The GB GT Journal

The Register

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The Art Of The Drive

Autumn 2026



‘A fine drive is not defined by distance’

Touring in style, with purpose.

THE REGISTER

Seasonal Motoring Quarterly

THE ART OF THE DRIVE — Autumn 2026

Introduction — Autumn's Invitation

Autumn is the season when driving becomes a craft again. The roads calm, the air sharpens, and familiar routes take on a new, more reflective character. It is the time of year when a journey feels less like transport and more like a small ceremony — a moment of calm capability.

This edition of ***The Art of the Drive*** sits proudly under **The Register**, the Journal's subscription masthead. It is written for those known in the 1930's manuals as '**the owner-driver'** (the enthusiast who did not want a chauffeur and might undertake much of their own miantenance even) and in essence someone who enjoys the road, respects its demands, and takes satisfaction in travelling well. Not just well, but with style, intention, enjoying the journey for its own sake, the pleasure of things well made, a package of experiences, thinking and creating and savouring the best bits of everything.

This is the first issue of 'AOTD' please 'drive in' and I hope you enjoy the writing and will be inspired to make a special picnic (ideas below), take the GT to your favourite autumn place with special views or associations, or maybe discover a new one.

Best regards

Lawrence

The Register

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A quarterly, seasonal, motoring companion under The Register masthead

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The Owner-Driver — And Readiness

Capability is not about carrying half a workshop in the boot. Younger drivers likely grew up with cars that rarely needed tools, and modern GTs are astonishingly reliable. But capability is still essential — not necessarily mechanical, but *attentive, anticipatory*.

A capable driver notices the leaf-oil sheen on an October bend. Or the dew drips from the large oak tree above the road curve which will make the surface that extra bit slippery. Anticipate. They know colder tyres feel different as the compound stays harder and less grippy.

And, they keep a torch because batteries fail at dusk. They carry a small analogue backup for navigation. (It might be your 'phone whilst the batteries last, it might even be… a paper map book! Map reading is a skill in itself).

These are not burdens. They are courtesies. To oneself. The habits that make a journey enjoyable rather than stressful.

The Register Glove Box Edition

For those who like to be prepared, The Register's *Glove Box Edition* remains the ideal travelling companion. It gathers the roadside essentials relevant to your GT— the checks, the small fixes, the practical notes that keep a car going if it threatens to "fail to proceed."



The Glove Box Edition sits neatly beside the seasonal routines described here, ready when needed and unobtrusive when not. Free to download and print from the GB GT Journal website.

It is not a workshop manual, but a repository of the sort of knowledge the owner-driver once kept in their head: tyre pressures, belt routes, fuse locations, and the little reminders that turn inconvenience into continuation.

More modern cars frequently reference online handbooks and manuals rather than a paper copy – possibly unhelpful when your 'phone battery is flat, there is no internet

signal, and it's dark and raining outside. And older cars may not have any original manual at all.

Autumn Rituals — The Irvin Jacket and Leather Wax

Every driver has their autumn rituals. One of mine is treating my Irvin flying jacket with its annual application of leather balm — a small seasonal ceremony that marks the shift into colder weather. The wax itself is made by **Mota-Lita**, a detail that always amuses me: a steering-wheel maker producing leather care that keeps a jacket supple for the season's drives. (They are, of course, the maker of Irvin flying jackets too).



It is a tactile moment: the scent of the wax, the weight of the jacket, the sense of preparing something trusted for the months ahead. A quiet pleasure, and an expression that one pleasure of possessing quality things is in the caring for them too. Old friends, not just 'things.'

The Autumn Picnic — A Seasonal Ritual



Autumn has always been the natural home of the motoring picnic. The air carries a little edge, the colours deepen, and a stop by a hedgerow or a quiet viewpoint becomes something more than a pause — it becomes part of the day. A memory for later.

I have long admired the tradition championed by Hilda Leyel and Laurence Pomeroy, who treated the picnic not as an indulgence but as an essential part of motoring life. Their advice still holds: keep it simple, keep it seasonal, and keep it civilised.

A picnic need not be elaborate. A flask of hot tea, a couple of pastries from a village bakery, a wool blanket, and a sheltered spot out of the wind are enough. The pleasure lies in the moment — the steam rising from the cup, the sound of a cooling engine ticking gently, the view across a field just beginning to turn.

