

MGCC SE Newsletter

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MGCC SE

July 2021 Newsletter

Editorial Note

We welcome you to the July Newsletter as we move towards the end of lockdown and hopefully a good rest of season for MG motoring. This edition covers the second quarter 21 and expectations for following six months. See Pages 11-18 for events held within the Government Lockdown Lifting plan!

Amusing or otherwise please continue to send in further MG news, pictures and stories for the next newsletter to scribe@mgccse.co.uk

if you or your fellow member is not receiving the quarterly SE newsletter via email it may be because your up-to-date email address is not held by the main administration at Abingdon. To update your details either go to the Members login area of MGCC web site, email mgcc@mgcc.co.uk or call 01235 555552.

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 pictured below right.



July
2021

Committee
Notes

Chairman's
Report

Chairman's Summer Message – Chris Leigh

I am pleased to say that at last our small Natter and Wander groups have been able to return to a more normal programme of events despite the continuing need for social-distancing and face-masks. As I write this report, restrictions are still in place which limit indoor catering numbers. Although we look forward to the day when these limits disappear, many hotels and venues are helping with the provision of safer, tented outdoor areas for us to enjoy and many of our groups are taking advantage of these.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those many members who have helped to organise these small local events and say a big thank you to those of you who supported our 24th April "Drive-it-Day" event to Rottingdean and our more recent Spring Run on 23rd May to admire the beautiful rhododendrons and azaleas at Leanardslee Gardens. Both of these two events attracted large numbers of cars and were approved due to the special conditions agreed with the government recognised "national sporting body" – The MSUK. This most definitely precludes anybody entering "on the day" etc. but we did collect some £492 for charity! I am pleased to say that John Morgan's fastidious work with the MSUK on our behalf has now been acknowledged by our Committee with the presentation of a "special award for services rendered during the pandemic" and that Abingdon Headquarters has subsequently invited John to become a key member of their "event regulations national steering group"!

Having just returned from Ian & Paula Russell's Ash Natter visit to East Anglia, I must praise them both and their chosen venue, not only for arranging some excellent weather but for the large covered, heated outdoor dining area complete with a warm outdoor swimming pool, all of which made our stay so enjoyable!

I would like to acknowledge our debt to Tony Atcheson, who has been in post as Centre Treasurer for many years but was also proactive in taking on Regalia and membership analysis when the need arose. Tony was kind enough to make sure that we had a suitable replacement before retiring from the Committee and I feel sure that we will continue to see him at Centre events. Tony – we are having to replace you with three new people!

In place of Tony, we now welcome Ron Kemp as our new Centre Treasurer. Ron comes to us highly recommended by the F Register for whom he did a similar job! We also welcome Alex Lemon and Mike Chittenden who have also recently joined the Committee to share the task of looking after Centre Regalia.

Earlier this month, Ray Ruffels and I held our first face-to-face meeting with an MG Motor franchise, meeting Malcolm Young the manager of the F G Barnes Canterbury. The MG Car Club has always been inclusive and while other car clubs are suffering from a lack of younger members, I left that meeting feeling very optimistic about our club's future membership prospects. It was later gratifying to see a member of the Ash Natter driving one of the new all electric MG estate cars around Norfolk!

This year it was impossible to produce our usual printed South East Centre Calendar and MG Live and Stoneleigh were also cancelled due to Covid restrictions. I am aware that some of our members are now planning to visit the new MG/Triumph Show on 13-15th August in Great Malvern. Whatever type of event you enjoy, please get into the habit of checking our websites at www.mgccse.co.uk for the latest SE information.

ABINGDON MATTERS

Since our last SE Newsletter in April many changes have taken place at Abingdon but little has been published about any of them. I was rash enough to state in our last Newsletter that details of any Extraordinary General Meeting would be advertised in *Safety Fast* but as you will now know this simply didn't happen. An EGM was held on 17th April after which the remaining Directors of MG Car Club Ltd had resigned, stating that they were acting in the interests of club unity. The EGM then elected a new set of Directors and as a result of this change a number of our Abingdon employees resigned from their posts saying that they were unhappy with the new regime.

It should be noted that these unpaid Directors were voted in by the vast majority of voting members from the club's CRBs with a promise of greater transparency. The current directors of MG Car Club Ltd are:

Dave Tynan (Chairman)

Peter Cook (Vice Chairman)

David Rainsbury (Treasurer)

Lorraine Noble-Thompson

Howard Gosling

Roy Locock

Colin Withers

Some new staff still need to be recruited but throughout this period Covid rules have applied which means that the office is run by staff in rotation whilst most have worked from home. The current full and part time staffing situation is:

Roy Locock (Acting General Manager)

Liz Allsworth (Membership)

Wayne Scott (Press /Media/PR)

Gemma Bray (Communications)

Ineke Sherman (returns to Merchandising)

Mark Baulch (Competitions)

Andy Knott (Safety Fast Editor)

Colin Grant (Deputy Editor)

Peter Neal (Archive)

No replacement yet shown for Adam Sloman (Manager) or Lauran Gallagher (Assistant Manager)

MG Car Club Ltd is a servant of the club itself and it will not surprise you to know that the unpaid Executive Committee Directors are keen, enthusiastic MG owners like the rest of us.

