

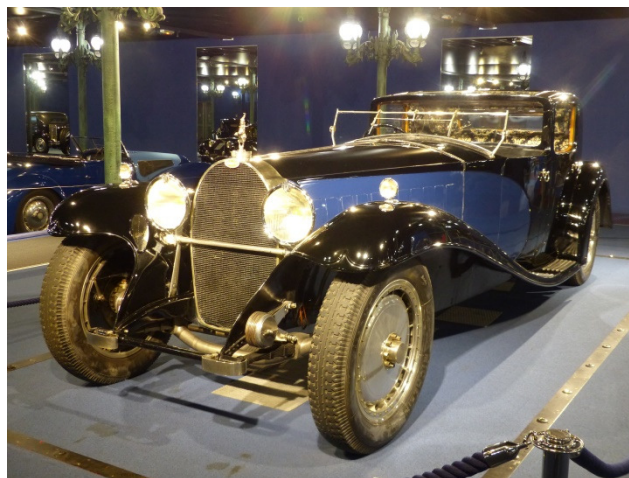


# The MGCC Pheasant Natter – 2019 Review



**A look back over the year for the Pheasant Natter and some of the highlights.**

The first of our presentation evenings took place in March after the SE Centre General Meeting. The illustrated talk was on the Schlumpf Collection in Mulhouse, France, started by the Schlumpf Brothers and abandoned in the early 1970's with the decline of wool mill trade. Taken over by the state, it is now one of the top French museums and houses an incredible collection of over 500 cars including some very historic racing cars and some amazing luxury cars from the 1930's. The Bugatti Royale in photo, one of only six in the world and two are in the collection



Also in March, the Natter Spring Dinner was held at the delightful country pub, The Wellhouse Inn, Mugswell. The dinner was supported by 25 members. Later in the month, a technical workshop was hosted by Hardy Engineering in Leatherhead on the subject of gearboxes, back axles and overdrives. Bill and Neil gave a fascinating display of stripping and rebuilding as well as demonstrating the overdrive on their test rig.



The following month there was another audio visual presentation on John and Jenny's EEOY 2018 Swiss Tour through Alsace, Black Forest, Switzerland and Lichtenstein. The tour included the Schlumpf collection visit and stunning views and villages along the way. The EEOY included three days of tours and the photo shows some of our Natter members taking a break on the Three Pass tour. The talk reflected some amusing tales as well as stories of unexpected event occurrences such as the problematic mountain drive for the second night's dinner.

In the summer we had the Pheasant BBQ held in the Walcountians RFC near Banstead, starting with a demonstration of preparing a whole lamb for BBQ by one of our members who is a master butcher. The event was supported by nearly 50 enthusiasts and was blessed with a balmy warm summer's evening. Diana Calvert and her sister Pat provide some lovely salads and desserts with Pat undertaking all the cooking on the BBQ. The BBQ is again Planned for 29th June 2020 where provisionally a half pig will be prepared.





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The regular July pub meeting hosted round two of the SE Centre Alternative PoO, an informal event with classes based on car condition rather than individual models. July also saw round 2 of the Boule match against ESMGOC friends, who were the overall winners this year.

Pub socials were held through August and September as meetings tend to be quieter. October's meeting had a presentation on the MG Factory Abingdon. John had been fortunate to have a factory visit in the late 70's and took a whole set of slides covering production lines, vehicle crash testing and amazing pictures of the massive parking lot of MGB's awaiting delivery. This was complimented by an audio visual on the factory, how it started right through to what's left now.



At the October meeting, Jon Glover from the MGCC Fairmile Natter gave an enlightening and humorous talk on his life in acting supported by photographs and videos. He has appeared in various TV programmes, voices on animated programmes, Spitting Image and acted in numerous theatre productions. He has worked with several famous actors such as Bill Nighy and Tim Piggot-Smith. He came to the meeting dressed as Mr Cholmondley-Warner as acted for the Harry Enfield comedy films. His main MG interests are MGC. He has directed plays and recently completed a production of a PG Whitehouse story in Salisbury complete with a MGCC member's P Type on stage as part of the props. (Unfortunately opening with the Novichok crisis!).

December's meeting will be the Christmas social with Christmas Quiz and hopefully a few seasonal nibbles.

The activities for 2020 are currently being planned. The BBQ date has already been selected for 29<sup>th</sup> June (it's the 5<sup>th</sup> Monday so doesn't clash with any over club meetings), an audio visual talk is planned for the Spring by a local collector of military vehicles and equipment who also owns a couple of tanks. Following the reopening of Leonardslee Gardens this year, a visit will be arranged with a lunchtime natter to see the stunning Rhododendrons and Azaleas.

To close, I urge members to try and ensure they have the dates in their diaries for the more important Natter activities such as guest speakers, audio visual talks, etc. It takes quite a lot of work to organise these evenings. Suggestions for Natter activities are welcomed!

**Wishing you a Happy Christmas and New Year – John Morgan**