

MGCC SE Newsletter

Contents Page

Editorial Comment	1
Committee Notes	2
Events	10
Local Club Meets	14
Members Corner	22
Regalia	28
Contacts	29

MGCC SE

April 2021 Newsletter

Editorial Note

We welcome you to the April Newsletter as we move slowly out of lockdown and hopefully a good rest of season for MG motoring. This edition covers the first quarter 21 and expectations for following six months of 2021. Importantly, the SE Centre AGM is reviewed on page 8 and with the Government Lockdown Lifting plan, 2021 event planning has been reviewed - see Pages 3 to 6 for details.

We also provide an update of SE activity under lockdown restrictions. from virtual meetings / virtual competitions / road runs to members MG activity in their garage/s, drives and gardens! Amusing or otherwise please continue to send in further MG news and stories for the next newsletter to raywillmg@gmail.com

Your 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 – pictured below left.

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 – below right.



April
2021

Committee
Notes

Chairman's
Report

Message from the Chairman - Chris Leigh

I remember that twelve months ago on 1st April 2020 we took part in the first of John Bennett's virtual Kentish rallies and did it in style in unbroken sunshine, with plenty of lubrication, in the back garden! My congratulations to John and the many other Natter and Wander leaders who have done so much to keep the South East membership ticking over during the difficult Covid restrictions.

Today the future looks astonishingly bright and the government's roadmap out of lockdown has enabled us to start planning real MG events once again. Contact with many furloughed establishments is still challenging but your committee has been working hard on this too. It is true that certain recommendations will remain in place for a while with more limited numbers at events from April and with regard to face masks and social distancing but we can at last begin the return to more normal MG business!

Due to our link with Motor Sport UK, the MGCCSE are once again able to organise fully Covid-compliant events before the 21st June deadline. Events have already been planned by many Natter and Wander leaders and more major events are also being organised.

With the changing Covid restrictions we need to get new information to you more quickly than the lead-times for Safety Fast and our email Newsletter can provide. Tim Morris and John Gallop joined our committee during the past year with the intention of implementing a more user-friendly set of MGCCSE Web and Social Media Sites which can provide the latest information about all of our activities and events (together with reports and photos of past events). Simply tap **MGCCSE.co.uk** into your computer or mobile phone and look for **Events**.

We are well aware that many older members might need a little "IT help" to use this service. This is my plea to you all: **You** can help the club by passing information and Entry Forms to our very experienced and enthusiastic older members who are not able to help themselves.

Remember "MG is The Marque of Friendship!"

News Alert

.....
Trouble at t'mill (Abingdon HQ)

The MGCC is a club run by members for members but it also has a headquarters in Abingdon, a few full-time staff and a small limited company.

At a recently Zoom Special Council meeting called by a number of CRBs, a vote of no confidence in the Executive Committee was asked for, mainly in connection with MGCC Abingdon staff issues and decisions that had been made. This motion was duly passed. An Extraordinary General Meeting will be called and this will be advertised to all members in Safety Fast.

The South East Centre Committee is keeping a keen eye on any developments and will always continue to protect our members' interests.

Chris Leigh Chairman - South East Centre

South East Centre 2021 Events and Competition – John Morgan

The SE Centre outline of planned events for 2021 has been reviewed following publication of the Government's Lockdown Lifting Roadmap. All restrictions are currently due to be lifted on June 21st with important intermediary steps on April 12th and May 17th. In brief, the main roadmap criteria for MGCC events is that from April 12th people can meet outdoors in groups no bigger than 6 people or two households and from May 17th the limit is raised to a maximum group size of 30 outdoors and no more than six people or two households indoors.

These new lockdown restrictions along with Motorsport UK Guidance will allow MGCC SE Centre to start planning some COVID 19 compliant events in April through to June when normal activities can resume. Initially these COVID 19 compliant events will be organized regionally and largely coordinated via the local meetings, Natters and Wanderer Groups, do keep in contact with your local coordinator. These events will be similar in format to last Autumn's events.

In the planning stages are the following activities and events:

- **Drive It Day Run on Saturday 24 April** following a Regency Run type route starting at Denbies Wine Estate, Nr Dorking, Surrey and finishing just outside Rottingdean, East Sussex using mainly B or C. roads. Those participating would be free to enjoy the coast, Rottingdean village, South Downs etc but using public parking following Covid 19 regulations and social distancing.

The event will be fully Covid-19 compliant in accordance with UK Governments Regulations and Motorsport UK Guidance. Registration will use the same online format as that used for the Autumn Events last year. The entry fee will include a donation to the FHBVC sponsored Charity NSPCC Childline. See Flyer – Page 6



- **A Spring Run on Sunday May 23** finishing at Leonardslee Lake and Gardens to see the spectacular rhododendrons and azaleas that floods the gardens (see above) and lakes in colour, this is the best time of year to see it.

April
2021

- **A MGC Car display at Brooklands in June, dates to be confirmed**
- **There will be another run and gathering at a museum in West Sussex in July, replacing the Windmill tour originally planned, which is now postponed until 2022.**

Committee
Notes

Other dates and events will be released once further planning has been undertaken. Check the website and Facebook pages for information on these events along with entry details and finalized information.

