

MGCC SE Newsletter

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MGCC SE

Jan 2024 Newsletter

Editorial Note

We welcome you to the January Edition of the Newsletter. This edition covers the fourth quarter 23 events, Natter and Wanderers and Members contributions including information on the MGCCSE Centenary Celebration Weekend in May on Page 10/11 and a special article on Modern MG on Page 24.

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 - pictured below right.



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Notes

Tribute

Derek Edwards – President 1933 – 2023



How we remember Derek - at Angouleme in 2009 with the Club.



Sadly, we announce that the MGCCSE President, Derek Edwards, passed away on 15th of November.

Derek was a stalwart of the South East Centre for too many years than I would care to mention. I first met him in the early noughties when he was vice-chairman of the South East with Doug Bush as Chairman. He was judging my nearly new MGF in a concours competition at Paddock Wood and this is something he greatly enjoyed at a huge number of events over the years. He took over as Chairman when Doug emigrated to Australia and led the Centre through some difficult times as key members of the committee left. Ill health forced him to step down and Chris Leigh took over as Chairman on a temporary basis in the hope he may return. Sadly, that was not the case and I took over in 2021 and the committee and council approved Derek as the first President of the South East Centre.

Derek had a good collection of MGs and Austin-Healeys and was involved with the Austin Healey Club and MGOC as well as the MGCC. John Davies remembers that "He once said he always made a point of buying red cars as he hoped Anne would then not notice how many he had!". As his health failed he sold his car collection and some of those remained in South East hands and still appear regularly at our shows and events.

Tim Morris - Chairman

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Chairman's
Chatter

Chairman's Chatter - Tim Morris

As usual at this time of year it is time to reflect on the year past. It was one tinged with sadness as we lost our President, Derek Edwards, in November. Derek had been a stalwart of the Centre for many decades and his larger-than-life character will be missed greatly by us all. I was pleased to see that his funeral was attended by many South-East members past and present and his Austin Healey Sprite, freshly restored by his son-in-law, was a fitting accompaniment to the funeral cortege, adding a splash of Derek's favourite bright red colour to the occasion. Personally, I have known Derek for over 20 years and he was the first person to welcome me to the club at a Summer Gathering at the Hop Farm in Paddocks Wood back in the mists of time. For anyone that has met Derek through the club he will not be forgotten and his contribution over the years has been immense.

The year itself was busy for the Centre and introduced the first part of the MG100 Celebrations running from June to June. We held some specific MG100 events beginning with the Bluebell Railway in the Summer with the massive MG1000SE engine header (now in Austin's garage!). That was a lovely day of steaming on the railway but the weather changed for our second event at Penshurst Place in September. We organised an MG100 decades timeline and it poured with rain in the middle of the day. Nonetheless around 100 MGs turned up which was great on a grey day. The annual lunch was also loosely branded MG100 and we enjoyed a talk from Jonathan Suckling on the history of MG speed record attempts. It was so good that we have asked him back in May to repeat it at MG100SE at Brooklands for a wider audience and if you want to see the MGZTT X15 fastest estate car that Jonathan owns then it is currently at the British Motor Museum.

We also ventured back into more competitive motorsport with an Autosolo at Filching Manor in April with our partners at the Sevenoaks & District Motor Club. It was a unique venue on an old Go-Kart track and great fun for experienced drivers and complete newbies (like me). We'll be doing it again in 2024 so keep an eye out for the details soon.

You will have heard by now that MGLive! will not be taking place next year, the costs were just too high unfortunately. However, the main Club is fully behind our MG100SE event on 18th/19th May and the Inter Club International event in Malvern on 28th to 30th June as a double replacement!

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I am really pleased that the YouTube channel is going very well and a four-figure percentage increase in views is incredible. You can read about that below but it does need video content and we can't just rely on me to provide it! If you can help in any way with content then please get in touch.

John has revamped the online shop and there is a new range of Centre goodies on offer including some gift items such as cushions and tote bags plus a new logo with a silver backing – or you can have the MG100SE logo instead.

Chairman's
Chatter

I am pleased that we have broken the £1000 barrier in our philanthropic efforts on behalf of The Brain Tumour Charity with a generous donation at the Annual Lunch raffle. We end the year on just under £1,200 which is fantastic. Thank you to all those who have given at the raffles and other fundraising to achieve that. The charity sent us a message once we reached the £1k – *“Thank you for helping us accelerate a cure for brain tumours by raising over £1,000. That's enough money to fund six months of bioluminescence imaging on one of our research projects focused on glioblastomas – the deadliest form of brain tumour in adults.*

This imaging is vital to the success of our research, much like you are vital to The Charity's success as we push for progress towards a world where people affected by a brain tumour live longer, better lives.

We simply couldn't do what we do, without your support and we wanted to once again say thank you and congratulate you on achieving such an epic fundraising milestone.”

