

MGCC SE Newsletter

Contents Page

Editorial Comment	1
Committee Notes	2
Events	10
Local Club Meets	12
Members Corner	20
Regalia	25
For Sale	26
Contacts	29

MGCC SE

April 2023 Newsletter

Editorial Note

We welcome you to the April Edition of the Newsletter This edition covers the first quarter 23 events, Natter and Wanderers and members contributions including a special article on the new MG4(Page 26) in light of the Centenary Celebration which are soon to commence on Saturday 27th May at Gaydon

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 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 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.



April
2023

Committee
Notes

Chairman's
Report

Chairman's Chatter – Tim Morris

You can access the minutes of the AGM from this Newsletter and read all the reports from our website which is a good indication of how modern technology is increasing the club's communication with you, the member. The minutes show how both the main club and the MGCCSE have nearly a dozen different ways in which we communicate with you to let you know what is going on and the large number of MGCC events that you can come along to in your MG.

We have some new ones this year including the Autosolo coming up at Filching Manor on April 15th. This event marks our return to permit motorsport and is a great way to get involved in some harmless competition with your MG and you don't need any extra equipment either. To mark this occasion, we have joined the Motorsport UK's Streetcar initiative whose aim is to get more people involved in motorsport at "street" level. Our two Naviscats and this Autosolo are our events for this year and we will hopefully build on that for 2024 but, it is the usual story, please support these events as we won't be able to continue with them if not enough members join in! You will find all the details on our mgccse.co.uk website.

Our Competition Secretary, John Morgan, is our lynch pin to national and local motoring organisations and South East Motor Clubs – we are invited to join some of their events as well as them helping with ours for which we are very grateful. The South East Centre has traditionally been very involved in motorsport but this has lapsed over the years so it is great to see us building up a new legacy.

We are, uniquely, holding two awards events this year. This is in order to get us back on a track that was derailed by the pandemic. So, you'll find a new event in the calendar on May 21st at Kingscote Vineyard near East Grinstead. This will combine a wine tasting, vineyard tour and buffet with an awards presentation – again something we have not tried before. These will be the 2022 awards and to get us back in line we will have our annual lunch on October 29th when the 2023 awards will be presented. From then on it will be annually – barring any further worldwide pandemics of course



April
2023

Committee
Notes

Chairman's
Report

On a personal note, I was delighted to have the opportunity to meet Peter Stevens towards the end of last year who, as you know, was the designer of the revised range of MG-Rover cars including the MGTf. That means I have now completed the MGF/TF hat-trick of meeting Stephen Harper (MGA Developments who came up with the original PR3/MGF design), Gerry McGovern (Picture above - Rover Group's Chief Designer on the final MGF) and now Peter Stevens (designer of the MGTf- below). I am usually not shy of having a picture taken but somehow I missed one of me and Stephen Harper - I'll have to catch up with him again.



Meanwhile, we are about to enter the official MG 100 year with a huge event at the British Motor Museum on the 27th May and don't forget we have some MG100 themed events of our own this year too - Brooklands Best of British on the 7th May, the MG100SE event at the Bluebell Railway on the 9th July and our MG100 annual lunch on 29th October. I hope to see you at one, or all of these centenary events.

April
2023

Committee
Notes

MGCCSE
Charity
2023

Charity for 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>



April
2023

Committee
Notes

Competition
and Events
Update

SE Centre 2023 Events Update – John Morgan Competition Secretary

The events summary with competitive connections were published in the January SE Centre Newsletter. By the time this edition of the Newsletter has been circulated to members, the Spring Naviscat will have taken place on 26th March and the event reports will be on the SE Centre website.

The MGCC SE Centre is a member of the Association of South East Motor Clubs (ASEMC). This means that MGCC SE Centre members can enter events organised by other motoring clubs in the south east. The ASEMC is currently updating their website, but very shortly there will be an up to date list of south east sporting events. <https://www.asemc.co.uk/>

The ASEMC is **promoting motorsport in the SE throughout April** and elsewhere there is a summary of events, locations and organising clubs including the MGCCs Brands Hatch Race Meeting and the SE Centres Filching Manor AutoSOLO.

The **Filching Manor AutoSOLO** is the first competitive event since 2010 and as at the end of March 2023 was attracting renewed interest among MGCC members. The event is being held on **15th April** and entries close a couple of days before. More information is available on the SE Centre website and a similar event can be watched on the YouTube SE Centre channel of an event organised by Sevenoaks & District Motor Club at Brands Hatch:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9GPVRhV7q8&ab_channel=MGCarClubSouthEast

For those unfamiliar with AutoSOLOs, the video provides a good introduction and the Filching Manor event will be similar to the Brands Hatch Autocross circuit. The AutoSOLO concept is a controlled driving route around a coned course in a forward only direction with the cones indicating route direction. Scoring is based on time taken plus penalties for hitting cones, etc.

