

# MGCC SE Newsletter

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## MGCC SE

### April 2020 Newsletter

#### Editorial Note

We welcome to you all to the April Newsletter. Again there has been a very positive response to the new style newsletter and this edition covers events completed in the first quarter 2020. However, with events now sadly cancelled due to the Coronavirus threat our SE Newsletter will be somewhat depleted in the next quarter.

So we need your help!

Please send pictures of what you are up to with your MG either in the garage or drive with a few lines for the newsletter!

Amusing or otherwise, send it to us [raywillmg@bmail.com](mailto:raywillmg@bmail.com) and please continue to send in any news and stories for Members Corner that you wish to publish.

We understand that some members have not received the Newsletter directly. MGCC Abingdon provides the list of SE members e-mail, used for distribution, so if the newsletter is not received direct you need to update your e-mail address. This can be achieved easily at <https://www.mgcc.co.uk/membership/add-email-address/>

Alternatively you can update your details on the SE website Newsletter signup at <https://www.mgccse.co.uk/newsletter/>

Your new Newsletter Editors / Scribes and their cars

Will Opie has been a member of the MGCC SE for over 40 years owning a multitude of MG variants and currently leads the North Downs Natter.

Ray Ruffels was introduced to MG motoring whilst working for Wadham Stringers in the late 1970's and now runs several classic MGs plus a ZT-T daily driver.

April  
2020

Committee  
Notes

SE Centre  
2020

At the AGM in November, Philip Bayne-Powell stepped down as Secretary after a stint of seven years and his workload was such that we decided to pass this job on to three other Committee members! Philip also completed the work that he had started on the 2020 Calendar whilst other Committee members managed to obtain extra advertising to defray the production costs.

I took over the responsibility of chairing the Centre with the intention of helping Derek with his recovery and with the idea that we might later ask Derek to take on the new role of Centre President - a process that had been warmly welcomed by Head Office. Although this process will have to be formally ratified by a full Council Meeting at Abingdon, the Committee strongly felt that this promotion should be awarded without delay.

Our new Admin Secretary, Austin Banner, at his own house near Redhill, has kindly arranged our regular monthly meetings. Andrew Mitchell accepted overall responsibility for club Events and John Morgan took on the task of Competitions Secretary with the changing Motorsport UK rules.

The new Committee has worked hard to ensure that the prepared Calendar of Events would run smoothly with the correct permits and safety precautions in place. We little anticipated the full effects of corona virus until recently!

A prime concern of this Committee has been to find ways of better looking after our one and a half thousand South East Centre members. Every month we get a detailed analysis of our membership from Diane Calvert our Membership Secretary. We have always known that the age of our members was steadily increasing but we also know that younger members find their MGs expensive to own and run! Our Email Newsletters go from strength to strength but we are acutely aware that they cannot reach all of our membership. We are also currently trying to forge links with the Young Members Branch and recruit our new Chinese MG suppliers and owners to our cause.

The Committee has also examined their legal obligations with regard to GDPR in terms of protecting members best interests. Treasurer Tony Atcheson produces a monthly analysis for us and we organised the General Meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> to take place at the Pheasant in Buckland so that a greater number of members could view his Annual Report before the end of the Financial Year!

As you now know only too well – the urgent message from HM Government, which asked everyone to stay away from gatherings and pubs, was given that very morning. I am pleased to tell you that when the three Centre Officers met (at the approved 6 feet intervals around a large table), we were able to examine the advice of the Government and arrange for the postponement or cancellation of planned events whilst checking and signing-off the treasurers accounts. **Current advice is that none of our events for the next 12 weeks will go ahead (including Watts Gallery and Drive It Day)** but it must be noted that this advice is subject to change in the light of experience. The Committee wishes you every luck in avoiding coronavirus and look forward to meeting up with you later in the year when that becomes possible again.