Minutes of General Meetings and Executive Committee meetings are usually published on the MGCC website for all members to read. You can see for yourself how your membership subscription is being spent. We have noted that £11,000 of your money was spent in an unusual way(Editor Comment- to repay legal fees incurred to the V8 Register) three days after the new Executive Committee was voted in during April 2021

Continued below -

July
2021

Committee
Notes

Abingdon
Matters
Update

Competition
and Events
Update

N.B. - This information was up-to-date at the time of publication and these details and many more are available to members from the MG Car Club websites. If you are having any difficulties accessing any parts of the MGCC website please phone for assistance from Abingdon, simply call 01235 555552. Information about the history and structure of the club is also available on the MGCC websites and on Wikipedia.

This club is still a club run by members for members – please give them appropriate support!

Chris Leigh Chairman - South East Centre

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SE Centre Events and Competitions

The SE Centre has run the events listed in the April Newsletter, all COVID compliant and well supported as reported elsewhere in this newsletter. Sadly, the lifting of the final restrictions has been delayed from June 21st until July 19th, so until then, the maximum group size of 30 outdoors or no more than 6 people or 2 households indoors remains.

MG Covid 19 compliant activities so far have been organised regionally and largely coordinated via the local meetings, Natters and Wanderers Groups, do keep in contact with your local coordinator.

In Kent, the activities have been principally organised by the Natters in Canterbury, East Kent Wanderers, North Downs and Trotiscliffe.

For Surrey and Sussex, in addition to the Natters, the Drive-it-Day run to the coast, Spring Run to Leonardslee and MG display at Brooklands all take place as mentioned previously.



July
2021

Committee
Notes

Competition
and Event
Update

Planning is underway for a SE event in August, probably similar to the Spring Run with a short driving run and an interesting venue. This will be followed by the Autumn Gathering at Lullingstone Castle on 19th September.

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 summarised in the January Newsletter and are all none car damaging including planning for an Autumn Trial to be initiated shortly. Other options include grass autotests (some classed as taster events). Please contact me, John Morgan, Competition Secretary, if you would like more information or to confirm an interest to take part/have a go.

The SE Centre is also partaking in an MGCC main club working party to review requirements for club events to be fully Motorsport UK compliant and ensure that the correct guidance is available on the Club website. It should be remembered that events run under the Motorsport UK permits/certificate of exemption are fully insured by Motorsport UK. This requires events to be planned in accordance with the Motorsport UK 'Blue Book' that summarises the rules and obtaining permits/certificate of exemption ensure compliance with the Road Traffic Act/Motor Vehicles (Competition and Rallies) regulations. Any other events such as Natter activities or Social Runs rely on the MGCC club insurance and still have to comply with statutory regulations (only exempt if 12 cars or less)

John Morgan – Competition Secretary

Contact: competitions@mgccse.co.uk or call 07802 770025

July
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>
July 4 th	Alternative Poo 1	Surrey Oaks, Newdigate	John Morgan 07802 770025
July 19 th	Alternative Poo 2	The Pheasant Betchworth RH3 7BG	John Morgan 07802 770025
July 26 th 7pm	Pheasant Natter Barbecue	Walcountians RFC, Clockhouse Ground, Carshalton Road, Banstead SM7 3HU	Contact John Morgan 07802 770025 Johnv.morgan@btinternet.com
Sunday August 1st	Brooklands Autojumble &. Classic Car Show	Brooklands KT13 0QN	TBC
August 12 th	Alternative Poo 3 Re-arranged	The Fairmile Pub, Cobham KT11 1BW	John Morgan 07802 770025
Sunday Sept 5 th	Shere Hill Climb	Staple Lane Nr Guildford GU4 7RL	MGCCSE TBC
Sept 26 th	Production Car Trial	Near Maidstone TBC	John Morgan 07802 770025
Sept 19 th	Autumn Gathering	Lullingstone Castle, Dartford DA4 0JA	Andrew Philips andrewmgfvvc@gmail.com
October	Autumn Naviscat	TBC	TBC
November	Chairman's Day & AGM	TBC	TBC
December	Black Horse Treasure Hunt	Black Horse Pub	TBC

South East on the Web – Tim Morris

We are encouraging members to use the online facilities of the club. It is the place where you will find all the latest information about the South East Centre and all the events that are being planned, plus reviews and pictures of those that have taken place. You'll also find archive copies of this newsletter to look back on. It is gratifying that an increasing number of members are finding the site with nearly 1600 views in May and what is looking like a similar number in June – if you are not sure where it is then the url is www.mgccse.co.uk. The most popular pages that people visit other than the home page are the events list and the natters list, so it is clear people are trying to find out what is going on in the South East Centre.

