

Report on the V8 Website

Summary

Our V8 Website aims to:

- **Provide an active website** with a good flow of new content which visitors will find interesting, lively and topical. Typically there are between 5 and 8 new items posted to the V8 website each week.
- **Provide convenient access for V8 members so they can easily see what's new** – that's NEWS items, technical information including any new workshop notes, events that are coming up, adverts for cars for sale and for V8 parts, our online V8 Shop and our updates to our MGV8 price guides and market reviews.
- **Provide "open to all" access to visitors who are not members** so they can see the scope and quality of the information and technical support available to our members as a key part of their membership benefits. For example some workshop notes and articles are available on the V8 website for all visitors to view whilst visiting our V8 Website. This will tend to attract potential new members to join our Club. We also have useful information for anyone thinking of getting an MGV8 which can also be interesting for potential new members.

Information and support reserved as membership benefits

The main benefits that are only available to subscription paying V8 Register members are:

- **Sets of workshop notes** supplied on a Twister memory stick are available for purchase on the online V8 Shop. They are not available to non-members.
- **Adverts for MGV8s for sale or wanted** are available for purchase at £19.75 on the online V8 Shop. They are available to non-members at £35.00 per advert (that's an additional £15.50 or 43.6% on the members' price).
- **Adverts for V8 parts for sale or wanted** are available free of charge to current V8 members. They are available to non-members if the items offered for sale would be of interest to and benefit for our members but the non-member may be required to make a donation, typically £20.00.
- **Range of V8 logo'd clothing and regalia** – a range of items is provided via the specialist service provider, ACE, on a micro site they provide. They handle the order, producing the item, P&P (UK & Overseas) and any aftersales issues.
- **Access to the V8 Bulletin Board** - this is only available to current Club members who have registered an MGV8 with the V8 Register.
- **Access to the V8 Register Facebook Group** - this is only available to current Club members who have registered an MGV8 with the V8 Register.

What websites do we have?

Currently we have three websites:

- V8 Website <https://www.v8register.net/>
- V8 Shop <https://www.v8shop.uk/index.htm>
- V8BB <https://www.v8bb.co.uk/>

V8 Website

Launched in May 2002, it is now a large website with over 55,000 files and is 5.7 GB on the webhost's server. Two issues will need to be dealt with in the next 6 to 12 months:

- **Resolving problems with current webhosting service from Naastar.** They took over the business previously run very well by KCOM, since when the service (particularly the email service) has been poor. Keith Belcher and I have agreed the webhosting will need to be moved to a new webhosting and email services provider, probably Fasthosts. It will be a major exercise and one which would best be left until after August 2023 when the intense workload connected with the V8 Anniversary events will end. Then we will have time to plan and carry out the move.
- **Planning for a handover of the V8 Website management and maintenance role to a new volunteer.** After 20 years as V8 Webmaster I feel it's time to step back so a younger member can volunteer to take up the role, but a clear unattractive aspect of the role is the size and complexity of the current V8 Website. So my proposal is to:

1. **Create a new “simple V8 Website” that a volunteer will find far less daunting.**

This can be done relatively easily, possibly taking 3 weeks. Any suggestions for layout, design and functionality will be welcome.

[Volunteer will be needed for the role V8 Webmaster of the new “simple V8 website”](#) for a handover in 2024.

2. **Create an “archived V8 Website”** – this would be an archived version of the existing large V8 Website but webhosted using a separate domain name (for example v8register.co.uk) and another webhosting package, possibly provided by Fasthosts. The “archived v8 website” could be managed and maintained separately but coordinated with the new volunteer V8 Webmaster.

[Volunteer – I will be prepared to act as the webmaster of the “archived v8 website”](#) for 12 to 24 months and carry out the task of tidying up the website and removing unwanted material. The new volunteer running the new “simpler V8 Website” could create links from the new website to key items in the archived website so that information would continue to be available to members via links on the “new simpler V8 Website”.

