

## **Report for the V8 AGM 2021 from V8 Chairman**

### **Summary**

The last 12 months have continued to be an extraordinary period with the Covid constraints and associated lock-down measures with social distancing and avoiding unnecessary travel. So in lock-down key parts of life for MGV8 enthusiasts were no longer possible – 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 joint Triumph & MG Weekend event at Malvern in mid August are a welcome return to near normal social life for Club members.

### **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 report 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 gradual release from the lock-down restrictions has enabled enthusiasts to drive their MGV8 on roads and enjoy the pleasure of generally light traffic levels.

### **Significant amount 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.

### **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 **630 notes**, now in the **17<sup>th</sup> volume!** The members making this valued contribution have been Jim Livingstone and Peter Spurrs and they have more in the pipeline.

### **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 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 by Worldpay on their secure payment processing website. Their secure online payment service is convenient as it enables buyers to pay by debit or credit card and for the V8 Register Worldpay 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 Worldpay 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 decision was taken in 2020 to postpone the tour planned for September 2020 to September 2021. Ian Quarrington has, over the last few months, undertaken a great deal of work ensuring the accommodation and visits planned for the event now to be held in September have been checked and made available again. Many thanks to Ian.

### **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 the first half of 2021 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.

### 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.

Finally many thanks to John Cumming handling the bookkeeping and accounts, Ken Clayton coordinating the V8 Events and Tours and Ian Quarrington. The hardwork of drafting detailed and well illustrated workshop notes by two wonderful volunteers, Jim Livingstone and Peter Spurrs, has kept the V8NOTES series growing. Over the years from the start of the V8NOTES series the average rate of new new notes for the series has been just over 1.2 per month!

### Looking to the future

Let’s hope the gradual release back to more normal social and business life continues in the second half of 2021 and into 2022. We have the prospect of our major anniversary year in 2023 (the 50th anniversary of the launch of the MGBGTV8 and the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of the V8 Register in 1978 )and we will begin planning the events for that year over the next 12 months.

Victor Smith