Interestingly a large proportion of people finding the website are directed by our Facebook pages and it is there that you will find the bang up to date stuff! There are two pages – one is public facing and gives details of events and reviews, you can make comments but it is only the Centre that can post initially on it. The second runs off the back of that and is a member only chat group – on there you can post items yourself, ask questions, show us your car, post event pictures – anything goes, within MG reason of course! To join that you need to answer a couple of questions about your membership including your membership number.



Tim Morris shared a link.
· 13 May · 🌐

Here is a nice gentle film from BM.tv of the Motoring Team at Brooklands tinkering with some of the MGs in the collection. Grab a glass of wine or cup of coffee and sit back to let it wallow over you.

Look out for them at the Fairmile's Brooklands gathering on 12th June.
<https://vimeo.com/542809372>
#mg MG Car Club #brooklands



VIMEO.COM
Let's get those MG's going!
The Motoring team get stuck in to make sure these lovely old cars ...

4 4 comments Seen by 81

Like Comment

You will find this newsletter has arrived a little differently too as we have moved over to Mailchimp to send it out to you. We hope that this will provide better management of our email lists, you'll find an unsubscribe button on the bottom if you don't want to hear from us anymore, naturally we hope you don't use that one but we do realise that members sell their MGs and move on sometimes.

You will have found this by clicking a link in the initial email - this stops any issues with the size of the email clogging up your system or causing it to be undelivered and prevents potential layout issues too. The big advantage is that the actual sending of the email is controlled and will no longer risk our personal email boxes being blacklisted! We are only recording your name and email address in Mailchimp, which is a secure system, and your details won't be passed to any other organisation. However, if you would rather your details not be stored in this way then please unsubscribe and they will be deleted – the trouble is you won't receive the email newsletter either!

Finally, we have given all the natter leaders and committee members new mgccse.co.uk email addresses to help contact them. They are forwarding addresses so when they reply it will come from a different address, don't worry as they are real! You'll find all those on the website too.

Click here for website: www.mgccse.co.uk

Facebook Public Page: www.facebook.com/mgccse

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

Pictures from our chat group on Facebook:

1. Let us know what's happening in your natters – William Opie did with this post, below, about the North Downs Natter
2. You can share videos too – Tim Morris posted this gentle film about Brooklands volunteers fettling the Museum MGs – see above.



July
2021

Committee
Notes

Committee
Changes

Trophy
Awards

Committee Changes

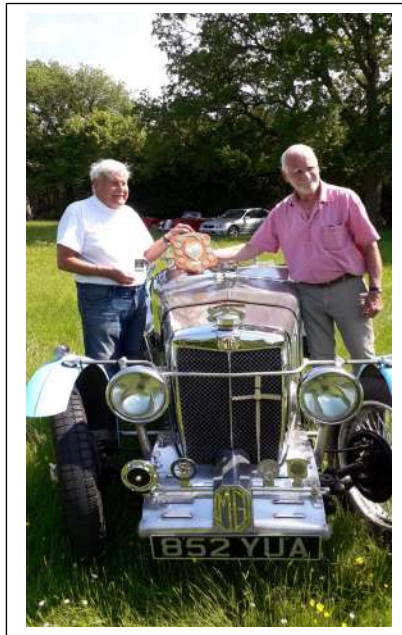
We are pleased to inform members of several SE Committee changes.

Alex Lemon and **Mike Chittenden** have agreed to take-over management of the Club Regalia. Alex will focus on sales and development and Mike on administration.

We also have a new Treasurer with **Ron Kemp** taking on this role following the retirement of Tony Atcheson after 6 years in the role. We wish Tony all the best for the future

Ron comes to us with a wealth of experience gained whilst working the MGF Register in a similar job!

.....
Our Chairman Chris Leigh presenting the MGCCSE Best Article 2020 Award to Nick Holyer for an article about building his Q Type Replica



Below, Stuart Manser & Janina Downey winners of the 2020 Lingfield Trophy after being presented by Chris and Janice Leigh. The Lingfield Trophy is presented annually for the best overall performance in the Naviscat series of events.



Visit to FG Barnes MG Motors Canterbury – Ray Ruffels

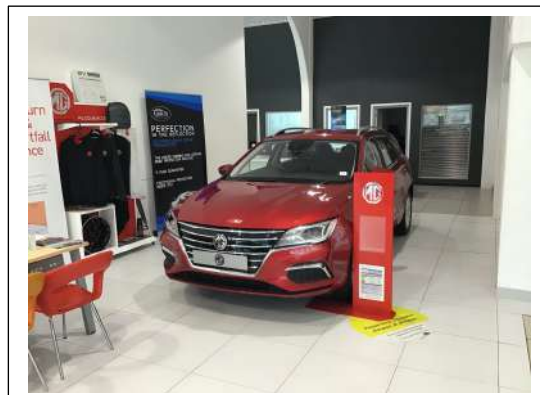


Our Chairman Chris Leigh and Malcolm Young (Sales Manager) pictured next to the new MG5 EV Estate!

The strategy is for MGCCSE to engage with major MG UK new car dealers in the MGCCSE area and develop a good working relationship which will benefit both parties.

