MGCC SE Newsletter

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MGCC SE

January 2023 Newsletter

Editorial Note

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We hope you had a great Christmas and New Year and we welcome you to the January Edition of the Newsletter This edition covers the fourth quarter 22 events, Natter and Wanderers and members contributions including a special article on Anniversary MGs (Page 26) in light of the Centenary Celebration later this year. We also have some great cars for sale so please read right to the end!

If you or your fellow member are 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 <u>mgcc@mgcc.co.uk</u> 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 co-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.





<u> Chairman's Chatter – Tim Morris</u>
We celebrate 100 years of MG this year. The actual date of creation is often disputed so the MG Car Club has decided to celebrate across two years beginning in May this year and ending in May 2024. MG itself has always been a bit vague on the actual start date as you can see in the separate article in this newsletter. However, it is around the right time so let's celebrate!
There are some large MG100 events this year starting with a big bash at Gaydon to launch it all on May 27th and following it up with the combined MG & 100 th birthday at Silverstone on June 10 th /11 th . There are other more regional events around the UK and one for the post-Abingdon cars also planned this year. In the South East we'll be holding our own MG100 celebration on July 16 th at the Bluebell Railway Horsted Keynes station
and will be finishing with a huge MG100 South East event at Brooklands Museum on 18^{th} / 19^{th} May 2024 – so pop both of those in your diaries. The Brooklands event is the only one scheduled for 2024 at the moment and will bring to an end our Centenary year.
As this is the first newsletter of the New Year, I would like to remember 2022 and in particular thank some of our leaders who have now moved on. Firstly, Su Joel who led the Surrey Wanderers group stepped down last year and we are delighted that Philip Bayne- Powell has stepped up to the plate as their new leader. Then Richard Clark, who admirably led the Ashdown Adventurers for many years, moved out of the area and that group is now on hold, although a small group do meet for lunch still. Finally, the sad news that Dennis Webb, who led the South Downs Natter, passed away in the summer and that group, too, is on hold until a new leader can be found. Our condolences go to Dennis's family. A big thank you to all of them from the Centre for all the voluntary work they have put in over the years for the MG Car Club. We would also like to thank all the current natter/wanderer leaders for their work in promoting the club and organising meets/runs etc near you. If you haven't been to a local group yet then do look them up on our website and make 2023 the year to join in.
I also want to thank the committee who work tirelessly to bring you events and help the Natter and Wanderers groups plus all the volunteers who help out with marshalling and, of course, our natter and wanderer leaders themselves. You'll see some new sail flags this year at main events and new table flags at group meetings that have already been sent out. We've also purchased a new Coleman shelter which will actually fit in the back of an MG, which had its first test outing at Belmont House and worked very well. This is much easier and lighter to transport and you will see this out and about in the future rather than the old and heavy pop-up gazebos. We also have our new online shop, managed by Alex Lemon with Ace Embroidery Ltd and I hope that you took advantage of that to buy some gifts for Christmas? If not, then the New Year is also a good time for a new MG Car Club South East wardrobe so we can see you resplendent in the new gear later this year! The cost of living and energy prices are making it hard for all of us and the club has introduced a new Direct Debit scheme to help you remain a member at a reasonable monthly cost – a £10 initial payment and then 10 monthly payments of £5. That's about the price of a pint of beer per month so do let any potential new members know that it doesn't have to be expensive to join the MG Car Club – and don't forget it's all run by the members for the members!

The MG Affinity scheme gives large discounts off new MGs and a new club MG Advantage scheme is coming soon where local traders offer discounts on parts and services. Just two of the benefits of membership alongside all the activities you experience in the South East of course!

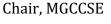
Committee Notes

Our AGM is coming up on February 18th at St Nicholas Hall in Godstone where you can meet the committee and leaders and hear how your club is progressing. We would love to see you there and if you would like to help out a bit more we do have some space on the committee - particularly if you are interested in events organisation or simply helping out on event days.

I wish you all a happy and fruitful MG New Year.

Chairman's Report

Tim Morris





The image above is me with Peter Stevens, MG-Rover's Chief Designer – check out MGCCSE on the Web (Page 7) and our YouTube channel for some of his comments about MGR.

Jan 2023	<u>Charity for 2023</u>					
Committee Notes MGCCSE Charity 2023	Last year the Centre decided to nominate a charity to support throughout the year from nominations put forward by members. At the last committee meeting it was decided to extend the current charity for a complete year as we only started the fundraising initiative last summer. Therefore, the Brain Tumour Charity will continue to be our chosen recipient until the end of the year. At that time, we'll be looking for nominations for a new charity to support for 2024. The Brain Tumour Charity has proved to be close to many of our members and has affected my own family personally, thankfully with a positive outcome. Charitable donations into research, support and care are very important as is the immense skill of the medical teams involved. We cannot thank them enough and also the optician who originally spotted something was wrong which shows the value of regular eye checks. We will be making collections at various events but if you would like to donate direct to the Brain Tumour Charity then please do so on our Just Giving website:- https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mgccse					



Jan 2023	<u>Competition and Events – John Morgan</u>				
	The SE Centre 2023 Calendar is near finalisation and should be available early in the New Year, printed copy in the March or April Safety Fast and also on the SE Centre website.				
Committee Notes	Although many of the MGCC events are classified as non-competitive such as the Road Runs (or Motorsport UK Title of Touring Assemblies), they still need to comply with Motorsport UK's Rules, because the MGCC is an affiliated club and Motorsport UK provides significant event insurance. This is where my role as Competition Secretary ensures that events are correctly planned.				
Competition anf Events	Looking ahead to 2023, the SE Centre is still keen to promote 'grass root' competitive events that members can enter with standard MG road cars with little risk of damage if driven with care. This ideology has always been part of the MGCC heritage with the club participating in trials and racing almost from when the club started in 1930, before the Second World War and largely responsible for the amazing growth of the club. Young drivers were eager to buy their MG M types, J2s, etc. and compete in the events of the day. Some of these events are fascinating to read about as modern day events do not come close to the stamina required in the 30s with the relatively poor roads of the day.				
	In the main our competitive event participation will be in conjunction with other clubs in the SE, but new for 2023 will be an MGCC SE Centre organised Autosolo. Looking ahead to 2023 we have planned primary participation in:				
	 The usual Valentine Treasure Hunt on 19th February, being organised by Epsom MGOC, who have an extended an invitation to up to 10 SE Centre members' cars. The SE Centre is planning an Autosolo at Filching Manor in East Sussex on Saturday April 15th using their Go Kart track. This is an ideal event for the novice, as the routes are all indicated by cones and direction arrows, with no reversing or route memorising required. 				

