



# OXFORD MOTOR CLUB



*Carl O'Grady and Ellie Williams*

*2016 Lotusbits Carfax Rally winning Nissan Sunny F2*

*[photo courtesy of mandh\_photography]*

## September 2016 Magazine

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# OXFORD MOTOR CLUB CONTACTS

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| Name                                  | Position              | Contact e-mail                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| John Blackwell                        | Vice Chairman         | <a href="mailto:compsec@oxfordmotorclub.co.uk">compsec@oxfordmotorclub.co.uk</a>         |
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| <b><u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</u></b>     |                       |                                                                                          |
| Colin Minchin                         | Chief Marshal         | <a href="mailto:marshalling@oxfordmotorclub.co.uk">marshalling@oxfordmotorclub.co.uk</a> |
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| Simon Phillips                        | Webmaster             | <a href="mailto:webmaster@oxfordmotorclub.co.uk">webmaster@oxfordmotorclub.co.uk</a>     |
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| Harvey Warner                         | Committee Member      | <a href="mailto:warnerfamily@live.co.uk">warnerfamily@live.co.uk</a>                     |

## EDITORIAL

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I am still putting out the familiar pleas for write-ups, photos, and anything remotely interesting for fellow club members that can appear here in the club magazine

As always a huge thanks goes to John and Shirley Blackwell for their enthusiasm and commitment to keep us informed about what is going on around us.

Simon Marks also generates a lot of our content, but we really do need to coax some extra input from more of you active competitors. Simon Philips has generated some recent reports on his racing exploits which have been most welcome.

Please, please, please do remember, that we are all very interested in anything you do, whether it is on our own events, other local, national, or for that matter International events. Pretty much everything to do with cars and Motorsports is of interest, so PLEASE take time to quickly knock together an email, (with pictures, wherever), and send it to me at [magazine@oxfordmotorclub.co.uk](mailto:magazine@oxfordmotorclub.co.uk)

*Steve*

## FUTURE CLUB EVENTS

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### SEPTEMBER

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**Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th** is the Mercian Road Rally. The special Test will again be using the Hinton-in-the-Hedges Airfield at the north of our area.

The contact to marshal here is Cyril Loman on email: [c.a.r.l@btinternet.com](mailto:c.a.r.l@btinternet.com) or Mobile: 07768 275752

**Sunday 18th** also sees round 10 of the CMSG Autosolo championship hosted by Ross Motor Club. Contact details are not available at the time of writing but will be available on their web site.

**Saturday 24th** sees us back at Throckmorton Airfield for the HERO Challenge. A one day event which needs OMC's help to run one of the tests as timekeepers or observers. Colin Minchin the club Chief marshal will be the contact if you want to volunteer.

The following day **Sunday 25th** is the Patriot Stages Rally organised jointly by Forresters and SWAC motor clubs at the military training ground at Caerwent nr Chepstow. Forresters provide a great deal of help and assistance on the Carfax Rally and it would be appreciated if OMC could reciprocate this help.

On **Friday 30th** the next round of the CMSG Roadsport 12 Car resumes. Running on Map 163/164 and organised by Kevin Belcher and Paul Hardy. Details will be available nearer the event.

### OCTOBER

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The first event in October **on Sunday 2nd** is the OMC Boanerges Autosolo and PCA.

We are back at Finmere again and are round 11 of the CMSG championship. There will be an article in the magazine nearer the time but put the date in your diary.

Wednesday 5th is the Club Night at the Jolly Boatman, Thrupp.

On **Sunday 9th**, Alan Wakeman is organising a Grass Autotest near Dunstable with Oxford being an invited club. There was a lot of enthusiasm for our test in July so why not see if this one matches ours, although there probably won't be a BBQ.

Contact for the day is Hugh Johnson Tel: 01252 662527 / 07757 113140. Email [hughj@ntlworld.com](mailto:hughj@ntlworld.com)

The next OMC 12 car rally organised by Tony Mytton has been moved on a week from its original date and will now run on **Friday, 14th October**. As well as competitors there is the need for marshals to man the check points around the route and contact details and the start & finish venues will be available nearer the date.

The following **Sunday 23rd** sees CMSG Autosolo Round 12 at Throckmorton Airfield. 60 & Worcs MC are the organisers.

Finally, on the **28<sup>th</sup> October** is round 5 of the CMSG Roadsport 12 car championship. On maps 175/185 the event will be organised by Glynn Hayworth of Basingstoke MC.