The first meeting was when Chris Leigh and myself visited FG Barnes (arriving in two MGAs!) the major MG supplier in the East Kent area with branches in Canterbury and Maidstone. This represents a good opportunity to both parties, the Car Club to derive new members and provide added value to new MG customers / owners. We will also be able to work together at Events such as new car displays and Natters can utilise MG Canterbury facilities for club meets. Importantly the SE 1500 members could be considered a captive audience for the purchase of new MGs due to their existing brand loyalty.

The good news is that Malcolm Young is very engaged and has agreed to work with MGCCSE including distributing the new MGCCSE introductory letter / information packs to all new MG owners, the setting up of an affinity scheme for the discounted purchase of new cars for SE members and a pending meeting is to expand this arrangement to include Maidstone FG Barnes and also other qualifying dealers will be contacted going forward.



July
2021

Events

Drive it Day

Drive it Day Run – Tim Morris

What finer day could have dawned for the first MGCCSE run of the year, bright, crisp and sunny – ideal for a top down drive to the seaside.

Impeccably organised, as you would expect from John Morgan, the run was held with full approval of Motorsport UK and strictly Covid safe. That meant lots of paperwork beforehand, social distancing at the stop and no gathering at the finish. That also meant those taking part were not restricted to a specific gathering and MGs could be found dotted in small car parks along the clifftops to the east of Brighton at the end. Small groups of friends could get together for picnics or on outside benches at local pubs, no more than six though.



The staggered start at Denbies Vineyard above and gave an opportunity to top up with bottles of Surrey Gold before setting off at timed intervals to head into the Surrey Hills. The run itself took place on minor roads all the way through to Rottingdean with just a very brief flirtation with the A27. Dappled sunlight filtered through the trees as their new green canopy began to cover the lanes, bluebells could be spotted in the woods and blossoms still remained in many of the trees. It was a typical spring day and in typical small village fashion we were held to ransom in Warninglid!



July
2021

Events

Drive it Day



Approaching the village, the MGs slowed and admired the bunting on the quaint houses lining the roadway, stalls were outside and a rather tall lady swooped down rattling a bucket – all in aid of the St Catherine’s Hospice. Having “paid” our toll the MGs continued on the journey to the coast. It was all in good fun and if any members of the constabulary are reading this, we weren’t really held to ransom – honest

In fact, the main charity of the day was NSPCC Childline and some of the proceeds of the entry fee went to the charity raising over £400.

Having found the correct lane underneath the Jack and Jill windmills and circumnavigated the peak of Ditchling Beacon the MGs arrived in Rottingdean where there was a drive-by – check point (what were you thinking?) Duly ticked off the list and photographed the cars were drawn to the glistening surface of the English Channel. Picnics on the beach or on the clifftops, ice creams and walks along the prom were the order of the afternoon.

A splendid day out and it was simply great to be out and about once again with the South East Centre after months of lockdown. Below the Rottingdean finish team and Hudson-Bradley under the cliff



July
2021

Events

Spring Run
to
Leonardslee
Lakes and
Gardens

Spring Run to Leonardslee Lake and Gardens 23rd May 2021 - Tim Morris

The question was whether it was going to be an anorak, jumper and windcheater day or Ta gumboots, umbrella and sou'wester day? It turned out to be a bit of both as you might expect from the British climate at the end of May, it is nearly Summer after all. It definitely was not a T-shirt and shorts day, however.

Two runs into Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens converged under grey and darkening skies. The starts were at Bocketts Farm, Leatherhead in the North, and at the Red Lion, Ashington in the south. We gathered at Bocketts, arriving to be ticked off by willing volunteers and parking conveniently close to the entrance of the Farm. MGs arrived ready to set off at their time allocated slots, to avoid crowding at the start. A wide variety of MGs gathered from an MGZT V8 to Dave Naylor's much older MG L2 (Dave sadly would not quite get to the finish point, having broken down halfway. He was not alone though as Philip Bayne-Powell in his 14/40 also suffered a similar fate.



Dave and Ann Naylor set off in the L2 – they didn't quite get to the finish though!

The allotted time arrived and cars set off for the 36 mile run to Leonardslee carefully avoiding the myriad of lycra clad cyclists that seem to inhabit the Surrey Hills these days. Oh, for the days when it was just horse riders we had to watch out for! Leafy, narrow lanes freshly washed down by intermittent rain showers were the order for the first half followed by slightly wider B roads as we headed towards the finish point. It was indeed a very scenic route (I am sure the south route was equally scenic too!) and luckily, we weren't accosted by a very tall lady shaking a bucket as on the Drive it Day Run!

July
2021

Events

Spring Run to Leonardslee Lake and Gardens

To picnic or not to picnic, that was the question on arrival at Leonardslee. It was looking grey and you can see a good distance from the much improved car park – and in that distance you could see the rain falling. So, it was time to sit in the cars for a bit and let the shower pass. That was it and the remains of the day proved comparably fine so we did get to sit out in the car park and enjoy our spoils from home.