Next year we'll be choosing a new charity – if you have a cause close to your heart then please let us know. We'll be announcing the new charity at the AGM in February.

The big event for the South East is on 18th/19th May – **MG100 South East** with road runs, social evening and a full show day at Brooklands. You can read about that elsewhere but make sure it is in your diaries and tickets will be on sale soon.

In the meantime have a great 2024 – I might see you at Brooklands on New Year's Day or the AGM on February 24th – say Hi if you see me.

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Committee
Notes

News from
your
Treasurer

News from the Treasurer

This is a short note to remind members of the procedure when paying for events as put on by the South East Centre. For those members who would still rather pay by cheque, this is still an option. However, don't forget to add your name and the event on the back of the cheque.

The majority of people pay by bank transfer, which does make things easier (in general) for me, as the payment arrives in the bank account immediately, and I can then assign the payment to the relevant event or regalia item.

Please ensure that your name is in the description box (account name), that you add the amount you are paying, and that you add your name and event in the reference box (e.g Smith - Penshurst Place). If this is done, it makes it so much easier for me to identify the person paying and for the correct event. Once you have completed an application form for the event you are going on, please email / post to the organiser of the event AND to the Treasurer as requested on the form. This means that I have a fighting chance of knowing that you intend to come and it helps me to recognise the payment you have made enabling me to match it to the event in question.

To illustrate the occasional issue when checking the account, I would like to draw your attention to a payment I received into the account on 16th September 2023. The payment was for £15 which was one of the fees for Penshurst Place, but the reference contained the letters MG BPP, and the description box contained two sets of four digit numbers 3xxx - 8xxx. I have hidden the actual numbers in case this happens to be the account holders bank account number.

I hope that the person to whom these details belong is able to email me and advise their name, so that I can finally put the correct information into my spreadsheet. I won't tell a soul.....!! (Email to treasurer@mgccse.co.uk).

Thanks and a Happy New Year

Ron Kemp
Treasurer - MGCC South East Centre.

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Charity for 2023

Committee
Notes

Charity

Last year the Centre decided to nominate a charity to support throughout the year from nominations put forward by members. At the last committee meeting it was decided to extend the current charity for a complete year as we only started the fundraising initiative last summer. Therefore, the Brain Tumour Charity will continue to be our chosen recipient until the end of the year. At that time, we'll be looking for nominations for a new charity to support for 2024.

The Brain Tumour Charity has proved to be close to many of our members and has affected my own family personally, thankfully with a positive outcome. Charitable donations into research, support and care are very important as is the immense skill of the medical teams involved. We cannot thank them enough and also the optician who originally spotted something was wrong which shows the value of regular eye checks. We will be making collections at various events but if you would like to donate direct to the Brain Tumour Charity then please do so on our Just Giving website:-

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mgccse>



Jan
2024

Committee
Notes

Competition
and Events
Update

John Morgan
Comp
Secretary

SE Centre Events Update – Competition Secretary

The SE Centre 2024 Calendar is near finalisation and should be available early in the New Year, printed copy in the March or April Safety Fast and also on the SE Centre website.

Although many of the MGCC events are classified as non-competitive, such as the Road Runs (or Motorsport UK Title of Touring Assemblies), they still need to comply with Motorsport UK's Rules, because the MGCC is an affiliated club and Motorsport UK provides significant event insurance. As Competition Secretary, my role is to ensure that events are correctly planned.

Looking ahead to 2024, The SE Centre continues to promote 'grass root' competitive events that members can enter with standard MG road cars, with little risk of damage if driven with care. This has always been part of the MGCC philosophy in supporting members to get the maximum enjoyment from owning an MG. In the main, our competitive event participation will be in conjunction with other clubs in the SE and looking ahead to 2024, we have planned primary participation in:

- The Epsom MGOC usually organise a **Valentine Treasure Hunt in February** and extend an invitation to the SE Centre members. This is yet to be confirmed
- The SE Centre would like to hold another **AutoSOLO at Filching Manor** in East Sussex either in late March or April, using their Go Kart track. This is an ideal event for the novice, as the routes are all indicated by cones and direction arrows, with no reversing or route memorising required and was thoroughly enjoyed by those MG entrants who participated this year, photograph below shows Martin Neal out on track.



- An **Autotest Taster day event on Saturday provisionally May 5th** 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.

Jan
2024

Committee
Notes

Competition
and Events
Update

John Morgan
Comp
Secretary

- Currently two events are listed for **Car Trials, 7th April and 29th September** (clashes with the Autumn Meeting at Borde Hill Gardens), organised by MMKMC. Early in the New Year, I will be liaising with our members who have expressed an interest and confirm either one or both of the events. For more information on Trials, refer to the reports on recent events in the newsletters or on the website.