Chris Leigh Vice-Chairman

April  
2020

Committee  
Notes

SE Centre  
3 month  
Calendar

An exciting Events Programme for 2020 has been agreed and was published in your **February issue of Safety Fast**. Also see the **Safety Fast South-East notes** for monthly updates and the MGCCSE web site for the full 2020 Calendar plus updates on pending and past events. **Note - Due to the Coronavirus Threat and Government policy the SE Committee has decided to cancel/postpone or postpone all events until the end of June 2020(including those in red below).**

Sunday April 5th	Valentine's Treasure Hunt	See web for details	Derek Edwards
Thursday 9th April	Fairmile Natter Speaker	The Fairmile KT11 1BW	Ian Ailes 01932 856960
Weekend 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> April	MGCC Race Meeting	Brands Hatch DA3 8NG	Main Club 01235 555552
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	MG Era Day	Brooklands Museum KT13 0QN	John Davies 01737 241971
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Talk by John Dale – my other vehicle's a T34 tank!	Pheasant Natter Buckland RH3 7BG	John Morgan 07802 770025
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Battle of Britain Spring Run	See web site for details and entry form	Ray Ruffels 07970 640219 William Opie 07768 022044
May 1-4th	Continental Rally to Guernsey	See web site for details	Derek Edwards 01737 765891
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Spring Gathering	Watts Gallery Compton GU3 1DQ	Roy Baker 077683 14226?
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Talk by Pilgrims Brewery	Pheasant Natter Buckland RH3 7BG	John Morgan 07802 770025
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Brooklands Natter Concours / POO	Brooklands Museum KT13 0QN	Danny Byrne 01932 829814
Weekend June 13/14th	MG Live S E Display	Silverstone NN12 8BN	Ian Ailes 01932 856960
Weekend 13/14 <sup>th</sup> June	Brooklands 12/12	Brooklands Museum KT13 0QN	John Davies 01737 241971
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Alternative Pride of Ownership (Round 1)	Surrey Oaks Newdigate RH5 5DZ	John Morgan 07802 770025

MG Car Club South East Centre web site – <http://www.mgccse.co.uk>

April  
2020

Committee  
Notes

Piers  
Hubbard  
Tribute



## Piers Hubbard

In recent years, Piers and Linda are known for being the founding members of the Surrey Wanderers some 23 years ago; a weekday lunchtime Natter which according to the pubs list normally starts at The Dolphin, Betchworth. This Natter concept has successfully extended into many SE Centre areas and are now some of the most active groups of members in the region.

Piers, however, was more active by far in earlier years in the South East Centre. He joined the MGCC in 1961, at about the same time as he married Linda, and they supported the local Natter at the Sugar Bowl, Burgh Heath, Surrey, now a Premier Inn and Brewers Fayre. The South East Centre then was run by Gordan and Elsie Cobban, the backbone of the Club and SE Centre at this time and Piers was invited to become Centre Treasurer in 1965. The South East Centre was much larger in the sixties, as younger centres such as Anglia and Abingdon Works had not been formed, and these areas were all part of the South East. The Centre was actively involved with MGCC Silverstone and other race meetings and Piers was involved with much of the race organisation.

Initially, Piers had a TA, which he bought in 1958, but when the family arrived, this had to be exchanged for a Y Type in 1965 and later a Z Magnette. Events such as the Beaulieu Summer Gathering became very much a family weekend from 1963 onwards.

Horror of horrors, the Magnette had to be sold and a Morris Marina was acquired in the early 70s and for three years, this was the only time in his motoring history that he didn't have an MG!

In 1975, he bought his fourth and final MG, the Iris Blue MGA that he drove absolutely everywhere with the roof down whatever the weather (some doubted it even had a hood). This is the car and Register with which Piers had been very active in recent times, including co-authoring an MGA book, being the Register Archivist, as well as being the Natter Leader for the Surrey Wanderers.





April  
2020



## Piers Hubbard

Committee  
Notes

Piers  
Hubbard  
Tribute

Piers remained active on the SE Centre Committee for many years. In 1992, Piers became main Club Treasurer when financial problems arose and he was instrumental in restoring sound finances. He also returned to race organisation in later years, when again finances were a problem, and worked closely with Ron Gammons on the MGCC Race Sub Committee until recently.

Piers also visited many overseas MG rallies and events, including USA, Canada, South Africa, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. The last big trip was to the Mid-West of the USA last summer, flying to Minneapolis and meeting MG friends to travel by road to Dubuque, Iowa, for the 44th MGA GT in North America. Piers gave two talks on some of the history of MGs. He was also a keen photographer and for many years, supplied numerous photographs of race meeting and club events to Safety Fast!

