

Report for the V8 AGM 2022 from V8 Chairman

Summary

Over the last 12 months we have seen the Covid constraints over physical classic car events and gradually easing so key parts of life for MGV8 enthusiasts have become possible again – for example attending classic car events, shows and even smaller social events, but also simply driving a classic car for pleasure was classified as an unnecessary journey and not permitted in lock-down. Now the situation has improved and events like the very successful joint Triumph & MG Weekend event at Malvern in mid August 2021 and the NEC Classic Car Show were a welcome return to near normal social life for Club members. Now we have the very welcome return of the Club's major annual event, MGLive! 2022.

V8 Register in lock-down

So with the frustration with life in lock-down, many MGV8 enthusiasts have been carrying out work on their MGV8 - varying from basic maintenance to more serious repairs and in some cases even working on major restoration projects. Specialist replacement parts traders like Brown & Gammons and Clive Wheatley reported near manic conditions in lock-down with online orders flooding in. MGV8 enthusiasts have also regularly visited online classic car sites, not least the V8 Website, the V8 Bulletin Board and the V8 Register Facebook Group. The release from the lock-down restrictions has enabled enthusiasts to enjoy driving their MGV8 on roads again.

Significant flow of new V8 Website content

Measured by the links to new items on the [Recent Changes](#) webpage, the **activity on the V8 website has continued to be strong** with an **average of 23.2 new items per month, or 5.35 per week**, posted to the V8 website providing news and technical information that we aim to be interesting, topical and lively for V8 members. Feedback from many members indicates the active V8 website is a resource they value as part of their Club membership package.

Our two workshop notes series

They continue to provide members with good quality and accurate technical information on maintenance and repair issues. Our new editor of both workshop notes series is **Peter Ellis**, a member who 20 plus years ago was a volunteer editor of the Club's Safety Fast! monthly magazine.

- **Strong growth of the V8NOTES series**

A significant feature has been the continued strong flow of contributions for the V8NOTES series. Two members have made a series of contributions so the [V8NOTES series](#) now stands at **640 notes**, now in the recently opened **18th volume!** The V8NOTES series was launched in early 1979 so that's an **average rate of new notes contributed by members of 14.5 pa or 1.20 per month over the 44 years.** The members who have made this valued contribution over the last couple of years have been Jim Livingstone and Peter Spurrs, supported by Tony Lake. There are more notes in the pipeline.

- **Strong growth of the RV8NOTES series since 1999**

The [RV8NOTES series](#) was launched in 1999 and an active contributor in the early years was Bryan Ditchman. The series has now reached 475 notes, now in the 13th volume, so that's an **average rate of new notes of 19.8 pa or 1.65 per month over the 24 years!**

Taken together the two series have now reached **1,115** notes in total.

V8 Register's finances

The V8 Register is a self-funded branch of the Club and since its formation in 1978 has operated as a financially viable entity by using its own commercial initiatives to generate income and attract modest commercial sponsorship funds to cover the operating overheads. It has done this with no financial support from the Club. Over the last 15 to 20 years the sale of sets of workshop notes and adverts for cars for sale on the V8 Website, together with several trading initiatives, have been both a regular and successful source of net income for the V8 Register. The sale of sets of workshop notes on a USB memory stick have been particularly popular and are seen as a valued benefit by many Members as they contain an ever increasing number of useful spares and maintenance tips and articles contributed by fellow Members. These items are on offer on the [Online V8 Shop](#) on the V8 Website and the purchase transactions are processed online by the **secure payment services provider Stripe**. Their secure online payment service is convenient as it enables buyers to pay by debit or credit card and Stripe handles the funds transfer to the V8 Register's bank account. For overseas buyers the service also handles the foreign exchange transfer. The periodic reporting of sales we receive from Stripe does

involve a significant workload for the V8 Treasurer in reconciling the sales and associated fees and charges for their payment processing and funds transfers services together with the necessary bookkeeping to maintain the V8 Register accounts.

Our V8 Treasurer, John Cumming, will report on the finances over the last 12 months.

V8 Kent Tour

Because of the Covid situation the tour organiser Ian Quarrington had to postpone the tour planned for September 2020 to September 2021. To launch the tour again he carried out a great deal of work ensuring the hotel accommodation and the visits planned for the event were rearranged for September 2021. Many thanks to Ian for a successful tour in Kent.

