

### Brief V8 Register report for 2009

As we roll into another decade, how are we doing in terms of providing useful and topical information together with good support and services for MGV8 enthusiasts? Well the V8 website had 559 entries on the "Recent Changes" log in 2009 recording new or amended webpages, that's just under 11 a week, and 92,593 unique hits in the year (ignoring repeat hits in any day by the same visitor) which is 254 a day on average. The V8 Bulletin Board had 1,164 postings in 2009, around 3.2 a day, and continues to attract good quality contributions and advice from fellow members. The two workshop notes series have been very active with some 40 new notes in 2009 - 16 in the twelfth volume of the V8NOTES and 24 in the ninth volume of the RV8NOTES - so we now have a total of 729 notes in the two series. Total registrations of MGV8s are now 3,212 with 172 new additions in 2009, so we believe we have over 75% of Factory MGBGTV8s registered and around 50% of RV8s as there are still many in Japan. Around a quarter of the registered members are overseas and it is clear the V8 website and V8BB are very popular "open-to-all" features which provide an opportunity for access and their participation in V8 Register online activities.

### Lights-on alarm

Godfrey Barnes posted a note on the V8BB seeking help with a lights-on alarm saying "as I shall be driving my MGBGTV8 in Scandinavia later this year and headlights-on are mandatory, does anyone know of a gizmo that gives a warning when ignition is turned off and the headlights are left on?"

Graham Cornford says I'm sure we have all left our lights on some time and then and here he expands on his V8BB posting. Graham Cornford responded with an idea returned to the vehicle and tried to start it, with fingers crossed and wishing that we had parked it on a hill. The typical response is "thank goodness it started this time so my best clothes didn't get oil on them again!" As I have reached a forgetful age, I saw an accessory that would stop a lot of inconvenience with having to jump start a car with a flat battery - particularly inconvenient with an MGBGTV8. I have the ideal solution, a lights-on warning relay, that when you open either door to leave the car, it sounds a buzzer if you have left the lights on. It works independently of the ignition switch."

Vehicle Wiring Products, Ilkeston Derbyshire (tel: 0115 9305454) do a lights on warning relay which is wired in to operate when the door is opened independently of the ignition. You also need a relay socket to mount it in, which comes with the socket connectors, and fit it somewhere up under the dash. The relay costs £10.29 and the socket is 93p plus VAT and post and packing. They come with fitting instructions and a wiring diagram. The connections are straightforward - one to the courtesy light wire near the back of the courtesy light switch and the other to the wire between the light switch and sidelights.

First, turn off your battery isolator switch or remove the battery leads to disconnect the battery. The relay unit needs to be attached up under the dash and connected first to the side light wire between the switch and the light itself. I found that I could access that by removing the fresh air vents and just get on



to the wire. My loom was so tight that I could not access it by removing the light switch itself, but you may be lucky. Just T into that wire - I used scotchlock type connectors and 16 gauge wire. The other wire is attached to the Purple/White wire to the courtesy light switch. I accessed that wire just before it dropped down the back of the trim panel by the driver's knee, T-ing into that one. Reconnect the battery and turn on the lights and then open the door whereupon the buzzer will sound loud enough to make you realise what you have done.

Simple to fit in about an hour and a half and then you will never again have a flat battery from leaving your lights on. See the relay on the Vehicle Wiring Products' website at [www.vehicle-wiring-products.eu](http://www.vehicle-wiring-products.eu) This note is available as V8NOTE411

### V8 Cambridgeshire Tour 2010

David Allen is planning the next V8 Tour for the long weekend Friday 10<sup>th</sup> to Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September with a programme of visits to Fenland attractions and an ancient Cambridge college. The base will be the Holiday Inn at Cambridge. Further details of the event, booking arrangements and location maps will be available on the Rolling V8 Calendar on the V8 website in the next month.