Piers will be very much missed in the South East Centre.



**Piers on a run in 2012**

## Regalia

Sue Munday our Regalia Officer has decided to step down and the committee expressed thanks for her dedicated work over the years and would now like to reach out to members to apply for this very important role. Please contact SE Secretary Austin Banner on 07850 769506 or [austin.banner@gmail.com](mailto:austin.banner@gmail.com)

## **Update from the Competition Secretary**

The first competitive event, the Spring Naviscat took place on 8<sup>th</sup> March and there is a separate report in this newsletter.

We have been informed by main club that following an announcement by Motorsport UK on the Corona Virus threat all events up to 30<sup>th</sup> June with a permit or certificate of exemption should be cancelled.

This means the Spring Trial near Maidstone on 29<sup>th</sup> March organized by the Maidstone and Mid Kent club is cancelled. For more information, contact me for information on supplementary regulations or what is involved with competing in a trial.

The Valentines Treasure Hunt has been rescheduled to 5<sup>th</sup> April is also cancelled.

The Autumn Naviscat event has been classified as a Taster Event allowing entrants either from the public or non-Motorsport UK recognised clubs such as MGOC to take part. The SE Centre is keen to promote Naviscat events and it is hoped that new entrants can be attracted from clubs other than the MGCC, Interclub Register and Black Palfrey Club that currently compete.

It should be remembered that all SE Centre events have to be organised in compliance with Motorsport UK 'Blue Book'. This stems from the MGCC being recognised/affiliated to Motorsport UK primarily for the main club racing and competition activities. This means that all SE Centre events must have either a Permit or Certificate of Exemption if none competitive (this includes Touring Assemblies, Treasure Hunts, Pride of Ownership/Concours etc, as classified within the Blue Book. These documents cover the club for compliance with the Road Traffic Act if an event has more than 12 cars, event third party insurance etc, but any road event still needs to be verified with the County Route Liaison Officer.

The only road event that requires a permit is a Naviscat. Whilst these events are non-competitive regarding road driving, entrants should verify insurance cover with the car's insurance company. Companies such as Peter Best Insurance have accepted the event is covered by standard classic car insurance, but I can provide a sample text describing the event if any entrants need to submit information. Naviscat entrant drivers and passengers will require a Motorsport UK RS Clubmans Licence available free online from Motorsport UK.

John Morgan  
Competition Secretary

April  
2020

Events

Spring  
Naviscat

March 8th  
2020



### Cars gather at the start at The Spur PH

## Spring Naviscat Report

By Philip Bayne-Powell

The Spring Naviscat started from the Spur pub at Slindon, on the A29, where entrants signed in and then selected their lunch menus. We had 13 cars entered with 9 MGs, a Morris Isis, an Audi and 2 cars from the invited Inter Register Club (IRC). The teams were warmed up with teas and coffees for the 3.5 hour rally and the question sheets, with 45 clue locations, were handed out at 11am so the teams could then plot the 6-figure map references to locate the clues!

The cars set off round the lovely South Downs National Park with beautiful views from the top of the downs where people were walking their dogs or even flying their kites. The clues were given marks from 1 to 3 depending on the difficulty of the clues or location. Team BP were hoping to get lots of 3-point clues but unfortunately had to give up on three of them; once we told at the finish where the clues were, people were kicking themselves!

The Naviscat ended at 2.30pm when the teams handed in their answers to the clues. If people were after they had one point deducted for each minute late. Those teams with more than two people on board had 10% deducted for the extra clue hunter and 15% deducted for two extra clue hunters: this system reflects that extra brains and eyes were more likely to solve the clues.

Whilst the teams stuck into their pre-ordered lunch the organisers marked the answers to the questions on the handed in sheets. Very soon after the meal John and Sally Reay, our stalwart organizers, had the results!



April  
2020

Events

Spring  
Naviscat

March 8th  
2020

Steve and Denise Cherry were the overall winners in their MGB whilst Chris and Janice Leigh won the Inter Register competition. The team of Chris and Janice (MGA Twin Cam), Peter and Simon Gray (YB) and your scribe (ND Magnette) won the IRC team prize. Rosettes were handed out to the MG club members whilst the IRC members received prizes – the MG members would get a trophy at next years Spring Luncheon with Awards.