- Our **Spring and Autumn Naviscats** are planned for **3rd March** and provisionally **6th October**. An excellent step up from Treasure Hunts, testing skills in map plotting, navigation and strategy planning. The SE Centre events for 2024 will be classified as Taster events meaning that non-members can take part.
- **Autumn Leaves Road Run and Scavenger**, West Sussex, **13th October**. An amble along some pretty country roads with the scavenger element on foot in some country villages. The scavenger this year was a series of photographs of objects whose location had to be identified.

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

No doubt you will have seen in Safety Fast that the MGCC has withdrawn from supporting racing and the various Club Championships because of cost implications and impact on the Club's finances. Some of these Championships will be participating in Equipe events and Equipe have races planned for Brands Hatch Indy Circuit on March 23rd/24th and GP Circuit on May 4th/5th. The dates of MGs on Track events being organised in our region are at Goodwood on 17th February and 21st October.

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@mgcse.co.uk or give me a call on 07802 770025.

John Morgan – Competition Secretary

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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
First 3
Months
2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Sunday Jan 1st	New Year's Day Gathering	Brooklands	Details TBC see MGCCSE website
Sat Feb 24th	MGCCSE AGM	TBC	Austin Banner 07850 769506 secretary@mgccse.co.uk
Sun Feb 25th	Valentine's Treasure Hunt	TBC	
	Spring Naviscat	Ockley Surrey	Philip Bayne-Powell
Saturday 29 th March	Brooklands Easter Gathering	Brooklands Museum	MGCCSE F & T Registers
TBC	Filching Autosolo	Filching Manor Sussex	MGCCSE
Sat 18 th May	MG 100 South East	Road Runs to The Fairmile, Cobham & Buffet	MGCCSE & South East MG Clubs
Sun 19 th May	MG 100 South East	Brooklands Museum	MGCCSE & South East MG Clubs

Full details of MG 100 South East - Page 10/11

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2024

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SE Centre
Calendar

MG 100
Centenary
Celebration
Weekend
1923 - 2023

MG 100 South East

Sponsored by [Church Square Autos](#)

As we enter 2024 we are looking forward to the last of the MG Centenary Events and the big one will be in the South East on the weekend of 18th/19th May.

The whole weekend will be as easy as 1, 2, 3....

- 1) The weekend kicks off with “The Centenary Six” - road runs from all corners of the South East converging on lawns at The Fairmile in Cobham, Surrey. Choose which one you would like to join!
- 2) Once all the cars have arrived at The Fairmile the afternoon begins with a display of all those cars taking part in the Runs and others joining at the finish. Magic Marco will astound with his table tricks and a Jazz Duo will play for you. A Hot & Cold buffet will be available as the MG Car Club President John Day and Richard Monk from the MGOCC will talk about the Centenary together.
- 3) The next day the show moves to Brooklands Museum and it will be a very full day of MG memories. As Brooklands is the birthplace of British Motorsport and MG has a special place in its heart the centrepiece will be a “not to be missed” display of Competition MGs of all ages. There will be a decades timeline around the clubhouse, Pride of Ownership competition, traders, Test Hill Runs, “pop up” live music and talks in the Museum’s Napier Room. They will have a motorsport theme as well with Jonathan Suckling on MG record breakers and John Mayhead focussing on Goldie Gardner. All Brooklands and the London Bus Museum exhibits will be open to complete your day.

The MG100 Cavalcade will be part of the weekend too – joining one of the road runs on Saturday and then arriving at Brooklands on Sunday – they’ll be transporting Cecil Kimber on a tour of the UK calling in at all the MGCC Centres.

It will be a weekend to remember as we transition to the second century of MG.

You can find all the latest and book tickets on the MG100SE website at

<https://www.mgccse.co.uk/mg100-south-east/>

Competition Cars Wanted

The main focus at Brooklands will be on the competition cars. If you are the owner of one, and we haven’t been in touch already, then we would be delighted to hear from you. Please click the link and fill in the contact form, Alan or David will be back in touch with you - <https://www.mgccse.co.uk/mg100-south-east/mg100se-competition-cars/>



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SE Centre
Calendar

MG 100
Centenary
Celebration
Weekend
1923 - 2023



Organised by the South East
MG Clubs
with
BROOKLANDS MUSEUM

**1923 2023
CENTENARY
SOUTH EAST**

TWO DAYS OF MG100 CELEBRATIONS
Sponsored by: Church Square Autos

SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MG Road Runs across the region to...	Full show day at
THE FAIRMILE, COBHAM	BROOKLANDS MUSEUM
MG Displays	Competition Cars
Buffet	Decades MG Display
Magic Marco / Jazz Duo	Concours / PoO
Bar / Accommodation	Talks in the Napier Room
Speakers	Test Hill Runs
Featuring	Traders / Music
Round Britain MG100 Cavalcade	