Top organizer - John Morgan in colourful pose

Suitably sustained we headed for the valley gardens and they were truly spectacular despite the best efforts of the gale force winds in the few days prior to the club's visit. Rhododendrons and azaleas were in peak bloom and the last of the camellias and magnolias were still to be seen too. The fresh green leaves were all unfurling providing a stunning backdrop to the row of cascading lakes and many a photograph was captured.

It was yet another brilliantly organised, covid safe, day out with the MG Car Club South East and many thanks go to John Morgan, Andrew Mitchell and the team for all their hard work and attention to detail. We are already looking forward to the next event!



July
2021

Events

Brands
Hatch MG
Racing

Brands Hatch Spring Meeting- Will Opie

On the weekend of 24th/25th March Brands played host to the MGCC Spring meet with 10 races on the Saturday and 10 on Sunday. Unfortunately, spectators were not allowed due to covid restrictions, fortunately I was invited to go described as a 'mechanic helper' for a MMM friend. This worried me somewhat but my main role was in checking tyre pressures and helping get the overalls on the driver! All the activity was down in the lower pit area sheltered from the cold NE wind.



The machinery in the pits was a great sight with MG's accompanied by Healeys, Triumphs TVR's and Jaguars on the circuit. MMM cars and the Blown N type engine of Oliver Sharp below.



28 MMM cars were also racing, an incredible turnout for the Mary Harris Trophy on the Sunday. The sound of superchargers filled the air for a race packed 15 minutes, positively exhilarating! Full details were in the June issue of Safety Fast.



July
2021

Events

Fairmile
Brooklands
Two
Car Display

Fairmile “Brooklands Two” Car Display 12th June – Jon Glover

Following our successful little gathering for our Natter faithful and friends – about 20 fine vehicles – in October last year, Ian Ailes and I decided that a return visit, might be in order as we might get up to 25 if the weather is kind. June 12th was the date allotted to us by our Brookland’s mate, the ever accommodating Steve Castle .



In ‘normal ‘ times that would have been, a ‘Double Twelve ‘ day celebrating the former 24 hour race which in 1930 became a 2 day event comprising two 12 hour contests following vociferous protests by local residents who objected to losing a nights sleep. How appropriate that in 1931 the race was won by MGs on handicap, beating among others the mighty Bentleys. The start of a golden era for MG, their racing prowess boosting sales of the tiny Midget.

Somehow by a process of internet osmosis, our planned little Natter outing became a major event, almost compensating for the loss of The Museums ‘MG Era‘ event for the second year running! As well as opening up to all SEC Members, we became a conduit for 2 Anniversary celebrations, both delayed by a year .

We were joined by our friends in The MGCC Vintage Register, celebrating their 60th and cars from the F Register, marking 25 years since the blockbuster launch of the MGF at The Geneva Motor Show. To add spice to the mix, my London friends in The Waterloo Classics Group, ventured from The Metropolis in an eclectic mix of cars including several MG’s a 1959 Corvette, a Jaguar XK 120 and a Ronart Racer.

So, in all over 100 cars for the public to enjoy, stationary in our parked groups, or on the move in demonstration laps round the finishing straight. The Museum also contributed its own MG’s, their black and red Midget and the late Colin Reynold’s Cream Cracker restoration .

July
2021

Events

Fairmile
Brooklands
Two
Car Display



Our Fairmile Natter / SEC group numbers easily exceeded the current Covid protocols put in place by the Museum, meaning that cars displayed on the banking and towards The Members Bridge had to be split into 2 groups – Pre and Post 1980.

In the Pre display special mention goes to John Langford's 1964 Magnette. The original lady owner left this car to a 12 year old Nephew, who seems to have shown little interest in the bequest as the car languished, slowly rotting in storage for decades until finally purchased for £750. The car is now an absolutely delightful a credit to John after a full painstaking restoration.

Mark Hanson, who always turns up in interesting MGs from his collection , arrived with his Works MGA which, on a standard engine, competed successfully in the 1956 Alpine Rally and was the first Works car raced by the incomparable Pat Moss – well incomparable to everyone but her recently departed brother!



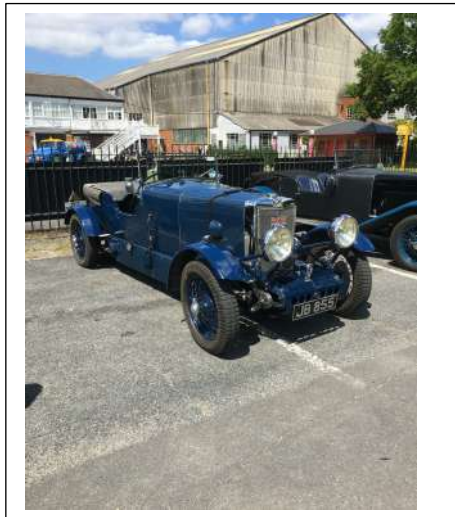
The Post display reflected the growing appreciation for the last of the British MG Rovers . These are classics NOW, with a great following among the appreciative. Among the F's, I picked out David Koskela's TF 160 Spectra- one of 25 painted in this strangely Chameleon like paint colour - in one light mauve, in the next blue and so on. Among the Z's, I particularly liked David Price's 180 Monogram – one of only 26 built.