**The overall winners – Steve & Denise Cherry**





April  
2020



## M.G.Car Club (South East Centre) Spring Navisat. Results

Events

Spring  
Navisat

March 8<sup>th</sup>  
2020

<u>Entrants</u>	<u>Car</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>IRC</u>
Stephen & Denise Cherry	MGB	34	1 <sup>st</sup> Overall	
Janina Downey & S. Manser	Audi	31	1 <sup>st</sup> Class C/D/E	
Alex Lemon & M. Chittenden	MGB	30	1 <sup>st</sup> class A/B	
Janice & Chris Leigh	MGA	27	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class C/D/E	1 <sup>st</sup>
Peter Mace & Family	Morris	24		2 <sup>nd</sup>
P. and R. Bayne-Powell	MG ND	23	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class A/B	3 <sup>rd</sup>
G. Homewood & Rose Carr	MGB	22		
A. Ducker & P. Hanna	Riley	22		4 <sup>th</sup>
A. Banner & Alison Newlyn	RV8	21	1 <sup>st</sup> Novice	
C. Cheetham & R. Garrison	MGB	19		
Bruce & Matthew Girvan	Jowett	19		5 <sup>th</sup>
P. & S. Gray & Sarah	MG YB	17		6 <sup>th</sup>

**Austin and Alison plotting their  
route - 1<sup>st</sup> Novice**



April  
2020

Local Club  
Meets

Sussex  
Wanderers  
December

## Sussex Wanderers led by David Griffiths

Wednesday 11th December heralded the Sussex Wanderers final outing of 2019 and was attended by some 64 members and their guests. The day started with coffee at the Roundabouts Hotel in West Chiltington and finished with lunch at The Spur in Slindon. The weather, although mixed, was a lot drier than the previous days and weeks, but keeping everyone on their toes, a brief but heavy shower sent everyone rushing to the car park during coffee to 'erect hoods'! Roundabouts Hotel was constructed in 1925 and looked wonderfully festive, complete with open blazing fires to greet everyone. Despite the time of year, members had turned up in a great selection of MGs. Robin Hamilton had brought his MG SV-R out for an airing. This car is number 18 of 50 and has 5 litres of 'grunt' under the bonnet and is complete with carbon fibre body panels. These cars were produced in limited numbers in the early 2000s, before the demise of MG. There were also some great examples of TCs, MGAs, MGBs, a lone MGC of Alice and Michael Baggs, MGRV8s, plus examples of Fs, TFs and MG3s. Peter Mace had forsaken his 18/80 for a Morris Isis Tourer of similar vintage - a wonderful car with great presence and which made quite a spectacle on the road!

After suitable refreshment, members left for a drive of about 27 miles, on a route devised by Clive Sayer and Andrew Ratcliffe. After leaving Roundabouts Hotel the route took drivers and navigators past The Queens Head in West Chiltington and via some Sussex lanes to Adversane. Here we crossed the A29 making for our favourite road - the A272, which took us into Wisborough Green. Here navigators were given the choice of a 'scenic route' on country lanes, via Fittleworth, Coates Castle and Barlavington or a more direct route on major roads passing through Petworth to the A285. The two routes eventually merged at Duncton, after which we continued on the A285, climbing Duncton Hill and driving through some delightful Downland scenery before reaching the ridgeline above Goodwood. Here we turned left for Eartham and Great Ballard School. This road took us to the lovely village of Slindon, and after a few twists and turns and the odd filter lane, we crossed the A29, to arrive at our lunch destination - The Spur.