Committee Notes

Competition anf Events

- An Autotest Taster day event on Saturday May 7th in Kent, again at the invite of MMKMC. The taster day is intended to give members a chance to have a go or practice their autotesting skills and it will be on grass and therefore, non-damaging. Later in the year there are several clubs who run grass autotest events for which we can request invitations.
- Currently two events are listed for **Car Trials**, **2**nd **April and 1**st **October**, organised by MMKMC. Early in the New Year I will be liaising with our members who have expressed an interest and confirm either one or both of the events. For more information on Trials refer to the reports on recent events in the newsletters or on the website.



- Our **Spring and Autumn Naviscats** are planned for **26th March** and **1st October**. An excellent step up from Treasure Hunts, testing skills in map plotting, navigation and strategy planning. The SE Centre events for 2023 will be classified as Taster events meaning that non-members can take part.
- Autumn Leaves Road Run and Scavenger, West Sussex, 15th October.

In addition to the above events that have been outlined, as the SE Centre is a member of the Association of South Eastern Motor Clubs (ASEMC), our members are automatically invited to enter numerous competitive events organised by motor clubs from all over the SE region. This includes clubs such as Sevenoaks Motor Club, Bognor Regis Motor Club, Farnborough and District Motor Club, etc., all of whom organise a programme of competitive events throughout the year, including a series of grass Autotests, Autosolos, Trials and some MGCC members have in the past regularly entered events such as Autosolos.

Finally, the 2023 SE Centre Calendar will includes dates for planned MGCC Race Meetings at Brands Hatch and the dates of MGs on Track events being organised in our region. If you would like any information on how to take part, what is involved, what events are being organised, or what invitations the SE Centre has received, then either email me on <u>competitions@mgccse.co.uk</u> or give me a call on 07802 770025.

John Morgan – Competition Secretary

See Safety Fast South-East notes for monthly updates and the MGCCSE web site for Social Media and information on planned events plus updates on past events. Events could be subject to change so keep up-to-date via contact with your local Natter and Wanderers leader/s and see the Full Calendar of Events via the South Eastern Centre web site at - <u>http://www.mgccse.co.uk</u>

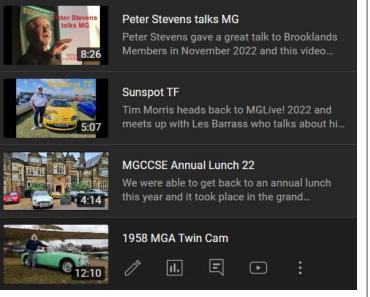
Committee Notes

SE Centre Calendar Summary Next 4 Months 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	Location	<u>Contact</u>
Sunday February 12th	MG Triumph Spares Day	Stonebridge Park	MGCC
Saturday February 18th	SE Centre AGM	St Nicholas, Godstone RH9 8LW	Austin Banner austin.banner@gmail.com
Sunday 26 th March	Spring Naviscat	ТВА	Alex Lemon alex.lemon@mgccse.co.uk
Sunday 2 nd April	MMKMC Trial	Otham	John Morgan 07802 770025 competitions@mgccse.co.uk
Saturday 15 th April	Autosolo	Filching Manor Go Kart Track	John Morgan 07802 770025 competitions@mgccse.co.uk
Sunday 23 rd April	Spring Meeting	Lullingstone Castle & Roman Villa	TBA
Sunday July 16th	MG 100 Centenary Event	Bluebell Railway Horsted Keynes Station	ТВА

N.B. The full calendar of events will also be printed as usual in the **March or April** edition of Safety Fast so we look forward to excellent participation at our 2023/24 Centenary Celebrations.

Jan	MGCCSE on the Web - Tim Morris
2023	You'll find some more new videos on our channel – firstly I caught met up with Peter Stevens at a Brooklands event and recorded his comments about his time with MG Rover – you'll find those separated from the whole talk on our channel. (The entire talk can be
Committee Notes	found on the Brooklands Members YT channel). We've added in some interviews plus a short video about the annual awards lunch at Hartsfield Manor along with a video submitted by John Morgan about the Edinburgh Trial (which, as I have now learnt, takes place nowhere near Scotland!). If you have any MG related home videos or video clips then we are quite happy to view them and put them on the channel.
Web & Social Media	The BMTV Spinning Wheels programme about Bob Zanetti and his MGA Twin Cam has now overtaken John Langford's MaGnettes as the most popular video and has over 2,100 views! The channel has nearly 80 subscribers and if you do visit then please don't forget to hit "Subscribe" to be notified of future updates and help keep our viewing figures high for the algorithms. The point of the channel is two-fold – a good place to store MGCCSE videos and a good place to encourage more members to join us. The channel has now reached over 10.5 thousand views and each of those viewers is seeing the MGCCSE and MGCC logos when they view – great advertising for us.
	You can find the channel on a new convenient "handle" of @mgccse which is the same now for all our social media channels when you are searching. The full YouTube one is
	youtube.com/@mgccse



Elsewhere across our social media we are still using Facebook as our main means of social media communications with both a "company" page and a "chat" group. The Chat group is private, and you can make posts yourselves on there (you must be a member to join) but you can comment on anything posted on the main MGCCSE page too. We are also on Instagram and Twitter and are finding that Insta is becoming more popular at the moment. The website received around 13,000 views in 2022 which is just under 40 a day on average and the highest yearly figure since the site's first full year in 2018 so hopefully that means members are looking at to obtain information – incidentally you'll find the 2023 event list on there now to help you plan for this year.

Jan	
2023)

Events

SE Centre

Autumn Naviscat

<u> Autumn Naviscat 2022 – Chris Leigh</u>

Sunday 2nd October 2022 had a tricky weather forecast that did little to prevent a pleasing variety of MGs and other marques from attending an event which took place in very welcome sunshine! Once again, the Inter-Register Club and the Ashford Motor Club joined us for this event.

The contestants met at The Black Horse PH in Stansted, just North of Wrotham in Kent from 10.0am for a bacon roll breakfast. Map references were handed out at 11.0am and our hosts kindly allowed us to make good use of their dining tables to plot our routes before we set off.





The area chosen for the event was navigationally challenging. On paper, the map references appeared confusing because both the "eastings" and the "northings" were very similar numbers. The local topography of narrow country lanes, steep hills and an area littered with unsigned cross-roads demanded a keen sense of direction and good driving skills for success.

None of the contestant lived locally and the furthest travelled car was a beautiful white 1935 Austin 12/6 Newbury open tourer from Walton-on-the-Naze! The age of the contestants also broke some records: The oldest Driver was 81, the youngest 19, the oldest Navigator was a very young 85 and the youngest was only 10!!