Other imminent events include:

- The **Spring Meeting at the delightful Lullingstone Castle and Gardens**. The event will include two scenic road runs, Concours and Pride of Ownership. See SE Centre website for more information.
- 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.
- The **Spring Naviscats** took place on the **26th March** and this is followed by the **Autumn Naviscat on 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. These events are becoming an increasing popular alternative to 12 car rallies.

Finally, the 2023 SE Centre Calendar 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 competitions@mgccse.co.uk or give me a call on 07802 770025.

April
2023

Committee
Notes

Competition
and Events
Update

Motorsport Month South East

In April the Association for South Eastern Motor Clubs, MGCC SE Centre is an affiliated member, will be hosting Motorsport Month South East to celebrate the huge range of Motorsport in the region.

Across April there will be 12 events ranging across 10 disciplines showcasing the variety of pathways into Motorsport. If you're interested in getting involved there will be ample opportunities to compete, spectate and volunteer throughout the month for every budget. The event programme is:

Week 1

Event	Day	Date	Event Type	Clubs
Weald 12 Car, Blackpalfrey	Friday	31/03/2023	12 Car Rally	Blackpalfrey MCK
MGCC Race Weekend, Brands Hatch	Sat-Sun	01/04/23 – 02/04/23	Race	MG Car Club
Tyrwhitt Drake Car Trial in Otham, Kent	Sunday	02/04/2023	Car Trial	Maidstone and Mid Kent Motor Club

Week2

Event	Day	Date	Event Type	Clubs
Karting at Buckmore	Sat-Sun	08/04/23 – 09/04/23	Karting	Medway Valle Kart Club
BARC Race Meeting featuring British Truck Racing at Brands Hatch Circuit	Sat-Sun	08/04/23 – 09/04/23	Race	The British Automobile Racing Club
British Rallycross Championship 5 Nations Trophy, Lydden Hill	Sat & Mon	08/04/23 & 10/04/23	Race	Lydden Hill Motor Club

April
2023

Committee
Notes

Competition
and Events
Update

Week 3

Event	Day	Date	Event Type	Clubs
Taster Autosolo at Filching Manor	Saturday	15/04/2023	Autosolo	MG Car Club South East & Sevenoaks and District Motor Club
Brands Hatch Spring Race Weekend	Sat-Sun	15/04/23 – 16/04/23	Race	British Racing and Sports Car Club
Regularity Rally at Kent	Sunday	16/04/2023	12 Car Rally	Blackpalfrey Motor Club Kent

Week 4

Event	Day	Date	Event Type	Clubs
BARC Race Meeting featuring the British Endurance Championship at Brands Hatch Circuit	Sat-Sun	22/04/23 – 23/04/23	Race	The British Automobile Racing Club
Autosolo at Ashford Cattle Market, Kent	Saturday	29/04/2023	Autosolo	Sevenoaks and District Motor Club
Modified Fords at Brands Hatch GP Race	Sunday	30/04/2023	Race	British Racing and Sports Car Club

MOTORSPORT MONTH
APRIL 2023
SOUTH EAST

1. Brands Hatch DA3 8NG
2. Otham, Kent Car Trial ME15 8RW
3. Buckmore Park Kart Circuit ME5 9QG
4. Lydden Hill Race Circuit CT4 6ET
5. Filching Manor BN26 5QA
6. Scaplehurst TN12 0DZ
7. Ashford Cattle Market N24 0HB

ASEMCA
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST MOTOR CLUBS

April
2023

Committee
Notes

SE Centre
Calendar
Summary
Next 4
Months
2023

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 - <http://www.mgccse.co.uk>

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Weekend 1 st & 2 nd April	MG Race Event	Brands Hatch	MGCC
Sunday 2 nd April	MMKMC Tywhitt Drake Trial	Otham	John Morgan 07802 770025 competitions@mgccse.co.uk
Saturday 8 th April	Easter Gathering	Brooklands Museum	SE Registers Display
Saturday 15 th April	Taster Autosolo	Filching Manor Go Kart Track BN26 5QA	John Morgan 07802 770025 competitions@mgccse.co.uk
Sunday 23 rd April	Spring Meeting plus Feeder Runs	Lullingstone Castle & Roman Villa DA4 0JA	Ian Russell 07590 498514 ian.russel@mgccse.co.uk
Thursday 27 th	FBHVC Meeting	Reigate Manor Hotel	MGCCSE
Sunday 7 th May	MMKMC Trial	Otham	John Morgan 07802 770025 competitions@mgccse.co.uk
Sunday 7 th May	Best of British	Brooklands	John Davies trophies@mgccse.co.uk
Sunday May 21 st	Spring Day Out - 2022 Awards Lunch	Kingscote Vineyard	Andrew Mitchell events@mgccse.co.uk
Sat 27 th May	Centenary Launch Event	British Motor Museum Gaydon	MGCC
Weekend June 10 th & 11	MG / Triumph 100	Silverstone	MGCC Tim Morris
Sunday June 18 th	Cars at the Castle	Hever Castle	MGCCSE Display
Monday 19 th June	Alternative PoO	Sportsman Mogador	John Morgan 07802 770025 competitions@mgccse.co.uk
Saturday 24 th June	Alternative PoO	The Surrey Oaks Newdigate	MGCCSE