July
2021

Events

Fairmile
Brooklands
Two
Car Display

Then a bracing walk down the Finishing Straight slope to the Paddock fence and the earliest MGs displayed by The Vintage Register. The incredibly fresh state of all the early models displayed drew admiring crowds throughout the day. Worthy of particular mention – Patrick Gardener’s 1928 18/80 , with its cute Dicky or ‘Mother in Law’s perch ‘ and the menacing Tigress of Anthony Littlejohn. Many admirers, new to the first MG’s, commented on the size of these 3 and 4 seat open saloons. Giants compared to the little Midgets alongside.



What else to say ?

Other than we were blessed with a blisteringly hot day, which reminded me of sharing an ice cream at a previous ‘Double Twelve ‘ on a similarly blazing day, with legendary MG Racer, Barry ‘Sideways‘ Sidery-Smith, the weekend before he died. Our arrangement with The Red Arrows to do a Fly Past at Midday was costly, on the Natter budget, but well worth it! Ian and I agree that we have never received so many messages of appreciation – thank YOU for turning out in such great numbers. Special thanks to John Davies for bringing Sail flags and the Covid marshal vest to be worn by yours truly – does it have to be pink?

As one wag pointed out at 4 pm when my sun block had worn off –

‘At least it matches your hooter, Jon!’

Also, thanks to David Koskela for fixing the failed electric windows on my current MGF VVC by simply replacing a fuse. Well, you see, you’ve used the windows when the engine fan is running – they don’t like that!

Some things haven’t changed since 1928 – ‘They don’t like that!’

July
2021

Local Club
Meets

North
Downs
Spring Meet

North Downs Natter Spring Meet - Will Opie / Ray Ruffels

The Plough at Stalisfield Natter in East Kent celebrated their first taste of almost Lockdown freedom on the 27th May with 28 MG folk attending on a glorious Sunny Day. The Lunchtime event proved very popular with **15 MG's** filling the car park of all ages.



The latest addition to the Natter is this immaculate Blaze Midget belonging to Clare Taylor acquired very recently although husband Clive was in the drivers seat!

Lunch action in the Pub Marquee!



Below Colin Ladd pulling away in his lovely J2



July
2021

Local Club
Meets

Canterbury
Spring Meet

Musings from Canterbury - John Clark

The Canterbury MG Owners Workshop natter “kicks off the new season”!!.....

The second major stage of the Government’s exit roadmap happened with the 17th May being the date when we could meet outside in number and a limited amount inside.

That being the case we arranged for a “social get together” at the Golden Lion on the 18th May, and what a success it was! With 25 folk having drinks, coffees and munchies in a very nice large gazebo in the pub garden It was great to catch up with everyone and talk about anything else but Covid!

We even managed to get a few MG’s there!



Our events calendar is off to a fine start, contrary to some might think, as East Kent is alive and well and on the ball with club and MG activities filling the calendar. Our first club meeting is on the 13th July, and by which time we all hope that we are fully released as it were. We are going to the car show at Deal in July, and the “Old Timers Show” on the Leas in August.

Outings and runs are being planned by our active committee member and will be published shortly. The “Ladies Group” has the first visit of the year booked to a country estate and gardens, with of course the obligatory afternoon tea!

July
2021

Local Club
Meets

Surrey
Wanderers
Meet

Surrey Wanderers Meet 16th June – Sue Joel

"The Surrey Wanderers are back'!

On 16th June we were blessed with fantastic weather on the hottest day of the year so far, as we gathered for coffee at Knight's Garden Centre where we sat outside with a maximum of six to a table.

We then set off on a 24 mile drive through lovely countryside. The only 'hiccup' was a Road Closed sign, which many of us ignored and found we could get through as they were only filling pot holes and let us pass!



28 of us arrived for lunch at The Red Barn, Blindley Heath, where they now have a large outdoor area, under a pergola and a marquee-style roof, so there was plenty of shade as well as fresh air. It was wonderful to be able to chat to so many friends we had not seen for so long, in spite of social distancing!

Thanks to Malcolm and Doreen Nicholls for all their hard work to make his great happen.

July
2021

Local Club
Meets

East Kent
Wanderers
Meeting

East Kent Wanderers (EKW) Meet June 2nd – Chris Leigh

The EKW meet was a great success, starting at the Five Bells at Brabourne Lees and finishing at MGCC member George Homewood's secret field at Munday Bois for a bring-your-own picnic.

It was wonderful to see everyone in the flesh (as it were) for a change and I was able to arrange two more trophy presentations.

Below is a selection of pictures:



Start at the Five Bells - Brabourne



Bring-your-own picnic in George Homewood's Secret Field



George Homewood & Rosie Carr presented with the 2020 Autumn Naviscat Trophy.

July
2021

Members
Corner

Cheap as
Chips MG!

