

# REGISTER UPDATES

## V8

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### Rebuilding an MGBGT V8

A popular feature of the V8 Website is the fascinating series of rebuild reports from Barrie Jones as his MGBGT V8 (Damask 0450) is brought back to life. The V8 had been for sale on Ebay back in April 2008 and looked as if it had been parked in the open for some time as a garden shed had been erected blocking the recovery of the car by a purchaser! Each rebuild report has shown details of the work with a description of the key stages of the work, particularly replacing corroded body panels. The sight of some of the sections he has removed has been an eye-opener! Barrie's fifteenth report in January covered the gearbox and highlighted a strengthening tip.

### Strengthening a V8 gearbox

The V8 gearbox is basically a normal MGB gearbox. It was originally designed to take the power and torque of an 1800cc B series engine, and no internal strengthening was provided when the casing was modified to fit the V8. Although the V8 has only 35% more power, it has roughly twice the torque, and this can cause problems.

The photo of the main casing clearly shows a weak point. Looking through the side access plate you can see the support pillar for the reverse gear shaft. Notice how it attaches to the bottom of the casing. During my training as an engineer,

I was taught that there should always be a radius at such joints. The larger the radius, the less likelihood there is that the joint will fracture. So far as I can see, there is no radius at all, so the local forces would be extreme.

I have seen several V8 gearcases with hairline fractures on the outside, corresponding to the location of the support pillar on the inside, and my local MG specialist assures me that he has seen a few where the entire pillar has ripped out, complete with part of the casing. I intend to get a local specialist to provide fillets of alloy weld around the base of the pillar to provide additional strengthening.

I have started to strip the engine from Damask 450. First, I removed one of the rocker covers and took out the rocker shaft, complete with rockers. Everything was covered in a thick black deposit, so I can only assume that this engine has not enjoyed regular oil changes which are so important.

### V8 Curry Night

An annual V8 Curry Night has been a tradition of the V8 Register from its formation in 1978. It is usually held in early February and starts the programme of V8 Gatherings for the year! This year it is at the Pan Asia Dining Room on Regents Street in the heart of Cambridge on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 6.45pm for 7.00pm. Bookings with Ian Quarrington on 07769 856101. All Club members are very welcome. Full details on the V8 website.