A small folding knife, a cloth napkin, and a tea towel or bag for essentials elevate the experience without fuss. Even better if the budget will stretch to a proper bag or hamper. (Fortnums? Or one of several suppliers of quality canvas picnic bags, or go the whole hog and a wicker case – it depends how far you propose to carry things from the car). These are the sorts of objects that improve with use, and they sit naturally alongside GT motoring: practical, tactile, and quietly elegant.

Autumn picnics remind us that driving is not only about the road ahead.

Sometimes the best part of the journey is the pause.

And to inspire you; here are some ideas for the season:



THE AUTUMN PICNIC

In This Feature extracted from our larger guide in preparation:

- Choosing the Autumn Stop
- Packing Well
- Warm Drinks & Simple Provisions
- GT-Themed Entertaining
- Tools, Cloths & Useful Objects
- A Note on Tradition
- The "Jump Starter" — A GT Seasonal Drink
- Photography Notes
- Closing Thoughts

Choosing the Autumn Stop

Autumn picnics favour shelter, texture, and atmosphere. A lay-by with a hedge behind it, a quiet turning with a view across a field, or a viewpoint with a low stone wall. The stop should feel part of the season — not grand, but fitting.



Wind direction matters more now. A small shift of position can turn a cold stop into a comfortable one. Look for:

- a wind break
- a dry patch of ground
- a view with depth
- somewhere safe to pull well off the road

Autumn is the season when a stop becomes part of the journey rather than a pause.

Packing Well

A good autumn picnic is simple, thoughtful, and easy to set up. A few well-chosen items elevate the moment without fuss. Extra tea towels mean you can eat in the car even if the weather turns, with minimal risk of staining to the hide leather.

Essentials:

- A wool blanket (adds warmth and texture)
- A small board or cloth (for food, cups, or a camera)
- A napkin or two
- A folding knife
- A flask that genuinely keeps things hot
- A small bag or basket to keep things orderly

These objects improve with use and sit naturally alongside GT motoring — tactile, practical, and quietly stylish.

Warm Drinks & Simple Provisions

Autumn food is uncomplicated. The pleasure lies in the moment, not the menu.

Seasonal ideas with minimal effort:

- A warm savoury from a village bakery
- A piece of fruit
- A small sweet
- A flask of tea, coffee, or spiced apple
- A few nuts or dried fruit for longer runs

Steam rising from a cup in cold air is one of autumn's small luxuries. A cooling engine ticking gently beside you completes the scene.

But… if you want to be more adventurous with the catering:

GT-Themed Entertaining or Fyne Dining al fresco

The Register's picnic philosophy is simple: keep it seasonal, keep it civilised, and keep it easy to pack.

For GT owners, entertaining at the roadside is less about elaborate spreads and more about *intentional simplicity.* A couple of simple, but more ambitious than 'bought-in' options include a curated selection of modern, quality, elegant recipes and drinks — refined enough for a sense of occasion, practical enough for real GT use, and simple enough to prepare at home.

Light, modern, with a hint of classic touring sophistication.

Roast Chicken & Light Tarragon Mayo Sandwich

A refined take on a classic touring staple.

Ingredients

- Roast chicken breast, sliced
- 1 tbsp mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp Greek yoghurt
- ½ tsp chopped tarragon

- Crisp lettuce
- Thin apple slice (optional)
- Farmhouse loaf or sourdough
- Salt & pepper

Method Mix the mayonnaise, yoghurt, and tarragon. Season lightly. Spread on both slices of bread, add chicken and lettuce, and include apple if desired. Cut neatly and wrap in parchment.

Presentation Open-faced with a tarragon sprig for photography if you are Face-booking it!.

Cheddar & Autumn Chutney Sandwich

A vegetarian classic with heritage charm.

Ingredients

- Mature cheddar
- Autumn chutney (apple, pear, or fig)
- Granary or soft white loaf
- Butter (optional)

Method Butter lightly if desired. Add cheddar and a modest amount of chutney. Cut neatly.

Presentation Serve with a small ramekin of chutney.

Mushroom & Thyme Melt (Vegetarian)

Light, warming, and distinctly autumnal.

Ingredients

- Chestnut mushrooms
- Butter & olive oil
- Fresh thyme
- Crème fraîche
- Salt & pepper
- Sourdough or ciabatta

Method Sauté mushrooms in butter and oil until golden. Add thyme and seasoning. Stir in crème fraîche. Serve on toasted bread.