## NOVEMBER

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**Wednesday 2nd** is the Club Night at the Jolly Boatman, Thrupp.

**Saturday 5th** sees us back again at Throckmorton Airfield for the HERO Rally of the Tests.

A round of the FIA European Historic Regularity Rally Championship, the RAC Rally of the Tests runs three tests on the airfield. The impressive entry is already full and can be seen on their web site.

Again OMC will be running one of the tests and we need timekeepers and observers. Colin Minchin the club Chief Marshal will be the contact if you want to volunteer.

**Friday 11th** is the Dolphin Gun Powder Plot 12 car. This will be round 6 of the OMC/Dolphin series. More details of an organiser soon.

At the other end of the year to their normal running the **Wyedean Rally runs on Saturday 12th**. The rally is organised by the Forest of Dean MC and will probably use all the old favourite stages in and around the Forest.

On **Friday 18th** the CMSG Roadsport 12 Car Round 7 takes place. Running on OS Map 175 the event is organised by Haydn Marks and Brian Cammack.

Finally on **Saturday 26th** the Regency Stages Rally is being held at the Bath Showground organised by Weston Super Mare MC

## DECEMBER

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**Wednesday 7th** is the Club Night at the Jolly Boatman, Thrupp

On **Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th** the Rockingham Stages Rally organised by Middlesex & Thame MC's runs at the Rockingham Raceway in Corby. Marshals and radios are needed.

Also on the long weekend of **3rd – 6th is the Le Jog Endurance Rally**. As the name says it runs from Lands End to John O'Groats. The overnight stops will be in Chester and the Scottish Borders.

Full details on how to register as a marshal are on the HERO web site.

On **Friday 9th** the CMSG Roadsport 12 Car Round 8 takes place. Running on Map 162 and organised by Zenya Heap and Richard Austen.

Finally for 2016 on **Friday 16th** we have the last Oxford MC 12 Car organised by Chris Hambly. As well as competitors there is the need for marshals to man the check points around the route and contact details and the start & finish venues will be available nearer the date.

More details of all these events will be available nearer the event in the magazine or on the relevant club web sites.

# OXFORD MOTOR CLUB 2016 'EVENT CALENDAR'

Information is correct at time of printing.  
Dates may be subject to change so please check with organisers.

## September

|                                                |                                           |                         |                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>                | <b>Oxford MC Club Evening</b>             | <b>[Carfax Debrief]</b> | <b>Simon Marks</b>                                                 |
| <b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup></b>                   | Dolphin Golden Leaves 12 Car              |                         | <b>Dolphin MC</b>                                                  |
| <b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>                  | Grass Autotest                            |                         | Salisbury &<br>Shaftsbury MC                                       |
| <b>Sat 17<sup>th</sup>/Sun 18<sup>th</sup></b> | Mercian Road Rally – Hinton in the Hedges |                         | Cyril Loman                                                        |
| <b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>                  | CMSG R10 Autosolo                         | TBA                     | Ross MC                                                            |
| <b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup></b>                | HERO Challenge – Throckmorton             |                         | <b>Colin Minchin</b>                                               |
| <b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>                  | Patriot Stages Rally, Caerwent            |                         | Forresters MC                                                      |
| <b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup></b>                  | CMSG Roadsport 12 Car #4                  | Map 163/164             | <b>Kevin Belcher</b><br><b>Paul Hardy</b><br><b>Oxford/Dolphin</b> |

## October

|                                 |                                                |                      |                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>    | <b>Oxford MC Boanerges Autosolo (CMSG R11)</b> | <b>[Finmere]</b>     | <b>David Smith</b>           |
| <b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Oxford MC Club Evening</b>                  | <b>Jolly Boatman</b> | <b>Thrupp 164/480154</b>     |
| <b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>Oxford MC 12 Car</b>                        |                      | <b>Tony Mytton</b>           |
| <b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>   | CMSG R12 Autosolo                              | Throckmorton         | 60 & Worcs MC                |
| <b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup></b>   | CMSG Roadsport 12 car # 5                      | Map175/185           | Glynn Hayward<br>Basingstoke |

## November

|                                 |                                |                      |                                                             |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b> | <b>Oxford MC Club Evening</b>  | <b>Jolly Boatman</b> | <b>Thrupp164/480154</b>                                     |
| <b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup></b>  | HERO RAC Rally of the Tests    | Throckmorton         | Colin Minchin                                               |
| <b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup></b>   | Dolphin Gun Powder Plot 12 car |                      | <b>Dolphin MC</b>                                           |
| <b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup></b> | Wyedean Rally                  |                      | Forest of Dean MC                                           |
| <b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup></b>   | CMSG Roadsport 12 Car #6       | Map 175              | <b>Haydn Marks</b><br><b>Brian Cammack</b><br><b>Oxford</b> |
| <b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup></b> | Regency Stages Rally           | Bath Showground      | Weston-S-Mare MC                                            |