April
2023

Committee
Notes

Web &
Social
Media

MGCCSE on the Web - Tim Morris

I reported on some good progress with the MGCCSE on the web at the AGM and you can read the full report here - <https://www.mgccse.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023-MGCCSE-AGM-WEBMASTER.docx>

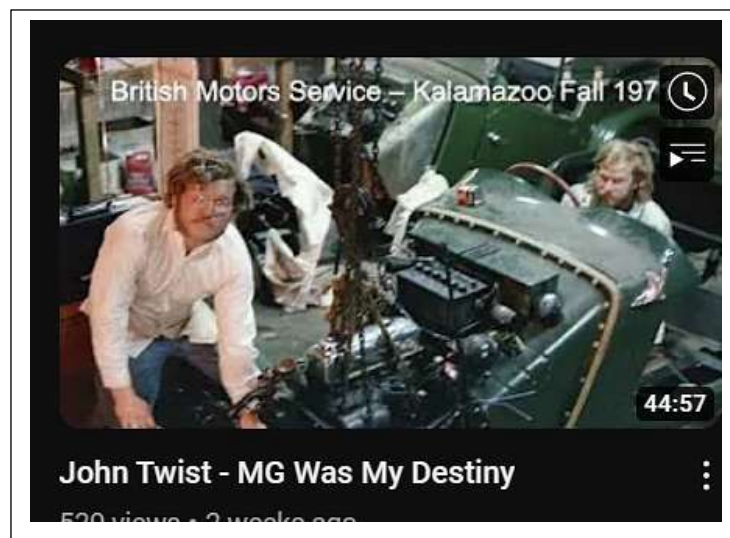
Basically, there has been good growth in all areas of online activity with the exception of Twitter and we are now reaching more people than ever before. A greater reach is good news as it means that we are getting to people who are not necessarily members of the club and spreading the message that the MGCCSE is a great place to be with lots going on for MG owners in the region - and they might just join up!

I am particularly pleased with the progress of the new YouTube channel which only came in to being last Summer and ended the year with over 11,000 views. In the last month we have had around 3.5k views so are very easily on target to exceed that by a long way this year. We now have over 120 subscribers to the channel who get notified when any new video gets posted and help to increase the reach of the channel. Our number one video, with over 5k views, is Bob Zanetti's MGA Twin Cam and you can look out for him in a live appearance at the Fairmile Natter later this year.

Do take a look at the channel www.youtube.com/@mgccse - the latest videos include a lengthy one of the recent AGM (it may be an acquired taste but nearly 30 people have viewed it!) but more popularly the video of MG guru John Twist telling us his life story at the Fairmile natter in February - that racked up over 500 views in a couple of weeks!

In a new venture, we are hoping to livestream the talk by David Whale from the FBHVC in April (if we can work out how to do it) so look out for a link to that via email a few days beforehand.

Keep an eye on our social media, particularly the Facebook page as it will be here you will find announcements and updates on events coming up - they usually link back to a page on our website where you can register your interest in an event online.



April
2023

Events

SE Centre

MGCCSE
AGM

MGCCSE AGM – Tim Morris/Austin Banner

The AGM was held at the St Nicholas Youth Centre in Godstone on Saturday 18th February, and it was a good opportunity to fly one of the Centre's new flags for the first time. It certainly looked the part and you won't be able to miss us at shows this year. This in combination with the Coleman Shelter we bought last year will be the primary display at shows in the future. The old and heavy Gazebos will still be used for special occasions such as the Brooklands Best of British event coming up on May 7th.

It was good to see a number of members at the meeting who were entertained by committee members running through their various reports and inviting any questions. The display boards and a slideshow of the club's activities last year were on show as well thanks to Austin Banner and John Morgan who respectively put them together.

We were delighted to welcome Peter Begbey on to the committee who will be increasing our Events team to three people and all other members who remain the same as last year with the exception that we also confirmed John Morgan in a new role of Vice-Chair.

