

MGCC SE Newsletter

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MGCC SE

July 2023 Newsletter

Editorial Note

We welcome you to the July Edition of the Newsletter. This edition covers the second quarter 23 events, Natter and Wanderers and members contributions including a special article on the pre-war racing driver Doreen Evans on Page 28.

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 Wadhams Stringers in the late 1970's and now runs several classic MGs plus a ZT-T daily-driver - pictured below right.



July
2023

Committee
Notes

Chairman's
Report

Chairman's Chatter – Tim Morris

Well, here we are in the midst of some of the hottest days of the year so far. There is a contestable viewpoint that it is actually too hot to get out and about in a soft top car and certainly if you are sitting in a motorway queue with the sun beating down, I can subscribe to that! On the other hand, bowling through those tree dappled country lanes in your MG is much more like it so the answer is enjoy the sunshine, get your top down and avoid those motorways!

We like to do that in the South East but back in April, for our Spring gathering, the weather was the exact opposite with rain all day. Nonetheless it was great to see around 60 MGs turn up with umbrellas to enjoy a day out with the club with some even trying to polish their cars in the rain for the PoO and concours. I think we need a special "resilience" award for next year. Talking of awards we had an early (or late) awards ceremony in the open air at Kingscote Vineyard where we also enjoyed a Ploughman's supper and a tour of the vineyard. This was the 2022 awards and well done to all of our winners and particularly to Chris Leigh who was our member of the year and presented with the problem of how to transport a large, framed painting back home in an MGA. Solved by Will Opie who somehow managed to squeeze it in the boot of an MGC!



The MG100
Banner at
Brooklands

This was in effect a "catchup" ceremony to get us back on track to present the awards in the year that they are won. Therefore the 2023 awards will now be presented at our annual MG lunch which this year will be at the Stanhill Court Hotel at Charlwood – look out for details of that on our website soon. Congratulations to all the winners.

MG100 has got underway and we sneaked in an early celebration under the bar at the Brooklands Best of British event in early May – a full month before the official opening at Gaydon! It was a great day out and John Davies did us proud with a fantastic timeline of MGs representing each decade surrounding the Brooklands giant MG logo. There were no less than three K3s present and two extremely early Morris Garages cars from 1925 and 1926 – I caught up with the owners and you can see those videos on our YouTube channel. I was also delighted to present SE member Malcolm Le Gry's with a trophy for the MGF Register's MGF of the Year – you can see a video of the car on YouTube and read about it in the July issue of Safety Fast.

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Chairman's
Report

The two main MG100 event so far have been at the British Motor Museum and the combined MG & Triumph Live at Silverstone. Both were very good events but very different. At Gaydon it felt like a celebration with hundreds of different types of MGs spread across the aprons, car parks and even up on the grassy hill. It was a day to wander around, check out the MGs and meet people. Silverstone was a full weekend and a different festival" type atmosphere with live motor racing thrown in. It was a fantastic weekend with two "100" timelines of Triumph and MG with cars from each year of production stretching as far as the eye could see, arena displays, Russ Swift spinning around in an MG3, trade village, the Candy girls and Gatsby Girls who turned out to be the same three in different eras, Craft fair and hundreds of MGs. The Centre stand was in the main marquee next to "Old Number One" and it was great to meet our members and potential members over the weekend. A big thank you to the team who helped man the stall over a very hot weekend in a marquee with no air conditioning!



Left - Trying out the Cyberster for size at Silverstone

Below - Tim with Jonathan Suckling and the X15 at MG100 Gaydon



The Alternative PoO is underway with two rounds done and dusted already but never fear for the third and final round will be at The Fairmile in Cobham on the 19th July. This will be an MGCCSE Open Evening as well where new members can meet the committee and find out what the MGCCSE and its natters are all about. If you have never been to a club meeting before then you are most welcome to join us. We would love to see you - old or new - I'll see you there (or before, at the Bluebell Railway on the 9th July where we already have over 100 MGs joining us for a day out at Horsted Keynes.)

Tim Morris Chairman, MGCCSE

The Le Grys' with their MGF of the Year Trophy... and the car



July
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>



July
2023

Committee
Notes

Competition
and Events
Update

SE Centre 2023 Events Update – John Morgan Competition Secretary

As mentioned in the April Newsletter, 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 website** is <https://www.asemc.co.uk/> and listed below from the calendar page is the range of events open to MGCC members in the South East for July, entry details on the calendar website link:

Evening Autotest, Otham	Wednesday 28/06/2023	Website	Autotest	MKMC
Evening Autotest Brands Hatch Circuit	Thursday 29/06/2023	Website	Autotest	Sevenoaks & District MC
Summer Solo	Sunday 16/07/2023	Website	AutoSOLO	Farnborough DMC
Evening Autotest at Gabriels Farm, Edenbridge	Tuesday 18/07/2023	Website	Autotest	Tunbridge Wells MC
Gymkhana Round 3 (TBC)	Saturday 22/07/2023	Race Calendar	Gymkhana	Formula G
Gymkhana Round 4 (TBC)	Saturday 22/07/2023	Race Calendar	Gymkhana	Formula G
Evening Autotest Brands Hatch Circuit	Thursday 27/07/2023	Website	Autotest	Sevenoaks & District MC
Summer Slalom, Venue TBA	Sunday 30/07/2023	Website	Autotest	MKMC
Grasshopper Autotest	Sunday 09/07/2023	Regs	Autotest	Boundless by CSMA
Evening Autotest, Headcorn Aerodrome	Wednesday 12/07/2023	Website	Autotest	MKMC
Lydden Sprint	Saturday 15/07/2023	Website	Sprint	Borough 19 MC, Maidstone MKMC,

The **Filching Manor AutoSOLO** at the end of March 2023 has been reported already on the website, etc. One of the competitors from Sevenoaks & District MC was Charlie Lower who made a video of himself driving the AutoSOLO at Finchley – its great content for AutoSOLOs <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSMRnr8eFM8&t=1s> (he is one of their more experienced competitors).

