

WESSEX SMALLTALK

No. 251 – August 2026

The Newsletter of Wessex Model and Toy Collectors – Founded 1984

Hello everyone! Are you surviving the (UK) summer? Hope so... Too hot for me - I can't wait to be complaining about the cold again... Comes to something when we have to cancel a planned trip - to the Cotswold Motor Museum - because it was just too hot to be sensible... We WILL rearrange it, and let you all know the new date in due course... (If you are a 'post' rather than 'email' member, and think you may want to come, please let me know by email, phone or whatever - the rearranged trip may be at fairly short notice, and it will save me having to post out lots of unnecessary updates!)
In the meantime, I'm off to find some shade, and will leave you (for the time being) in the safe hands (I can't believe I'm saying this...) of Chairman Steve, with his latest...

Chairman's Chatter ~ August

Summer edition – here it is, and what a hot few weeks it's been! Talking of which, (and probably teaching granny to suck eggs...) but watch out for the effects of all that sunlight and heat on your collection. A couple of collectors have had the same problem this summer, with ageing box inners actually melting in the heat – and that includes me, with a plastic 'sunroof' distorting beyond recognition, and now soon to be an open sunroof! It may pay to check on the things stored in your loft/roof space...

Our trip to the South Hants club was very good. They have a great venue for their meetings – and the pub has a cracking menu! Oh, and the South Hants boys and girls were great too! It was all topped off with a lovely evening drive back through the New Forest on a very pleasant summer evening. Who knows – perhaps we may be asked back next year!

Right on our doorstep we've just had a couple of good events – the Devizes Scooter Rally, a regular two-day event just outside the town, plus the annual huge Calne Bike Meet. If you love two wheels you shouldn't miss either.

Also, and still local, is Concours House (Five Zeros 'reinvented'...) just outside Bradford on Avon. Their calendar has some great-looking car days – including supercars. Well worth a google (*See the Diary Dates later! Ed*)

Meanwhile – let's enjoy the school holidays (maybe...) and we'll chat again on the 'other side'

Right - now it's your turn, Lloyd!

Chairman Steve

Thank you once again Steve... But 'Lloyd'?? Mister Lloyd, surely – or am I getting a bit above myself? Ah well, I guess I'll just have to roll with it for now!

Barry the Ed

Pre 1960 – and Celebrating Corgi Toys' 70th Birthday (9 July)

3 June Club Night

A good turn-out for this night – I guess most members have something either pre-1960, or by Corgi Toys! So, without more ado (what is an ado – have you ever seen one?) let's see what folk brought along...

First up was our James Bond man – **Nick** – with a display of JB Aston Martins done by Corgi over the years... So many variations, it's difficult to keep track of them!



Next it was Male Senior – **Doug** of course – with a display of pre-1960 vehicles, including this rather nice Guy Motors Ltd Service van – a Guy of course (and by Corgi!), and the AEC 'Diddler' Trolleybus. And Doug recalled back in the day seeing the bare Bristol bus chassis – driven by a heavily clothed driver sitting more or less out in the open – on their journey from Bristol to the bodyworks in Lowestoft – some 265 miles!



Doug also had this cute pair of Scammell 'Mechanical Horses' by Oxford, and remarked on the difference between them and some of the later heavy haulage vehicles that Scammell produced – like the Junior Constructor which could manage a 200-ton load on a crane trailer...



Of course, Chairman **Steve** is our main man when Corgi is concerned, and did not disappoint, with this comprehensive display of literature and models – all, except one, pre-1960...! There was talk of a prize to whoever identified the later one, but I am not sure if it was claimed... I thought it may be the Bedford army ambulance... Was I right, Steve?



Individual items – the Riley Pathfinder Police Car, RAC Land Rover, and Jaguar Mk I 2.4... (That Jag would make a good basis for a club model... Oh no, hang on, we've already done that!)



Brian G had a good display of pre-1960 toys, starting with this Lesney Massey-Harris tractor – a 9th birthday present for Brian. It was intended to be the first of a range of larger-scale models, but the success of the Matchbox 1-75 range put a stop to that... So Brian had to build trailers for the tractor from his Meccano!