## December

|                                                  |                               |                      |                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>                  | <b>Oxford MC Club Evening</b> | <b>Jolly Boatman</b> | <b>Thrupp 164/480154</b>                                    |
| <b>Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sun 6<sup>th</sup></b> | HERO Le Jog Endurance Rally   |                      | Chris Worboys                                               |
| <b>Sat 5<sup>th</sup> – Sun 6<sup>th</sup></b>   | Rockingham Stages Rally       |                      | Middlesex /<br>Thame MC                                     |
| <b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup></b>                     | CMSG Roadsport 12 Car #7      | Map 162              | <b>Zenya Heap</b><br><b>Richard Austen</b><br><b>Oxford</b> |



Friday 16<sup>th</sup>

Oxford MC 12 Car

Chris Hambly

|      |
|------|
| 2017 |
|------|

February

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>

OMC MC Annual General Meeting / Awards Presentation

TBA

## LANYARD AMNESTY

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Over the years we have given out a large amount of lanyards to club members working on events.

Unfortunately, despite requests for these to be returned, we very rarely see them again so they must be gathering dust in someone's loft, cupboards, drawers or garages.

As these are now getting very expensive to buy would you please see if you have any that can be returned for future club events. It matters not if they are advertising companies, clubs or events.

If you can help them please return them to any Committee member or bring them to a club night at the Jolly Boatman or failing that give me a call and we can sort something out.

**John Blackwell.**

## THE 2016 LOTUSBITS CARFAX RALLY

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Oxford Motor Club would like to thank every single person that contributed to make the 2016 Lotusbits Carfax Stage Rally such a success.

Setting out all the cones started on Thursday (and was completed on Friday). The Club transported 540 of its own stock to Throckmorton to add to the many, many more that are already on the venue.



By Friday afternoon, with the exception of one area still in use by Drift Elite (the venue's resident drifting business) the stages were as ready as possible.

From 6am on Saturday morning, as the many marshals were signed on, the hard working Oxford Motor Club crews set up this area and moved barriers from there to elsewhere on the venue. At 8.15am, the Stewards took their tour round and declared the stage ready to receive competitors.

70 crews made it to start the rally and their driving standards on the day were excellent. As requested at the Drivers' briefing, the course markers were respected (absolutely essential when the courses are

almost totally defined by cones and barriers) and the chosen routes swiftly cleaned up and an intensely competitive day began.

The day's weather was fine and grew hotter and hotter and hotter. The marshals, particularly those that were positioned on the vast concrete expanses grew redder by the stage (!) and the Club owes every single one of them a huge vote of thanks for staying on post and replacing the odd scattered cone throughout the day. The course changes were swiftly made with the assistance of the marshals and all ten stages ran within a couple of minutes of the ambitious time schedule, finishing just before our curfew of 17.30hrs.

This had to have been the most competitive Carfax Stage Rally of all the 31 runnings of this event. Going into the last stage, Carl O'Grady / Ellie Williams (Nissan Sunny F2) and Tom Barber / Anthony Jones (BMW Compact) were tied on Time and Mark Gamble / Steve Link (Suzuki Swift S1600) were only six seconds behind. The final 6 miles were to split the potential tie and O'Grady / Williams were the stage winners taking a maiden Overall Win by 5 seconds from Barber / Jones. Gamble / Link were a further one second behind the Suzuki on SS10 so the top three were covered by only 12 seconds – Phew!

All through the day, results for each stage had been on the notice board within 10 minutes of the last car finishing. After Stage 10, these were posted Provisional at 17.41 and with no queries on the tables, the Awards Presentation started at 18.11.

Of the 70 starters, 55 crews finished the Lotusbits Carfax Stage Rally – a very impressive finishers' rate. All through the day and at the Presentation, the marshals, organisation and stages were praised and Oxford Motor Club thanks everyone for such kind comments and passes them on to the whole team.

MSA Scrutineers had to continue their checks throughout the day as every stage found crews with issues with these important safety items – tethers not clipped to helmets, HANS over the belts and belts not properly seated into the FHR yokes. They had the Clerk of the Course's backing to continue to make the checks until full compliance was found – which it never was. We will be passing our findings back to the MSA for consideration and apologise from any stress caused as people felt that time was dripping away as they tried to start on time. This led to no penalties being issued.