Competition
and Event
Update

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, the SE Centre is keen to start some competitive events in participation with other motoring clubs in the SE. The type of events was summarized in the last Newsletter and all are none car damaging. Please contact ne John Morgan Competition Secretary if you would like more information or confirm and interest to take part/have-a-go.

John Morgan - Competition Secretary

Johnv.morgan@btinternet.com or give me a call on 07802 770025

April
2021

Committee
Notes

Provisional
SE Centre
Calendar
Summary
Next 6
Months
2021

See Safety Fast South-East notes for monthly updates, Social Media and the MGCCSE web site for information on planned events plus updates on past events. Due to the on-going Covid 19 Government Lockdown Lifting Plan all events could be subject to change so keep up-to-date via contact with your local Natter and Wanderers leader/s and via the South Eastern Centre web site at - <http://www.mgccse.co.uk>.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Saturday April 24th	Drive It Day See Page 6	Denbies Wine Estate to Rottingdean	John Morgan 07802 770025 or see mgccse web site
April 24/25th	MGCC Racing	Brands Hatch	MGCC
Sunday 23rd May	Spring Run	To Leonardslee Lake and Gardens	John Morgan 07802 770025 or see mgccse web site
June 12/13th TBC	MGCC Car Display	Brooklands Museum KT13 0QN	Fairmile Natter
July 4 th TBC	Alternative Poo 1	Surrey Oaks, Newdigate	John Morgan 07802 770025
July 8 th TBC	Alternative Poo 2	Fairmile Pub, Cobham KT11 1BW	John Morgan 07802 770025
July 19 th TBC	Alternative Poo 3	The Pheasant Betchworth RH3 7BG	John Morgan 07802 770025
Sunday August 1st	Brooklands Autojumble &. Classic Car Show	Brooklands KT13 0QN	TBC
Sunday Sept 5th	Shere Hill Climb	Staple Lane Nr Guildford GU4 7RL	MGCCSE
Sept 26 th	Production Car Trial	Near Maidstone	John Morgan 07802 770025
Sept 29th	Autumn Gathering	Lullingstone Castle, Dartdord DA4 0JA	Andrew Philips andrewmgfvvc@gmail.com

April
2021

Committee
Notes

(Day
Before)
Drive it Day
Charity Run
Flier



South East Centre Drive-it Day Charity Run SATURDAY 24th APRIL 2021 Dorking to Rottingdean, E Sussex



The first Run of the season is in support of the FBHVC Drive-it Day Charity Run on Saturday 24th April (day before official day) organised in compliance with Government's Covid-19 restrictions and Motorsport UK Events Guidance. The sponsored charity is NSPCC childline



The event starts at Denbies Wine Estate near Dorking, Surrey and finishes just outside Rottingdean Village.

The run will be approximately 45 miles, mainly on B or C secondary roads. Coffee and toilet facilities will be available at the start followed by a run through scenic countryside in Surrey and East Sussex.

At the end of the run, it concludes with a drive through check point allowing entrants to then choose their own activity be it coastal walk, site seeing or visiting Rottingdean Village and the adjacent Beacon Hill Nature Reserve and windmill with fine views across the South Downs.

The event is initially open to members of the MG Car Club and driver/passengers must be resident in the same household or Bubble. All entrants must remember that the 'Rule of Six' will apply and for this reason no end gathering is planned. There will not be any toilet facilities at the drive through checkpoint. **There will be no entering on the day for the event**, with entry being managed pre-event electronically by completion of registration forms/signing-on form and receipt by the club of entry fees. To enter, please confirm interest as detailed at the bottom of the flyer to start process of registration, etc. either by sending an email or returning the entry slip. The event is limited to 60 cars, so an early response is advised.



MGCC event entry will be £12.50 (of which 60% will be a charity donation) per car including the charity donation. Car run from Denbies starts at 10.30 with the start being phased to avoid congestion, duration of the run will be approximately 1.5 to 2 hours. Information and guide to Rottingdean Village can be found on <http://www.rottingdeanvillage.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/53840-RV-Leaflet-WEB.pdf>

Please reply to John Morgan to confirm your interest in taking part on johnv.morgan@btinternet.com. This can be simply forwarding the information requested by email and John Morgan can be contacted on 07802 770025 Event participation is only confirmed once the registration forms completed and payment received by MGCC. FBHVC Charity Rally plates can be purchased from <http://www.driveitday.co.uk/shop> for £10.00

Name: Home Tel No: Mobile Tel No:
e-mail: MGCC membership No
Address:

April
2021

Committee
Notes

Web &
Social
Media

South East on the Web – Tim Morris

You will probably be aware that the MGCCSE has a significant presence on the web, aren't you? If this is news to you then you might like to begin with our website at www.mgccse.co.uk and explore this ever-growing resource. It is here that you will find details of any events coming up including any application forms which need to be downloaded or how to book online. You'll also find all the latest updates from the Centre itself and any other matters of interest. There is an archive of the email newsletters – so if you missed on then you'll be able to find it here and e feature reports and results for events that take place. You'll also find out how to contact any committee member or natter/wanderer leader. On the subject of communications if you check the website you will find that all the committee and natter/wanderer leaders have mgccse.co.uk email addresses to make it easier to find them – for instance the chairman is now chair@mgccse.co.uk and the secretary is secretary@mgccse.co.uk. You will find all those addresses on the website. To sum the website up, it is our window on the World and quite often the first port of call for anyone trying to find more about MGs in the South East.