We learnt several things at the meeting but rather than go into them here you can read the various reports linked from our website here -

<https://www.mgccse.co.uk/2023/02/02/mgccse-agm-soon/>

You can view the video of the meeting on our YouTube channel here:-

<https://youtu.be/kWbmgmQQfoM>

The Minutes of the meeting itself are also online and they can be accessed here:-

<https://www.mgccse.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/AGM-2023-minutes-002.pdf>

Please note that the minutes are for MGCC Members only and should not be circulated beyond MG Car Club Membership.



April
2023

MGCCSE AGM – Tim Morris

Your 2023 committee consists of:-

Events

SE Centre

MGCCSE
AGM

President: Derek Edwards
Chairman/ Website/ Social Media: Tim Morris
Vice Chair/ Competitions: John Morgan
Secretary: Austin Banner
Treasurer: Ron Kemp
Events: Andrew Mitchell
Events: Peter Begbey
Membership: Diana Calvert
Trophies/ Historical: John & Gwen Davies
Regalia/ Online Shop: Alex Lemon
Newsletter/ Safety Fast: William Opie/Ray Ruffels
Natter/ Wanderers: Ian Russell

Afterwards many of those attended retired to the White Hart next to the Youth Centre for lunch, it turned out to be a lot closer than the original venue booked!

April
2023

Local Club
Meets

Fairmile
Natter
Update

Saturday
11th
February

Fairmile Natter – University Motors Re-union Meeting

Anniversaries eh? They book mark our lives and remind us of those who went before, as well as. in our case their MGs!

We are just gearing up for The MG Centenary and lots of MGs!

Our Fellow Sportsman Natter leader, John Morgan, tells me that his Teal Blue MGB Roadster (purchased new) is 50 years in his ownership this year. A single MG a testament to his devotion still unrestored and going strong.

Now more to the point of this article my fellow Fairmile organiser Ian Ailes reckons that he has been with the Natter in its various incarnations for 25 years, starting with the dear old David Washbourne group including fond memories of the Washbourne VA and WA.

So appropriate then that our February meeting was held on a Saturday Morning in anticipation of a big attendance rather than our usual second Thursday evening of the month, should reflect how our Natter has become so much more than a group of same make minded gentlemen and ladies meeting for a pint, as we met for our now Annual University Motors Reunion. Inspired by ex Unniversity Motors (U.M.) employee and regular natter attendee, Ray Mears, ably assisted by his son Neil. Pete Beadle ex U.M. Parts Manager is also a tireless conduit to his old colleagues.

Not only did our audience enjoy hearing about the good old U.M. days , as many were U.M. customers at Epsom, but we also reckon that we provide a good excuse for the U.M . 'boys' to get together, bouncing off their memories and reliving their youth. The resulting energy generated is worth the admission price alone!



April
2023

Local Club
Meets

Fairmile
Natter
Update

We welcomed 2 new U.M. faces this year, Robin Lawton (Sales), now with his own long established Classic Car Business and extraordinarily the one and only JOHN TWIST the University Motors Michigan Founder, You Tube Workshop Video Guru - a man followed by millions of the MG community world-wide

John entertained us royally with the story of his life, service behind a typewriter in Vietnam, a love affair with an MG TA which sparked a desire to work in England post war. How he was marooned in Belgium until he finally ended up in the U.M. Hanwell workshop, learning his MG Trade before setting up his own, MG 'Shop' as the Americans call a garage. Extraordinary times in London, early 1970's, Spanish girls, one of whom became his first wife and appalling English diners by picking up and devouring hamburgers by hand in the Yankee style!

Now retired, but seemingly busier than ever, John spent a great deal of his short time with us fielding mobile phone calls from all over the States, his disciples worshipping at the feet of their Guru . Whilst forking Fairmile Fish and Chips, his favourite meal, Twist sorted everything from lumpy running to correct gaskets. The Lord only knows at what time in the States some of the callers were still in their garages!



John was preceded by the afore mentioned Neil Mears speaking on and superbly illustrating the life of Northern Irish Pre War U.M. salesman and racing driver Hugh Hamilton.

Whilst not giving one of his terrifying test drives, Hamilton raced MGs at Brooklands and in Ireland, before competing in Grand Prix across Europe, finally being tragically killed on the last lap of the 1934 Swiss Grand Prix whilst driving a Maserati rather than one of his beloved K3 's or Midgets. A heart attack rather than driver error sent him off the track into a tree.

So, sadly his life ended at 29.

April
2023

Local Club
Meets

Fairmile
Natter
Update

Neil included an extraordinarily vivid film of MGs racing at Brooklands during his exposition, filmed from one of the cars proving that even in the '30's the track surface was truly awful!

After a refreshment break we had our ex U.M. panel part of the meet. Anecdote followed anecdote as well as a spirited defense of The Morris Marina – tweaked version.

As lunch beckoned the meeting wrapped up with an audience challenge – name a part that Memory Man Pete Beadle can't give you the number of – prize – a pint!