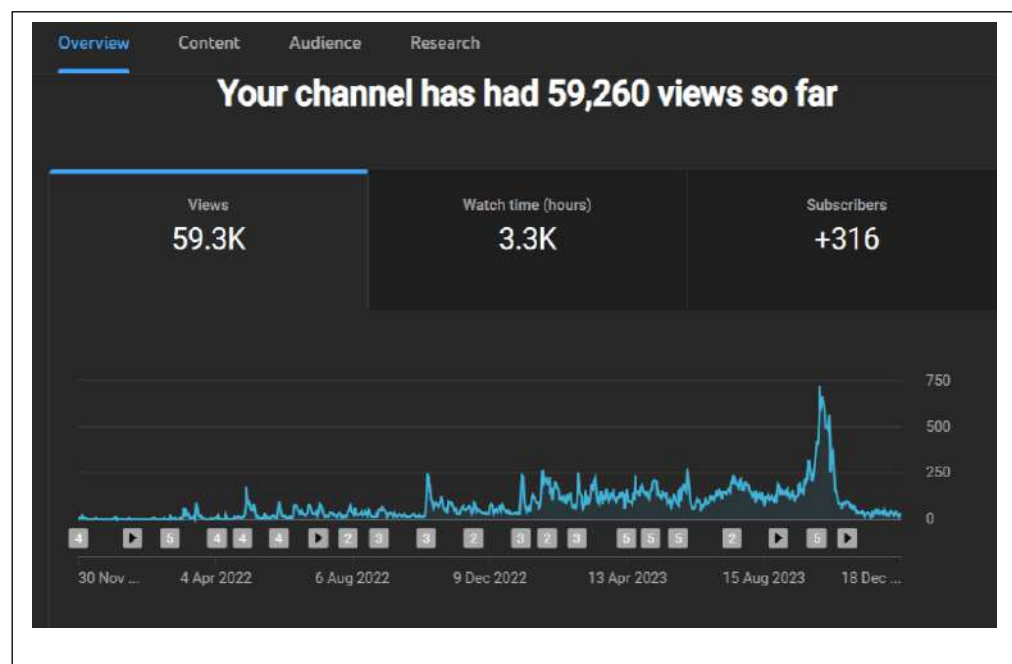


MGCCSE on the Web - Tim Morris

It's the end of year internet round up so let's jump in with the big success story of the year....

YouTube Channel

An astronomical 1736% increase in views of our You Tube channel! That has risen to nearly 60,000 views of one or more of our videos. The number of videos on the channel has increased to 65 now and is rising all the time – that's where you come as we are looking for content. Social media is a voracious consumer of content and always needs to be fed – do you have some video of events, restorations, jobs on the MG that could be turned into a video for the channel? If so, then please get in touch with the Channel Director (always like a new title!) Tim at chair@mgccse.co.uk. The number of subscribers has also gone up to 316 – a 754% increase and a reminder to hit that subscribe button when you view our videos – the target is 1000 – will we ever get there? We have 1,400 or so memberships in the South-East so it's not impossible and there are probably non-members subscribing too. Below: YouTube graph that shows how views have increased this year



Website

Next in the list of success stories is the website which has increased visits by 22% to nearly 16,000 this year. This means members are using the site a lot more and it is the best place to find out about events. The events page is the most visited after the home page with most visitors coming from search engines but our Facebook page and the main club's website are also top referrers.

There are some new pages coming to the website – we are taking a look at the club's history and whilst there are some member's memories already on there we are interested in your memories of the club, particularly in the old days. Let Tim know if you would like to take part in the project.

AI comes to the Facebook page header for the first time with this image if an MGB in the snow on the next page.

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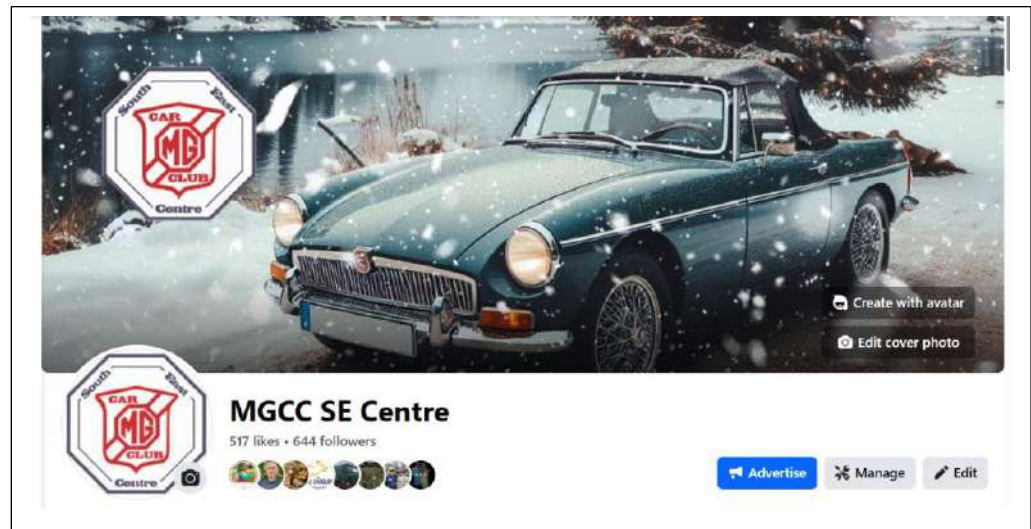
Web &
Social
Media

Facebook

Facebook has been doing well with a 61% increase in follows to 644 and a 59% increase in subscribers (likes). Once again this is very good and it is a great place to find out what is going on as well as updating club news. We have been experimenting with AI as well and the current Christmas image is one such example - an MGB in the snow. They rarely get the MG badge right though!