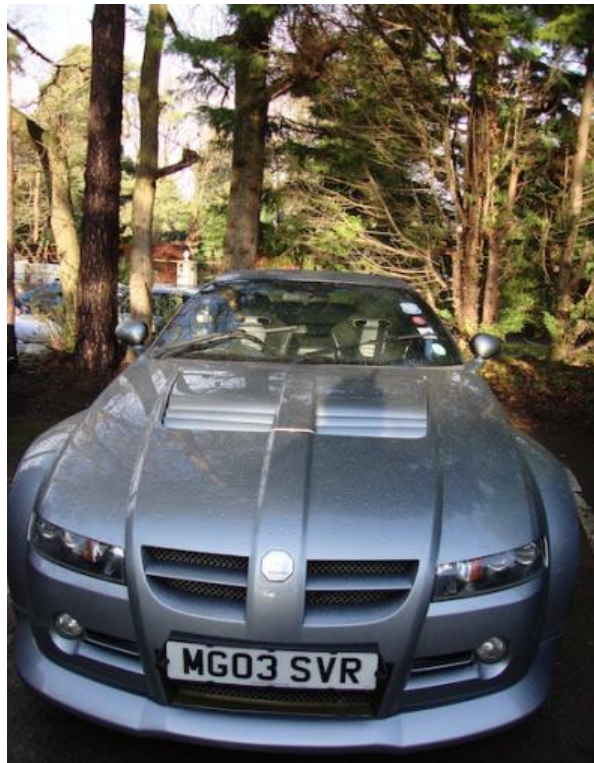
As the day progressed, the weather continued to improve and by the time everyone had arrived at The Spur for lunch, the Sun was out casting some much needed light on the wonderful display of cars. David Blackford had kindly brought his accordion along and entertained everyone with some Christmas music, to get us all into a festive mood. The kitchen team had produced some excellent meals, which were enjoyed by all and to ensure that a festive mood prevailed, many of the members and guests had donned Christmas jumpers. After lunch Keith Durston tinkled the ivories of a baby grand - apparently previously owned by Liberace - and entertained us with some excellent jazz. Roy Baker won the prize for the 'most festive' attire, and lucky winners of our monthly raffle, were Mark Galbraith, John Weakley and David Farrer-Brown. We also had a small auction of 'MG Lots' which had been kindly donated by members. The Auction raised £110.00 and thanks to the generosity of our members and guests our monthly collection for the charity Riding for the Disabled amassed £180.00. Over the year everyone has been most generous with their donations and our total for 2019 is the staggering sum of £1600.00, which will be presented to South Park Riding for the Disabled sometime in January 2020.



April  
2020

Local Club  
Meets

Sussex  
Wanderers  
December





April  
2020

Local Club  
Meets

Sussex  
Wanderers  
January

## Sussex Wanderers Presentation to Riding for the Disabled - 22.01.20

As a finale to the 2019 season, the Sussex Wanderers needed to complete a very important mission. So, on Wednesday 22nd January a small group from the club met at Little Brook Equestrian Centre, in order to present a cheque to the East Park Riding for the Disabled group. Sussex Wanderers have supported this charity since 2015, and to date have collected a magnificent £3980.00. For the last two years, the Christmas meeting has included an auction, which has helped to increase the coffers!

Although 'dull and dreary' weather and atrocious road conditions had replaced the bright and sunny days of previous weeks, several members had kindly arrived in their precious MGs to attend the presentation. These included Keith and Jenny Durston in their M type who had driven from Peaslake, Peter and Margaret Langford-Wood in their TC, Roy and Jill Baker in their RV8 and Mark Galbraith with Clive Sayer in Mark's LE 500. However, some sunshine was restored by David Griffiths, when he presented a cheque for £1600.00 on behalf of Sussex Wanderers to Sally O'Neill and James Baxter, the Chairman of East Park RDA. This cheque was for monies collected during 2019, and will help with the running costs of the group, representing approximately 10% of the monies needed by East Park RDA. Liquorice, an RDA pony with many rosettes to his name, and an equine competitor at national level in RDA shows around England, was suitably rugged up for the occasion and the photo call.