The next port of call is one our Facebook pages – the main public one is @mgccse and it is where posts meant for the wider world are to be found, there is no restriction on entry to the page. The second is our mgccse chat group which is a bit more informal and allows you to make your own posts and start your own conversations – you can access that from the main page but you'll have to answer a couple of questions first to be accepted so that we know you are real! It's a quick and easy way to find out what is happening as any new posts/ events etc will come up in your own facebook feed. I would recommend liking both pages as then you'll get two notifications so won't miss anything!

We also have a presence on Twitter and Instagram where we post snippets and pictures and we hope to be using these much more once we are able to get some actual physical events under way.

The rule on any platform to find us is just search for **mgccse** and we'll be there.

April
2021

Committee
Notes

Social
Media

News

You can find all our Social Media pages here:

Website: www.mgccse.co.uk

Facebook Cover: <https://www.facebook.com/mgccse>

Facebook Group Chat: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/259127225161827>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mgccse>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mgccse/>

The law regarding retrofitting of LEDs into Classic/Historic car headlights

This is the statement from Holdens:

‘As of the 11th January 2021, the MOT law changed, and you are no longer able to put an LED bulb into a standard light unit’.

The main reason for this rule change is because LED bulbs are not designed to be used in standard light units and the beam pattern will dazzle oncoming drivers. Because of this new rule change classic car enthusiasts have been searching for a new alternative.

The Wipac LED light units are designed to replace any existing 7-inch headlight, for example, Land Rover Defender, Classic Mini, and many other classic vehicles. The quality of these LED headlights is unrivaled and Wipac has invested heavily in time and components to ensure that these are the best on the market.’

I know of several owners that have installed LED elements in headlights which if Holdens are correct is now illegal

John Morgan

April
2021

Committee
Notes

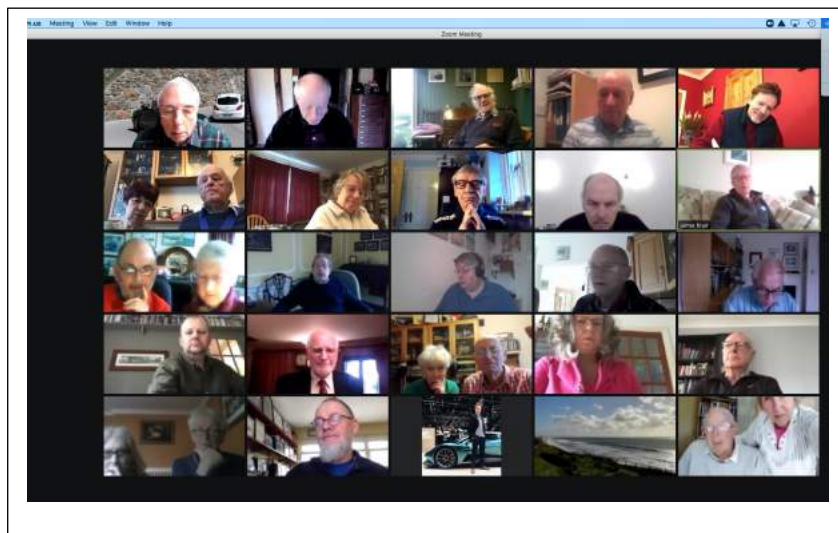
AGM

MGCCSE AGM

The MGCCSE AGM took place online “virtually” on Saturday 30 January. It was a very successful event staged via Business Zoom with 36 members attending including all of the Committee, most Wanderers and Natter leaders and many members!

Our Chairman Chris Leigh welcomed everyone and remarked that 2020, despite the pandemic, in many respects was a successful year with dramatic improvements in Centre communications, use of technology and management resources.

Chris and Secretary Austin Banner and committee members presented their reports and reviewed the last year. Our Treasurer Tony Atcheson presented the club accounts online which showed the club is financially secure despite a year with virtually no events and that membership has only dipped slightly after nearly a year of Covid. Tony has decided to stand down but will continue until a new Treasurer is found; volunteers for this important role please contact Austin Banner at austin.banner@gmail.com



Most of club management is now performed online and Austin highlighted in the last year there has been 17 virtual (Zoom) committee meetings, 9 Natter/Wanderers leaders meetings planning and shaping the future of the SE Centre and creating a full calendar of events for 2021. The committee now has more experience of organising and running Covid-19 compliant events than any other Centre in the country, thanks largely to the influence of our Comps Secretary, John Morgan.

Importantly our SE website is now the most important dynamic communication channel to members supported by Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and the monthly Safety Fast notes.

Our new President Derek Edwards was formally endorsed and elections took place on our 2021 club officers and committee members and all were agreed by online voting with no objections! You can see full details of your club officers and committee, reports and events calendar on www.mgccse.co.uk

By Ray Ruffels

April
2021

Events

Google
Hunt

Sunday 28
March
2021

Google Hunt – Tim Morris

You may be asking what is a Google Hunt? The answer is that it is one of things we've come up with that we can do from the comfort of our front rooms during a pandemic. The Internet has been a great help keeping our groups together during the lockdowns with natters and quizzes on zoom or similar. A step further is the Google Hunt – using the search engine's Streetview feature we can wander around a town or village looking for the answers to a series of clues – just like a real walking treasure hunt.