No two Naviscat questions are ever the same – the easy 1-point drive-by questions included finding a happy seat and a cat crossing and the more difficult 2 and 3-point questions meant searching for an angel and a crashed Hurricane etc.!

I have pleasure in telling you that every competitor was back at The Black Horse for their pre-ordered Sunday Dinner by 2.30pm. Once answer sheets were collected, photographic evidence of the correct answers was displayed for everyone to examine. Answer sheets were marked immediately and the results together with prizes were handed out before everyone said their farewells and left for home.

Events

SE Centre

Autumn Naviscat







Overall Winners above left – Sam Warrilow & Mia Manser. MGCC First Prize – Alex Lemon & Mike Chittenden

It proved to be a high-scoring event and I am very pleased to say that the results confounded my belief that map-reading skills are a dying art due to the scourge of the dreaded sat-nav. Novice contestants excelled themselves with the overall winners being aged 19 and 18! One of the oldest cars, a wonderful 1933 Riley Lynx open tourer came in second overall whilst the best MGCC result was provided by Committee Members Alex Lemon and Mike Chittenden in a 1974 MGBGT. Best MGCC Novices were father and son Martyn and Timothy Noak in their 1998 MGF Abingdon LE. The different MG classes were combined on this occasion according to the rules – see full results and images on <u>www.mgccse.co.uk</u>

Do think about getting involved yourself next year before the younger members really take over! Naviscats take place on minor normal roads, normal car insurance usually applies and the MSUK Competition Licence is free! We are always happy to give some training beforehand and help is also available with map reading etc on the day of the event if needed.

Our 2023 dates are already planned. Please check the MGCCSE website for further information

Sunday 26th March 2023 - The Spring Naviscat organised by Alex Lemon & Mike Chittenden.

Sunday 1st October 2023 - The Autumn Naviscat organised by Philip & Rosemary Bayne-Powell.

Chris Leigh - 20/11/22

MGCCSE - AUTUMN NAVISCAT 2nd October 2022 - The Results

Events

SE Centre

Autumn Naviscat

Order	Names No	vice	Car	Club	Score	Award
1	SAM WARRILOW		Suzuki Jimny	AMC	37	Big Rosette
	MIA MANSER		2002			Chocs
2	ANDREW MORTIMER		Riley Lynx	IRC	34	2Bottles
	Tourer					of wine
	HANNAH WARREN		1933	Maga		1 st Rosettes
3	ALEX LEMON		MGBGT	MGCC	31	1 st Rosettes
	MIKE CHITTENDEN		1974			
4	STUART MANSER		AUDI A3	MGCC	29	2 nd Rosettes
	JANINA DOWNEY		2015			
5	PHILIP BAYNE-POWEI	L	MG NA	MGCC	24	Chocs
	Allingham			IRC		
	ROSEMARY BAYNE-PO	WEL	L 1935			
6	MARTYN NOAK	\checkmark	MGF	MGCC	19	Novice
	Abingdon					Rosettes
	TIMOTHY NOAK		1998	14000		
7	COLIN CHEETHAM		MGB Roadster	MGCC	19	
	RICHARD CARRISON		1970			
8	GEOFF PICKARD		Austin 12/6	IRC	18	
	ANDREW MURDOCK		Newberry			
	ALEX MURDOCK		1935			
9	MICK BREARE & MEG		DKW 1000S	MGCC	14	
	AUSTIN BANNER		1962			
10	RICHARD KEIL		Jowett 8hp	IRC	14	Youngest
	EMILIA KEIL		1939			Chocs
11	ANDREW WARRILOW		Merc SL300	AMC	14	
	VANESSA WARRILOW	-	1995			
12	ROD STEVENSON		MGBGT	MGCC	8	
	EDWIN HOLBROOK	•	1973	AMC		

(Alex Lemon & Mike Chittenden have agreed to organise the Spring 2023 Naviscat)

(Philip & Rosemary Bayne-Powell were drawn to organise the Autumn2023 Naviscat)

Chris & Janice Leigh 21/10/22

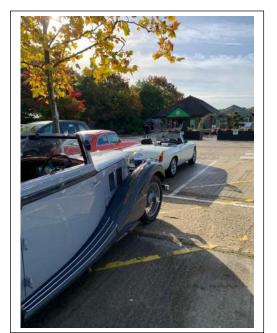
<u>Autumn Leaves and Scavenger Run – David Griffiths/Austin Banner</u>

Events

SE Centre

Autumn Leaves & Scavenger Run

Sunday October 16th





This year we held this event in October, in the hope of encouraging more entries, as it had been held in December in previous years. Fortunately, the weather was kind to us and 12 entrants met at the Camelia Botnar Garden Centre which is off the A272 between Cowfold and Buck Barn.

The route had been designed by Stewart Penfound and provided an excellent and interesting drive through the West Sussex countryside and a number of villages where the entrants stopped to find answers to the various questions. After coffee and the opportunity to take on board sustenance entrants left the garden centre turning right and heading South toward Partridge Green. Here participants stopped to seek out answers to several questions before returning to their cars.

The route then took everyone along the High Street and to the junction with the B2135 where we turned left driving South towards Steyning. The village nestles at the bottom of the South Downs and was the next stop for participants to answer more questions. After leaving the village the route continued South crossing the South Downs on the `Bostal Road, before joining the A27 at Sompting.

Looking South from the Bostal Road there are some spectacular views out to sea and the Rampion Wind Farm which is 8 miles off the coast and the answer to one of the questions!

On arrival at the A27 the route turned East and after a short distance Shoreham Airport appeared on our right a signal that it was time to turn left and head North parallel to the river Arun. The route took us past Lancing College a landmark on the South Downs and after a couple of miles we entered the villages of Bramber and Upper Beeding the penultimate stopping point for participants to seek out the answers to several questions.

Events

SE Centre

Autumn Leaves and Scavenger Run

Sunday October 16th



Returning to their cars entrants drove East crossing the river Arun before joining the A2037 for a pleasant drive to Henfield the final destination to find answers to the final tranche of questions. Questions answered it was but a short drive to Goddards Green and the finish at The Sportsman PH, a total drive of 32.5 miles, where Austin Banner greeted the intrepid entrants and calculated results.

All but one of the competitors were unable to complete the drive in the time allocated and were concerned that the questions were difficult! However, the result was Steve and Jane Arthur came first, Andrew Sewel with Paul and Susan Garnham were second and Philip Spooner and Stephen Kennedy third so well done to all who took part in a very enjoyable day.





Annual Lunch Meet and Awards

The morning's heavy rain failed to deter many of the South East MGs from the motorways leading to the small Surrey village of Betchworth.