Following the presentation there was an opportunity for everyone to look around the Equestrian Centre and meet Wade, the miniature donkey who had been purchased to help those children and adults, apprehensive of bigger animals, to give them confidence and to groom him, before moving on to riding ponies. Following the presentation and photos the group was invited inside for refreshments and to warm up. After saying our 'Goodbyes' we adjourned to the Dukes Head for a late lunch - the best way to spend such a dark and dismal day - before going our separate ways to return home in the gathering gloom



April  
2020

Local Club  
Meets

Sussex  
Wanderers  
January



April  
2020

## Sussex Wanderers

Wednesday 11th March 2020

Local Club  
Meets

Sussex  
Wanderers  
March

Amidst the Coronavirus worries and the very wet start to 2020, Sussex Wanderers kicked off the 2020 season with a 'luncheon only' meet on Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup>. Despite the atrocious weather conditions we had all encountered earlier in the year the day remained dry and even sunny at times - hopefully a good omen for the remainder of our outings in 2020. Lunch took place at The Blacksmiths Arms, Adversane and it was good to see that a number of the members had taken advantage of the dry weather to give their MGs an airing. There was an excellent selection of T types, MGA/B/Cs, RV8s, Fs and TFs, to tempt the onlooker. In addition to the MGs a number of other marques were represented, where owners still had their MGs in winter hibernation.

The Blacksmiths Arms is a traditional English pub, with an Italian theme to the restaurant. The day had proved popular and a total of 54 folk arrived for drinks, before sitting down to a delicious lunch comprising dishes such as Tricolore, Spignola and Saltimbocca. Accompanying the lunch, there was plenty of talk on a wide variety of topics from potholes to possible travel (club restrictions) due to the current virus situation.

Our charity collection, which is in aid of Riding for the Disabled raised an amazing £160.00, which is a great start to the year and many thanks to everyone for contributing so generously. The monthly raffle, which has become a feature of the Sussex Wanderers outings, was won by John Weakley and Bob Zannetti.

Subject to restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus, our programme for 2020 will continue apace, with lunch at Chichester Yacht Club in May, a visit to Robin Lawton's garage in June, a sortie into East Sussex in July and August will be barbecue time at The White Horse in Maplehurst. The latter part of the year has yet to be finalised, apart from October, when we will be visiting Parham House.

Anyone interested in joining Sussex Wanderers should contact David Griffiths - email: [dr.gjazz1@timetalk.co.uk](mailto:dr.gjazz1@timetalk.co.uk) or phone: 01403 264548.

David Griffiths.





April  
2020

Local Club  
Meets

Sussex  
Wanderers  
March



## Surrey Wanderers – Led by Su Joel

Our first meeting of the New Year was on January 15<sup>th</sup>, which was a little early in the month to get organised following the sad loss of Piers Hubbard, who had led our group for over 20 years and pioneered the first Wanderers Group in the South East Region (the photo below is Piers and arriving at 2019 Autumn Gathering. However, we met for lunch, at The Bletchingley Arms, foregoing the coffee and run. Although the weather was better than the preceding few days, only one MG (an F) turned out – hence no photo. The other 25 participants used their modern cars.

In February, despite storm Denis causing havoc, we met for coffee at Denbies Vineyard near Dorking on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The 21mile route had been changed the day before, because of flooding, from our usual narrow roads, to use mainly A and B roads. Although the roads were clear, there was a lot of debris at the sides and in places the road edges had been washed away. But we all made it through. Many thanks to Mike and Penny L for their hard work. 36 members arrived at The Parrott at Forest Green (again, mostly modern cars, with only a brave B this





April  
2020

Local Club  
Meets

East Kent  
Wanderers

### **East Kent Wanderers 4/3/20 - Leader John Bennett**

Our final East Kent Wander before the Corona Lockdown was very ably arranged for the first time by Ray and Jenny Pilbeam and started with coffees at the pretty Waterside Cafe in Hawkhurst.

I felt very awkward reminding such an amiable group of friends that they could no longer be allowed to hug, kiss and shake hands for the foreseeable future!

On a personal note, I have constantly told everyone for the past twenty years how rare the MGA twin cams are only to be astonished to find that another very local MGCC member (who had owned two more twin cams for much longer) had also arrived with the group. An amazing day!

Twenty seven members set off on a short 25-mile route on beautifully selected smaller roads to find Bloomsburys Restaurant at Biddenden for an excellent meal. Thank you Ray and Jenny!

It was a memorable day for us all and it may now be some time before we are able to meet up again - who can tell? We just have to do our best to dodge the dreaded virus and keep well...