Nearly won by Ashley Hinton, Pete getting half of an obscure Heater component reference. Ashley got half a pint .



I should also mention a couple of other distinguished audience members .

'C' Register Chair, Colin Howe and wife joined us having journeyed from the Midlands - Colin owns the most eccentric of the famous U.M. 'C' specials and Vic Young, 'C' Register Technical officer who displayed his U.M. 'C' at the entrance to the pub .

The unusually clement February weather also brought out a large number of Members MGs for their first meet of the year an impromptu display which drew a large crowd.

Lunch, swiftly and efficiently served by our Fairmile team, was a chance to enjoy more Natter between audience and guests before John Twist was whisked away by Pete Beadle to complete a punishing long weekend with a V8 dinner and a visit to The Stoneleigh MG and Triumph Show. If you weren't able to join us look out for video of the meeting on our You Tube Channel. See you on the Second Thursday of each month – Anniversaries catered for!

Jon Glover



April
2023

Local Club
Meets

North
Downs
Natter
Update

North Downs – Ray Ruffels / Will Opie

Day Events

As well as our normal Natter nights, on 4th Thursday of the month, several runs are planned for 2023 to Kent lunch venues including Minnis Bay Bar and Brasserie, the Three Chimneys PH, Biddenden and Goodnestone House and Gardens. We kick off at the Five Bells PH Brabourne on April 12th

Contact raywillmg@gmail.com for further info. The Pics below are from 2022



April
2023

Local Club
Meets

Sportsman
Natter
Update

Sportsman Natter – John Morgan / Austin Banner

Our most recent Natter meeting was Monday 20th March at The Sportsman, Mogador. The evening was a Photo and video evening with some more from the archives and also a DVD called 'Inside the Octagon – The Story of MG' which includes some interviews with Jean Cook (Cecil Kimber's daughter) and John Thornley one time General Manager of MG and founder of the MGCC.

Austin has put pen to paper and produced the attached 'Natter Suggestions' in an effort to reach out to members and hopefully ensure we are providing what members want for the Natter. Please do read through and let us have your thoughts - it would be good to see or hear from more of the numerous silent local members.

Looking ahead to forthcoming events, here are some dates for your diary:

April 1st/2nd – MGCC Race Meeting at Brands Hatch.

April Saturday 15th - **Filching Manor track. Taster Autosolo.** This is being organised with help from Sevenoaks Motor Club. John Morgan is the event organising contact. This is a very straight forward form of motorsport competition, with a guided route and passengers allowed. This event is a first for the SE Centre. Flyer attached. Entry response is relatively good, there 10 MGCC members so far, with cars from ranging from T Types to MGF/TF, who have or are expected to enter.

April Sunday 23rd (Drive it Day) – **Spring Meeting** with Touring Assembly, Pride of Ownership/Concours at **Lullingstone Castle** and Roman Villa. Visit to the Roman Villa (English Heritage site) is optional. Parts of Lullingsone castle will be open to visit and there should be lots of spring flowers in the interesting gardens including the Tom's World Garden. Flyer attached. The venue provides a lovely location to display the cars on the green in front of the castle. (note dogs not allowed)

April Thursday 27th – **FBHVC Briefing and Talk with their Chairman David Whale**, at the Reigate Manor Hotel. Flyer attached, important meeting if you want to know what Government legislation or environmental issue could impact on you historic car. Just a few places available now.

May Sunday 7th – **Brooklands Museum Best of British Day** with special MG Centenary Display organised by MGCC SE Centre. There may be some space for members cars in the Club area, John Davies is coordinating.

May Sunday 21st – **Spring Day out, Vineyard tour lunch** and 2022 awards presentation, **Kingscote Vineyard**, Sussex. Contact Andrew Mitchell

A little further ahead, The natter is having a visit to the **FAST Museum at Farnborough Airport on Tuesday 13 June**. The day will include a social run to a pub near the museum for lunch. The Museum covers all the research activities undertaken by RAE and has quite an amazing array of interesting items as well as a collection of aircraft - more information can be found on their website <https://airsciences.org.uk/>. They have offered an introductory talk about Farnborough and its research activities, coffee on arrival, guided tour, etc. for £15 per person. They even have Lightning and Concorde simulators. **Please let me know urgently if you would like to be included.**

April
2023

Local Club
Meets

Pinner
Natter
Update

Pinner Natter – Gerry Edwards

As I noted in the last Newsletter the Pinner Natter is continuing to grow and this is very encouraging for us. Whilst we are gaining members via South East Centre publicity we get a good amount of interest a direct result of publicity left in our very local MG dealer. With the lighter months on the way I anticipate we will get more interest as a result of a very in your face mini POO at the Queen's Head from May until September. The car park is big enough to hold a good number of MGs! The Natter has a very diverse age profile with members from 20 plus and this has to be good news for the future. Our members MGs are diverse and at our events cars have ranged from a J2 and K3 right up to a ZS EV.