The Rest

The rest of social media is not quite so good, whilst still showing increases they are not as dramatic as the above. The Club Facebook Chat group now has 155 members but is not used regularly. More postings and more interaction could make it an interesting place for discussion. Twitter is bumping along the bottom of the tracks with a small 6.4% increase and may well hit the buffers soon. Instagram is faring better with a 17% increase to just under 400 followers, so we'll keep that one rolling along.



How else do we use the internet?

Well, there is the **newsletter** which is sent via **Mailchimp**. There is a link to click to view the main newsletter so don't forget to click that button when you receive it. Mind you, if you are reading this then you have actually done that - but perhaps your friends haven't - maybe mention it to them? We also send out interim emails with any updates, particularly to events, between newsletters to keep you as fully informed as possible. You can see an archive on our website.

Then there is the **Ace Online shop**. That is the place to go for all your MGCCSE regalia needs. You can order direct from ACE and simply wait for your item to turn up. Each item is made on order so there is usually a longer wait for items to be delivered.

Don't forget the **MG Car Club** main website too. There is a Members area with all sorts of useful information in it including minutes of the council meetings - you just need to log in with your membership number. Many of the Registers have their own Facebook pages and/or websites too as well as the other Centres in the country. Your club is large and spread wide so do take advantage of all it has to offer.

Coming soon - Online Payments

For 2024 we will be experimenting with online payments for events in a bid to move away from bank transfers or sending cheques. Hopefully this will have two effects - make it easier for you to book and make it easier for the administration of the event. There will be some booking fees which go to the website to run the service but they are small and on balance, for the convenience, should be worthwhile. The first event to use this will be the MG100SE event in May.

Jan
2024

Events

SE Centre

Autumn
Leaves Run

Sunday 15th
October

Autumn Leaves Run & Scavenger Hunt



The Sussex Scavengers returned safely and presented their answer sheets to quizmaster John Morgan. This is the second time that this event has been run in a different format. It combines a scenic MG tour as the Autumn Leave Run with a “scavenger” hunt. In this year’s case, the hunt was to identify locations in rural villages from a series of photographs.

It was based at The Owl pub in Kingsfold near Horsham where the hunters gathered and a few hours later returned to enjoy a Sunday roast whilst John marked the entry sheets.



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2024

Events

SE Centre

Autumn
Leaves and
Scavenger
Hunt

There was a slight mix up on the day which resulted in Ian & Paula being bumped from the winners enclosure. The winner was, after recalculation, Ian McCullough in an original MGTF with a tie break going into second place won by Simon Gray in the MG Metro and Peter Begbey waving the modern MG flag with his MG4 in third place.



Winner – Ian McCullough



Runner Up – Simon Gray



Third – Peter Begbey

Just one casualty of the day – the MGVA seen below which had to be trailered home after a failed rotor arm.



Well done to all those that took part and thank you to John Morgan and Austin Banner for the organisation.

Jan
2024

Events

SE Centre

Annual
Awards

Sunday 29th
October

MG 100 Annual Lunch & 2023 Awards – Tim Morris



The narrow driveway to the Stanhill Court Hotel was filled with MGs, many covered in years of collecting rally plates. The Secretary's challenge involved counting how many rally plates were on a car and how they were displayed. All those attending the Annual Lunch & Awards were given the chance to vote and the results were collated by Alison during lunch.

There was no room for all MGs to park on the driveway and getting them organised in the narrow space was quite fun – thanks Jon! The MGs ranged from an MGA to Cs, Bs, Fs, TFs and a Metro through to an MG3 and the very latest MG4 – they also included an “MG” Mini and VW (both of which had rally plate displays!)

So, now I am sure you want to know who the winners were. Top of the tree for the number of plates displayed on the car were John & Jenny Morgan in their MGB Roadster and parked right next to them the best display went to Alan & Jo Bradley – they collected an item of brand new and not yet released regalia each as their prizes.