The clear down crews were off the venue by 8pm and the cones, arrows, fire extinguishers, stakes, generators were all safely tucked away in the Club store back in Oxford by 9.45pm.

Once again, many thanks to all – Marshals, Emergency and Recovery Crews, Scrutineers, Environmental Scrutineers, Set Up and Course Change Crews, Results Team, Organising Team, Mike and Cathy at Lotusbits, Competitors, Service Crews, QinetiQ Pershore Staff for their contributions to a pretty well perfect day.

We look forward to enjoying our rallying with you again in the future and at next year's Oxford Motor Club Carfax Stage Rally.

Simon Marks  
(Clerk of the Course – OMC Lotusbits Carfax 2016)



## CADWELL PARK TRACKDAY

After my first race at Silverstone I was keen to get out on track again but with most race championships going into hibernation between November and March, my next race was to be eight long months later. The next race needed to be at a smaller circuit with a shorter lap so I had a better chance to learn the corners. Hopefully I'd also be involved in some closer racing.



Cadwell Park seemed to tick both boxes and the MSV Trackday Trophy had a race there on May 1st. Colin at Supatune had the same green puma available for that event so I signed up to share the drive, with Colin finding the other driver.

Having never driven the track before (other than one sighting lap on a trackday that was then cancelled due to fog...), driving circuit before the race would definitely help. Fortunately, Colin had organised a trackday at Cadwell in early March. To keep costs down I signed up for the morning session only.



The day was wet and windy. So windy that the Supatune crew's luxury accommodation (or tent to you and I), hadn't survived the night. No F1 luxury Winnebago's here. At least there was no fog this time. Having sold my old helmet without HANS posts and foolishly delayed spending the money on a new one, my helmet for the day would be my old Top Tek I'd purchased over 20 years ago (who remembers them?). It only cost around £65 new so was never the latest in protection. My cycle helmet was probably safer but it was not cracked/damaged so was allowed to use it.

Gotta love trackday regulations!

After the sighting laps I headed out on track for the first of my 3x 20 minute sessions.

Colin sat in with me initially to share some of his circuit knowledge and ensure I didn't fire the car off at the start of the day. With it being front wheel drive, the key point was not to lift off if it starts to slide, but to keep the power on to pull you out of trouble. The car was using Federal RS-R fast road/trackday tyres. These seem to be really popular for trackday use giving good performance for sensible money.

Uncertain of the grip these would give in the wet I took it steady initially but once warm they worked surprisingly well, both on a wet and drying track. The morning flew by as I shared the car with the other drivers, the downtime being useful for analysing where I could improve next time out. The rain continued to fall in varying intensities from drizzle through to biblical downpours. Fortunately the hospitality tent (pop up gazebo) was made of sterner stuff than the tent and kept us dry between sessions.

Cadwell is the total opposite of Silverstone. Its narrow, undulating, and a real challenge even with modest power. Cresting the mountain where the car goes light is great fun but before you've had chance to enjoy it you're into the chicanes of the hall bends. Carrying speed through this narrow section is challenging to get right as you go from kerb to kerb before immediately braking for the hairpin. I worked hard to get my lines right, often following other cars to see their lines. The section I found most difficult was as the end of the start/finish straight where you go uphill into coppice before reducing speed and picking the correct lines through the double apex of Charlies. As usual it's these difficult corners which have the biggest impact on lap times with Charlies opening out onto the longest straight on the circuit, Park straight.

By the end of my sessions, I'd learnt the track pretty well having tried almost every possible combination of gear, speed and line into every corner without the added pressure of competing. The race couldn't come soon enough.

**Simon Phillips**

## COTSWOLD MOTOR SPORT GROUP

2016 Championship Rounds **Highlighted**

| Day     | Date      | Organisers               | Event            | Event Name              | Location         |
|---------|-----------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Sat/Sun | 03/04-Sep | 5 Clubs                  | Hillclimb        |                         | Wiscombe         |
| Sun     | 11-Sep    | Go-Motorsport            | Autosolo Display | Emergency Services Show | Hullavington     |
| Sun     | 11-Sep    | W'hampton & Sth Staffs   | Car Trial        | Gaby Mohr Trial         |                  |
| Sun     | 18-Sep    | Ross                     | AutoSolo         | Autumn Ross Solo        | <b>CANCELLED</b> |
| Sat     | 24-Sep    | Tavern                   | Targa Rally      | Exmoor Targa Rally      | Exmoor           |
| Sun     | 25-Sep    | Forresters               | Rally            | Patriot Stages Rally    | Caerwent         |
| Tue     | 27-Sep    | CMSG                     | Monthly Meeting  |                         | Cheltenham MC    |
| Fri     | 30-Sep    | Kev Belcher & Paul Hardy | Roadsport        | Round 4                 | Map 163/164      |