< < < Here is the Sutcliffe Sea Wolf Atomic Submarine, actually a late production, but their similar Unda Wunda submarine was the last toy bought by Brian, in 1957... All his toys went into cardboard boxes up in the loft – and their much later discovery started Brian collecting!

Brian also had this lovely Victory Industries MG TF – a present for his 10th birthday ... But he told us that the cost of the set of four batteries it needed meant that it has only ever seen two sets!



Next up was a bit of a surprise – **Alan C**, with a table full of tinplate Tri-ang Minic. He said that he had a few, then had the chance to buy a large collection. Great stuff! Sadly my pic of the table-full didn't work, but here are three lovely pieces...



And next? Well, if I mention the name 'Pickfords' you will probably guess... Yes, it's our **Ashley**! But not all Pickfords – he had some Corgis – a couple of rally Minis, and the



original gold James Bond Aston Martin, plus a very nice early tinplate Scalextric car – the Ferrari – a pair of WWI tanks, and a rather pretty Bedford TK (1959!) in 'Tayto' Livery. I had never heard of Taytos (A brand of crisps made over in Ireland...) until fairly recently... Shame on me!



> > > Here's the tinplate Scalextric Ferrari, and a couple of the super scratchbuilt (pre-1960!) Pickfords lorries in Ashley's collection. V V V



Next up was **Mark**, who we know was a bit of a Corgi lover as a lad! None of his Corgis were produced pre-1960, so he chose models of vehicles from before that date, by Corgi Classics...



Here are the 1912 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost (with its very impressive bodywork!), the Porsche 356B, and Jaguar XK120.

> > >
Sorry,
Sharpie
(That's **Alan**
S of course!),
squeezing you
in a bit here,
but with a
nice selection
of two-tone
Dinky Toys.



Yep, they are great whichever way you look at them! Included is the Austin A105, the first Dinky Toy with windows... > > >

And next up was that chap Lloyd (BtE or **Barry** the Ed...) with some of the older (late 40s/50s) Dinky Toys that have stirred my memory cells of late... V V V

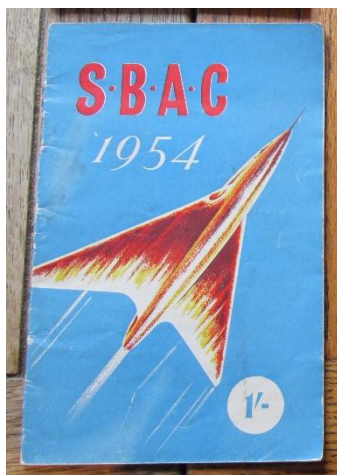


And, of course, the early Corgi Toys variations on the Vanwall (green, red, plain wheels & wire wheels), including the promotional (#20) made for Vandervell Products... (And, in the front, a Corgi chop I did many many years ago to make the Monaco short-nose version...)



Ah, buses and planes – has to be **Alex**! Above are some of his kit-built London buses – all pre-1960!

And growing up near – and eventually working at – London Airport (Heathrow), Alex has long been a plane enthusiast, and brought some interesting literature...



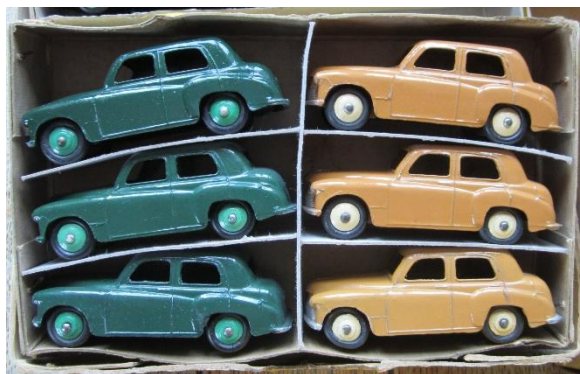
... including programmes from the Farnborough Air Show. And Alex told a tale of getting 3d back on empty pop bottles, so going round the show 'acquiring' bottles (by fair means or foul...) in order to cover the entry cost... That's our Alex!!