The MGs were parked up on the forecourt of Merstham station and the clues sent out at the allotted hour. Once all the hunters had received them and most of us assembled (not quite all bearing in mind it was the morning of the clock changes!) the clock was set and the hour long virtual hunt began.



The clues related to answers that could be found by looking around on Streetview although there were some cunning variations to simply swiveling around and getting dizzy. Some of the answers were to be found in the past but you needed to be aware of a special feature of Google to be able to time hop. As Streetview has been going for a number of years the images are updated and you can view the same scene sometimes going back ten years or more – it is amazing how different some locations are even in a small village like Merstham. The other trick is to click on the information icon for a premises – for instance to get the answer to how much Maggie's Special at Hunger's End café would cost you needed to find the menu which is on a picture in the information box - £4.50, a bargain!

Clues were relatively straightforward and included the shadow for a Google cameraman walking with a backpack and a lorry on the M25 with a name almost the same as a popular sandwich (B.T.L.). Sometimes the hunters observational skills were tested as the pictures are not always high definition – the email skydiveholland@hotmail.co.uk was in small letters on the door of a van parked on the A23 bridge over the M25 – the answer to the question of whose email address it is was Antech Autos. Quite what it had to a car repair company I am not sure!

April
2021

Events

Google
Hunt

Sunday 28
March
2021



The hour was all too soon up and it was time for the answers and accompanying groans and whoops from the hunters as they were all live on Zoom as the answers revealed. That left us with the final result and as in all good game shows the top three in reverse order werein third place.....**Mark Galbraith**.....in second place.....**Gerry & Christine Edwards**.....and the winners were..... **Faz & Oli Kirkpatrick**. Congratulations to them and all those who took part, you'll find the full results below and on the MGCCSE website. Look out for the next one soon!

		Points.	Place
Kirkpatrick	Faz & Oli	21	1
Edwards	Gerry & Christine	18	2
Galbraith	Mark	17	3
Gray	Paul & Donna	16	4=
Bridgman	Paul	16	4=
Lemon	Alex	15	6
Leigh	Chris & Janice	13	7
Wooster	Wendy	10	8
Chittenden	Mike	9	9
Morgan	John & Jenny	9	10
Bayne Powell	Philip & Rosemary	7	11

April
2021

Events

Valentines
Photo
Competition

Valentines Photo Competition by Tim Morris/John Bennett



This year we were not able to hold our traditional Valentine's Treasure Hunt so instead, we thought you might like to show us how much you love your MG? The Valentine's Photo Competition was easy to enter by sending a picture of your MG by email and show us how much you love it! There are few rules so let your imagination wander – photo manipulation was allowed or perhaps you simply want to show your MG with yourself and/or your other loved ones in a lovely setting – be inspired by Aphrodite, the goddess of love!

Our independent judge, Denise Smith studied all the entries and made her choice which can be seen below with her comments about the 3 winning photos. Congratulations go to the overall winners – **George & Geraldine Homewood** with their loved-up picture of their MGB roadster in the snow. **John Morgan** was second with a wonderful image of an MG Midget and **Jon Glover** third. Thank you to all those who took part in this light-hearted Valentine's competition. See all photos on www.mgccse.co.uk



1st Place

George & Geraldine Homewood

"It's the colours in this image that make it so good – blue and red offer great contrast on the white background. Someone's gone to a lot of trouble to dress the car up to show how they feel; a great deal of love going on here."

April
2021

Events

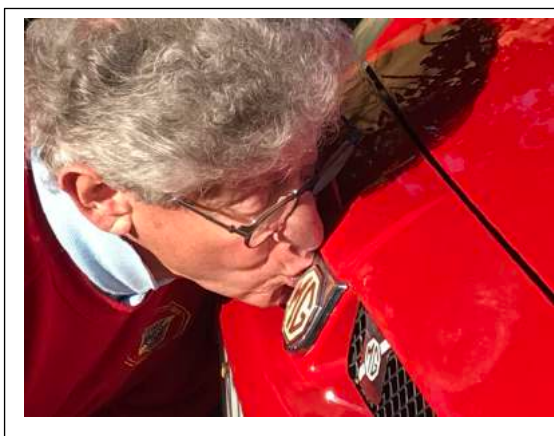
Valentines
Photo
Competition



2nd Place

John Morgan

"A thoroughly understated image, this is all about the car. It fills the frame so there are no distractions. In addition, the wording in the banner, together with its adoring owner makes the "love" element edgy with a hint of danger!"



3rd Place

Jon Glover

"This is a great close up, pulled tightly in so there's no distraction from outside elements. This also gives equal billing to both car and person. Having a limited colour range works really well (red car and jumper)."



Highly Commended

John Bennett

"Simple, yet thoughtful. Great verse, but how on earth did you get such a perfect heart?"



Highly Commended

Jamie Blair

"I just loved the sense of humour of this – the saucy verse and lifting of the "skirt". Such a great idea."

April
2021

Local Club
Meets

Fairmile
Natter in
Lockdown

Fairmile Natter in Lockdown - Winter 2021.

You don't need me to tell you how it is!

We can't meet for our monthly pint and a budget steak in our favourite MG friendly Pub on The Portsmouth Road, Cobham. There wasn't our usual January Christmas meal – that isn't a Christmas meal attended by at least 40 and the most likely night of the year to be joined by the ladies.