Cheap as Chips MG! – John Bennett

When I were a lad, in my 20's anyway, I remember buying a roadworthy TC for £170 at a time when my annual salary was £2,100, some 8% of my income. (I later went up-market with a £240 TD!) The charm of the MG marque at the time was the amount of affordable fun the cars gave to the youth of the country. The prices charged for these same cars today clearly puts them beyond the reach of all but we old timers whose children have left home (mostly) and whose mortgages have been paid off. What a tragedy!

But hold on a minute. My TC was almost 20 years old when I owned it and its 20 year-old MG equivalents today are the F/TF range whose prices start as low as £500, so much, much, less than 8% of a typical young person's salary, assuming they are in work at all. Admittedly, £500 won't buy you as much reliability as my £170 TC gave me all those years ago so a more realistic comparison might be the £2,000 I paid for a decent TF a few years ago, or 8% of a £25,000 salary. It gave very few mechanical problems although I did have to have replacement front wings fitted before selling at a modest loss.



I have just been rash enough to buy my 26th MG, a 20 year-old 108,000 mile ZR 160 Steptronic for £750, sight unseen. Stupid or what! Part of the logic for this was to see if cheap, reliable, fun, MG motoring could still be had in 2021. I half expected it to have head gasket problems, though not immediately, so its first trip had to be to Steve Lucas in Pluckley to have that problem dealt with together, I hoped, with a fix to allow the passenger front window to go up and down on command. £270 later found me driving home with a multi-layer head gasket fitted plus a new window motor, water pump and timing belt. What more could possibly go wrong!

The answer soon turned out to be the alternator whose output must have been just enough to run the engine with no extras but, in heavy rain, I had unsuspectedly been running with all the auxiliaries ON. Inevitably, halfway home, the wipers began to slow down and although I then switched everything OFF, I soon lost the speedo closely followed by the engine! Thanks to our noble Chairman, Chris, who soon arrived with his jumper cables, I managed to nurse the car home. So, the balance sheet has now had another £65 added for a Chinese made alternator, complete with 3-year guarantee, plus £170 for a thorough service at my local Go-To mechanic, Dean.

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Cheap as
Chips MG



Does that mean I now have a decently reliable and presentable car? Not quite. I still need to sort out the seriously worn driver's seat plus the paint on all the wheel arches has begun to bubble. I plan to deal with those issues on a DIY basis for a budgeted £100. This will bring my total outlay to about £1200 considering servicing as an inevitable maintenance overhead, even though, come to think about it, I needed no help to keep the old TC on the road.

So, do I regret my purchase? Absolutely not! The car is great fun to drive with that typical MG combination of eager surefooted responsiveness and it looks the part too. Putting it to rights on a budget is an interesting challenge too that still has some way to run.

So, it seems as though fun MG motoring need not be beyond the means of young people today, just as was the case 50 years ago!

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NB
Re-union

MG NB Re-Union – Will Opie



On Tuesday the 1st September 1964 a young teenager named John Hill left Torquay and collected from Salisbury an MG NB 4 seater registration BDD 356 for the grand sum of £50 pounds. Having seen the car shortly before at the garage John was well pleased to collect it on that day and still has the diary entry celebrating the fact. A student at the time and somewhat impoverished the N type gave him 18 months of pleasure before selling it for a nice profit in 1966 for the grand sum of £75 pounds.

John has been an active member of the MG Car club for many years and actively campaigned with his wife Jenny an MGB in regularity trials over many years. Previously John tried to track down the car with the help of a friendly Policeman when it was traced in the late 60's to an address in London W9 but not licensed.

Fifty four years later John spotted the car in Safety Fast after a photo was published of the car performing wedding duties for my youngest daughter in 2018. Over the years since restoring the car in the mid 80's it has travelled extensively and performed wedding duties for both our Daughter's and family friends including a wedding in France.

Unbeknown to myself for 15 years since acquiring the car it was actively campaigned in pre-war trials by its original 1936 owner Henry Irving Wilkes from Cheltenham who was one of a small group of triple award winners in 1937 and mentioned in Wheelspin the definitive C.A.N May book on trials (I had the book for years and never made the connection) The car finished up in the USA near Seattle for many years before importing it in its original sad state as a restoration project. I was the first to restore it from the ground up but it retains many of its original features and was useful transport for our young family .

So, on a pre-covid summers day in 2019 John and his wife came over to be reunited with the car and drive it for the first time in 54 years. It bought back many happy memories to be reunited once again with something you last saw as a teenager!



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Beware of
your
Insurance
Policy Small
Print!

Beware of your Insurance Policy Small Print - John Morgan

I recently renewed my classic car insurance. For many years I have been insured with Peter Best Insurance mainly because they were underwritten by an insurer who did not specify undue security requirements when leaving the car parked.

The issue arose when my previous insurer required the roof to be raised, windows closed and doors locked whenever the car was parked even if out on a Club run or at a rally. It only applied to cars with door locks such as MGBs and Midgets. Peter Best originally confirmed that it was acceptable to leave cars open as long as personal possessions, etc. were not left exposed.