Artisanal Pork Pies with Apple Relish

A modern pairing that avoids chutney overload.

Ingredients

- Quality pork pies
- Light apple relish

Method Slice pies neatly. Serve relish on the side.

Presentation Arrange slices on a small board with a spoonful of relish.

Tomato & Basil Soup (Thermos-Friendly)

Bright, smooth, and perfect for the posh leather clad vacuum flask.

Ingredients

- Tomatoes (fresh or tinned)
- Onion
- Garlic
- Olive oil
- Basil
- Salt & pepper

Method Sauté onion and garlic. Add tomatoes and simmer. Blend until smooth. Season and add basil. Pour into your leather-wrapped flask.

Presentation Drizzle olive oil and float a basil leaf.

Ginger Cake

Simple, elegant, and perfectly autumnal.

Ingredients

- Ginger cake (home-baked or quality-bought)
- Optional: pear slices or crème fraîche

Method Slice neatly and plate on enamel or stainless steel.

Presentation One slice with a pear fan looks superb.

GT Banquet Uplift Board

A compact, elegant centrepiece.

- Cured meats
- Hard cheeses
- Cornichons or pickled onions
- Small bread rolls

Presentation Minimalist arrangement. Tartan rug beneath. Leather flask in background.

THE JUMP STARTER — Autumn Flask Drink Recipe

A warming, ginger-bright roadside drink for seasonal GT motoring.

Ingredients (1 flask / 2 cups)

- **250ml strong Assam tea** (brewed 4–5 minutes)
- **150ml cloudy apple juice**
- **1 tbsp honey**
- **Stem ginger in syrup** — *preferred option*
    - 1 slice of stem ginger
    - 1–2 tsp of the syrup
- **OR** fresh root ginger (second option)
    - 3–4 thin slices
- **OR** powdered ginger (emergency option)
    - ¼ tsp
- **A pinch of cinnamon**
- **A strip of orange peel**

Method

- Brew the Assam tea strong and deep.
- Add the cloudy apple juice, honey, cinnamon, and orange peel.
- Add **one slice of stem ginger** and **a teaspoon or two of the syrup**.
- Warm gently until the flavours combine.
- Strain if desired, or leave the ginger slice in the flask for extra warmth.
- Serve hot from a flask on an autumn run.



Picnic Photography Notes

Autumn is one of the best seasons for roadside photography. Modern ‘phone cameras a of amazing quality but some basic principles apply to get the best from your images. Read on, further below to get the best.

Autumn picnics remind us that driving is not only about the road ahead.

Sometimes the best part of the journey is the pause.

A flask, a blanket, a warm drink, a view, and a few minutes of calm — these are the small ceremonies that make autumn driving memorable.

This feature will evolve across the seasons and eventually form part of *The Register's Picnic and Dining Guide* — a more extensive stand-alone book of GT-themed entertaining, roadside rituals, and seasonal food and drink.

For now, these extracts sit within *The Art of the Drive — Autumn 2026*, as the centrepiece of the season.

Travelling Well — L'art de Voyager - The Art of Comfort and Style

Autumn rewards those who travel well. Not extravagantly, but thoughtfully.

A good flask — the kind that keeps tea hot for hours — becomes a small luxury on a cold lay-by. A warm blanket in the boot turns a roadside stop into a moment of calm. A pair of soft leather gloves makes early-morning starts feel purposeful rather than punishing. (Admittedly the F Type has a heated steering wheel!) A compact tool roll, even in a modern GT, adds a sense of assurence.

These objects are not just accessories; if we have purchased well, as they age they become companions. They appeal to the same sensibilities that draw us to GT motoring: craftsmanship, practicality, and quiet elegance.

The Small Things That Enhance Autumn Driving

Autumn rewards the driver who thinks about the small things. Not the heavy kit, not the old-fashioned spares, but the quiet comforts and courtesies that make a journey feel considered.

A microfibre or glass cloth earns its place in the car. Two are even better and I keep one for re-applying hydrophobic windscreen cleaner which makes an amazing difference in low light and dazzle or 'headlight in rain' moments.

A decent sunglasses case is part of travelling well too. Something with a little structure, a little heritage — bridle leather, stitched edges, a soft lining that protects lenses from scratches. It's the kind of accessory that feels quietly luxurious, yet entirely practical, nay essential. The 'finished' driver doesn't throw sunglasses into the door pocket; they give them a proper home.