In the old days – last year – we would have been into our talks and films part of the calendar by now. Its small consolation meeting – as we do – in the virtual world of Zoom , as that's a reminder that we are no longer able to pop into the old jalopy and ZOOM up to the pub to meet our mates .

Zoom is something rather than nothing and a chance to see other Members living quarters and admire their décor. But I personally find one aspect of the little heads and shoulders in squares experience rather wearing.

Around our reality Fairmile Pub table, A would be talking to B about the wiring on his MG while masticating his Budget Steak! C . is listening intently, while his chips get cold, as he has the same type and the same problem. D is within earshot and thinks he heard A and B have this discussion last month? And besides, he has another type and so isn't remotely interested. But D spots E, who always eats before he comes to the Pub is standing by the bar E has bought with him some interesting looking MG magazines so D makes his excuses and joins E.

No offence taken all parties are happy.

That ain't how it is on Zoom! If A and B start their wiring conversation around our virtual Zoom table there is no virtual Zoom Bar for D to escape to as he's stuck in his little box wearing a polite smile.

Some other letters of the Alphabet have been known to leave their screen, catch up on work, send a few texts, deal with that annoying hang nail, take an Amazon delivery or even keep an eye on 'Death in Paradise'!

Certainly no one offers you a drink!



April
2021

Local Club
Meets

Fairmile
Natter in
Lockdown

Having spent many years as a Professional Satirist, I couldn't resist the above which has no basis in truth whatsoever – oh no! BUT it does have some relevance in that Ian – aptly named – Ailes, my fellow Pub Meet organizer did have a light bulb moment at the start of the year.

'Lets get some speakers to join us on Zoom, that's what we do at this time of year in normal times

He even fixed up his V8, pal, Peter Beadle for our February Meeting and jolly fascinating he was too!

Double our normal number of Members joined – 20 including guests Colin Howe – Chair of The C Register and Vic Young – C Register Technical adviser. They travelled virtually from The Midlands and Old Coulsdon respectively to be with us.



Why?

Well they both have a connection to Mr Beadle, who was Parts Manager at University Motors (UM) Epsom during the Seventies. Mr Young knew Mr Beadle back then and found him an invaluable source of parts. Mr Howe consulted Mr Beadle lately during his recent renovation of a University Motors Special MGC GT .

Peter led us through his incredible career, from his start as a 'Saturday Boy ' at UM eventually being taken on full time after completing his Engineering qualifications.

Its clear that from those early days Petes 'Thing' has been parts, through the Saturdays at Epsom when enthusiasts used to queue at the Parts Department for ' do it yourself ' BMC bits, all of which Peter could quote part numbers for from memory – and still can!

His personal run about, a heavily modified White Cooper S Spec Mini Pick Up. The dreadful paint jobs on BMC products from the factory. The UM Special MGC GT's, based on the last 200 of the breed, where you could order anything you fancied to make your 3 litre stand out from the crowd. From Vinyl Roof or special colour to the Downton trained mechanics at UM Hanwell fitting that little Wiltshire Factories' miracle bits to get you into even more trouble than the standard car.

April
2021

Local Club
Meets

Fairmile
Natter in
Lockdown



Colin Howes' newly restored Special was even ordered with rectangular headlights see above! Incidentally it was John Davies, SEC Committee Member, who was E at the Bar with interesting Magazines on this occasion. In this case an early copy of 'MG Enthusiast', featuring a Centre Fold of Colin Howes' present baby in another life! All the Specials sported the Historic UM badge with its Oxbridge crests denoting the company's origins as THE supplier of Motor Cars to the well healed student.

Happy days for Beadle – BUT –

The writing on the wall when BMC became B1 and Pete replaced the horrid new badges with specially sourced BMC ones. A move to The Sprite and Midget Centre in Richmond later Moss Europe and all the machinations in between.

And to today.

Peter is happily living in Gloucester and involved in yet another very special parts company, Auto Restoration Bolting (ARB) whose motto is 'Holding The Classic Car Industry Together'.

Demonstrating Peters assertion that he is frustrated by the number of poor quality parts available in the replacement parts market, which are bought on price alone, when you can get the right bit made to original standard or better in the UK.

I'll bear witness on that with my experience of poor quality new MG Heater valves and indicator stalks! Peters' home garage currently holds an Austin 16-6 Harrow and a pristine MGB GT V 8. Appropriate for a Founder Member of the V8 Register in 78-79.

The evening concluded with a look at some of Peter's memorabilia, including original UM badges and how to spot the genuine ones now fetching big money. So, two hours flew by thanks to Peter Beadles' patience, fund of stories and immense good humour.

I waved goodbye to A, B. and C, who continued their chat as I left our virtual Pub a little drunk on my own beer and happy on a freezing night to only negotiate the wooden hill to Bedfordshire.

Hey maybe there is something in this Zoom thing after all!

JON GLOVER - Co-Leader – Fairmile Natter

April
2021

Local Club
Meets

The trip to
nowhere
with the
Surrey
Wanderers

The trip to nowhere with the Surrey Wanderers

About this time last year, before lockdown had ever been heard of I was asked (persuaded) by El Supremo (Our Leader) of the Surrey Wanderers to organise the next monthly run. Thoughts about where to go to, where to start and where to finish flashed through my mind. Normally these were so well organised that I hoped to live up to expectations.