Following Alex was **Bob W** who, as we know, is a big fan of the Dinky Toys 40 series, which first appeared in 1947, so well before 1960! First was the Riley RM – 40a. Then followed the Triumph 1800, Austin Devon, Standard Vanguard, Hillman Minx, Morris Oxford, Austin FX3 taxi, and Austin Somerset, 40j. Sadly the planned Jowett Javelin - 40c – never appeared. (*But Odgi 'Toys of Yesterday' made a nice 'what if' which I had once! Ed*) Initially the models were supplied in trade boxes of 6 – 3 each of two colours – and Bob showed several lovely sets. Later of course they were also available in two-tone finishes.



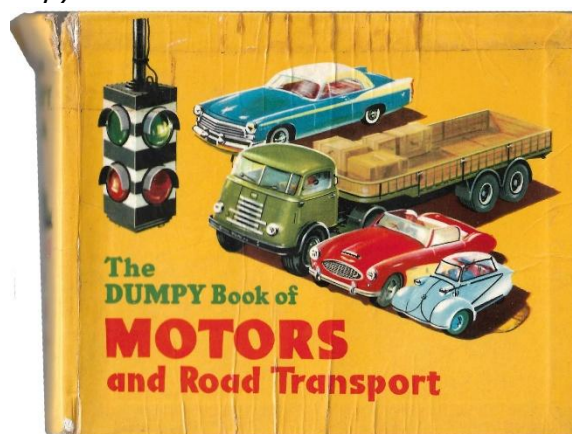
Above – You forgot the Morris Oxford, Bob!



Graham decided to be a bit different for this night... While Dinky Toys and Meccano were a big part of his early years, he also loved to draw. In the 50s and 60s book illustrations and adverts were often hand-drawn, providing examples to copy while developing drawing skills. Later at art school Graham quickly realised that he was not going to make it as a commercial artist, enrolled as a design engineering draughtsman, and never looked back! Here are the Toby Twirl and Teddy Tail books that he enjoyed as

a lad – some original, some replacements... Graham also found his Dumpy Book of Motors and Road Transport, and wondered if anyone else remembers the Dumpy range of books?

Well, the Ed certainly does – although as I was very interested in aircraft back then, it was the Dumpy Book of Aircraft and the Air for me!

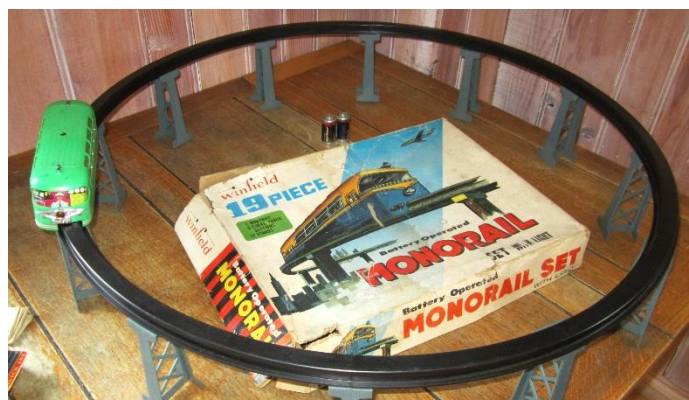


And following Graham was our new member **Kevin** – welcome to the madhouse, Kevin!



After a trip to the States in 2006 Kevin came back with this Cadillac 62, by Structo. Structo originally made construction sets and pressed-steel toys, and were taken over by Ertl in the 70s.

Sadly **Brian W** reported that all his original toys had either been thrown out, or given away (a familiar story...) but he seems to be doing well in gathering together some replacements! This night he brought along a Winfield Monorail set, originally sold by Woolworths. He spent some time setting it all up, but, while he had it working at home, it refused to co-operate at the Milk Churn, and, as Brian said, '...just sat there growling'. Perhaps you should have brought along some dog biscuits for it, Brian?