July
2023

Committee
Notes

Competition
and Events
Update



The next **MGCC SE Centre competitive event is the Naviscat on Sunday 1st October**, classified as a Taster event so non-MGCC members can take part. There will also be some **Scenic Runs, Pride of Ownership and Concours** included in the **Autumn Gathering on 17th September at Penshurst Place and Gardens**.

The SE Centre is also participating in the **Motorsport UK StreetCar programme**. Launched in 2022, StreetCar unifies 12 different disciplines of the sport under one banner, and seeks to demonstrate that the sport is affordable, fun, and accessible whilst driving participation to the club motorsport community. It is intended to encourage people to get started in grassroots motorsport, from autotests and rallies to trials and cross country. It is UK wide and more information can be found:

<https://streetcarmotorsportuk.com/> Participation general information

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/streetcarmotorsportuk>

The Streetcar website also has an interactive map that can provide local information about events near you, it can be found:

<https://streetcarmotorsportuk.com/get-started/map/>

The overall objective of StreetCar is to increase awareness and open the world of motorsport to new audiences, by offering a clear and accessible pathway to get started which is affordable and inclusive for people from all walks of life. You do not need to use your expensive or valued MG, cars can include any small hatchback, etc. Don't forget family members including younger members who can often compete with a DVLC driving license as long as they are competent in controlling a car. It is the motor clubs with motorsport programmes that are attracting the younger generations.

John Morgan – Competition Secretary

July
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>

Committee
Notes

SE Centre
Calendar
Summary
Next 4
Months
2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Sun July 2nd	Bredgar & Wormshill Classic Car Show	Bredgar & Wormshill	Ian Russell
Sun July 9th	MG 100 SE Event	Blue Bell Railway Horsted Keynes	Andrew Mitchell events@mgccse.co.uk
Thurs 13 th July	Altrenative PoO 3 & Open Evening	The Fairmile, Cobham	John Morgan 07802 770025 competitions@mgccse.co.uk
Sun July 23rd	Classic Car Show F & T Type Register	Brooklands	Tim Morris 07801 591689 chair@mgccse.co.uk
Thurs 27 th July	Sevenoaks Motor Club Autosolo	Brands Hatch	John Morgan 07802 770025 competitions@mgccse.co.uk
Sat 5 th August	Fish n Chips on the Beach	Hayling Island	Tim Morris 07801 591689 chair@mgccse.co.uk
Sun 17 th September	Autumn Meeting	Penshurst Place	Peter Begbey 07401673249 shows@mgccse.co.uk
Sun Oct 1st	Autumn Naviscat (Taster Event)	TBC	Chris Leigh
Sun Oct 1st	MMKMC Trial	Otham	John Morgan 07802 770025 competitions@mgccse.co.uk
Sun Oct 15 th	Autumn Leaves Run & Scavenger Hunt	Sussex	John Morgan competitions@mgccse.co.uk
Sun Oct 29th	MGCC MG100 Lunch & 2023 Awards	TBC	Austin Banner 07850 769506 Secretary@mgccse.co.uk

MGCCSE on the Web - Tim Morris

Our internet usage is increasing and we are looking for ways to improve our coverage. The most striking so far has been the YouTube channel and that is where you could help. Do you have any video footage of any MG or South East interest? We have recently uploaded a video that Barrie North made of the Summer Gathering at Cobham Hall back in 2007; for a time this was available to buy on DVD but now you can see it on the more modern medium of YouTube. If you have anything that may be of interest please get in touch at chair@mgccse.co.uk.

The channel itself is approaching 33,000 views since it started and now averaging about 3,500 views a month with viewers not just in the South East but around the World. When you do find the channel by searching for @mgccse then please subscribe to it – the more subscriptions and likes that we get the more the algorithm robots like it and spread us further on the web.

The top video is still Bob Zanetti's MGA Twin Cam with over 8,000 views and you'll be able to meet Bob as he is giving a talk at The Fairmile natter later this year.



New videos include South East member Jonathan Suckling and the fantastic MG ZTT X15 land speed record car at the Gaydon centenary event, Malcolm Beer and his two MG K3 Magnettes and Mike Dacre with his wonderful MG 14/28 Salonette from 1925. [Click here to go to the channel](#)

Away from video we are still using Facebook as our main social media channel where we are approaching 500 followers. It's ere that you'll find quick and relevant cub updates as well as general posting about MG and, of course, every week there is a South East MG Sundae dish! Behind that public face there is a private chat group for Members only which has just over 150 people now – you have to give your membership number to join in but you can then post anything relevant to the group. Search for @mgccse on Facebook.

The website itself is the patriarch of our web life ad is where you'll find all the latest news, events and application forms – head there first if you are looking for events, natter info or general South East information – www.mgccse.co.uk

Don't forget the South East shop where you will find the current range of MG clothing for sale – order online and it will be delivered to your door – check it out here - <https://mgccse.ace-online.co.uk/catalogue>

July
2023

Events

SE Centre

Filching
Autosolo

Saturday
15th April

Filching Manor Autosolo – John Morgan



Martin Neal put
in the best
performance by
an MGCC
member

The ancient valley in which Filching Manor nestles reverberated with the sounds of revving engines and the occasional squealing tyres as the Centre hosted its first Autosolo on the old Go-Kart track.

The Centre has been organising Naviscats in recent years and a few years ago regularly held Autotests and now it has re-entered the world of motorsport with an Autosolo. Similar to an Autotest the Autosolo involves forward direction only – so no reversing around cones or backing into garages. That makes for a faster event as the entrants negotiate the cones laid out, in this case, on an actual track.