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 SE Area events members are generally 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 bi monthly Breakfast meetings which are becoming increasingly popular (27 members at the most recent Breakfast on the 5th March) and midweek lunchtime meetings which are preceded by a short drive. At the end of January we always hold our annual Post Christmas Dinner and in January 2023 we had 22 members sitting down together. Due to the proximity of several of Abingdon Works Centre Natters (Chesham in particular whose annual Pride of Ownership in June is a must for Pinner Natter members) 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 and Natters on occasion.

With the influx of younger members the Natter is looking to attend a number of local car club events during the summer months starting with Drive it Day on the 23rd April where a big classic car show is being held on our doorstep. The images below are from our March Breakfast.



April
2023

Local Club
Meets

Pinner
Natter
Update

Pinner Natter - Gerry Edwards



April
2023

Local Club
Meets

East Kent
Wanderers
Update

East Kent Wanderers - 10th Birthday

This auspicious occasion did not pass unnoticed. Instead of our habit of starting at a garden centre for coffee, this time, we were entertained by our local Canterbury MG Dealer F. G. Barnes instead.

Aside from coffee, they laid on an array of new MGs including the all-electric MG4, a special parking area for our cars to line up in, plus their Group Publicity Manager who took innumerable photographs. Finally, they sourced a suitable cake baked by the mother of one of their staff.



A 10-year helium balloon lent a certain festive air to the occasion and a laptop showed a Powerpoint programme of slides from previous runs and lunches.

I'm not sure if any of us placed any new MG orders but at least we all know where to go if the mood should ever take us!

Having consumed at least half the cake, we then set off on our run finishing, inevitably, at The Five Bells, Boughton where we last had lunch following our very first run ten years ago.

The management there were aware of our anniversary and made sure that we were well looked after so the meal and one or two short speeches concluded a highly memorable day.

Here's to the next ten years. We can only hope that petrol will still be for sale!

John Bennett.

MG4 – UK Car of the Year 2023

The MG4 EV has recently received the prestigious UK Car of the Year award. The awards are voted for by a panel of 27 motoring journalists and the MG4 has been recognised as the Best Family car for the second year running in addition to this year's top award. The MG4 won by a considerable margin against this year's rivals. Unlike 2022, where the top four were electric, its closest rivals were normal ICE cars with the seven-seat Dacia Jogger being runner up and the Toyota GR86 Coupe in third place.

Guy Pigounakis (MG's UK commercial director) received the award and said "The MG4 has proved to be a hit with both existing and new customers since it arrived in September last year and it is also hugely encouraging that so many expert reviewers hold the same opinion as well. We'd like to thank everyone at UK Car of the Year for this award, this is a significant achievement for MG." Picture below shows the MG4 in action.



The 27-strong UK Car of the Year Awards panel was not short of praise for the MG4.

"The MG4 does everything better than anyone could have imagined for the budget," reasoned Jonny Smith, host of The Late Brake Show.

Meanwhile, Carwow's Paul Barker described the MG4 as: "The car several other manufacturers will wish they had built. Proof that electric cars can be strikingly good looking while also relatively affordable, practical and usable."

"MG has done a great job of bringing EVs to more people, thanks to its pricing," commented Andrew Clews, host of The Motoring Podcast, while judge James Batchelor also picked up on this cost-effective theme: "An MG you can finally recommend on style, quality and value-for-money."

The MG4 is no stranger to awards with this being the fifteenth it has received since its launch alongside its 5 star Euro NCAP safety rating.

There is no doubt the MG4 is a game-changer, with its relatively low cost, long range and equipment, for both MG and the wider EV world although, surprisingly, it was the MGHS that topped the charts for the first time as the best-selling car in the UK in the early part of this year. Will that change as the year moves on and more MG4s make their way to the

April
2023

Members
Corner

MG UK
News

There are several MG dealerships within the South East Centre – why not seek one out and go for a test drive, you might be surprised.

Picture shows UK Car of the Year Awards Director John Challen presenting the award to MG's UK commercial director Guy Pigounakis

Tim Morris



□ **Living with an MGB for 50 years – John Morgan**

I could never have imagined when I collected my new MGB Roadster in September 1973 that I would still be regularly using the car some 50 years later. It has been used as the main workhorse for all manner of MGCC meetings ever since from competing in club events to workhouse for carrying the paraphernalia required for running club events.

The car was bought new from Mann Egerton in Wallington, Surrey on 17 September 1973. It cost £1,562.56 including £25 road tax and £139.77 VAT. The Abingdon Build date was between 19 to 26 April 1973 and it was despatched on 6 June 1973. Mann Egerton had struggled to obtain a car for some couple of months so it was unclear where it had been sitting from June through to September.