Hartsfield Manor is an ideal location for the MGCCSE Annual Lunch and the MGs parked at the front of the house adding even more grandeur to the scene. That was where the "Partners PoO" took place and the ladies and gentlemen viewed all the MGs placing them in three different categories. Overall Winner – Derek Moore MG YB, Car of the Day – Will Opie MGC and Car I would most like to take home - Janis Leigh MGA Twin Cam.



Our guest speaker was the inimitable Dr Ian Pogson, former chief engineer at MG Rover and someone who has experienced life in China where he was helping SAIC set up MG factories in the country. His humourous talk focussed on the differences in cultures but there was also a small amount of car talk and a smattering of Tommy Cooper jokes!





Events

SE Centre

Annual Lunch and Awards

Annual Lunch Meet and Awards

The return of the MGCCSE annual lunch after the years of Covid was a great opportunity, not only to all gathered together once again, but also to present the club's annual awards. John Davies had prepared them all to Hartsfield Manor where the Chairman, Tim Morris, presented them after lunch. You'll find **all the winners and images** are listed at <u>www.mgccse.co.uk</u>

Events

SE Centre

Annual Lunch and Awards





In addition to Dr Pogson we were delighted to welcome the MGCC Vice-President Ian Quarrington and AR Online editor Michael Humble to the lunch. We were also pleased that MGCCSE President Derek Edwards and his wife, Anne, also joined us for the awards. A big thank you goes to club secretary Austin Banner who organised the event, John Morgan for the slideshow and tech, John Davies for the trophies and William Opie

and Tim & Liz Morris for the photos and video.







<u> Brian Lewis Car Trial – Will Opie</u>

The Brian Lewis Trial (organised by the **Maidstone and mid Kent Motor Club**) took place at Otham near Maidstone on Sunday 30th October. There is always an open invitation to the SE Centre and 2 MGs participated. This time it was a very wet and muddy event with many challenges over the 6 hills leading to modern front wheel drive cars having greater success than a TD and NB Magnette. Despite copious bouncing and wheel spin a fun day was had nevertheless.



If you would like to take part in this wonderful driving experience contact John Morgan at <u>competitions@mgccse.co.uk</u> or see full details on <u>www.mgccse.co.uk</u>





Events

SE Centre

Brian Lewis Car Trial

Fairmile Natter update - Ian Ailes/ Jon Glover

Talk by CPC Batteries

Local Club Meets

Fairmile Natter Update Steve Thompson of CPC Batteries based in Tolworth Surrey gave a talk to the Fairmile Natter on 10th November. Car batteries are only part of their business as they supply the lighthouse batteries for Trinity House and they can supply car batteries for vehicles from the 1920's! Steve brought a selection of modern and old style batteries along to show us and explained the pros and cons of fitting modern batteries against replicas which use more modern internals in old cases. They tend to cost double and are 65Ah against 95Ah. If your battery is under the back seat, do you need a replica. If it's under the bonnet and you show your car then OK.

Steve also explained the advantages of and how to fit twin 12v in place of 6v for longer life and better starting. 12v are now available in 6v sizes. He also explained why you should replace them in pairs to avoid 'shunting' which is why they tend to fail. A good piece of advice is to drive at least 10 miles when you go out to fully recharge the battery and don't use conditioners all year round as they can over do the charging. Batteries like to be used. A total of 16 members attended and were surprised how much they did not know or had forgotten. Several were sent back in time to school days physics which haven't changed but are used in different ways these days.





<u>Tune Up Day</u>

What a fantastic morning we had and the weather was just perfect, dry, sunny and mild. The Fairmile organised a Tune-up morning hosted by Gordon and Mary Stanley deep in Pirbright Forest. There was lots of space to tinker with MGs and make some noise! Ten members attended and five cars went under the 'spanner', a TC, two TFs, a BGT and a C.

Local Club Meets

Fairmile Natter Update



Following happy birthday to Eric Worpe with cakes, we had a safety briefing with more cakes and coffee. Members then paired up and got stuck in to see how well set up their engines were. Professional quality tools were on hand to check dwell, timing, balance and mixture. All the carbs were well balanced, and jets centred but some were running rich and some jets were unevenly set – easily checked with a vernier. Float chambers also needed some attention. Setting the timing and checking the airflow on the TFs presented a challenge for our experts on hand but success prevailed.



After more cakes and doughnuts, the cars began to sound sweeter and gradually got put back together for a lunchtime departure and happy run home. This was the first time we had tried such an event and we plan to do it again in the spring, concentrating on just one or two aspects of maintenance. Future topics include tracking and tappets.

Local Club Meets

Fairmile Natter Update



Well worth doing if you can find a venue. It's so much easier when there is help on hand to read gauges and dials while you are making adjustments. Several people were interested in the Tourist Trophy tune up kit. The part no. is GAC6101x and is available from MG specialists and the Octagon Car Club. Many thanks to Gordon and Mary for their hospitality and to Alex, Mary and Hilary M for the cakes and doughnuts.



North Downs - Ray Ruffels / Will Opie

Autumn Season Day Events

As well as the normal Natter nights several runs were arranged to Kent lunch venues including first time at the Three Chimneys PH, Biddenden. We held our Christmas lunch at the Dering Arms Pluckley, our normal evening Natter venue, which ended an excellent year for the club. Some images below:









Local Club Meets

North Downs Natter Update

Local Club Meets

Sportsman Natter 2022

Sportsman Natter 2022 Review - John Morgan

MG activities and events reverted to a more normal schedule in 2022, albeit with underlying caution of COVID breaking out again. The MGCC SE Centre organised a full programme of events, although the choice of venues was limited by the after effects of the COVID pandemic and reluctance to accept Car Club events in general. The Natter moved from The Pheasant to The Sportsman in December 2021 for the Christmas social. After quiet social natters in the bar in January and February, the March meeting had an audio visual photo show from the archives, examining some lovely period photographs of MG events through the 60s to early 2000s. Our Natter dinner took place in April at The Sportsman, followed in May by the Pilgrim Brewery (below left) giving a talk about the brewery revitalisation and their plans for craft beer.



At the end of May, the SE Centre Spring Meeting was held at Filching Manor(above right) and included a Road Run, Pride of Ownership and Concours. The 15th century manor house provided a lovely setting, coupled with a very interesting collection of Campbell family cars, as well as Bluebird K3.

We also had The Sportsman Natter BBQ on the following day, held in the Walcountians RFC, near Banstead. Diana Calvert and sister, Pat, provided some unusual salads and desserts, with Pat undertaking all the cooking on the BBQ. The food was followed by pub games in the clubhouse.