The MGCCSE Competitions Secretary, John Morgan, was our lead on the event and with the help of the Sevenoaks & District Motor Club arranged for the event to take place. The Centre had visited Filching Manor a couple of times in the past few years and viewed its collection of historic vehicles and the Campbell Collection. We have also been following Karl Foulkes- Halbard's efforts to run Malcolm Campbell's Bluebird K3 water speed boat. It was hoped to run it at Bewl Water this year but that is looking unlikely now. The boat and the vehicle collection were open for viewing on the day and there was a lot of interest from those taking part.

These events require no special equipment and any vehicle can take part – MotorsportUK's Street Car initiative were present at the event in support of the Centre's and help promote it. It's an entry level motor sport event and all you need is a MotorsportUK RS Clubman's licence which is free to obtain online.

The proof that anyone can take part came in the form of club chairman, Tim Morris, who entered with his MGF (Picture below)

July
2023

Events

SE Centre

Filching
Autosolo

Saturday
15th April



Tim relates:

"I've had a go at Autotesting, gymkhanas and naviscats with the Centre but this was the first time for an Autosolo so I just had to take part. Not having done anything like this for a good many years I was a bit worried about it but in the end, I needn't have for it was absolutely safe and the marshals dotted around the track all did a great job. I'm not the fastest driver and at one point had the slowest time but it was satisfying to then improve on that in subsequent runs – as I say in the video – "shaving off those seconds!". I was quite pleased that I wasn't, as expected, quite bottom of the results list!"

Tim's video can be seen on the MGCCSE YouTube channel along with another one showing the event generally to give some idea of what it was like. Some of the cars competing below:



Images provided by Liz Morros, Tim Morris and Austin Banner

July
2023

Events

SE Centre

Filching
Autosolo

Saturday
15th April



The Sevenoaks & District Motor Club were putting in better performances than us MGs so it was no surprise that their times were markedly faster but there were different categories including just MG ones.

The winners were as follows;

Best MGCC performance – Martin Neal (Austin Healey Sprite)

Fastest time of the day – Charlie Lower (MX5)

Fastest Lady – Emily Atkins (Mini Cooper R56)

Class A (Pre 1955 MG & Historic) – Colin Mckay (MGTD)

Class B (1955 to 1981 MG & Historic) – James Rainford (Lenham Midget)

Class C (Post 1981 MG) – Steve Rackley (MGF)

Class D (Production cars up to 1400cc) – Cameron Montlake-Mees (Honda Civic)

Class E (Production cars over 1401cc) – Tyler Baker (Alfa Romeo GT 3.2)

Class F (Production 2 seat sports cars) – Lorenzo Wojtanowski (MX5)

Class G (Kit cars, specialist cars etc) – Zac Lower (Caterham 7)

For full results go to www.mgccse.co.uk/events

Thank you to John Morgan and the Sevenoaks & District Motor Club, Austin Banner for the results co-ordination, Karl Foulkes-Halbard for use of the track at Filching Manor and timekeepers who helped on the day.

If you fancy having a go then keep an eye on the next MGCCSE autosolo!

July
2023

Events

SE Centre

Spring Run
& Meeting

Sunday
April 23rd

Spring Run to Lullingstone Castle – Andrew Mitchell

Damp Start may have been needed for some of the 60 or so MGs headed out to the Spring Meeting at Lullingstone Castle & World Garden. It rained for most of the day and that included on the two runs into the event from Godstone and Malling. There was plenty of water and flooded roads to contend with and that didn't include the actual ford as you approached Lullingstone Castle itself. Happily, there was a narrow bridge option for that one though!

Both runs did make it safely and the MGs began to park up on the lawns in front of the house itself. The Pride of Ownership entries had pride of place right in front of the house but it was difficult for the entrants to display them properly due the constant rain.



July
2023

Events

SE Centre

Spring Run
& Meeting

Sunday
April 23rd

During the day there was a chance to tour the house and take a look around the World Garden before settling down to a picnic, taken by most sitting in their cars!

Despite the weather there were very few MGs booked that did not turn up on the day so a big thank you goes to those members who supported the Centre at this rather damp event. The Pride of Ownership was self-judged by the entrants and the Concours was judged by two of the club's expert judges.

Congratualtions to the winners - Richard Thorpe with his MG3 won the concours, Karl Foot in his MGRV8 the Premier PoO and Tim Luffingham in his MGC the standard PoO



**MGCC SE Centre - Spring Meeting at Lullingstone Castle 23 April 2023
Concours d'Elegance and Pride of Ownership Results**

Entrant No	Entrant	Car	Total Votes	Position
Concours				
42	Richard Thorpe	MG3 Yellow GJ 66 OYC	96	1st
6	John Langford	MG Magnette mkiv White AVE 442B	94	2nd
58	Martin Corney	MGB Green RWL 328J	86	
Premier Pride of Ownership				
5	Karl Foot	MGRV8 Red R88 MGR	89	1st
Pride of Ownership				
16	Trevor Osbourne	MG Z Magnette	150	
15	Peter Parker	MGB Red WKY 752 K	161	3rd
19	Gareth Evans	MGBGT Yellow TGG 380 G	134	
57	Tim Luffingham	MGC Blue TPH 243 F	172	1st
68	David Koskela	MG TF 85th White X15 MGF	166	2nd

Concours and Premier Pride of Ownership was judged by MGCC, Pride of Ownership was self judged by all the entrants and scores are overall totals of all votes.

Thanks to the Ian Russell, Andrew Mitchell, John Morgan and the marshals and run organisers who all made the day happen.

July
2023

Best of British at Brooklands – Jon Davies / Jon Glover

As a prelude to the MG 100 anniversary celebrations Brooklands initially invited us to organise a time line display round their ground MG Octagon. In view of the number of interesting cars they knew we could provide the request was extended to a far greater area which covered most of the Campbell car park.