John &
Jenny
Morgan



Alan &
Jo
Bradley

Jan
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Events

SE Centre

Annual
Awards

Sunday 29th
October

After dodging the heavy rain parking up at the start of the event the sun eventually emerged on those dining in the conservatory as the guest speaker, Jonathan Suckling, began his tale of MG's record breakers and his own experience driving on the salt at Bonneville. No stranger to Bonneville, Jonathan and his partner Daniel Nash campaigned the MG EXF and the MG ZTT X15 on the flats. Jonathan still owns the X15 and it appeared this year at the Gaydon MG100 launch event where he fired it up once again. The tale was of two privateers with a passion for speed – something Jonathan also took further with a passion for hot rods, which he has also campaigned at Bonneville. You will find his talk on our YouTube channel soon.



Jonathan Suckling giving his talk with the X15 on screen

The proceedings continued with a rendition of “Happy Birthday” and a cake for Peter Gray before moving on to the all-important raffle in aid of the Brain Tumour Charity. The £265 raised by the raffle broke the £1000 barrier for our fundraising this year taking us to £1192 – thank you to all those who contributed for this cause which is close to several in the club.

The Annual Awards brought the event to a close in a suitable fashion by recognising members who have taken part and contributed to club activities during 2023. This is the second awards ceremony held this year as in the Summer we held the 2022 awards at the Kingscote Vineyard to bring them into line with the year they were won in. From now on they will be held annually at the end of the season.

The club has a number of trophies to award as well as recognise the winners of the various competitions held at events throughout the year. All award winners can be seen at <https://www.mgccse.co.uk/trophies-awards/awards-2023/>

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2024

Events

SE Centre

Annual
Awards

Sunday 29th
October

The Club Member of the Year award is actually a painting rather than a trophy and is awarded to someone who has made a significant contribution to the Club in the past year. This year that award went to David & Ursula Griffiths who have kept the Sussex Wanderers and Natter running despite David's illness. Ursula took over much of the running and as a result, the group is still one of the strongest in the Centre. Unfortunately, they could not be with us as David was still too unwell to attend so the award was collected by club secretary Austin Banner on their behalf.

The second main award is a new one and utilises the silver Carrisma Cup which was purchased by the Centre having been found offered for sale on ebay. The cup has now been re-purposed as a "Spirit of the Club" award presented to a Natter member for meritorious support of the club and natter. This year it was awarded to Trevor Osbourne and Susan Franklin for supporting the Ash Natter and also attending main events usually dressed in period costume, and that included the Annual Lunch!



Trevor & Susan with the Carrisma Cup above

Thanks go to:-

Austin Banner, John Davies, John Morgan, Alison Newlyn, Paula Russell, Jon Glover, Jonathan Suckling & Tim Morris for their help in organising the event.

Jan
2024

Events

SE Centre

Centre
Awards
Results

The Centre Awards are now back on track and were presented by the Chairman at the Annual Lunch at the Stanhill Court Hotel in October. Congratulations go to all the winners and the full list is below and there are more pictures and full details on our website here - <https://www.mgccse.co.uk/trophies-awards/awards-2023/>

The Centre's first Autosolo event also took place at at Filching produced a significant number of trophies and was shared with the Tonbridge & District Motor Club and it was most of their members who won them - they will be presented at a separate event.

Club Member of the Year		David & Ursula Griffiths
Carrisma "Spirit of the Club"		Trevor Osborne and Susan Franklin
South East Centre Championship		David & Andrea Koskela
Enthusiasts Trophy		Gareth Evans
Social Championship		Simon Gray
Ladies Award		Lis Wooley
Alternative PoO Overall Winner		Dave Naylor
Banana Trophy		Andrew Young
Pentathlon Trophy		Peter Parker
Lew Wooster Trophy		Jenny Morgan
Andy Turner Trophy		Jon Glover
Magic Midge Award		Martin Neal
Summer Gathering Car of Show		Gail Cooper
It Could Have Been a Better Day		Jenny Morgan
Spring Naviscat	Overall winner	Louise Cartledge & Peter Little
	1 st Class A	Philip & Rosemary Bayne-Powell
	1 st Class C/D	Martyn Noak & Graham Simms
	1 st Class E	Steve & Rowan Thompson
	Novice	Goerge & Caroline Pitt
Spring Meeting (Lullingstone)	Concours	Richard Thorpe
	Premier PoO	Karl Foot
	PoO Post '65 1st	Tim Luffingham
	PoO Post '65 2nd	David Koskela
Autumn Meeting (Penshurst)	Car of Show	Gail Cooper
	Concours	Nigel Scutt
	PoO Pre '65 1st	David Lepper
	PoO Post '65 1 st =	John Langford & Adrian Clifford
	PoO Post ' 65 2nd	Richard Davies

Thanks go to:- Austin Banner, John Davies, John Morgan, Alison Newlyn, Paula Russell, Jon Glover, Jonathan Suckling & Tim Morris for their help in organising the event.

