a variety of smaller animals, especially insects and reptiles although there are plentiful fish and birds and a few mammals, including the delightful Goeldi's monkeys. www.livingrainforest.org
- C. The **Crofton Beam Engines**, which pumped the water for the Kennet and Avon canal, and are the oldest working steam pumps in the world, are "in steam". Ladies – we are sorry about this, perhaps you could be dropped off in Hungerford or Marlborough. Hungerford has lots of antique shops and little alleyways. Marlborough is another old market town with the second widest main street in England and also has some unusual shops. Both have nice Tea shops as a suitable rendezvous. www.croftonbeamengines.org

Sunday 25th Today we are off to the Historic Dockyard in Portsmouth, home of the Royal Navy.

Your entrance ticket will cover a **group guided tour of the Victory** plus individual admission to:

the Trafalgar sail – yes the actual fore topsail on the ship during the battle of Trafalgar
HMS Warrior - the world's first iron hulled warship (1860) driven by steam (and sail)
the Mary Rose Museum (The Mary Rose is not on display – she's having a new house built)
the Museum of the Royal Navy
the Trafalgar experience – a multimedia story of the battle and the people who fought in it
the Dockyard Apprentice – exhibition of life in 1911 while building the Dreadnoughts
action stations – for the young at heart
a boat tour of the harbour – 45 minute trips running throughout the day.....and

with "Our man in Regalia", Julian Holmes' help (who also happens to be "Our Man in the Navy"), we hope to have a **tour of a serving warship**. This can't be finalised before September and depends on the political situation and where the ships are berthed (and if there are any left....).

There are several eateries where you can have a quick bite or a more substantial meal. To finish what will be a marvellous day we are booked into Boathouse No 7 for a cream tea at 4.00pm.

Sorry, we have to have an early start as, with help from Julian, we have arranged all day parking in the dockyard in front of HMS Victory. We have to enter the dockyard in convoy and be early enough to avoid most of the other paying visitors. www.historicdockyard.co.uk

For anyone who would like a change from the dockyard, approximately 300 yards from the Victoria Gate entrance is the **Gunwharf Quays** shopping outlet. It has a wide range of shops and eateries. .

www.gunwharf-quays.com

Gunwharf Quay also has the famous **Spinnaker Tower**, 170metres tall, which gives excellent views over the harbour, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth. There is an external glass lift and even a glass floor...

www.spinnakertower.co.uk

Keep your dockyard ticket to return for the 4.00pm tea in Boathouse No 7!



The new Type 45 Daring Class Destroyer, HMS Victory and the Spinnaker Tower.



Monday 26th This morning we are planning a visit to **Salisbury Cathedral**. This has the largest close, cloisters and quire of any in Britain, and the tallest spire. It's also unusual in being built all in the same style – and what a light and soaring style it is!

We are hoping to arrange parking in the Cathedral Close, which will be followed by a guided tour of the cathedral. The Chapter House has the best preserved copy of the Magna Carta. For the brave there's a chance to see the fantastic view from the tower and even the medieval scaffolding within the spire (332 steps!) www.saliburycathedral.org.uk

The cathedral also has a famous Grandfather Willis organ and we hope to arrange a short recital. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xD2XJeRQOaw>

The charge for the long weekend for two people and car with shared room will be **£495**

The charge for the long weekend for one person and car will be **£330**

The charge for the long weekend for two people and car with separate rooms will be **£645**

Included in the price:

The route book, Rally Plaque and Tour Badges

3 nights bed, breakfast and evening meal plus Hotel gratuities

Saturday: Silk Mill Tour and lunch

Sunday: All inclusive dockyard ticket, parking fees and the cream tea

Monday: A guided tour of the cathedral (your donation has been paid)

Not included in the price: Hotel drinks and sundries, any entrance fees incurred on your Saturday afternoon option, the Spinnaker Tower lift and the fee to climb Salisbury Cathedral tower.

Interested? Bookings from the end of February - Get your Application Form from the V8 web site,
www.v8register.net,

or phone us for a paper copy or a chat, Rob and Carolyn Owen, 0118 933 2533.

email: bobdowen@aol.com