Chris Leigh





April  
2020

Members  
Corner

MG &  
Triumph  
Spares  
Show

## The MG & Triumph Spares Show - Will Opie

In spite of Storm Ciara, your Newsletter editors, plus Michael all from the North Downs Natter made the 180 mile trip from Kent to Stoneleigh Park to the International MG & Triumph Spares Day.

There were over 200 cars on display, 7000 attendees with many stands packed into 3 halls which kept us busy!

Several of the MGCC Registers were "flying the flag" including the Midget, Z, B and F registers with excellent displays. Of course there was also the "unmentionables" our friends from the Triumph fraternity!

Several hours later after lunch ---

Michael was searching for the very elusive brake master cylinder of the twin cam type for his Deluxe. Sadly no success, but contacts made, but he found a really nice tax disc holder for the TC.

Ray had a very interesting day out focusing on MGA parts, MG automotive books, memorabilia and a photo record of the day

My search was mainly for MMM parts for a PA. Collecting some prearranged, dropping off instruments for restoration and finding sources of parts being made. There was also a good MG Car Club MMM stand with an excellent display.

We had biblical rain coming home so exhausted after the drive but pleased we went! If you get a chance next year go for it.



**Alternative use for an MGB GT**

April  
2020

Members  
Corner

MG &  
Triumph  
Spares  
Show

## The MG & Triumph Spares Show

Pictures Ray Ruffels







## Lapel badges - what to do with so many

By Philip Bayne-Powell

Lapel badges for all sorts of motoring events are regularly handed out, so that one ends up with too many to put on your driving hat – as many people do. Also one can only wear a couple on one's lapel at one time, so what to do with all these badges?

I have therefore made up a display using silk ribbon to hang on the wall, which ensures that the badges are on regular display, even if they are just in the home.

Some badges can be quite heavy and can tear the ribbon, so the back of the ribbon needs to be reinforced with gaffer tape or similar. Hopefully the photo below will give the idea.





April  
2020

Members  
Corner

Wartime  
Activities

### “MG Wartime Activities” booklet

Edited by Colin Grant

Submitted by Philip Bayne-Powell



This booklet is all about what the MG Car Company got up to during the war and was written by someone just after the war had finished. The author was there, although his name is unknown. The book was titled “War Time Activities of the MG Car Company, Abingdon on Thames”. It is reproduced in its entirety and is a fascinating read, so much so that I almost read it from cover to cover.

It starts off with the clearing from the works of all the motor car producing equipment and finding a storage building to take them. This was done very quickly and the works were idle for some time before orders from the ministry came in, which was for overhauling light armoured track vehicles, followed by aeroplane work. This latter was a game changer for a motor car manufacture as aircraft manufacture is very precise and so the workers had to quickly adapt to the new technique. To cope with this new work they set up a new Press Shop as well as a new Machine Shop, as well as establishing new and tougher inspection processes to satisfy the Aeronautical Inspection Directorate.

New ways of doing things quicker and better were worked out by an enthusiasts company and some of their methods were adopted by other firms building aircraft and tanks. For example, special testing apparatus was developed to test all the electrical wiring of the Albemarle bomber on completion from one unit, saving a huge amount of time. What comes across is the sheer inventiveness of the firm to overcome all sorts of new problems associated with a completely different form of manufacturing. This booklet gives us a rare insight into the enthusiasm and adaptability that existed in the MG Car Company. This competence had been developed in the previous decade, and following the end on the war, was an experience that came in useful in the subsequent years.

One of the many problems was to train up new workers, many of whom were women so as to help the experienced workers concentrate on the more difficult jobs. Also there was a dedicated team of people chasing up materials to ensure that work wouldn't be held up for want of some item, one instance was of chasing up material in the depth of a winter's night, with serious snow eventually overcoming the vehicle; they then had to stay on a cold Police Station until early morning with local help they got the car going and reached the factory with 30 minutes to spare!

Another little story, which abounds in this magical book, is when the tanks were out on the testing ground they were bombed – by our own aircraft – with flour bombs!! This was an example of two different organisations testing at once!