V8 Shop

This is a relatively compact and simple website to maintain. It's on a separate webhosting package. The main items on offer which generate sales that make most contribution to the sales income for the V8 Register are:

- **Sets of workshop notes** supplied on an attractive Twister memory stick. The UK member only price is **£27.95** including P&P and VAT. Because of difficulties with sending airmail packages to members in Europe and Overseas delivery of sets of workshop notes on a memory stick and airmail has been suspended. An **alternative delivery system using a specialist WeTransfer** (who provides an online digital files delivery system) has been used with the active support of Keith and Lorraine. The offer of sets of workshop notes to non-members at a higher price has been removed so sets are now only available to current members at the member-only price.
<https://www.v8shop.uk/news230502-twisters-suspended-alert.htm>
- **MGV8 & RV8 for Sale adverts** – these adverts are on our present V8 Website and we provide members with a standard advert and a linked A4L twin column PDF document with a set of the advertisers' photos (typically four to a page). The UK member-only price is **£19.75** including VAT. The sales rate is good. Trade adverts are also accepted, for example from Former Glory. We also offer adverts to non-members at **£35.00** including VAT.
MGV8s for Sale: <https://www.v8register.net/subpages/MGV8forsalerevised.htm>
RV8s for Sale: <https://www.v8register.net/subpages/RV8forsalerevised.htm>
- **V8 Parts for Sale adverts** – these are provided **free of charge** for current V8 members as a membership benefit.
<https://www.v8register.net/subpages/v8sparesforsale.htm>

V8 Regalia offer was launched on the V8 Shop website in early March 2023

Julian Holmes has agreed the arrangements with ACE Embroidery where effectively the V8 Regalia activity is outsourced to a leading specialist in club regalia, ACE Embroidery. They now provide a micro-site on their website setting out all the V8 Register logo'd items they offer plus their role includes handling the sale of items (through a secure payment services provider handling transactions for ACE) and then they supply the items, the P&P and cover any aftersales issues. Our online V8 Shop simply has a link to the ACE micro-site which displays the range of clothing and other items offered for sale. The two benefits with the ACE arrangement are:

- **V8 Register is seen offering a range of attractive regalia items,**
but
- **We have none of the workload in handling stock, sales and P&P as ACE handle that.** The workload involved in running the V8 Regalia activities has always been the least attractive role for a volunteer on a V8 Committee!

Income from sales is necessary to cover our website costs (webhosting costs and domain name registrations) and other operating expenses. In the first 3 months of 2023 we have seen a modest level of sales of V8s for Sale advert (13 cars for sale adverts) and some sales of sets of workshop notes, producing a total net funds transfer from Stripe (our online payment services provider) of **about £310**.

[Volunteer needed for the role of V8 Shop webmaster](#)

I am the current webmaster and would wish to handover the role to a volunteer member **by June 2024** or earlier if that is possible.

[Volunteer needed for the role of supplying sets of workshop notes the buyers](#)

I handle that role at present but wish to handover the role to a volunteer **by June 2024**. The role involves working closely with Peter Ellis who edits and maintains the two series of workshop notes. A complete set of the files comprising the current set is copied on to a Twister memory stick and then packages inside an A5 cards and posted as a Large Letter in the UK or by airmail overseas. To avoid thefts from sets sent by airmail we have developed a routine using an online files transfer system called WeTransfer. We have been coached by Lorraine in how to use the WeTransfer system and we have seen it is a reliable system which delivers a full set of workshop notes very promptly to overseas buyers.

V8BB

This website was created for the V8 Register by Malcolm Bailey to replace our previous “open to all” V8BB when we had experienced difficult issues with a very unpleasant user who we could not stop posting unwanted messages. The new V8BB has an **effective application process** which enables the V8BB Admin volunteer to screen and check all access applications carefully to ensure applicants are eligible before processing them to make access available to the new user. V8BB access is only available to current Club members who have also registered an MGV8 with the V8 Register. The new V8BB also has effective moderation controls so unwelcome or unacceptable posts can be mended or removed by the V8BB Admin.

[Volunteer needed for the role](#)

I am the current V8BB Admin and would wish to handover the role to a volunteer member **by June 2024** or earlier if that is possible. The V8BB applications checking and processing role involves close coordination with the V8 Registrar to make the necessary checks with the V8 Database as to whether the applicant meets the eligibility conditions, not least they are a current Club member and registered V8 member. The V8BB Admin also has to activate the applicant’s account and send them an email confirming their account is live and they can use their login details to view and post messages on the V8BB.

Victor Smith

Report updated: 19th May 2023