Events

SE Centre

Brooklands
Best of
British

Sunday May
7th

The cars chosen to be placed around the Octagon were the 1920's Philip Bayne Powell's 14/40, 1930's Elizabeth and Andrew Taylor's K3, 1940's Joy Anderson's TC, 1950's Robert Zanetti's MGA twin cam, 1960's Adrian Oliver's 1962 MGB, 1970's Ian Ailes MGB GTV8, 1980's Simon Gray's MG Metro and 1990's Roy Baker's RV8.



Octagon
Display

Malcolm
Beer K3 on
the Test Hill



July
2023

Events

SE Centre

Brooklands
Best of
British

Sunday May
7th

The time line was backed up with many other MGs through the ages including two other early MG Bull Nose 1920's cars, a 18/80, the PA Airline saloon from the Isle Of Wight, a PB, J2s, L and N types etc then moving to more modern types midgets, MGB/C/V8s etc. Additional cars on display included a fine selection of T types organised by Alan Wakefield and MGF/TF's organised by Tim Morris.

The weather was kind to us through-out the day with the sun coming out during the afternoon - more than it did for the King on Coronation Day! Union Jacks were in abundance together with our own banners including the 100th anniversary banners just obtained by Tim Morris.

Brooklands seemed happy with our efforts and a special thank you to Philip Bayne Powell for getting his 14/40 to the event as it had been giving him problems in the preceding days. He was heard to say gardening was far less trouble than MGs!

A big thank you to all who attended and particularly those who had travelled a fair distance to support us.



SE Centre
Stand
Display



Two Beer
family K3s

July
2023

Events

SE Centre

Spring Day
Out & 2022
Awards

Sunday 21st
May

Spring Day Out to Kingscote Vineyard and 2022 Awards



What better combination than wine, steam trains, ploughman's supper and an awards presentation?

All could be found on the Centre's trip to the Kingscote Vineyard near East Grinstead, right on the doorstep of Kingscote Station on the Bluebell Railway. We'll be back on the tracks later this year for our Summer Gathering but for now it was a tour of the vineyard to look forward to it. Our guide gave a short history of the vineyard, talked us through the various types of grapes being grown and taught us how to taste wine properly. That included a few samples, naturally. A short traipse into the vines themselves was followed by a further talk around the old machinery. Old, because this equipment is no longer used as the grapes are taken off to a sister vineyard in Kent to be processed these days.



July
2023

Events

SE Centre

Spring Day
Out & 2022
Awards

Sunday 21st
May

Returning to the cafe in an old barn we found that John Davies had prepared all the trophies for our 2022 awards to be presented al fresco.



The reason for the early awards presentation was thanks to the pandemic which put the club out of kilter. The aim is to present the awards at the end of the year they are won in – so you don't forget what you might have won! This meant that the 2021 awards were presented at the end of 2022. Now the 2022 awards are presented less than six months later and the 2023 awards will be at the end of this year so getting us back on track! Some of the winners are below. Go to <https://www.mgccse.co.uk/trophies-awards/awards-2022/> for full results. By Tim Morris



John
Langford
Car of the
Show
Summer
Gathering



Chris
Redhead
Alternative
PoO



Peter
Begbey
Social
Champions
hip Award



Andrew
Mitchell-
Lew
Wooster
Trophy Ma
rshalling
most
events

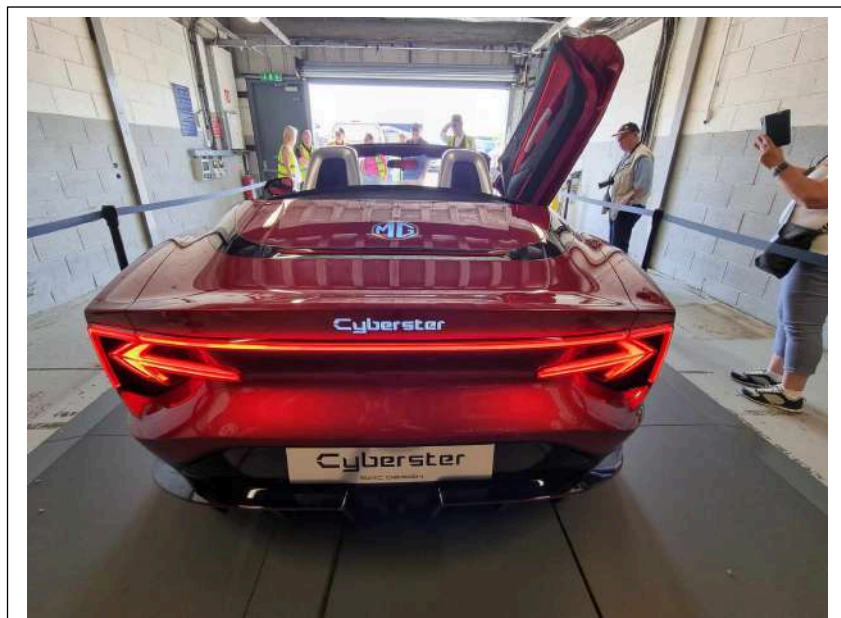
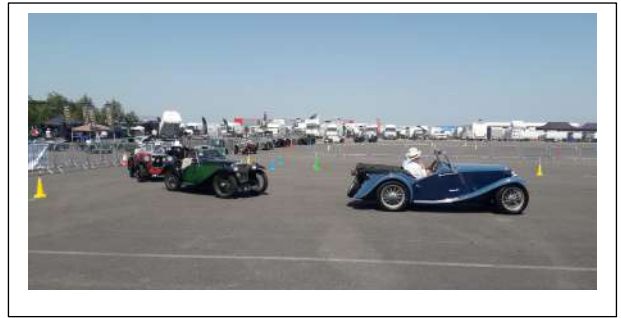
July
2023

Events

SE Centre

Some
Images of
MG /
Triumph
100
Silverstone

10/11th June



July
2023

Events

SE Centre

Cars at the
Castle

Sunday 18th
June

Cars at the Castle – Andrew Mitchell

What a great day & the weather was a lot kinder to us, than we thought. Most cars arrived by 09:30 and it was dry until about 3:15pm. Originally we had 24 cars entered but there were a few cancellations & replacements the day before and 16 of us made it on the day. I don't know what happened to the other 4 cars as the others who cancelled emailed me to say they weren't coming the night before.