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2024

Local Club
Meets

Sportsman
Natter
Update

Sportsman Natter Update- John Morgan / Austin Banner

Looking back at the October events, on **Sunday October 15th** the **Autumn Leaves Run and Scavenger** was held in glorious sunny Autumn weather. The scavenger element comprised photographs that had to have their locations identified and this proved popular with the entrants. The Owl Pub, Kingsfold, was very accommodating with coffee and baps at the start followed by Sunday Lunch. The SE Centre **Centenary Lunch with Annual Awards was held on 29th October** at the Stanhill Court Hotel, Charlwood. It was held in appalling weather and the Secretaries challenge certainly stood up to its name! The challenge comprised displaying your MG with the maximum number of Rally Plates, MG Badges, etc. The after lunch speaker was **Jonathan Suckling** and he gave a fascinating talk about his attempts about continuing MG's record-breaking history with his own personal experience of owning and driving two of MG's record breaking cars on the salt at Bonneville—the MG EXF and the MG ZTT X15. Photos and information have been posted on the website and Facebook pages.

The SE Centre committee are currently planning for 2024. There are plans in place for the regular mix of meetings and gatherings, but do forward any ideas or suggestions you may have for consideration. The big event being planned for late Spring is the **MG100 Centenary weekend** over the weekend of the **May 18th and 19th**. The event is being held jointly with other SE MG Clubs and we have participation from several MGOC branches in the coordinating/planning group. Support will also be provided from the adjoining MGCC Abingdon Works and Anglia Centres along with several Registers. In addition, as there will not be an MGCC Silverstone Live in 2024, MGCC Abingdon will be making this event one of their main southern 2024 events. Watch out for updates but get the date in your diary now for this spectacular event. I have attached the preliminary flyer providing outline weekend information.

The 2024 MGCC European Event of the Year was planned to be held in Lisbon in May. The Portugal Club has now withdrawn from running the event and **MGCC Luxembourg** has volunteered. Luxembourg is a great venue as it is only a 5 to 6 hour drive from Calais and has some lovely scenery being at the southern end of the Ardennes. More information and initial registration can be found on their website <https://www.mgcarclub.lu/> but the event registration opens on 30 November/1 December and I guess it will sell out almost immediately as it will be limited to about 250 cars across whole of Europe. The event will probably take place from Thursday 1 August to Sunday 4 August 2024.

Last month the background noise from the normal Sportsman Pub quiz was not too intrusive in our meeting but would probably compromise an audio visual talk. For now, we can continue to monitor the situation before we have to make a decision in say February 2024. I have looked at some pub options with Austin this week but none currently provide a perfect solution particularly as it is often uncertain how long the pub will remain open in the evening with low public support. The pub meeting most of our needs was the White Hart, Godstone, which had an accessible meeting room we could use, but even this venue has some issues. Many pubs often close early when there is low footfall. I have produced a summary of some of the pub options which can be discussed.

Jan
2024

Local Club
Meets

North
Downs
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Update

North Downs - Ray Ruffels / Will Opie

Our Natter venue, the Dering Arms is being sold so we have decided to move to **The Red Lion, Charing Heath Road, Charing Heath TN27 00A for 2024**. Note the Natters will now take place on the **3rd Wednesday** of the month and there will be no meet in **January 24** so the first Natter meet will be **Wednesday 21st February 2024 at 7.30pm**.



In 2024 the monthly day meet / runs, to excellent lunch venues across East Kent, will continue to take place in the **1st week** of the month. Full details of these events will be sent out regularly via the North Downs Natter News emails. Contact raywillmg@gmail.com for further info. Below are some pics of the 2023 events:



Jan
2024

Local Club
Meets

Pinner
Natter
Update

Pinner Natter - Gerry Edwards

The Pinner Natter has continued to attract more members attending its monthly Natters which is good for us but causing a slight problem for the pub's Landlord! In October our Natter used half of the tables and chairs which led to a few disgruntled locals but fortunately the Landlord wants us to remain as he sees it as guaranteed business once a month! Indeed, he wants to find a way of reserving tables for us which, of course, is a huge bonus.

We have not been out and about so much in this latter part of the year although a very large contingent from the Natter visited the NEC Classic Car Show at the beginning of November. This is a long standing annual visit for us and in our opinion the Show just gets better and better! It was good this year to see all of the MG Clubs in close proximity to each other.

Our monthly breakfast meets start again in early January and these are always good for blowing off winter cobwebs in the early part of the year. These are usually very well attended and although non MGs are often the best choice many members take along their old MGs!

The Pinner Natter Post Christmas Dinner is booking well and we are currently up to 24 on the list and this will increase meaning that we will have a lively evening!

With the sad demise of Silverstone in 2024 and the Three Counties Showground being a fair distance away many Pinner Natter members are planning to make a weekend of the South East Centre's Centenary Weekend over the 18th and 19th May based at the Fairmile on the Saturday and Brooklands on the Sunday.

The Pinner Natter wishes everyone a Happy and Successful 2024!



