

**V8****VICTOR SMITH**

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### V8 Anniversary events in May

There are two events in May as part of the V8 Register 35th anniversary programme.

**V8 Anniversary Day** on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at View Farm at Great Milton in Oxfordshire with the MG V8 book launch and presentations on technical topics of interest to MGV8 enthusiasts. Full details and booking arrangements are on the V8 website or via the contacts above.

**V8 Day Out** on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2013 organised by Ken Clayton at Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire near Chesterfield. It is one of the most significant Elizabethan country houses in England and one of the earliest examples of the English interpretation of the Renaissance style of architecture. This event was postponed from early April because of heavy snow in the area.

### VED exemption extension

This year the Chancellor's Budget in March had some good news – both the

cancellation of the next 3p fuel duty rise which was due in September 2013 and the extension of the Historic Vehicle VED Exemption to 1st January 1974 with effect from 1st April 2014. That's quite something to celebrate in the 40th Anniversary Year for the MGBGT V8 model as many V8s will benefit as they were built in 1973 with a few pre-development cars produced from late 1972. To be eligible for VED tax exempt status the car must have been **built** before 1st January 1974, so it's the **build date** and not the date of first registration that determines eligibility. The date on most V5C vehicle registration documents will be the first registration date so you will need to get evidence of the build date to claim Historic Vehicle status.

**What is the build date for your V8** is the key question? We are trying to get formal confirmation of the definition of the "build date" for a V8 for an application for Historic Vehicle status but the copy of the MG Factory Production Control records for the MGBGT V8 model made by the late Geoff Allen records the key dates during production starting with "Production Commissioned" and "Mounted on the line", then "Paint finishing", "Advised for delivery" and finally "Dispatched from Factory". The date most likely to be accepted as the "build date" is the date when the car was **"Advised for delivery"** because by then the car would have left the production line, have completed its inspection and road testing and, if it proved necessary, would have

cleared Rectifications Department and any final testing and inspection.

**Where in the production records are the last cars produced in 1973?** Well the records show the latest car to be advised for delivery was **1161** on 27th December 1973 but it's not as simple as that because 42 cars with an earlier Car No or VIN were advised for delivery from 1st January 1974. The earliest car in that group of 42 cars was Car No/VIN 1037 with another much earlier car, 0960, which was very slow reaching a state ready for delivery! You can check the "Advised for delivery" date for your V8 recorded in Geoff Allen's copy of the Factory records using the online V8 Factory Records search option on our V8 Grapevine website.

Applying for Historic Vehicle tax exempt status is described on DVLA Form INF34 and we understand that you apply at your local DVLA office, taking your documents (including evidence of the Build Date) along so they can amend the tax class of your V8 from PLG to Historic Vehicle. That form says "you will need to produce a dating certificate from a vehicle enthusiasts' club or evidence from the vehicle manufacturer."

### Best MGBGT V8 Mods survey

The report on the survey of members' views on 40 popular modifications for the Factory MGBGT V8 model has been produced by V8 Roadster enthusiast, Ralph Coulson, and a copy is on the V8 website.

See [www.v8register.net/sf/more.htm](http://www.v8register.net/sf/more.htm) for more information on the reports above.