Some interesting cars turned up including a nice PA and a very rare MG Maestro Turbo (assembled by Tickford who normally do Aston Martins).

Other classics on the day included Ferraris ,Mclarens , Lancia , Rolls Royce and Bentleys, Abarths, Minis and many more .

This event is definitely worth attending every year and including on our calendar every year as £10 pr car is an absolute bargain price and everyone seemed to think it was a good day!

Thankyou John (Morgan) for recommending it to us and here are some pics of the day:.



July
2023

Local Club
Meets

Fairmile
Natter
Update

Fairmile Natter – Ian Ailes / Jon Glover

At our March meeting, we had a talk about Guy Robins. His great niece Sarah Teuten and her husband Daniel happen to be regulars to our meeting. Guy originally worked for Trojan Cars but bought an F1 Magna 1270cc new in 1932 which he then modified for racing. Guy got the car up to 89.6 MPH at Brooklands in the LCC Relay in 1934 (pictures below). Can you believe it, MG introduced radio to its racing cars in 1933!



Guy's Magna F0904 is still around as a chassis but needs rebuilding. Guy met Halford and Godfrey whilst racing MGs at Brooklands. They went on to form HRG based in Tolworth Surrey. More can be found in Safety Fast .October 2020. If anyone has more information on Guy, please let Sarah know. She still researching him.

We have had a busy quarter including an excellent turnout at the June meeting with a good mix of 13 cars including Ruby the PB, three MGCs - two University Motors Specials - and Magnette, some new to our meeting, There was much friendly chat about all manner of things. A new phrase came into being which is a real oxymoron – very gentle brute force – but makes perfect sense to anyone tinkering with their MG, in this case a TD who's bonnet would not open! The MGB (the only one) had been subject to a 10 hour polish for Silverstone!

We have a tradition at the Fairmile started by David Washbourne with his SA. When you have owned your car for 50 years, we go on a run to Shoreham airport for lunch. At least two members are getting close!



July
2023

Local Club
Meets

Fairmile
Natter
Update



We have a tradition at the Fairmile started by David Washbourne with his SA. When you have owned your car for 50 years, we go on a run to Shoreham airport for lunch. At least two members are getting close!

Finally, the Alternative Pride of ownership is next month on 13th July. It is also a Centre - meet the committee - open night for new members. It is always a great turnout of MGs so put it on your calendar now and don't miss it. The first round is at the Sportsman on 19th June and the second at the Surrey Oaks on 24th June at 12.00.

July
2023

Local Club
Meets

Sportsma &
Fairmile
Natter visit
to the Fast
Museum

Sportsman and Fairmile Natters visit to the FAST Museum

23 Members from these Natters made a club visit to the FAST museum in Farnborough in June. The visit started with lunch in The Frog pub in Deepcut followed by an afternoon Guided Tour.

FAST (Farnborough Air Sciences Trust) was founded in 1993 to safeguard Farnborough's priceless aeronautical heritage and the origins of the Museum and Trust are described in the attached document. The Farnborough Museum presents a selection from the FAST collection in the setting of a historic listed building. The Museum building dates from 1908 and was built as the headquarters of the Royal Engineers Balloon School. It is superbly located on a hill overlooking the runway of Farnborough Airfield – so modern planes can be seen in the air as well as historic planes on display in and around the Museum building.



The Museum includes photographs and exhibits from the early years of aviation and important pieces of aviation history, like Sir Frank Whittle's earliest jet engines, a full size replica of the Cody Flyer and research models of Concorde and various wind tunnel models. There are working wind tunnels, flight simulators for Concorde and Lightning and much more. The museum also has a wide selection of the research aircraft used by RAE and in particular a replica of Samuel Cody's biplane which made the first powered heavier than air flight in Britain here in 1908. It was an interesting museum about all the activities undertaken by RAE before the organisation was closed and QinetiQ took over aeronautical research



July
2023

Local Club
Meets

Sportsma &
Fairmile
Natter visit
to the Fast
Museum



July
2023

Local Club
Meets

Sportsman
Natter
Update

Sportsman Natter Update- John Morgan / Austin Banner

April was an active period in our MGCC programme. It opened with some excellent MG racing at the two day event at Brands Hatch on 1st/2nd April. This was followed by our return to competitive events organised by the SE Centre, the AutoSOLO at Filching Manor with over 40 cars taking part, including 12 from the MGCC, and every one expressed enthusiasm for another event next year. The Spring Meeting at Lullingstone Castle was a rather wet day, but we still had over 60 cars attending and the scenic runs and Concours/Pride of Ownership were well supported. The David Whale FBHVC Chairman Talk was an informative evening about their work and the future for historic cars. Finally last weekend the SE Centre organised a Centenary display at Brooklands Museum with excellent support of all models including three K3s and the only surviving 14/28 Salonette from 1926.

On June 13th we had a social run, lunch and visit to the FAST museum at Farnborough. The museum provided a fascinating insight into the work undertaken by the RAE (Royal Aircraft Establishment) and has quite an amazing array of interesting items as well as a collection of aircraft -

June 18th was Cars at the Castle at Hever Castle. It was a relaxing day with various car clubs providing displays on the lawns around the castle.

The Natter Social and BBQ at the Walcountians RFC near Banstead took place on Monday 26th June. As always it was an excellent evening with a great BBQ followed by some pub type games.

The SE Centre will be holding a **Rally at the Bluebell Railway** on Sunday 9th July as part of the **2023 MG Centenary celebrations**. The Rally will be at the Horsted Keynes event field and the day will include an MG Headed special train. More detailed event information should be available shortly on all these events, do always take a look at the SE Centre website.