At the June Natter meeting, the first round of the Alternative of Pride of Ownership was held, followed in July by the lunchtime round at The Surrey Oaks, Newdigate, and the final round at The Fairmile, Cobham, all enjoying the hot dry summer. Also in June, the Natter organised a car display in the Reigate Tunnel (below), coupled with a visit to the caves below Reigate Castle Gardens. One of the natter supporters is a member of the caving group that help manage the caves and he gave a fascinating guided tour.



The SE Centre organised the South Downs Windmill Tour finishing at Parham House. It was a lovely but very hot day, with some interesting windmills en route through the South Downs. Unfortunately, a major accident on the M23/A23 made it near impossible for some entrants to start on time, but despite this, it was overall an enjoyable day.

Local Club Meets

Sportsman Natter 2022 A Pub social was held in August and Doug Bush, previously a long time fellow natter leader, came along to meet members during his first return trip from Australia since the COVID pandemic (below left). The September meeting was cancelled, as it was the day of mourning for the Queen's Funeral.



The SE Centre Autumn Meeting in September took place at Belmont House and Gardens (above right), near Faversham. The event included a Road Run, Pride of Ownership and Concours and, yet again, attracted a great mix of cars parked on the lawns in front the house. The house is renowned for its amazing collection of historic clocks.

Also in September, natter members visited and toured the Pilgrim Brewery, following their Natter talk earlier in the year. The head brewer gave an excellect presentation with beer samples, plus there was some enjoyable beer tasting in the Tap Room, accompanied by pizza.

October's meeting had an audio visual talk by Chris Cuss on Riley Cars. The talk covered the family and how the cars evolved. After takeover by the Nuffield organisation they were built post-war at Abingdon. This was followed in November by our technical talk by Ashley Hinton, who owns and runs a manufacturing business of parts for historic and classic cars, many produced to original factory drawings. He supplies some of the main MG support companies, including Moss and it was interesting to see the inside story to the operation.

Our 2022 closer event was the Christmas social Natter, held this year at The Blue Ball, Tadworth, including festive nibbles. The SE Centre again continued with some competitive events, entering teams in the Spring and Autumn Trials organised by Maidstone & Mid Kent Motor Club, held near Maidstone. Natter members also entered the Spring and Autumn Naviscats. Competitive events will continue in 2023, with Trials, Naviscats and Autosolo (forward only timed driving test) at the Filching Manor Go Kart track.

Both the MGCC SE Centre 2023 Programme and The Sportsman Natter dates will be available in New Year. Don't forget to look out for the special Centenary events starting with Bluebell Railway in May including special headed train. To close, I urge members to try to ensure they have Natter da in their diaries and to support the more important Natter activities, such as guest speakers, au visual talks, social runs, etc. It takes quite a lot of work to organise these evenings by John, with assistance from Austin. As the old adage says, "use it or lose it"! Suggestions for Natter activities always welcomed!

Looking forward to an MG Active 2023 - John Morgan and Austin Banner

Local Club Meets

Pinner Natter Update

Pinner Natter - Gerry Edwards

The Pinner Natter is continuing to grow and this has been really good news for the Natter. A number of enquiries and members that we get are a direct result of publicity left in our very local MG dealer but also because we have a very in your face mini POO at the Queen's Head from May until September. The car is big enough to hold our cars but on some nights we struggle to find seats! Which I guess is good news really! The Natter is lucky in that it has a very diverse membership in terms of age, MG's and classic car ownership which range from VA's, WA's, TC's, TD's, a Magnettes, MGA's, MGB's and the modern classic ZR's, a ZTT, MGF's and MGTF's as well as a very good smattering of non MG classics.



During the year the Pinner Natter holds a number of events along with its monthly Natter meeting at the Queen's Head. This is important for our Natter members as with Pinner being on the periphery Area events are generally accessible as members are simply not willing or unable to attend due to the often considerable distances involved. As already noted mini POO's are held from May to September in the Queen's Head large car park, regular Breakfast meetings which are becoming increasingly popular (16 cars at the most recent Breakfast) and midweek lunchtime meetings which are preceded by a short drive. Also at the end of January we hold our annual Post Christmas Dinner which for 2023 is already very well booked. Due to the proximity of several of Abingdon Works Centre Natters (Chesham in particular) and a local MG Owners Club meeting we are fortunate in being able to attend a number of good events locally and in return we get good attendances at our Breakfast meetings. Many members are also members of Brooklands so Natter visits there are fairly common and several members are involved with some Car Club Registers. Several members are also regular visitors to the Goodwood Festival of Speed and the Goodwood Revival.

Sadly, our big local show – the Uxbridge Autoshow – was cancelled in 2022 for reasons unknown which prevented the Natter putting on a display there which had been long planned. As this show has a very large turnout we have always been successful there in recruiting new members. It is to be hoped that this Show will return in 2023.

Canterbury Natter - John Clark

The Canterbury "natter" had a pretty busy and enjoyable year with quite a few outings and runs....and not a Bingo session nor Quiz evening in sight! Oh...apart from the mini quiz at our Christmas Party in December. The quiz will not be repeated

Two of the more recent events were:

WEST BAY PICNIC IN JULY

The change of event on the 20th July from Lullingstone to a West Bay picnic was an absolute hoot. We all sat on the green and the chatter was constant, and we were blessed with lovely weather. With 6 MG's and 9 folk it was a good turnout.

And, of course a paddle in the sea was compulsory for some as the picture shows!

Then afterwards we retired to the local pub for initially drinks... and then all decided that we should have a yummy supper.





KINGSTON FETE

A good number of us attended the fete to support Brian Morris, a club member whom is also involved in setting up the event. A rather lovely day and the weather was kind to us. It was a classic English summer fete. Once again the Gazebo was a great asset.

Barry and Jan Grist entered a dog in the dog show (it's not even their dog!) and won two prizes....*The waggiest tail*.....and *the dog most would like to take home.* Barry was well chuffed.....in fact one could say he was like a "dog with......"







Canterbury Natter

Local Club

Meets

Update

Local Club Meets

Sussex Wanderers Update

Sussex Wanderers - David Griffiths



So, miracles really do happen. On Wednesday 9th November 50 members of the Sussex Wanderers enjoyed their November run in bright sunshine with blue skies overhead! Yes, really. The previous days had seen monsoon conditions and high winds covering most parts of the County with flooding, sudden torrential downpours causing dire driving conditions. However, the weather gods took pity on us and gave us a bright and dry autumnal day to explore yet more Sussex and Surrey roads. In view of the possibility of inclement weather conditions we were fortunate that more members than expected chose their MGs as a mode of transport not a more modern car. However, the car park was filled with a stunning collection of MGs, including Paul Campbells VA tourer, Chris Rickards delightful two tone TF, Chris Bunning's MGA and a great selection of the more modern models of Midgets, MGBs, MGB GTs, Fs and TFs in a multitude of colours. Robin Hamilton joined us in his latest acquisition, a MG ZT-T 260 estate. It is powered by a supercharged 4.6 litre V8 and was built whilst MG was under the banner of BMW.