The car is Teal blue and one of the few now still having the original Ochre trim that was only available for the 1973 model year up to July before reverting to Autumn Leaf. The ochre is a pleasant light colour and surprisingly, probably easier to keep clean than black. It also makes the cockpit light and airy when the roof is up. As delivered, the car was Cadulac rust proofed as a BL option.

The MGB was the third of three I have owned. The initial introduction to MGBs was during a visit as a teenager to a family friend whose son had an MGB and a demonstration run gave the first impression of the car with that lovely distinctive exhaust note that they were known for in the 1960s. The first MGB was in fact my second car (the first was the family 1951 Austin A40 Devon given to me by my father and one I still own and run now) a 1965 MGB roadster in British Racing Green bought in 1968 which turned out to be a restoration project waiting to happen, as the sills had already been bodged. This was replaced in 1970 by a Tartan Red 1969 MGB roadster a mark 1½ as it had the earlier body/trim but later mechanics. In 1973, the MGB V8s were being converted by Ken Costello in Kent before the factory released their MGBGT V8 and following a visit and demonstration I decided that this was the next step for me. Following discussion with Ken, he advised that my MGB was really too old to be converted and it was decided to buy a new car.

April
2023

Members
Corner

Living with
an MG

By the time it arrived in the September, the Oil Embargo had struck and at the time, it was considered that it was the end of private motoring. I still have the ration books that were issued. This resulted in the decision to drop the V8 conversion plans.

Following purchase of the new MGB there were a lot of warranty issues including the driver's seat with a small tear, eventually resulting in correspondence being exchanged with the Abingdon factory. Mann Egerton were equally as bad handling warranty items, they managed to break the windscreen replacing the pop rivets holding the hood clips (and then claimed delays in returning the car were due to problems getting parts??) and whilst replacing the damaged seat cover, they placed the seat onto the soft top roof where it promptly fell off damaging the boot lid paintwork. I did come close to changing the car for a 1974 model.

Steering wheel vibrations at 60MPH to 70MPH continued for the initial years of ownership. The Rostyle wheels were changed to Minilites in 1975 to improve wheel specification, but the problem was eventually found to be a combination of poor quality tyre manufacture and issues with wheel balancing machines that were incorrectly calibrated in the 1970s. Not been an issue since.



In the first year, the car covered 15,000 miles being used as the main car until the first company car came along in 1977. It was in 1974 that I became more aware of the clubs such as the MG Car Club and I got involved with their meetings and 'Natters and Noggins'. Whilst returning from a Natter in Surrey in 1976, an errand Mini decided to lose control and remodel the front of the car resulting in the need for extensive repairs. This was entrusted to the MGA racing guru Roy McCarthy and factory repair panels were sourced mainly through University Motors in Epsom. The MG was back in regular use again by the following year.

Other than the front end rebuild in 1976 following the accident, the car remains largely unrestored:

- Other than the repaired front, nearly all the body panels are original including doors rear wings, boot, sills and floor pans with only minor repairs to the rear wing/sill joint, a common water trap in MGBs.

April
2023

Members
Corner

Living with
an MG

- The Mechanics are also original, the engine was rebuilt at 95,000miles and continues with the current mileage of 145,000miles, still with the same oil pressure as delivered in 1973. During the engine rebuild, a Piper fast road camshaft was fitted along with a re-profiled advance curve distributor. Carburettors are original but have been fitted with new jets, needles and butterfly shafts. The needles were changed from AAU to AAA following discussion with the SU factory technical Dept. about running issues and these were found to provide a more lively performance without any increased fuel consumption. The Gearbox and overdrive were overhauled three years ago.
- The suspension was upgraded in the mid-1970s with BL Special Tuning front and rear springs (10% increased rating and rear springs with half the travel) gas strut adjustable shock absorbers and $\frac{3}{4}$ " roll bar.
- Front brakes have grooved discs with V8 pads (10% increased pad area) which will fit the standard MGB discs.
- Ignition is now electronic with an upgraded coil and a recent re-wire of the whole car with a new loom was completed just before lockdown.
- The car was resprayed (an overspray rather than back to the metal) in 1984 and in the main this remains the current paint finish, using single coat two pack paint. The hood was a Coventry Hood from the factory model and fitted in the early 1980s.

The MGB has regularly participated in various MG Car Club events and activities. In addition to attending several natters, it has regularly participated in events from Silverstone to the events in the MG Car Club SE Centre. Types of events have included everything from the pure social Gatherings through to competitive Autotests, and Production Car Trials including occasional raids on other MG Car Club Centres events.

