

# Hayley Thorne

So how did I end up joining Woolbridge Motor Club Committee? Well, I suppose it is all down to Rodney my husband, he has been a member of Woolbridge Motor Club for 30 plus years, starting with 4x4 trials, car trials the odd autotest and then Speed Hillclimbs in various cars, sharing with Colin Pook the club's President. Around the time Rod and I became an item he bought a red Westfield which had a V8 Rover engine in the front, which he and Colin shared for a few years. He then bought a damaged Pilbeam MP43 which he rebuilt over a couple of years and put the V8 engine from the Westfield in the back. So, the kids and I went along to all the meetings. After a few years of sitting and watching I thought I would like to have a go at this so one day I said to Rod, could I have a go at this Hillclimb Driving? His reply was yes of course you can, but I do not think you will be fast because at that time I was like a snail on the roads. Anyway, I still wanted to have a go so at that time Graham Blake was selling his Black Westfield, which we bought. I did a driving school at Gurston and was hooked, doing Gurston near Salisbury, Wiscombe near Honiton and Werrington in Cornwall. We changed the colour to Black and pink. So, after a few seasons I asked if I could drive the Pilbeam MP43, Rod said yes but it is a quite different car to drive. At this time Rod had just bought a Pilbeam MP58 Single seater. So, I put in an entry to Gurston because if I was going to have a moment there is plenty of space to have one. So, I shared the Pilbeam 29 MP43 with Colin. So, a couple of seasons went by and I had so much fun in that car: if you respect her, you will get along well!!! I had a couple of offs one at Gurston where I ended up in the Cornfield. That was the subject of much mickey taking, I turned up to the Garage one day to find the boys had put a drainpipe on the Pilbeam to make it look like a combine harvester. The other off that I had was at Wiscombe going round Martini like the wall of death. But if you do not push it to the limit, you are not trying!! I heard that Pam Gardner was standing down as entries/events secretary for Woolbridge Motor club's Hillclimbs, and I thought that it would be nice to put something back into the sport which we both enjoy so much, so I volunteered my services and became entries/event secretary. Which I have been doing now for about 8 years, apart from last year when I took time out due to Covid 19, as I was trying to home school our son, help run a business and work! So, thanks to Merv Brake for stepping in. So, after doing entries/event secretary for a few years Vic Fancy the then Club chairman asked if I would like to join the Committee, so I accepted. With Schools re opening and things starting to return to some sort of new normal I offered to help with the 2021 speed events doing entries and events secretary. Rod is building a new Hillclimb/Sprint car which I may start driving next season. As for the new car, Rod will have done a complete circle, so if you know what Rod started hill climbing back in the late 80s early 90s, then you may know what is on the ramp in the garage...