Next month on **Sunday 23rd July**, there is a **Charity car event** being held at **Purley Sports Club** in support of the **Royal Marsden**. I am arranging a car display and there will be some non-MGs from another multi-marque club I am responsible for. I have two MGs attending so far, so please let me know if you would like to display your car. There will be trade stands, numerous classic cars from clubs & individuals, a Jazz band, bbq and Marsden's beer stand. No charge for entry to classic car drivers and passengers. Purchase of a Programmes £5 would be appreciated.



July
2023

Local Club
Meets

North
Downs
Natter
Update

North Downs – Ray Ruffels / Will Opie

Day Events

As well as our normal Natter nights at the Dering Arms, Pluckley on 4th Thursday of the month, several runs are planned for 2023 to Kent lunch venues including the Three Chimneys PH, Biddenden and Goodnestone House and Gardens. We kicked off at the Five Bells PH Brabourne in April and had a wonderful Oare estuary walk and lunch at the Three Mariners in May (pictures below) and in June the Minnis Bay Bar and Brasserie. Contact raywillmg@gmail.com for further info.



I am sure the
switch was
there, right
there!

July
2023

Local Club
Meets

Sussex
Wanderers
Update

Sussex Wanderers - David Griffiths/Ursula

Firstly, a big 'thank you' to everyone that has wished me a speedy recovery. A nine week period in hospital certainly does not help one's mobility or mental attitude! However, I'm now home and I am starting to slowly get back to normality, although progress is still being interspersed with 'blips' and the occasional return to hospital.

Ursula has been a rock in organising the monthly outings for the Sussex Wanderers, which would have been unable to continue without her organising skills. Also, many thanks to all who have given her a helping hand in keeping the Wanderers ticking over. Subject to progress, my aim is to be around for the July meet, even if I only greet you from the passenger seat of the car!

Resumee of outings - March to June 2023:

On Wednesday 15th May our first meeting of 2023 took place at the Blacksmiths Arms at Adversane, and attracted some 52 members and their guests. The day started with coffee, followed by a run, which was kindly organised by Robin Hamilton and Clive Sayer. As usual Giuseppe and his team greeted everyone well and provided an excellent Italian influenced menu. The first raffle took place and lucky winners were: John Hill, Tony Cosgrove and Clive Sayer. As in previous years our charity collection is for Riding for the Disabled and thanks to the generosity of our members and their guests, we collected the wonderful sum of £204.00.



The Blacksmiths
Arms

On 12th April, the meet started from the Red Lion in Ashington for coffee and after a run of about 30 miles, which included crossing the South Downs via the Bostal, finished at the Longshore in Shoreham by Sea, where 42 members and their guests enjoyed lunch. Driving up the Bostal provided some great views of the sea and the Rampion wind farm. The Longshore provided some excellent meals and at good prices, and enjoyed by all. Plus the rain stayed away until everyone was seated for lunch! Raffle winners were Roger and Maggi Pitts, Michael and Alice Baggs and John and Tricia Murray. As ever our members and their guests were extremely generous and the collection for RDA raised the impressive sum of £186.00.

July
2023

Local Club
Meets

Sussex
Wanderers
Update



Red Lion
Ashington

On 10th May our monthly outing was centred on the western end of the county with the start venue and run to our lunch having been kindly organised by Clive Sayer. The weather was kind to us, and 53 members and guests enjoyed coffee at Denmans Gardens at Fontwell, before setting off on a run to our lunch venue. The route took us through Goodwood, around Chichester, before passing through Fishbourne - famous for Roman remains - before heading towards Chichester Yacht Club, being our lunch venue. Tom, who is the catering manager looked after us well and everyone enjoyed some excellent meals. The raffle was won by David and Pammy Adams, Chris Rickard and Peter Rutland. I am always amazed by the generosity of our members and our collection for RDA raised £195.00.



Chichester
Yacht Club

On 14th June our outing was based at the Thatched Inn, Hassocks, East Sussex with 45 members and their guests joining us for coffee and the run. Thanks to Stewart and Julie Penfound for organising the venue and lunch. Members and their guests met at about 10.30am for a good chat with coffee and biscuits, before setting off on a tour around East Sussex, returning to the Thatched Inn for lunch. David and Lisa who manage the pub served some excellent meals, which were greatly enjoyed by all. This month raffle winners were Frances and Graham Jacobs, Ken Cornwall and Stewart and Julie Penfound. Our members and their guests dug deep into their pockets and the RDA collection raised some £163.00.

Our next outing is scheduled for Wednesday 12th July 2023, and will be centred on the SussexOak in Warnham, West Sussex, RH12 3QW. Peter and his team will be providing coffee and biscuits at 10.30am, for £3.00 per person. This will followed by a tour of about 30 miles around the Surrey Hills, returning to the Sussex Oak for lunch, which is scheduled for about 1.00pm. Contact is – sussexwanderers@mgcse.co.uk

July
2023

Members
Corner

A
Remarkable
Lady Doreen
Evans

A Remarkable Lady - Doreen Evans

We posted about Doreen Evans on our social media to mark International Women's Day back in March, not only was she a remarkable lady from a remarkable family but also comes under the auspices of the South East Centre with the family garage being based in Wandsworth.

Doreen was always destined for the track, her parents were keen enthusiasts and took the young family to Brooklands as often as they could and the children were encouraged to drive as soon as possible. Her two brothers, Kenneth and Denis soon became successful racing drivers and she first took to the Brooklands track in 1933 at the tender age of seventeen. Her racing career, however, was short – lasting barely three years and she retired at the age of twenty when she married. Her impact and legacy, however, was long and we still remember her today.



A nicely posed
photo of
Doreen in the
National
Portrait Gallery

The Evans brothers, being older, taught Doreen how to drive and she would compete with them as a passenger at Brooklands as a teenager. The brothers wanted to take racing more seriously and knowing Hugh Hamilton at University Motors were soon the owners of a MG Montlhery Midget.