Right, that must be it, surely? Oh, oops, no, mustn't forget Mr Burnett – AKA Uncle **Bob B** !
 This time Bob concentrated on models made in the 40s and 50s of vehicles of the same era, and brought along a super selection...



Corgi Toys was of course born out of Mettoy – and here (left) is the Mettoy Morris Royal Mail van from 1955/8. To the right is the clockwork Hillman Minx by Chad Valley.



Micro Models of Australia made models of British cars imported in the 50s – here are the Vauxhall Cresta and Humber Super Snipe.



Above left is the Buick Roadmaster made by Prameta in the British Zone of West Germany, and to the right, by French Dinky Toys, probably the rarest of their 25 series range – the breakdown lorry.

And that's about it! A super evening – many thanks as usual to everyone who contributed!

Barry the Ed.

ooooooooooooooooooooOoooooooooooooooooooo

Tony Maasz

Sad to say that we have heard from his daughter Carolynne that Tony died at the end of May, aged 94. Tony had been a WMTC member for quite a few years, and came up to the club several times in the early days, but, living down near Southampton, this became impractical in recent years. I know Tony still enjoyed getting Smalltalk to see what we were up to – and it was he who encouraged me to add postcodes where possible to events listed on the Smalltalk Diary page.

RIP Tony.

Barry the Ed

Six Go on a Trip...

10 June

(Our visit to the South Hants MAC evening meeting at the Empress of Blandings pub...)

Little did those lovely folk down at South Hants MAC realise, when they threw open an invitation for us to visit for their club night on 10 June, that they would be invaded by WMTC's 'Famous Five +1', namely **Steve, Brian G, Don, Sharpie, and Chris, plus Barry the Ed!**

The Empress of Blandings (SO40 2PF) is a great pub, and we all met up for a meal beforehand (chicken and haggis on the menu – an interesting combination, and very nice!). We were made very welcome by all the SHMAC crew – **Trevor** with daughter **Sam**, **Dave** and **Morag**, **Jason**, **Mike**, **Chris**, **Paul**, and **Simon** – and eventually made our way to a large upstairs function room (complete with toilets...) which made us very jealous – and evidently there is no extra charge for its use either!

The theme for the evening was '**Partnerships/Joint Ventures/Collaborations**'... I was 'off duty' (!) so I didn't take any notes of the descriptions given with all the displays, but I (and Steve) did take some photos of some of the super items shown. If you are not one of the Famous Five +1, you will have to decide for yourself how they fitted in with the night's theme – you really should have been there to hear! We'll lead off with the SHMAC crew...



From Trevor. ^^^ >>>



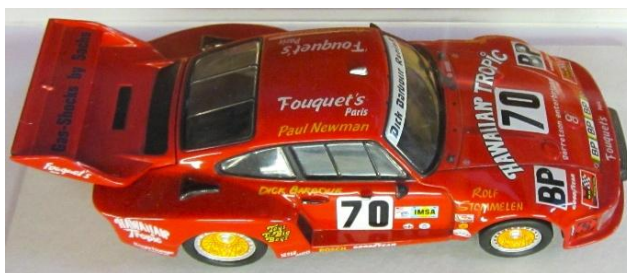
From Jason
<<< >>>



<<< From Mike ^ ^ ^



>>>>
From Paul



<<<<
From Dave

>>>>
From Simon



And from the Famous 5+1... V V V BG

V V V SC



<<< Vanwalls? Now who could that be??

Very many **thanks to all at SHMAC** for making us so very welcome, it really was a super night. And it was good to see that our two clubs are so similar in practically every respect!
And, of course, special thanks go to Steve and Don for their chauffeuring duties...

Barry the Ed

W&BAA Tour, and Red Night

1 July Club Afternoon and Night!

Our July meeting started early, with a 3pm tour of the Wiltshire & Bath Air Ambulance base for 9 of us. Luckily 7 of the 9 had been on last year's tour, because, Sod's Law, this time the helicopter was off having something fixed, and both the critical care vehicles – Volvo C90 and BMW X5 – were also out on calls...