The Sussex Oak in Warnham was our start for the day and where we all met for a coffee and a chat before setting off on the run to our lunch venue. It was not long before the first "Road Closed" sign was encountered.



Local Club Meets

Sussex Wanderers Update

Sussex Wanderers - David Griffiths

Its' probably fair to say that the "suggested route" for drivers and navigators out towards Cranleigh, then skirting Dunsfold, through Plaistow and finally passing through Loxwood, en route to Alfold Bars and our lunch destination was not completed in its original form by anyone, due to so many closed roads! Incredibly some folk encountered between 3 and 5 closures and diversions, but by 'hook or by crook' everyone managed to arrive safely at our lunch destination - The Sir Roger Tichborne, by 1.00pm, in time for lunch.



Needless to say there was much chat about how many 'Closed Roads' did you encounter, or 'Did you get lost? - there should have been a prize! One couple did mention the possibility of 'divorce'' over navigating this route, which was extremely wet and almost subject to a road closure at every turn but they were still talking amicably after a restorative lunch! Our meals were delicious and plentiful and very much appreciated by everyone after their very 'trying' but thankfully sunny and bright morning. Our thanks to George and his team for looking after us so well. During lunch our monthly raffle was drawn, and the lucky winners were Roger Lane, Jill and Roy Baker and Tony and Brenda Riddett,

Riding for the Disabled:

Our members and guests never fail to amaze Ursula and I with their generosity towards RDA, and November was no exception. Jenny Durston kindly circulated around the tables with the collecting pot and amassed the tremendous sum of £200.00. Our thanks to all of you for your continuing generosity.

Our Festive Meet is Wednesday 14th December at the Red Lion in Ashington and then after a couple of months off the Programme for 2023 will start in March although this programme has not been finalized yet so please let me or Ursula know a route or venue you would particulary like.

So, 2022 was excellent with a full quota of 10 outings! Your continued generosity is beyond bounds and **Riding for the Disabled** will benefit from the largest cheque that we have ever presented to them. This will occur sometime in January 2023 and we will let you know when the presentation will take place.

Members Corner

Anniversary Cars

Anniversary Cars - Tim Morris

The actual start date of MG is a matter for debate. Why the confusion? Well, it is all down to Cecil Kimber who can be rightly considered as the father of MG. He came to work for William Morris in 1921 as the Morris Garage business was booming alongside the separate Morris Motors manufacturing company producing Morris Oxfords. Kimber was duly appointed as sales manager for Morris Garages and so came within the Morris firmament. A twist of fate occurred in 1922 when the general manager Edward Armstead suddenly resigned and a few weeks later committed suicide. Kimber was promoted into his position and immediately seized the opportunity to begin designing his own body work to fit on Morris Oxford chassis. By 1923 Cecil, with his wife Rene, were working hard designing car bodies and Rene would often model with them when the car was produced in Morris Garages adverts. These rebodied Morris Oxfords sold well and Kimber was encouraged to make more of these Morris Garages conversions.



The iconic "Old Number One" was begun in 1924 at the same time as the first advertisements marked as MG appeared and was not actually the first MG! It was based on a modified Morris Cowley chassis which held a special overhead valve Hotchkiss engine and built specifically to compete. It was finished on March 27th 1925 with a two seat body built by Carbodies of Coventry. It was the first "MG" designed and built using Morris components and not simply a conversion of an existing model. A four-seat tourer version was also built which featured in Autocar in May that year. The first car to be advertised as an M.G. was a Chummy bodied Morris which appeared in the first edition of "The Morris Owner" in March 1924. There is a reference to M.G. Sports cars being built in a Morris Garages pamphlet from 1928 that states M.G. Sports car were first introduced in 1923. The MG octagon logo also first appeared in advertisements in 1924 and was registered as a trademark that year.

Members Corner

Anniversary Cars

So, we have three years – 1923 when Kimber first began designs and rebodied Morris cars and there is that early pamphlet reference; 1924 when M.G. Supersports models began to sell well and when the first original model began to be built from scratch or even 1925 when it was actually finished. But perhaps we are all too early as officially the MG Car Company did not come in to being as a separate entity from Morris Garages until March 1928, in which case we need to wait another five years! The confusion is understandable as MG was undergoing considerable evolution over these three years. Now we come to some more confusion – the first MG marketed as an anniversary model didn't arrive until 1975 – the MGB GT Jubilee.



MGBGT Jubilee

It was only made as a GT as part of a marketing ploy as the GT had recently failed US Emissions tests, hence the decision to try and boost sales with a 50th anniversary model in 1975. This was the beginning of the limited or special edition MG models and it took a long time to arrive. All the Jubilees featured British Racing Green paintwork with a distinctive gold side stripe and all the available optional extras including headrests, tinted glass and heated rear screen. Special anniversary badging appeared on the front wings and the MG badges were gold too. The Wheels were from the V8, which was suffering reduced sales due to high petrol prices at the time, but sprayed gold and black. There were 751 made and there were two "one-offs" - a Midget in the same colours and a V8 roadster, in the slightly different shade of Brooklands Green, which was offered as a raffle prize in the US. One further version of the GT was made with a V8 engine, which it probably should have had in the first place, for the British School of Motoring. All were of the new "rubber bumper" type designed as a fix to get around US Import rules. Although there was a Limited Edition run at the end of the MGB timeline the specials/limiteds would not re-appear in earnest until the MGF.

Members Corner

Anniversary Cars



MGF 75th Anniversary

The MGF was a marketing department dream with lots of limited and special editions designed to boost sales. Most of these were in fact just different trim levels but, never to let a marketing opportunity go by, they resurrected the MG anniversary with the 75th Anniversary MGF. The car was launched in March 1999 and so took us back a year from the Jubilee B to 1924 being the "birth" of MG. All future anniversary models would stick to 1924 as the base year. They came in two colours, mulberry red and solid black, with grenadine red leather interior and contrasting hoods (black on red, red on black – although you could specify the other way round!) with a silver option available overseas. Chrome pack and 16" multispoke alloys in both engine types. A small 75th anniversary badge appeared on both front wings and a numbered badge on the T bar. UK numbers restricted to 500 and 2000 worldwide.