Denis had begun the family Bellevue garage business in Wandsworth in 1931 with an emphasis on tuning fast cars – the ideal place to tune their own racing MGs particularly with an expert like “Wilkie” Wilkinson on hand to do the work. He soon gained the

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2023

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Corner

A
Remarkable
Lady Doreen
Evans

garage a reputation for fine race tuning and drivers, including bandleader Billy Cotton, would have their cars tuned there and being relatively close to Brooklands also helped the business.



The Evans' Bellevue Garage in Wandsworth today – an estate agents!

The Midget was the first of their racing MGs and as soon as Doreen gained a driving licence they all bought J2 MGs to compete as the Bellevue Team. They competed in hill climbs and trials around the UK as a team but Doreen wanted to try circuit racing so, her father bought her an MG Magna powered by the Wolseley Hornet 6-cylinder engine, naturally tuned by Wilkinson. The car and her driving ability soon attracted the attention of Cecil Kimber who then offered them support from MG itself. A good policy by Kimber as these cars were attracting a lot of attention from the public – so increasing sales of MGs!

In 1934 Doreen and her brothers ordered three of the new N-Type Magnettes in chassis form with race-prepared engines already fitted. They then installed their own lightweight body to the cars and raced as a team, often against the official MG team. Following her success as a privateer Doreen was asked to become one of the official MG works team drivers and in 1935 she gained MG much publicity as one of George Eystons "Dancing Daughters". Named after a popular silent movie of the era, the six lady drivers took three MG PAs to Le Mans, they all finished together coming 24th, 25th and 26th and proved the reliability of these cars – great for more sales!



George Eyston tests the Le Mans "dancing Daughters" team at Brooklands in 1935

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A
Remarkable
Lady Doreen
Evans

The Evans cars were tuned to perfection and the driving was exemplary so they rarely had accidents or failed to finish. However, there was a near tragedy in the 1936 International Trophy race at Brooklands when Doreen narrowly escaped from her MG when it caught fire at high speed on the Railway Straight – unable to bail out without serious injury she managed to slow the burning car enough by the time she got to the Members Banking and Finishing Straight so she could jump clear – suffering only bruising and some burns to her legs – the MG though was a write off smashing into the paddock safety barrier.



Doreen in
action taking
over the sash
in a Relay Race
at Brooklands
July 1935

As well as being a team member with her brothers and MG she also competed solo with her Q Type Midget winning a Light Car Club relay at Brooklands and Le Mans in 1934. She won the Women's Mountain handicap in Autumn 1934 at Brooklands in the car and had it rebodied as a slimline single seater in which she triumphed the following Spring reaching speeds of over 100mph.



Doreen
taking
some
refreshmen
t during a
race at
Brooklands
in 1936

She gave up her short career on the track in 1936 when she married a fellow driver Alan Phillips – she was to join him in a last race driving an Aston Martin but Alan crashed it on the first lap putting paid to her final race. They moved to America where she lived for the next forty years before passing away in 1982 at the age of 65.

Tim Morris

CARCHEOLOGY- A Personal Encounter with Early MG's

1923 - Stanley Baldwin was Prime Minister .

The Matrimonial Causes Act became law giving women equal rights with men in a divorce. Women could now sue for adultery! The Hollywood sign was erected – but read ‘Hollywoodland.’

Howard Carter opened the burial chamber of King Tut, discovering among other treasures his condom – no really – I’ve seen it in the Cairo Museum!

Adolf Hitler reared his ugly head and moustache for the first time in Munich, along with 2,000 of his lovely mates. Women’s one piece bathing suits came into fashion and the future King George 6th married the future Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother .

Cecil B. De Mille’s, ‘The Ten Commandments’ was the most popular flicker

AND

The inaugural Le Mans 24 hour Race was held on public roads as an ever growing public passion for car racing was fueled by an increasing number of car owners, not that cars dominated the roads as most dust was raised by the simple Bicycle .

At least we know when that first Le Mans was – 26/27th of May 1923. If only we could be so definite about the launch date of the first Morris Garages Special! As it is we have to spend a whole year celebrating the Centenary of our favourite sports car in order to cover all bases in the argument!

I’m not going to get involved in the argument but reflect on 4 Morris and MG cars that I have seen in the metal this year. So, 1923 and in Oxford one Cecil Kimber is a year into his tenure as General Manager of Morris Garages, having been promoted from Head Salesman in 1922. And therein lies a clue to – Why MG ?



July
2023

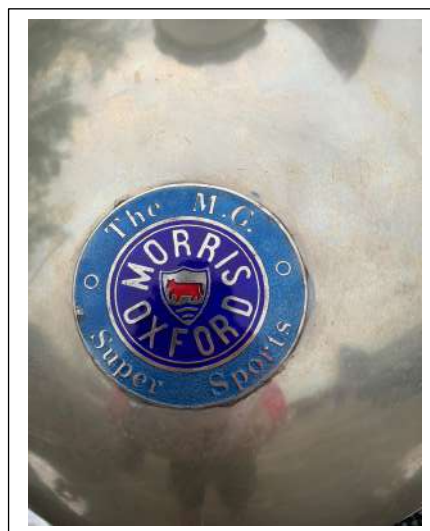
Members
Corner

Carcheology

Kimber the salesman wants to sell more Morris cars – what to do ? Give the public, in particular the cities richer University students something special for not much more money than a standard Bullnose Morris Cowley. It helps if as well as being a supersalesman, you have a keen eye for attractive body design and an ear for advertising copy . I mean who could resist the offer of ‘A Morris Garages 14/28 SUPERSPORTS ‘ with its sporty bare metal body and increased performance, both in stopping and going?!

Which leads me to a chance encounter with a standard Morris Cowley Bullnose which Kimber based his ‘Supersports ‘ on, establishing a precedent followed by MG thereafter – tidge up existing saloon models and badge them ‘MG’ for added aura.