I won't go into great detail, because you were either there, or you read all about W&BAA in last August's Smalltalk no. 245. Suffice to say that Lauren from the Charity Team gave us all an in-depth run down on this most impressive operation, which relies entirely on voluntary donations and support from the local community. Our modest contribution over the last two years has gone to a most deserving home. Once again we had some group photos taken with the Air Ambulance's own 'presentation cheque'... Here is one I took, with Lauren joining us on the left!



Then, after an earlier than usual bite to eat at the Milk Churn, it was on to Red Night!

And who should be first in to bat, but the Boss Man, **Steve!** His display included a 1963 Matchbox Fire Station (with rare red roof!) and appropriate Fire Cars, a rather nice Matrix MG Metro Mk 2 (he's a bit of a Metro fan!) and, bottom, a cracking Top Marques model of Birkin's Blower Bentley (Sans bonnet to show off the engine detail!) The real thing sold at auction in 2012 for £5,041,500...



Next up was **Ashley**, with plenty of red, including a whole load of Fire Engines by Days Gone, Oxford Diecast etc – including, yes, some from the Irish Fire Service!

Of course Ashley is also well into his slot cars, and had some nice red examples on show, like John Watson's Brabham BT46 VVVV



Above we have the Peugeot 307 WRC of Gronholm, and on the left a rather gaudy Chevrolet Corvette...

What's next? Ah yes, Volvos – it must be **Brian G!** Here are just a few of the red Volvos Brian showed... Britains BM10 tractor (>>>), Dinky Amazon (VVV) and a Partworks 1936 Carioca (Below right)



And next it was our **Nick**, with his red selection...
... which included this pair of '56 Thunderbirds by Majorette (hardtop – rear) and Guisval (everything open, front.) <<<<
And both displayed, appropriately, on a red turntable!



Nick also showed this Corvette by Matchbox Dinky Toys ^^ and the recent (hard to find...) Hot Wheels Ferrari transporter and 250 GTO set (with an added 'sharknose' Ferrari GP car on the top, and a 365 GTB4 on the bottom, both also by Hot Wheels!)

The next display featured Porsches – yes, it was **Roger**! And not your usual fare – how about a Porsche-Diesel 'Junior' tractor... >>>



<<< Roger also had this lovely old Distler Porsche 356, and, just to prove it's not always Porsches, a Ferrari Transporter (By Norev I think), with two Solido Ferraris on board. VVVV

Alex followed on, firstly with a selection of buses – three repainted Dinky double-deckers (courtesy of those infamous 'little old ladies'...) and a pair of AEC single-deckers, one as bought, one (nearest) kit built.

VVVV





Not just buses – Alex likes his BRS lorry ‘chops’ – including the nifty 6-wheel Albion on the left, using a Dinky Foden 8-wheeler as a donor for the chassis, and the Albion cement mixer for the cab.

Here’s a fine pair from **Sharpie** (that’s **Alan S** of course!) – the one-off Ferrari ‘Breadvan’, built in 1962 on the chassis of a 1961 Ferrari 250 SWB, to compete with the then new Ferrari 250GTO.

The little’un (1/43) is by Get Smart, the gurt big ‘un (1/18) is by Fujimi. And they don’t come much redder than a good old Ferrari!



Chris admitted that as a lad Captain Scarlet was his hero, so he just had to have the Scalextric Spectrum Patrol Car in his collection... ^^^

We also saw Carl Fogarty’s Honda RC30, 1990 TT winner (His second win...) >>>

VVV And this 1/160 N gauge 80’s Heidelberg tram

by Arnold – Chris told us the decoration on the real thing was done by an early form of vinyl wrapping...





More tracks now – this time from **Brian W.** Top is a 50s/60s streamlined (Art Deco style) Lumar Lines pull-along train by Marx in pressed steel... But Brian didn't bring any string to show it in action! Below is the 1930s Tootsietoy Flyer, Union Pacific, US Mail 3-car articulated set ... And all in red, so that's ok!