My first thought was that we can start from Knights Garden Centre at Chelsham where they have a large car park and serve good coffee. They were happy to have us so that was OK. The next problem was where to finish so I could work out the route. We could have a circular route and finish at the other Knights Garden Centre at Woldingham – bingo! Unfortunately, my hopes were dashed as they could not provide lunch for so many people so that was no good.

Local pubs were next considered. The Horseshoe at Warlingham could cater for the numbers but parking proved an insoluble problem. How about The Harrow on Farleigh Common with its large car park - unfortunately it could not provide lunchtime meals for the number of prospective diners. My next inspiration was Farleigh Court Golf Club, again a large carpark but the problem here was although they could cater for the numbers they wanted a deposit up front and a guarantee of numbers. This meant that if people said they were coming and then did not turn up I would have to pay for their lunch!



In frustration I discussed the situation with El Supremo and it was decided to look further afield. How about The Haycutter at Oxted / The Dog & Duck at Outwood. All had a problem with dates and numbers. Eventually we settled on another one and everything was agreed. The route was planned, about 25 miles, with lunch and drinks at the end of it – Hooray!

Then up popped Boris Johnson to announce a national lockdown and we had to cancel the whole thing. It indeed proved to be a trip to nowhere. Never mind when we can restart the Surrey Wanderers I shall resurrect the run and hopefully we can all enjoy it in due course.

The moral of the story is that if El Supremo approaches you with her cheery smile then think about what you might be letting yourself in for, or as the 3 Musketeers said 'All for one and one for all'.

Malcolm Nicholls

April
2021

Local Club
Meets

Canterbury
Tales

Canterbury Tales

By John Clark

Our “Natter”the Canterbury MG Owners Workshop has been going since 2014 and has grown in strength and size since then. In normal times (and they are far from that at the moment!) we have a very extensive events calendar with something going on pretty much every month.

These include car shows, outings, countryside runs, beach visits and trips to France for a few days. Something for everyone we hope! We also have a very active “Ladies Group” whom go on their own events that normally involve tea and cake!

Like many clubs, our monthly meetings (that are social occasions plus technical talks) have been on hold since the start of the pandemic. In normal times we produce a newsletter for our members after each meeting and this gives a follow up report plus provides a source of information.

Given the lack of meetings and social interaction we decided to continue with the newsletter on a sort of “virtual” basis, whereby members could report on some of their MG activities and at least “keep in touch” with their friends and colleagues in the Club. And here is a selection of members contributions:

DAVID MILLER.....MGC GT

Still in caged tiger mode waiting for release from lockdown to visit family, grandchildren and to see progress of my car in person. In the interim attach the latest pictures.

To dissipate heat I have cut ducts from the engine bay through the inner wings and sills. Hopefully this will also keep the spaces warm and dry and thus reduce corrosion. To maintain the strength the holes are collared as can be seen in the first photograph



April
2021

Local Club
Meets

Canterbury
Tales

MICK ABRAHART....MK 3 MIDGET

Mick's doing it again!!!

Home-made lathe and MG genuine OAK gear knobs...he reckons that if he gets it right he will be taking orders HA HA!



DAVE SMITH.....MGB Roadster

The ongoing story of Dave and his car that started off as a simple gearbox change!

His exhaust manifold was always an issue by not fitting correctly so using the stainless manifold that he had arranged to be delivered for Barry Grist (aka Mr sausage roll) he "trial rigged" it to see if it was better.

End result was a vast improvement so he has fitted the whole system!!.....Barry's one arrives later ha ha



April
2021

Local Club
Meets

Canterbury
Tales

MICHAEL WACHER.....MGA and TC

“ Is this the real bling or is it just fantasy”.....sung to the opening bars of Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen!!

Now is this taking care and improvements to your MG just a tad too far or should we all follow Michael's lead and get cracking with the Solvol Autosol and the toothbrushes?

Here is the end result of his efforts on the front brake calipers of his MGA which will eventually be shrouded by Dunlop steel wheels.....thinks.....why?

Anyhow, a damn good effort on his part, and we look forward to seeing the copper brake pipes glistening in the sun!



HAPPY MG ACTIVITIES TO YOU ALL!!!!

Obituary for Martyn Begbey of the Ash Natter

We are saddened to report that we have suddenly loss of Martyn who was a very active member of the Ash Natter. It is true to say that Martyn was fully committed to the natter and understood what we are all about, as a group of friends tied together by MG cars. I'm sure his friendly and cheerful nature endeared him to all and not just in our natter as I know Martyn had other areas of interest some of which we benefitted from such as his involvement in amateur dramatics and a church choir.

His witty pre-lunch speeches at our Nomad lunches were always enjoyable and added to the mood of the diners. Martyn organised the Ash Natter Norfolk Holiday this year and we will all be honouring him by indulging in the hotel's Apple Crumble which was his favourite desert when he last stayed at the hotel; he insisted it is something not to be missed.

Martyn's presence is going to be greatly missed and we wish we had been fortunate to have met him earlier and had more time to have enjoyed his company.



Martyn is in the foreground enjoying fish and chips with his brother Peter at Herne Bay after the 90th Anniversary "Windmill Run" last year.