The chance encounter was at the Annual Downton Motor gathering , part of the Downton Cuckoo Fair (yes the little Wiltshire Village that was home to Downton Special Tuning), much favoured by our C Register. Infact we were by far the biggest contingent. The car in question is an immaculately restored, scarlet beauty, with the addition of a rare Auster screen for the rear passengers protection when the hood was lowered.



Then we move to Brooklands and British Marques Day. Again MG was by far the largest make represented by the giant Octagon timeline and filling the Campbell Car Park to overflowing.

Present for the first time were 2 early Morris Garage Specials owned by a new friend to the MGCC – Michael Dacre – who personally paid to transport the cars from his Midlands base and back again in celebration of the Centenary. Miriad thanks, Mike.

We’d connected through a mutual Jersey associate – Ian Le Riche – who had worked on a local early Supersports, still, uniquely, with its original body. Bought by Michael and now back on the mainland, that was one of the two so generously displayed at Brooklands .

The other from his collection was the first known, Bullnose Supersports Salonette built in 1925. 6 Salonettes were produced, specially and beautifully bodied by Car Bodies of Coventry, Kimbers go to coach builders. MO 6709 is the only known surviving Salonette and the earliest MG known to have its original bodywork extant. Highlights from the car’s history include a 30 year sojourn in The Ramsgate Motor Museum followed by a full restoration by the appropriately named MG expert – Fred Body – who acquired the car in 2005.

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Carcheology

The car displays unusual features for its time – Marine Scuttle Vents for ventilation, (Swallows had them as well) and what looks like a fuel tank at the rear is actually a clever tool store with the real tank located under the scuttle. The car had 40 BHP, a 65 MPH top speed and originally cost £450 .



And so to our final work of Carcheology -

The 1925 MG 14/28 Bullnose Supersports, 'Ferni.' – an MG with fascinating Brooklands connections having once been owned in the 1930's by Eric Fernihough – Motor Cycle Land Speed record holder, daredevil Bike racer and Brooklands Garage owner (though his premises were actually located on the site of the present Shell Filling Station on the way up to the Campbell gate entry road).

It was always thought that Ferni transported his bikes on the back of the Supersports as its dented rear shell bears testimony to that. But the Brooklands Archivist was able to confirm this by turning up a photo of Ferni sitting astride one of his bikes with the rear of the Supersports behind him, but inconveniently our hero is obscuring the number plate! No matter, on receiving the photo Mike Dacre was able to match the rear body dents exactly with the marks still on the car today!

Carcheology!

PF 4035 cost £360 new . It was a great Brooklands day, only marred by Ferni failing to proceed on The Test Hill. Fuel starvation was diagnosed and final traced to muck in the fuel tank stirred up by the car being carried at an angle of 45 degrees in its rather modern transporter. I dunno, Mike – you do a good deed and!!

And last but not least of my 4 early MG encounters – in the Octogan Timeline, Philip Bayne Powell's well known 14/40 – 1927. The first model to display the new , modern, flat faced radiator shell that replaced the old fashioned Bullnose, truly announcing to the world that MG was no longer a Morris, but a proud little, desirable, affordable fun, SPORTS CAR!

By Jon Glover

July
2023

Members
Corner

Modern MGs

Modern MGs – Pics/ words Tim Morris

The MG Car Club is very welcoming of owners with modern MGs. Indeed, whilst at the Best of British event we spoke to an owner who was extremely pleased with his bright orange MG4 Trophy and after a lengthy chat he decided to join the club. Exactly the sort of new MG member that the club needs – welcome.

It's an exciting time for MG with two high-powered new models and a facelifted car on the horizon. MG Motor chose the established MG clubs to reveal two of these cars at the two MG100 events.



Gaydon and Silverstone both had a different version of the Cyberster and both equally difficult to actually find! At Gaydon it was amongst the British Car timeline and was literally in disguise – covered in QR codes and photographs were not allowed. This was a working pre-production model and although it still featured the scissor doors seen on the London press release the “yoke” steering wheel had disappeared for a full one. The car at Silverstone was found in a pit garage next to race control – why was it all the way over there and not on the MG Motor stand? The answer turned out to be that it is actually a “clay” and had to be kept at a low temperature on a very hot weekend. This was the same car in red seen in London and the press release photos. Despite being a design model, all the electrics and lights worked including those doors. A running version of the Cyberster will receive a World public outing at the Goodwood Festival of Speed in July where it will be running up the hill.

Over on the MG Motor UK stand the standout was the upgraded MG HS, and this was the, not yet available in the UK, PHEV version. The facelift alters the front and rear with new lights and a striking new wobbly grille at the front. The petrol version of this model is available to buy now.

July
2023

Members
Corner

Modern MGs



Andrea's MG ZS
EV at Best of
British

The latest MG4 news is that the high-powered version of the 4 is due to be released very soon. It will certainly be a “hot hatch” and will be bringing back the early noughties “X Power” brand. The headline power is 429bhp and 600nm of torque with a 0-60mph of sub 4 seconds! To accommodate the extra power the car will have a 61.4kwh battery with a range of 239 miles (less than the standard MG4) and it may be AWD with two motors. It comes in seven colours including a new “Racing Green” and the price – probably under £40k.

If you own a modern MG you will always find a welcome at the MG Car Club. At the Best of British event it was interesting to note that there was a constant stream of people peering under the bonnet of Andrea Koskela’s MG ZS EV which does show there is an interest in the direction that those two iconic letters are now taking.



July
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)



July
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

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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
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

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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)**

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For Sale

Thanks to Cherished Insurance for their support of the Newsletter.

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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 Darent 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 Canterbury.	John Clark	07940 769225	Broadoak@mgccse.co.uk
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

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And finally, a pic from Tim and Clare Luffingham's 2023 Road Rally of Spain and Portugal in their MGC