These are small things — relatively inexpensive, thoughtful, and part of travelling well. (Seasonal note - They also make excellent Christmas presents or request items: practical, stylish, and seasonally relevant. Better than stocking fillers which make their way to landfill in January).

Travelling well is not about extravagance. It's about noticing — and remembering to enjoy — the small details that make the drive feel good.

Modern GTs — Capability Without Fuss

Modern GTs need little beyond attention. A tyre gauge, a torch, a jump pack — enough to keep the day smooth. Advanced driving skill here is about understanding the car rather than fixing it.

A driver who checks fluids before a long autumn run is not old-fashioned; they are sensible. A driver who knows their tyre load rating is not pedantic; they are prepared for the unexpected. A driver who keeps a small first-aid kit is not anxious; they are considerate.

Capability is confidence, not nostalgia.

Autumn Light — The Season of Low Sun and Clear Glass

The return to GMT is one of those British motoring markers. Modern GTs adjust their clocks without ceremony, but the driver still feels the shift: darker evenings, colder starts, and the sun sitting low enough to turn familiar roads into silhouettes.

Autumn light has its own character — long shadows in the morning, sudden glare in the afternoon, and that golden hour that seems to last all day. It's beautiful, but it asks for a little attention.

Clean glass becomes essential. Hydrophobic treatment helps — the kind that beads rain into neat silver droplets and keeps leaf-oil film from smearing across the windscreen. A good screen wash does the same; many capable drivers switch to a hydrophobic blend at this time of year.

And then there are sunglasses. Not a summer accessory, but an autumn one — the kind that cut low-angle glare and make the season's light feel crisp rather than blinding. They're part of travelling well: practical, stylish, and quietly essential.

Autumn rewards drivers who notice the small things. Light, glass, clarity — capability in its simplest form.

And on the subject of glass cleaning…

Clear Glass, Clear Shots — Autumn Photography on the Road

Autumn is one of the best seasons for photography. Low sun, long shadows, mist in the valleys, and that golden hour that seems to linger. I can't remember who first said that the best camera is the one you actually have with you — usually a mobile phone. Ten minutes pulled to a lay by and a photo record makes the journey even more memorable.

The microfibre cloth earns its place in the car at this time of year. One for the inside of the windscreen, where autumn condensation can soften the view. And one for the phone camera itself, which picks up pocket-lint and smudges just when the light is perfect.

It's a tiny thing, but it saves a dozen bleary shots.

Autumn rewards clarity: of glass, of lens, of light.

Classic GTs — Autumn's Natural Habitat

Classic GTs come alive in autumn. Engines breathe better. Cabins warm quickly. Roads quieten. A well-tuned straight-six or V8 sounds different in cold air — more resonant, more characterful.

For classics, capability includes a few extra courtesies: A spare fan belt. A torch with fresh batteries. A small roll of tape. A note of plug gaps and torque settings and a plug spanner. The difference between a managed inconvenience and a show stopper if planned for.

Not because breakdowns are expected, though obviously they happen, but because classics reward drivers who treat them as companions. Its sort of about husbanding the car along the journey.

Autumn Anecdotes — The Season's Character

The Register has collected many autumn stories over the years:

A driver who insists tea tastes better when poured from a flask in cold air. A couple who plan their autumn drives around bakeries, claiming pastries are "seasonally essential." A young reader who discovered early-morning fog on the A272 and now calls it "the closest thing to flying." A classic owner who swears his car "runs best when the leaves fall."

These moments are the art of the drive. They are the reasons we go out at all.

Capability as Pleasure

Capability and preparedness enhance enjoyment. It is not a checklist. It is the understated confidence that allows a driver to relax, savour the road, and enjoy the small rituals of motoring.

A 'finished' driver is defined not by what they carry, but by how they notice, and anticpate rather than 'react'.

Closing Thoughts — Autumn's Gift

Autumn gives us the best kind of driving: reflective, atmospheric, and quietly thrilling. Whether your GT is modern or classic, whether your toolkit is digital or analogue, the art of the drive remains the same:

A little attention. A little readiness. A little ceremony. And a great deal of enjoyment.

I hope you enjoyed this first Quarterly Edition of The Art Of The Drive.

Safe driving, and remember ‘A fine drive is not defined by distance’

Until the Winter Edition
Best regards
Lawrence

The GB GT Journal and The Register