**Make sure that you support your local and neighbouring motor clubs**

## WELCOME TO THE CLUB

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We are very happy to have 8 members joining us within the last month. So we welcome

- **Richard Pain**
- **Nigel Killerby**
- **Bruce Yeomans**
- **Catherine Farrell**
- **Josie Forman**
- **Brian Robinson**
- **Richard Seal**
- **Kieran Hogben**

We do hope to see you at our upcoming events, and look forward to sharing tales from you motoring interests and activities.



## FOCUS ON THE FUTURE WORKING GROUP

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Prior to the last meeting a small number of members joined the committee for a general discussion on the future of Oxford Motor Club.

As it was an inaugural meeting numerous ideas and options were talked about which included membership, events, publicity, social media, magazines with comparisons with past club life. With your help all these ideas will be formulated over time.

Simon Phillips agreed to head the group and it was thought that meetings could take place at the Club Social nights which are held on the first Wednesday of every month at the Jolly Boatman Pub, Thrupp.

If you didn't make the meeting but would like to be involved then please contact Simon whose details are in the magazine or on the web site.

Your ideas and input will be greatly appreciated as we move forward.

**John Blackwell.**

## 2016 BOARNERGES AUTOSOLO AND PCA

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The Club's next AutoSolo and PCA is being run at Finmere Airfield on Sunday, October 2nd. This may be our last time at this venue as it is up for development.

Autosolo must be one of the cheapest ways to get involved with motorsport and is open to any member of any age. The car can also be double entered so two of you could compete against each other as well as the others in your class. As the minimum age for a driver is 16 it is the ideal way to learn car control and driving skills.

All you need is any road legal car which has to be driven to the venue, a club membership and the entry fee for a full day's competition.

Have a friend who is not a club member but wants to take part? – not a problem as we have a membership fee especially for them. Competitors in this group would enter the Clubman category.

The Solo has two categories, a National B event and a Clubman event and alongside of these we are running a Production Car Autotest [PCA].

For the more experienced the event is a round of the ASWMC, BTRDA and CMSG championships and as the season comes to a close we may see some exciting competition as points mean prizes.



The PCA is open to any member in any car and if you don't have the confidence [yet] to drive solo then this is the event for you as a passenger/navigator is required. The car does not have to be road legal and can be trailed to the event and again can be double entered.

PCA's throughout the country are aimed at younger drivers aged 14 -16 and persons over 16 who do not have a RTA Licence and gives them an opportunity to drive competitively but in a controlled environment. They must be accompanied by a passenger who meets the MSA criteria as must the car being driven. The cars all drive over the same courses.

If you have a young member of the family who would like to get involved in this level of motorsport then please give either myself [07857 403451] or David Smith [01993 708418] a call.

As well as competitors we have the usual need for timekeepers to record times of the competitors which is a simple task of starting and stopping a stopwatch and writing down the time so if any of this is of interest to you please give me call.

**John Blackwell**



## CAR TO THE CLAYDONS - PHOTOS

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## WHAT ARE MEMBERS UP TO IN THE COMING WEEKS

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1.

Pete Collins and Steve Newman will be out on the Mercian Rally **September 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>**.

If you are able to help marshal on the event, please contact Cyril Loman on email: [c.a.r.l@btinternet.com](mailto:c.a.r.l@btinternet.com) or Mobile: 07768 275752.

2.

Pete & Steve will also be organising a 12 Car navigational event for neighbouring MSA club The Blackbird Auto Club on **October 7<sup>th</sup>**.

The 60 mile event will run on Map 152, starting at the motorway services M1 southbound J15A; assemble 7:30pm for 8:00pm start.

Finishing at The George PH, Tiffield.

Regs and entry form available shortly from [www.blackbirdautoclub.co.uk](http://www.blackbirdautoclub.co.uk)

Many thanks for OMC revising their upcoming 12 car date to avoid a clash, moving from 7<sup>th</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> October.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE  
OCTOBER 10<sup>th</sup>**



So PLEASE DO start typing now