I can highly recommend this booklet which is available from the MG Car Club shop for the measly price of £10

April  
2020

Regalia

## Regalia

The following merchandise is available:

Sweatshirt	£21
Polo Shirt	£16
Umbrellas	£21
Tee-Shirts	£11.50
Baseball Caps	£8
Beer Glasses	£2.50
Beer Glasses (Pair)	£4
Windscreen Stickers	£1.60
MGCC Pens (red or blue)	£3.50 (Special Offer)
MGCCSE Mugs	£5



We are now able to take payment for regalia by PayPal, if you wish to make a purchase please contact Sue Munday via email, ([mundaysusan@hotmail.com](mailto:mundaysusan@hotmail.com)).

For a limited time only we are offering a special price on the T Shirts, normally £11.50, now only £9. Sizes available, large & ex-large. We are also discounting the display cards to show off your model cars, normally £1, now only 50p.

If we do not have your size or colour of clothing in stock we will be happy to order this for you.

For Sale

5 Bearing early MGB engine for sale running fine when removed from car  
Contact Will Opie on 07768 022044

## **SE CENTRE COMMITTEE AND CONTACTS**

Chairman	Derek Edwards	01737 765891 <a href="mailto:edwards.mgmadness@ntlworld.com">edwards.mgmadness@ntlworld.com</a>
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## **Natter Leaders**

Queen's Head Pinner	Gerry Edwards	07768 657797 <a href="mailto:pinnermgnatter@live.co.uk">pinnermgnatter@live.co.uk</a>
The Ship, Mortlake & Brooklands Museum	Danny Byrne	01932 829814 <a href="mailto:dannybyrne@talktalk.net">dannybyrne@talktalk.net</a>
The Pheasant, Betchworth	John Morgan	0208 6572714 <a href="mailto:johnv.morgan@btinternet.com">johnv.morgan@btinternet.com</a>
The Fairmile, nr Cobham	Ian Ailes & John Glover	01932 856960 <a href="mailto:iailes@as-r.co.uk">iailes@as-r.co.uk</a> 07802 770025 <a href="mailto:jongloveractor@gmail.com">jongloveractor@gmail.com</a>
George & Dragon, Speldhurst	Grahame White	01892 654591 <a href="mailto:pgwhitemg@gmail.com">pgwhitemg@gmail.com</a>
Plough, Stalisfield	William Opie	01795 521846 <a href="mailto:willopie@aim.com">willopie@aim.com</a>
The George Inn, Trottiscliffe	Ian Russell	0208 304 1037 <a href="mailto:mgashnatter@gmail.com">mgashnatter@gmail.com</a>
The Black Horse, Nuthurst	David Griffiths	01403 264548 <a href="mailto:dr.gjazz1@timetalk.co.uk">dr.gjazz1@timetalk.co.uk</a>
The Golden Lion Broad Oak, Canterbury	John Clark Dave Smith	07940 769225 <a href="mailto:cmgow.sec@gmail.com">cmgow.sec@gmail.com</a> 07879 015525
The British Queen, Lower Willingdon & Boship (Lions) Farm Hotel Hailsham	Dennis Webb	07885 485255 <a href="mailto:dcmotorseastbourne@msn.com">dcmotorseastbourne@msn.com</a>



## **Various locations**

Ashdown Adventurers	Richard Clark	07818 420921	<a href="mailto:ricky140clark@btinternet.com">ricky140clark@btinternet.com</a>
Sussex Wanderers	David Griffiths	01403 264548	<a href="mailto:dr.gjazz1@timetalk.co.uk">dr.gjazz1@timetalk.co.uk</a>
Surrey Wanderers	Su Joel	0208 660 7266	<a href="mailto:sujoel1@gmail.com">sujoel1@gmail.com</a>
East Kent Wanderers	John Bennett	01227 637813	<a href="mailto:johnbennett698@yahoo.com">johnbennett698@yahoo.com</a>
Kent Nomads	Ian Russell	0208 304 1037	<a href="mailto:mgashnatter@gmail.com">mgashnatter@gmail.com</a>

MG Car Club South east centre web site – <http://www.mgccse.co.uk>

Register Office: Kimber House, PO Box 251, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1FF

Phone: 01235 555552, Fax: 01235 533755, email: [mgcc@mgcc.co.uk](mailto:mgcc@mgcc.co.uk)

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