V8 Scottish Borders Tour 2022

V8 Tours Coordinator Ken Clayton sent an email inviting all the regular participants in previous V8 Tours inviting them to step forward and volunteer to plan, arrange and manage a V8 Tour for 2022, but sadly he received no response. So a V8 Tour in 2022 was not included in the calendar of V8 events, but then in March 2022 a member, Tony Smith, very generously stepped forward to arrange a V8 Tour based at a hotel near Peebles in the Borders with visits to several interesting places including a guided tour of the the Jim Clark Museum. The tour will be in September 2022 – information and booking details at: <https://www.v8register.net/sub4/news220318-V8Tour2022-briefing.htm>

Success with attracting MGV8 enthusiasts and recruiting new Club members

With our contacts with V8 enthusiasts registering their MGV8s with the V8 Register we look for any opportunity to recruit new Club members. A considerable number of new registrations have come in during 2021 and the first half of 2022 and where no current MG Car Club membership number was shown our success in recruiting them as new Club members jointly with the Club's membership secretary Liz Allsworth, has been notable. It has made a valuable contribution for the Club.

New volunteers joining the V8 Committee

Four members have generously stepped forward and joined the V8 Committee each taking up the workload with a key role. They will be standing for election to the V8 Committee at the V8 AGM 2022 in June:

- **Keith Belcher – Pricewatch:** covering spotting MGV8s seen advertised for sale or listed for auction and carrying out the analysis and drafting of our regular 6 monthly updates of the MGV8 Price Guide and Market Review.
- **Peter Ellis – Editor of both Workshop Notes Series:** covering encouraging contributors and editing and publishing updated sets of workshop notes for sale on the Online V8 Shop.
- **Peter Berry – V8 Scribe:** preparing the half page V8 Columns and periodic four page V8 Newsletters in the Club's monthly magazine Safety Fast!
- **Dugald MacNeill – V8 Registrar:** covering maintaining our V8 Databases and supporting the V8BB Admin and V8 Facebook Group Admin with eligibility checks of applications for access to either forum because access is only available to current Club members who have also registered an MGV8 with the V8 Register.

V8 Committee

V8 Chairman	Nomination needed (from 12 th June 2022 Victor Smith stands down at end of his term)
V8 Treasurer	John Cumming
V8 Secretary	Nomination needed
V8 Events Coordinator	Ken Clayton
Rebuilds & restorations	Ralph Hardwick
Admin Facebook Group	Julian Holmes
V8 Tour 2024 organiser	Ian Quarrington
Admin V8 Bulletin Board	Victor Smith
V8 Spares & Technical	Clive Wheatley

Standing for election at the V8 AGM 2022:
Keith Belcher Pricewatch

Peter Berry
Peter Ellis
Dugald MacNeill

V8 Scribe
Editor workshop notes series
V8 Registrar

Our aims

The V8 Register aims to provide MGV8 members with useful information and support available online which is seen as interesting, lively and topical that members will value as part of their package of Club membership benefits. It is provided by an:

- **Active V8 Website with a good flow of new content.** The V8 Website is run on an “open to all” basis to enable potential new members to see the scope and quality of the information and support we provide thereby attracting them as new members. The convenience of access without a login process is also welcomed by our existing Members. We have a webpage with links to all new material posted to the V8 Website which is a place most visitors go to see what's new – see the “Recent Changes” button at the head of the webpages. The V8 Webmaster is Victor Smith. <https://www.v8register.net/> and <https://www.v8register.net/subpages/websiteupdatelog.htm>
- **V8 Bulletin Board** attracts good quality posts with useful information which is accurate and complete. Access to the V8BB is only available to registered V8BB users who have both registered an MGV8 with the V8 Register and are current Members of the MG Car Club or a recognised overseas branch or affiliate. Our aim for the V8BB is quality rather than quantity of posts and we discourage prattle and unpleasant posts by moderating them. The V8BB Admin is Victor Smith. <http://www.v8bb.co.uk/>
- **V8 Register Facebook Group.** It's technically a “closed Facebook group” with an application and screening process managed by our V8 Facebook Admin who is Julian Holmes based in Oman.
- **Pricewatch MGV8 market review and updated price guide updated on a 6 monthly basis**
The Pricewatch team regularly monitor MGV8s seen advertised for sale or listed for auction and from an analysis produce the **market review and updated priceguide every 6 months**. Feedback indicates they are regarded well by both members and enthusiasts looking to get an MGV8 as a good source of market and price information. Thanks to Keith Belcher and Ralph Harwick for their input. Our latest updated 6 monthly guide was released in early May 2022. [MGV8 Price Guide](#)

Looking to the future

Let's hope the gradual recovery to more normal social and business life continues in the second half of 2022. We have the prospect of our **major V850/45/30 Anniveraries year in 2023** (the 50th anniversary of the launch of the MGBGT V8, the 45th anniversary of the launch of the V8 Register in 1978 and the 30th anniversary of the start of RV8 production in 1993) and we are planning the events for that year.

Victor Smith
V8 Chairman