Regular trips have been made to Europe for the various European Events of the Year and recent long runs have included Switzerland through the Alps, Portugal through the Pyrenees, Scotland, Denmark and Germany. These European events are the coming together of MG enthusiasts from countries both in Europe and around the world. Attendees often include members from countries such as the USA or Australia and the largest was Scotland based in Aviemore with 360 cars. With all the club activity, friends have been made throughout the CRBs in the MGCC as well as overseas members in countries such as the USA and South Africa.



April
2023

Regalia New
Shop

Regalia. New Designs and Shop

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.

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 \(ace-online.co.uk\)](http://ace-online.co.uk)



April
2023

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 made by Hobourn Eaton the OE supplier

Contact Brain Byers on 01634 669892 or 07930320440

.....

JOB LOT OF 1970 MGB ROADSTER PARTS FOR SALE

Small bottle jack 5 spare Wheel Nuts Roll of Black Vinyl Air filter
A17283 Rear Lights clusters without lenses Blaupunkt 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

.....

April
2023

Parts For Sale

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

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)**

.....

For Sale

Thanks to Cherished Insurance for their support of the Newsletter.

INSURANCE SCHEME
POWERED BY
Cherished Vehicle Insurance Services

Specialist Insurance
for **MG Car Club** members

- ✓ **MGCC membership discount.***
- ✓ **Member to Member** cover
- ✓ **Free** and simple Agreed Value service
- ✓ Reinstatement cover
- ✓ **Salvage Retention** – Subject to qualifying Criteria
- ✓ Modification cover
- ✓ 90 Days European Cover
- ✓ **Multi Vehicle** Cover - we can put all your cars including moderns on the same policy
- ✓ Laid Up Cover
- ✓ **Spare parts** cover – up to £1000
- ✓ Occasional **Wedding Hire** - can be arranged
- ✓ **Business Use** – can be arranged
- ✓ **Limited Mileage** discounts

*Subject to minimum premium and normal underwriting criteria. Terms and conditions may apply. Please ask for details.

0345 250 0282
www.cherishedvehicleinsurance.co.uk

Calls to 0345 numbers are charged at 'normal' rates from landlines.

MG Car Club Limited is an Introducer Appointed Representative of A-Plan Holdings. The MG Classic Car Insurance Scheme is managed and administered by A-Plan Holdings Ltd. Cherished Vehicle Insurance Services is a trading name of A-Plan Holdings who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Registered Office: 2 Des Roches Square, Witney, OX28 4LE. Registered in England. Registration Number 750484 CVI 083 06/22

0094 CVI MG Hallpage A5 Advert.indd 1

29/06/2022 12:29

SE CENTRE COMMITTEE AND CONTACTS

President	Derek Edwards	01737 765891	President@mgccse.co.uk
Chairman	Tim Morris	07801 591689	Chair@mgccse.co.uk
Secretary	Austin Banner	07850 769506	Secretary@mgccse.co.uk
Events Secretaries	Andrew Mitchell / Peter Begbey		events@mgccse.co.uk
Competition Secretary	John Morgan	07802 770025	competitions@mgccse.co.uk
Treasurer	Ron Kemp	07726 326070	Treasurer@mgccse.co.uk
Membership	Diana Calvert	01737 350489	membership@mgccse.co.uk
Scribe / Newsletter	Ray Ruffels	07970 640219	scribe@mgccse.co.uk
Scribe / Newsletter	Will Opie.	07768 022044	scribe@mgccse.co.uk
Webmaster	Tim Morris.	01932 882467	webmaster@mgccse.co.uk
Social Media			youth@mgccse.co.uk
Trophies/Archive	John Davies	01737 241971	trophies@mgccse.co.uk
Regalia/Shop	Alex Lemon	07718 339836	alex.lemon@mgccse.co.uk
Regalia	Mike Chittenden.	02084 678 0022	regalia@mgccse.co.uk
Natter/Wand Liaison	Ian Russell	07590 498514	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 Sportsman, Mogador	John Morgan	0780 770025	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 Dering Arms, Pluckley	William Opie & Ray Ruffels	01795 521846	Faversham@mgccse.co.uk
The Chequers Darenth DA2 7Q	Ian Russell	07590 498514	Ashnatter@mgccse.co.uk
The Black Horse, Nuthurst	David Griffiths	01403 264548	Nuthurst@mgccse.co.uk
The Golden Lion, Broadoak	John Clark	07940 769225	Broadoak@mgccse.co.uk
Canterbury.			
Boship(Lions) Farm Hotel, Hailsham	Dennis Webb.	07885 485255	SouthDowns@mgccse.co.uk

Various locations

Ashdown Adventurers	Position Vacant	07818 420921	AshdownAdventurers@mgccse.co.uk
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 – <http://www.mgccse.co.uk>

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

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

.....

And finally, from the Archives - Ron Randall at a Hill climb SE Centre