Next it was **Don**, with a trio of Alvis Fire Engines by Budgie (rear), and two by Capricorn Models – all finished as RAF units of course!

Don also showed the 1987 Le Mans Ecosse C286 (left) and 2020 Le Mans Aston Martin Vantage AMR (right), both by Spark, and both with a Scottish driver in the team...



<<< >>>
Kevin likes his Mustangs (well, he's got the real thing in his garage!) but also showed this old Corgi Midland Red Motorway Express coach – recently picked up at a boot sale for 50p...

Bargains are still to be found out there!



So, who's left from the night? Oh yes – me! That's **Barry the Ed** of course, with a selection of Italian red racing cars, which included...



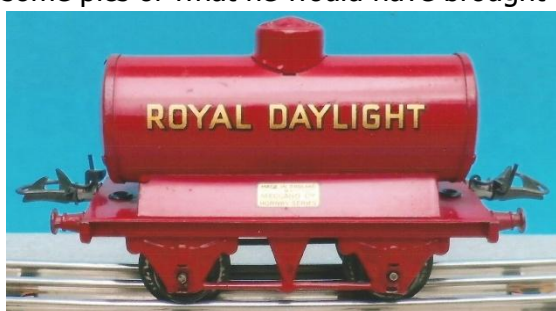
... left to right, the English Dinky Maserati A6GCM (A 2-litre Formula 2 car, like their HWM, Cooper Bristol, and Ferrari – the World Championship was run to Formula 2 rules for 1952 and 1953...) and the French Dinky sports version of the same car, the A6GCS. (Wonder why they never put racing numbers on it, when the driver is in racing overalls?) Then we have the French Dinky Formula 2 Ferrari 500 (like the English version, early with stub exhausts) in Italian racing red, rather than our version in the blue and yellow of Argentina, then the Crescent Ferrari with full-length exhaust, which is labelled as 2½ litres, so a 1954 Ferrari 625... (They put a 2½ litre engine in the Formula 2 car when the World Championship reverted to Formula 1 for 1954...).

Oh, and I'll bung this one in – the Dinky Kit of the Ferrari 312B2, which, with a few more decals from the bits box, makes up into quite a nice model – unlike the Dinky Kit version of the Lotus 49, which is terrible!



And that was it! Many thanks, everyone, for another great WMTN Night! **Barry the Ed**

But was that really it? No! While he can't make it to club nights nowadays, **Trevor Smith** has once again sent some pics of what he would have brought if he could...



Above left, a Hornby O Gauge tank wagon from c1936; above right a 1/45 General S Type bus, scratchbuilt in brass and nickel silver by somebody unknown, and fully restored by Trevor; and on the right an OO scale tram from an Alphagraphics card kit, a BEC Models white metal kit of a Feltham tramcar, and, in the front, a GS Models white metal kit of an LT S/D bus. All three built by Trevor – clever chap! Thanks for sending the pics, Trevor!



Barry the Ed

All facts, opinions, comments, criticisms etc. contained within Smalltalk are the responsibility of individual contributors (especially if anonymous!). The Ed just keeps looking for a bit of shade for his bald 'ead...

Your 2026 Committee comprises: -

Chairman:	Steve Clements	devizesdiecast@aol.com	01380 725322
Vice Chairman:	Doug Male	malesatone@btinternet.com	01225 755043
Zoom Meister:	Ashley Jones	pickfords1630@yahoo.co.uk	07516 478830
Membership Secretary:	Nick Male	njmale007@gmail.com	07905 546287
Ed/Treas/Sec:	Barry Lloyd	barrylloyd1946@gmail.com	01179 866503
	Bob Warfield	bobandjill1945@gmail.com	01373 864820

Co-opted Committee Members (AKA SLH – Steve's Little Helpers): Alan Sharpe and Don Stevenson

WMTC meets at The MILK CHURN, Commerce Way, Melksham SN12 6AD, usually on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month from 7.30pm, but very occasionally at lunchtime, 12 – 2.30pm.