Members Corner

Anniversary Cars MGTF 80th Anniversary – image above

Never ones to rest on their laurels there were ten different MGF/TF editions between the 75th and 80th LEs! Launched in January 2004 the 80th LE is a good-looking car and often considered one of the best of the Limited/Special editions. It came in three colours – Pearl Black, Starlight Silver and Goodwood Green. The silver and black cars had a red hood, ash grey interior and grenadine Alcantara/ back leather seats with bright finish accessories. The Green one was more of a traditional "country" style with a tan hood and interior with black Alcantara/ tan leather seats plus wood effect inserts on the console, doors and gear knob. All variants had 1924 MG 2004 embroidered on the seat backs and chrome fitting on the boot lid. They were available in all engine variants. Limited to 500 in the UK and 1600 sold worldwide. It is an 80th LE that has the distinction of being the most expensive MGF/TF having been sold in 2004 for £275,000 – it was at a special charity auction run by fashion designer Jeff Banks.





MGTF 85th Anniversary

Conveniently there was an anniversary model produced in each of the three main MGF variants – MGF, MG Rover TF and SAIC TF. The 85th LE was perhaps the ultimate in refinement of the MGF family – a re-engineered working of the standard SAIC 135 TF. The outstanding work by the engineering team was led by Ian Pogson (who spoke to us at our annual lunch in 2022) and completely reworked the suspension system with the addition of Bilstein shocks and Eibach anti roll bars. The car's geometry was checked by hand by members of the engineering team as it rolled down the production line. The "twist of pepper" alloys were provided by Rimstock and the car came in three distinctive colours – Ice White, Enigmatic Silver and Intense Cassis all with a contrasting purple or silver double stripe and special "85" vinyls on the sides. It is the most refined of all the F/TFs and a handsome way to finish the F/TF dynasty (yes, some standard 135s were made afterwards!). Numbers were ridiculously low, for such a fine car, with a run of just fifty (Ian says there were actually 51!) which is a great shame and so much more could have been made of it – particularly if a 160bhp version was made!

Members Corner

Anniversary Cars



MG3/690th Anniversary

SAIC had produced the 85th TF but when the 90th anniversary rolled around in 2014 there was no sports car to make a special edition from so it fell to the humble MG3 and MG6. Only 90 cars were produced and were basically top of the range models with some extra badging on the boot lid, wings and embroidered head rests. A special MG roof decal was included on the MG3STYLE spec car and the black roofed MG6 was the TSE model. The MG3 came in three "trendy" colours – White on the Tiles, Smokey Blue and Silver Fox whilst the 6 came in two colours - Granite Grey and Platinum Silver with black alloys. These cars were shown in June 2014 at Silverstone alongside an all-electric concept called the MG Dynamo – whatever became of that! MG offered an MG3 free to a lucky customer if they sold all 90 models - we don't know if anyone did get that free one or even if they did sell all 90! At the Beijing Auto Show of 2014 MG showed nine anniversary model MGs so it should be emphasised that the ninety 3 and 6s were for the UK - other anniversary models featured worldwide.

Words/ Pics by Tim Morris

Members Corner

A New Departure

A New Departure - John Bennett

I've lost count of the number of MGs I've owned over the years, well over 20 I do know. The first was TB281 bought for £180. It was actually owned by my brother-in-law but I found it and looked after it for him so it was almost mine. Sadly, he rolled it when he fell asleep on the A1 driving home on Christmas Eve. Lucky he wasn't badly hurt and lucky that breathalysers hadn't been invented back then! It then fell to me to sell the wreck and the new owners showed it to us when back on the road so it might still be around.

The cars that followed all fell into the post war bracket from a TC to the newest that must have been my much-missed ZT-T of 2004.

Since MG production moved to China, I have been taking a faint interest in their products but, to be honest, the only thing about them that appealed to me was their price. The cars themselves improved as model succeeded model but the reviews never claimed that they matched the best that Europe had to offer.



For me all that changed when I saw the new MG4 EV on the cover of the latest Safety Fast and read the brief review inside. Next thing it was over to F. G. Barnes in Canterbury for a test drive. The whole scheme nearly came to grief when I found the so-called 'lane assist' fighting back when I tried to overtake a lorry without indicating. It was worse than that when it began to zig-zag down the road through fighting shy of the solid white line on each side!

However, the resident tech savvy young man at the dealers set the car up so that it gave only a slight wiggle of the steering and an audible warning if you

Members Corner

A New Departure strayed from your lane so I was happy with that. Otherwise, the car felt as lively, sure footed, and responsive as we all expect of our MGs and it also looks the part. Even my grandsons are envious!

I have opted for the extended range model at some £28,500 thinking that 281 theoretical miles should be more than enough for us never to experience recharge anxiety. How it all works out in practice I shall have to wait to find out until April when the car is due to be delivered. I'll let you know.



Oh, I forgot to mention the downside. To help fund the new car, I have agreed with the family purse string holder that my beautiful Iris Blue MGA Mk2 will have to go, so the sale preparation effort starts right now with my actually fitting the new carpets that came with the car three years ago but have been stored in the loft ever since!

Any offers?

John Bennett

Jan	<u>Regalia. New Designs and Shop</u>				
2023	New Regalia Shop open now!				
	You now no longer have to wait for a show to buy your MGCCSE branded regalia items. We have teamed up with Ace Embroidery Ltd to bring you a wide range of clothing all with an embroidered MGCCSE logo.				
Regalia New Shop	So, if you are looking for a beanie or a polo, a baseball cap or a fleece then head on over to the online shop where you can browse the range and make your purchases. Each item you buy supports the Centre as well as looking good when you are at shows and events.				
	Delivery time is around two weeks so if you are aiming to wear it for an upcoming event then please bear that in mind – each item is embroidered individually on the order being received.				
	Just click the link below to head over to the shop which is managed by Ace Embroidery. Any queries regarding the range, sizes etc should be made to them.				
	MG Car Club South East - Catalogue (ace-online.co.uk)				
	Centre				

Parts For Sale

1976 Model MG Midget parts unused in a rebuild

For Sale

Description	Part No / Ref	Value £	Note
NSF Outer Sill *	AHA5552	73.00	Free
Clutch Cover * (1500 engine)	TT 4011	264.00)
Clutch Plate *	GCP 212	44.50) Offer
Release Bearing *	GRB 207	20.00)
Engine Oil Pump * (1500 engine)	GLP118	73.00	Free
Hood Stowage Covers (black Vinyl)**	CHA95		Free

* Denotes all new parts. - The clutch was built by Borg & Beck the EO supplier

- The engine oil pump was madse by Hobourn Eaton the OE supplier

Contact Brain Byers on 01634 669892 or 07930320440

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JOB LOT OF 1970 MGB ROADSTER PARTS FOR SALE