April
2021

Members
Corner

One thing
leads to
another

One thing leads to another – John H Davies

Our son Jonathan has been re-commissioning an Alvis TD21 saloon car which previously belonged to the former bass guitarist in Chrissy Hynd's band the Pretenders. Looking around the garage where this car is stored, which belongs to a friend of ours, he came across some interesting books and magazines. Amongst them is a service manual for a pre-war Lanchester, a Jowett Javelin handbook and a copy of MaGazine dated November 1934 which is the forerunner of 'Safety Fast'.

The MaGazine contains a number of interesting articles including reference to the donation of the Banana Trophy currently awarded to the most highly placed SE Centre race driver at the Brands Hatch MGCC Spring meeting.

This trophy was originally presented to Main Club by The Central Motor Institute Ltd (CMI) who were MG dealers in the 1930's. It was decided to award it to the most successful Chiltern Trials competitor on an annual basis. These were Club prestigious events held during the 1930's.

As a result of this find John Morgan has found these MaGazines have been placed on the web reference:

www.triple-mregister.org/MG_magazine/IndexMGM.html

These MaGazines contain much of interest and I would suggest not only to pre-war MG car owners as they contain everything from racing, trials, car accessories, model MGs and what to buy for Christmas - nothing new here!.

I would be particularly interested to hear from anybody who can add more to the background of the Banana Trophy or indeed any other early MG trophies whether in possession of the South Centre or not. I understand the competitor awarded the trophy, which they held for a year, were also presented with a keep sake in the shape of a banana any information on these would also be of interest.'



April
2021

Members
Corner

Only You!

Only You by Jon Glover Co-Leader Fairmile Natter

That's what Caroline said to me when I discovered that there was a Classic Car Collection just 500 yards from the front gate of our Quarantine Hotel on the South Coast of Barbados! Oh, didn't I tell you that Mrs Glover and I managed to spend Christmas and New Year on the Island of Captain Sir Tom Moore's dreams, which happily he got to in his 100th year before his sad death?

Suffice it to say that after our travels were curtailed by, 'you know what', in 2020, including the cancelled German EEOTY for which we'd booked some rather lovely pre and post Hotels, we found our joint travel fund bulging with lucky refunds..

So, we booked the afore mentioned Caribbean escape, as the Island was in a Green Channel. Travel was anything but simple, with endless alarms and changes, as the ever fluid Covid situation changed on an almost daily basis. Not least of our worries was testing negative for Covid in mandatory tests taken 72 hours before travel. But we did make it out of Heathrow 2 hours before Tier 4 came into effect in Surrey and returned to Gatwick in time for the current lockdown. We didn't want to miss that!

On arrival on the Island, we had to go to a Quarantine Hotel and remain there until passing a Barbados test after 2 days. Only then was our Orange wrist band of shame, attached at the Airport removed by an official. We were then free to go on the beach, visit restaurants, and find out where the nearest Classic Car Collection was sited!

So, on Day 4 I was able to pop down the road to view THE MALLALIUE MOTOR COLLECTION, Curator and Owner – Bill Mallaliue. Unaccompanied by Mrs Glover, who had an urgent appointment with a sun lounger, I entered the impressive entrance to The Pavilion Court Residence, formerly the British Military Hospital, now flats and offices.

I was assured by a helpful gentleman that indeed – 'Mallaliue is always there'.

Where?

Hmm, a large Garage Type Building did indeed look promising, but was firmly locked. I suspected that it was formerly the Hospital Coach House, where they kept the horse drawn ambulances?

Double Hmm – no sign of life and knocking bought no response. As a final resort I rang the mobile number against The Collection in the Island Tourist Guide. After a few rings the call was answered by a strongly Bajan accented old gentleman.

I apologized and explained that I was looking for a Mr Mallaliue, I must have the wrong number?

'No, I'm Mallaliue, what you wan' im for?'

Me – 'Oh, Good Morning – I was hoping to see your cars. I'm in front of your Garage'.

Him – 'You wanna look now?'

April
2021

Members
Corner

Only You!

Jon Glover



Me - 'Only if its convenient'.

Him- 'Convenient?! I h'aint seen a tourist for months, I'm comin' down'.

And after some minutes a jolly old white gentleman appeared and of course Bill, as he insisted I call him, being a born and bred Bajan, naturally spoken with the local twang. He seemed genuinely delighted to see me as indeed since Covid struck he'd hardly seen a soul apart from his faithful mechanic. I helped him roll the garage doors open and what a sight greeted my eyes!

The fruits of one mans lifetime obsession with the Motor Car. Old cars of every type, mostly British from before and just after WW2. No MG's - but there is an MG connection hidden amongst the Collection. What to drool over first in this most unlikely of settings? I asked Bill to name his favourites.

A one off Bentley made for Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands in 1947 and raced in The Monte Carlo Rally of 1949 . A Mallaliu Bentley - designed by Durham 'Derry' Mallaliu (no relation) based on the Mk. 6, stripped down and fitted with a streamlined body for less weight so more speed(a fitting motto for Lockdown?!). These beauties were produced in The Derry Mallaliu Engineering Factory in Abingdon - see there's the MG hook!



April
2021

Members
Corner

Only You!

An extraordinary 1953 Daimler Roadster, which when produced was slower than a Jaguar XK at twice the price! (pictured). Only 44 were made in total, of which this is one of 35 survivors. That car came from a collector on Jersey, who also owned the second car to be registered on the Island – a De Dion (pictured in one of the many fascinating images on the walls).