The club loves to receive **any** feedback from members, so please email us at **wmtc25@aol.com**
And don't forget to email your contributions for **Smalltalk** to the Ed at **barrylloyd1946@gmail.com**
Or, send by post to: **Barry Lloyd, 36 Windrush Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS31 1QP**

WMTC Diary Dates...

All information – including swapmeet dates – is given in good faith, but it's best to check first BEFORE making plans! Club events are in BOLD.

5 August

Club Night – Sky High

7 August Bike Night, Concours House, Bradford-on-Avon BA15 1TS www.concourshouse.co.uk 5pm – 8pm Free entry
8/9 August HSCC 60th Summer Historic Weekend, Castle Combe
11 August Hook Toy Fair, Community Centre, Ravenscroft, RG27 9NN **(SCF)**
15/16 August Italian v German Weekend, Concours House, Bradford-on-Avon BA15 1TS www.concourshouse.co.uk 9-4, £5
16 August Kidderminster Toy Fair, Kidderminster Harriers Social Club, Stadium Close DY10 1NJ
22 August Kidlington (Oxford) Toy Fair, Exeter Hall, Oxford Road OX5 1AB toytraincollectorsfairs.com
28/30 Aug Truckfest, Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet BA4 6QN. See www.truckfest.co.uk
29 August Best of British, Concours House, Bradford-on-Avon BA15 1TS www.concourshouse.co.uk 9am-4pm, £5

2 September

Club Night – PSV/HGV

5 September Sandown Toy Fair, Sandown Exhibition Centre, Portsmouth Road, Esher. (Postcode takes you to wrong entrance...)
6 September Mega Malvern Toy Fair WR13 6NW
6 September John Haynes Classic Car Show, Haynes Motor Museum BA22 7LH www.haynesmuseum.org
8 September Hook Toy Fair, Community Centre, Ravenscroft, RG27 9NN **(SCF)**
12 September Southampton Toy Fair, St James Rd Methodist Church, St James Rd, Shirley SO15 5HE
12/13 Sept Autumn Classic Historic Racing Festival, Castle Combe.
12/13 September Beaulieu International Autojumble, SO42 7ZN. www.beaulieu.co.uk
13 September Havant Scalextric 2026 Fair & Fun Day, Havant Leisure Centre PO9 2AY 10am – 2 pm
15 September Royal Wootton Bassett Toy Fair, Memorial Hall, SN4 8EN **(SCF)**
19 September International Talk Like a Pirate Day... (Ooh arrr me hearties – 'tis true – look it up!)
19 September Exeter Toy Collectors' Fair, The Matford Centre EX2 8FD
26/27 Sept Somerset's Festival of Transport, The Showground, Frome BA11 5ES www.somersetfestivaloftransport.co.uk
27 September Supercar Sunday, Concours House, Bradford-on-Avon BA15 1TS www.concourshouse.co.uk 9-4, £5
27 September NEC Toy Fair – Hall 18, NEC, Birmingham B40 1NT. 580 stalls...

4 October Kempton Park Toy Fair, Kempton Park Racecourse, TW16 5AQ

7 October Club Night – Bob Leggett on 'Auction Life' + 'Is It Pennies or Pounds?' The Theme? Auction Buys!

Our Chairman Steve of Steven Clements Fairs (SCF) kindly offers all WMTC members ONE FREE ENTRY to all his fairs, on production of a current WMTC membership card. BUT PLEASE NOTE – this offer applies ONLY to Standard Entry times, NOT EARLY ENTRY

And that's it! Sorry if it's a bit late this time – it's been a struggle!

And no 'Ed's Briefs'? Nah – nothing much to say really – apart from reminding you to enter your car reg at the pub each time... But you know that already!

But one last thing – it's never too early to start thinking ahead... The Christmas Menu is now on the pub's website, and we are booked in for Wednesday 2 December... It won't be long before we are announcing costs and taking names!

And with that – it's "Best wishes to all, and bye for now..."

Barry the Ed