Small bottle jack 5 spare Wheel Nuts Roll of Black Vinyl Air filter Rear Lights clusters without lenses A17283 Blauplunkt Radio/Cassette -Cambridge M23 Centre Console Small steering Wheel with MG Badge MG Rostyle Wheel Spray Kit New Draper pistol type Grease Gun part no: A2 4,350 PSI delivery pressure New complete passenger seat with black cover Near-side Black Vinyl Door Panel Passenger front Black Carpet (used) **Assorted Small parts**

£50-00 the lot $\,$ - please phone Keith on 07831 655276

Jan 2023	<u>Parts For Sale</u>
	Smiths classic gauges all in superb condition and good chrome rings etc: Ammeter with a -30 to +30 range and a red needle. £15.00
For Sale	Oil pressure (half gauge type) mechanical with 0 to 100psi and a red needle to match the one above. Complete with all pipes etc £20.00 Oil pressure (full gauge type) mechanical with 0 to 100psi and a white full travel needle. Complete with all pipes etc £25.00
	No silly offers please - Call John Clark on 07940769225 (Canterbury area)

MGA Collection For Sale

Derek Edwards Centre president is currently selling his collection of MGA's which he has owned for the past 30 years. The cars are 1959 Twin Cam Coupe, (811UYG) 1960 1600 MK 1 Roadster (444 BAO) and 1961 MK 11 Coupe. (YSU 204)

For information on the cars Derek can be contacted on 07850 410830 or by email at

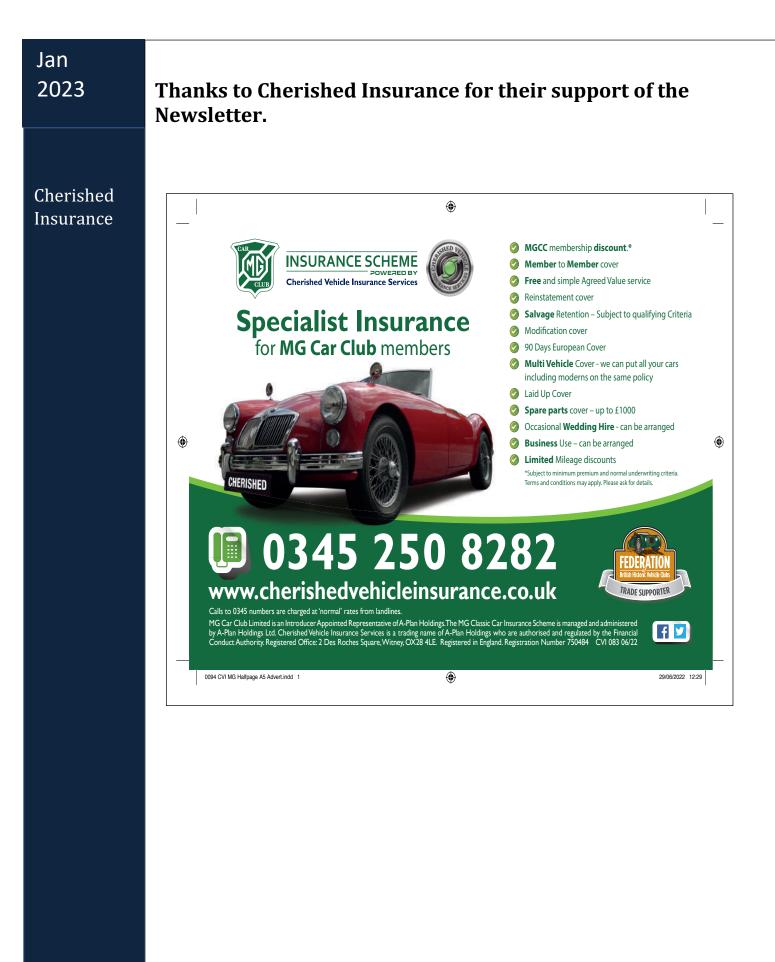
Edwards.mgmadness@ntlworld.com

For Sale









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Regalia/Shop	Alex L	emon	077183	07718 339836 <u>alex.lemon@mgccse.co.uk</u>		
Regalia	Mike	Chittenden.	02084 678 0022 <u>regalia@mgccse.co.uk</u>			
Natter/Wand Liaison	Ian Ru	ssell	07590 4	198514 <u>mgashı</u>	natter@gmail.com	
Member	Gwen	Davies.	01737 2	241971 <u>gwen.da</u>	avies@mgccse.co.uk	
Natter Leaders						
Queen's Head Pinner		Gerry Edwar	ds	07768 657797	Pinner@mgccse.co.uk	
The Ship, Mortlake &		Danny Byrne		01932 829814	Mortlake@mgccse.co.uk	
Brooklands Museum		u		u	Brooklands@mgccse.co.uk	
The Sportsman, Moga	ıdor	John Morgan		0780 770025	Buckland@mgccse.co.uk	
The Fairmile, nr Cobh	iam	Ian Ailes & John Glover) <u>Cobham@mgccse.co.uk</u> 5 <u>Cobham@mgccse.co.uk</u>	
Tunbridge Wells Area - position vacant. If interested please contact <u>Chair@mgccse.co.uk</u>						
The Dering Arms, Pluckley William Opie & Ray Ruffels 01795 521846 Faversham@mgccse.co.uk						
The Chequers Darent	h DA2 7	Q Ian Russell		07590 498514	Ashnatter@mgccse.co.uk	
The Black Horse, Nut	hurst	David Griffith	IS	01403 264548	<u>Nuthurst@mgccse.co.uk</u>	
The Golden Lion, Broa	adoak	John Clark		07940 769225	Broadoak@mgccse.co.uk	
Canterbury.						

Boship(Lions) Farm Hotel, Hailsham Dennis Webb. 07885 485255 <u>SouthDowns@mgccse.co.uk</u>

Various locations

Ashdown Adventurers	Richard Clark	07818 420921 <u>AshdownAdventurers@mgccse.co.uk</u>
Sussex Wanderers	David Griffiths	01403 264548 SussexWanderers@mgccse.co.uk
Surrey Wanderers	Philip Bayne-Powell	01483 811428 Surreywanderers@mgccse.co.uk
East Kent Wanderers	John Bennett	01227 637813 Eastkentwanderers@mgccse.co.uk
Kent Nomads	Ian Russell	07590 498514 kentnomads@mgccse.co.uk

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

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

Phone: 01235 555552, Fax: 01235 533755, email: mgcc@mgcc.co.uk

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And finally, a very nice blown PA belonging to Mike Davies-Colley at the Brands Hatch MGCC Racing meet in April 2022