And finally Bills real pride and joy, a 1963 Volvo 1225 Rally car (pictured with the owner driver). The Swede has done 400,000 miles on the same engine, but I suspect, like Triggers Council broom in 'Only Fools and Horses', it's the same handle but with a different head! The venerable Volvo was campaigned by a young Bill in Rallies throughout The West Indies, particularly on Jamaica where Bill declared the Mountain Stages to be 'scary, real scary!'

Bill still holds several Island Rally records, some 50 years after he created them. But Bill's proudest boast was beating 'The Flying Finn' – Timo Makinen, who of course drove Minis and Healeys prepared by The BMC Competition Department Abingdon, before being poached by Ford!

The Garage benches are stacked with parts and papers, products and paraphernalia, from the very earliest days of the Motor Car. Every inch of the walls is covered in certificates, rally plates, number plates, log books and photos, including images of the rich and famous who have graced his dusty premises, including one Damon Hill!

I could have spent the whole day in Bill's Alladins cave, but I feared he was tiring. So, after swopping notes on Leatherhead, which my host visits regularly and signing the Visitors Book I reluctantly took my leave with a promise to entertain this true Gentleman to lunch at Brooklands when this lousy war is over!



April
2021

Members
Corner

My first car

My first car by Graham White



Picture by

My introduction to MG was when a friend bought what I think was an F type Salonette, in 1956. I was impressed by the length of the bonnet and six-cylinder engine. There were MG insignia badges everywhere. He invited me to have a drive and double clutching was a bit of a trial but we drove around parts of Croydon airport on back roads and it was running fine. At that time I was a motorcyclist.

The next time I became involved with MG was when I became interested in four wheels. Another friend saw an MGTf for sale in a show room locally. We went to see it and I bought it (my first car) which 59 years later I still own! The TF started a long love with MG which has continued ever since. It has been rebuilt completely after I had an argument with a telegraph pole. I courted my girlfriend in it, she was obviously impressed as she became my wife!



April
2021

Members
Corner

My first car

In 1967 we went to the Belgian GP followed by a trip through Germany to Austria for a week camping before returning back to Munich where we had to stop to repair the luggage rack that had lost a bolt. Due to this hold up we drove on the motorway and looming in the distance was a huge black cloud so we nipped into a lorry park. I parked beside a large lorry so we could erect the hood. Unfortunately, the storm arrived pretty quickly so we got back in the car with the tonneau held up against the screen. We sat there a while congratulating ourselves when the wind suddenly picked up and got under the lorry's fabric. The tonneau was ripped out of our hands and the contents of the lorry's roof emptied all over us. We were saturated!

The TF has transported us to numerous MGCC events over those 59 years, T-type register runs, Silverstone, South East events, runs and trips away with natter members. We held a 50th anniversary of the Speldhurst natter and of course, the TF was present. I was even presented with a picture of the TF outside the George & Dragon to mark the occasion.

The TF is so much a part of the family that my daughter requested that the it was used as her wedding car despite being February. She refers to the TF as my first child. It was also a part of my wife's funeral along with her midget. So, whilst I celebrated a golden anniversary with Merran, the TF is one year away from a diamond anniversary.



Regalia

The following merchandise is available:

Sweatshirt	£21
Polo Shirt	£16
Umbrellas	£21
T-shirts	£10
Baseball Caps	£8
Beer Glasses	£2.50
Beer Glasses (pair)	£4
Windscreen Stickers	£1.60
MGCC Pens (blue or red)	£3.50 (special offer)
MGCCSE Mugs	£5



A recent audit has determined that there are stocks to clear. Please take a look at the above and see if there is anything of interest, in particular the polo shirts, t-shirts and sweatshirts. The clothing is unlikely to be restocked for a while as the committee decides on whether to continue with these items or not.

We are now able to take payments by Paypal, so if you wish to make a purchase please contact Austin Banner at Austin.banner@gmail.com

4 Midget Rostyle wheels for sale with tyres in fair condition
Contact Ray Ruffels on 07970 640219

Note- To advertise your items for sale here - send to raywillmg@gmail.com

SE CENTRE COMMITTEE AND CONTACTS

Chairman	Derek Edwards	01737 765891 edwards.mgmadness@ntlworld.com
Vice-Chairman	Chris Leigh	candleigh@yahoo.com
Secretary	Austin Banner	07795 845312 austin.banner@gmail.com
Events Secretary	Andrew Mitchell	07703 138419 andrewmgfvvc@gmail.com
Competition Secretary	John Morgan	07802 770025 johnv.morgan@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Tony Atcheson	0208 6417837 tony.atcheson@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Diana Calvert	01737 350489 peter.diana.calvert@hotmail.com
Safety Fast Scribes/Newsletter Webmaster	Ray Ruffels & Will Opie Tim Morris.	07970 640219 raywillmg@gmail.com 01932 882467 timmorris7@virginmedia.com
Social Media	John Gallop.	07484 127251 john.corvette@btinternet.com
Archivist	John Davies	01737 241971 santana@dlgmail.co.uk
Member	Alex Lemon.	alexlemon@hotmail.co.uk
Member	Ian Russell	0208 304 1037 mgashnatter@gmail.com

Natter Leaders

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

Various locations

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

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

MMMs in the paddock at Brands Hatch MG Race Meet April 2019