So, upon renewal this year, the renewal documents confirmed under "Reasonable Care, 'protect any INSURED VEHICLE from loss or damage'" as well as an intrusive garaging requirement. This is very much open to interpretation and I sought clarification. The response was:

The garaging endorsement on the policy will only cover the vehicles if they are kept locked within a locked garage (as stated) between the hours of 23.00 and 06.00. If you were to leave the garage or the vehicles unlocked and a theft occurred, you would not be insured. The garaging endorsement only applies when the vehicle is kept at the risk address (your home).

You would also need to take reasonable steps to secure the vehicles at all other times. For example, if you are away from home at a venue and the vehicle is to be left unattended, then the hood needs to be raised, windows raised and where available doors locked. Keys removed from ignition and personal possessions removed from show. Hiscox have confirmed that whilst sitting on your driveway at home during the day, if you were to leave the car unattended for a short period, i.e. to get a cup of tea etc., then it would not be necessary to raise hood/windows etc., however, please still remove keys from ignition and lock vehicles (where possible), again do not leave items on show. If the vehicle was to be left on driveway for any longer period, then the hood/windows would need to be raised as well.

This is totally unacceptable as it would result in constant raising/lowering of the hoods on any sort of Club event or activity or serious issues if working on the car in the garage meaning it couldn't be locked.

At about this time, the MGCC changed its preferred insurer to Cherished Vehicle and bizarrely they only required windows to be raised and doors locked (again only where car have fitted door locks) but the hood did not have to be raised and alternatively, the tonneau counted as a hood.

My insurance is now with Cherished who were also more competitive on price. The moral of the story is CHECK YOUR INSURANCE each time you renew. If the small print is not adhered to and the car stolen, there are a lot of CCTV cameras around that can prove how the car was parked.

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Regalia

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 Alex Lemon at alex.lemon@mgccse.co.uk

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

For Sale

SE CENTRE COMMITTEE AND CONTACTS

President	Derek Edwards	01737 765891	President@mgccse.co.uk
Chairman	Chris Leigh	07580 807988	Chair@mgccse.co.uk
Secretary	Austin Banner	07795 845312	Secretary@mgccse.co.uk
Events Secretary	Andrew Mitchell	07703 138419	events@mgccse.co.uk
Competition Secretary	John Morgan	07802 770025	competitions@mgccse.co.uk
Treasurer	Ron Kemp	01622 843536	Treasurer@mgccse.co.uk
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Trophies	John Davies	01737 241971	trophies@mgccse.co.uk
Regalia	Alex Lemon	07802 621116	alex.lemon@mgccse.co.uk
Regalia	Mike Chittenden.	02084 678 0022	regalia@mgccse.co.uk
Member	Ian Russell	0208 304 1037	mgashnatter@gmail.com
Member	Gwen Davies.	01737 241971	gwen.davies@mgccse.co.uk

Natter Leaders

Queen's Head Pinner	Gerry Edwards	07768 657797	Pinner@mgccse.co.uk
The Ship, Mortlake & Brooklands Museum	Danny Byrne “	01932 829814 “	Mortlake@mgccse.co.uk Brooklands@mgccse.co.uk
The Pheasant, Betchworth	John Morgan	0208 6572714	Buckland@mgccse.co.uk
The Fairmile, nr Cobham	Ian Ailes & John Glover	01932 856960 07802 770025	Cobham@mgccse.co.uk Cobham@mgccse.co.uk
Tunbridge Wells Area - position vacant. If interested please contact			Chair@mgccse.co.uk
The Plough, Stalisfield	William Opie & Ray Ruffels	01795 521846	Faversham@mgccse.co.uk
The George Inn, Trottiscliffe	Ian Russell	0208 304 1037	Ashnatter@mgccse.co.uk
The Black Horse, Nuthurst	David Griffiths	01403 264548	Nuthurst@mgccse.co.uk
The Golden Lion, Broadoak Canterbury.	John Clark	07940 769225	Broadoak@mgccse.co.uk
The British Queen, Eastbourne	Dennis Webb	07885 485255	SouthDowns@mgccse.co.uk

Various locations

Ashdown Adventurers	Richard Clark	07818 420921	AshdownAdventurers@mgccse.co.uk
Sussex Wanderers	David Griffiths	01403 264548	SussexWanderers@mgccse.co.uk
Surrey Wanderers	Su Joel	0208 660 7266	Surreywanderers@mgccse.co.uk
East Kent Wanderers	John Bennett	01227 637813	Eastkentwanderers@mgccse.co.uk
Kent Nomads	Ian Russell	0208 304 1037	kentnomads@mgccse.co.uk

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

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

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Finally, John Davies our Archivist writes:

As a follow-up to my Newsletter article earlier this year reference “The Magazine” whilst moving the Alvis in Redhill a passer by came up and asked if he could help with pushing it which we gladly accepted. Talking to him he said he used to live in New Malden and both he and his father like classic cars. He then said his father worked in a Body Shop and was always repairing damaged race MGs.

It turns out his father worked for the late Roy McCarthy – its a small world!