Jan
2024

Local Club
Meets

East Kent
Wanderers
Update

East Kent Wanderers Update

Our Club rightly uses the slogan 'The Marque of Friendship' in its publicity. The East Kent Wanderers Group provides ample justification for this claim as anybody witnessing one of our gatherings would testify.

Further evidence of our conviviality has recently emerged in that widower Clive has found himself a navigator for our runs from within the Group. Laura, who used to belong as a singleton with her TF had thought of leaving when she sold her MG. However, she was persuaded to continue for the benefit of our good company and she now finds herself navigating from the passenger seat of Clive's really superb newly acquired MGC GT. Some people have all the luck!



They are pictured together with a few of the attendees at our Christmas lunch held at The Five Bells, Brabourne where we all enjoyed an excellent meal in seasonal surroundings. The proceedings were enlivened with a challenging quiz to identify 30 London Underground stations from pictorial references, some obvious and some not. This was won by Richard Hamlyn with a score of 29/30. His prize was a boxed Corgi model of a 'B' roadster whose accuracy he can establish by comparison with the real thing parked in his garage. Below- Interesting background to shot taken at Tankerton High Street - East of Whitstable.



Modern MG – Tim Morris

MG4 wows the end of year awards.

The MG4 has added to its tally of awards with five more gongs. Parker's Guide voted it the "Car of the Year 2024", the Best Small Family car and the Best Value car. This tally takes the MG4 to nine Car of the Year awards and over 30 in total since its launch which must make it the most feted MG ever!

Keith Adams, Parker's editor said *"Taking the top honours in the Parkers New Car Awards 2024 is a remarkable achievement for a value-priced EV, it's a reflection of just how effective MG's rebirth has been, transforming into a fast-growing brand concentrating on EVs. In short, the MG4 EV is an outstanding Parkers Car of The Year"*

CarBuyer awarded it the Best Family Electric Car, in particular the Long Range version. The judging panel said *"The base car's a bargain and the hottest XPOWER model is a riot on the right road. Yet its the Long Range that'll make more sense to most; almost 300 miles on a charge, plus strong cabin comfort and decent practicality – there really is no better family EV than the MG4."*

At the What Car? Electric Awards the 4 was handed the Best Electric Family Car award and the MG5 received Best Electric Estate Car and Best Used Electric estate car.

The MG HS has not been forgotten picking up the best Motability car at the Scottish Car of the Year Awards and finally, the Cyberster picked up its first award as the CarWow 2024 Most anticipated new car. I am sure that will be just the first of many!

A white MG4 X Power at Richmond's showroom in Guildford



New, facelifted and safer MGs

You would forgive MG Motor for resting on their laurels after all this positive response from the motoring world but they are still working towards new and refreshed models. In fact, the MG One has been released Worldwide with launch events in the Philippines, Iraq, Chile, Bolivia, Mexico, Oman, Lebanon and Thailand.

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Members
Corner

Modern MG

The MG One is a little bit of a throwback coming in pure petrol mode only, hence the areas of sale. It features the 1.5 litre engine turbocharged producing some 168bhp and is a compact crossover. It still features all the latest tech we now expect from MG including three screens in front of the driver and a clever device giving surrounding area view of the car itself. It is priced around £22k but at the moment it seems unlikely that this car will be scheduled for a European release.



The MG5 has had a refreshed look for a while now and whilst not due for another revamp yet has just achieved a five-star NCAP Green rating putting it in the top 5 for clean air, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions. It also has a Life Cycle Assessment award which measures the car on its environmental impact from cradle to grave – only the second car this year to receive this.

Meanwhile the MG HS petrol has had a facelift but the hybrid version has remained the same as before. There are some minor tweaks only but it does have a more modern front end with a wavy grille.

The MG3 has appeared in some spy shots from China and is overdue a facelift. The new version whilst remaining the basic MG3 small car style will be sold as a hybrid.

Surprisingly, with MG's commitment to be a fully electric manufacturer in the not-too-distant future there is not a full EV version yet – we'll probably have to wait for the next update for that.



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Modern MG

Cyberster's Travels

The Cyberster, with the Turner Twins, continues to make its way around the globe. It has already visited most of continental Europe with receptions in most places it stops and local MG groups cheering them on their way. As I write they are somewhere in Italy - there's still a long way to go before they reach Shanghai in May.

The car has been unveiled in China and pricing has been announced for the Chinese market. In UK Pound terms it starts at about £35.5k for the "base" model rising to £40.5 for the high powered version. These prices are considerably less than what has been suggested for the UK market (£55k - £65k) so the European version may not be quite as expensive as at first thought.



MG Motorsport?

Today's MG has not grabbed motorsport by the horns.... yet. Yes, we did see MG6 BTCC cars campaigning early in the SAIC years and a proposed MG3 Trophy was mooted but failed to appear. Now we have recently seen two MG4 "RS4" cars at the World Rallycross championship in Hong Kong. They did not compete but took part in a gymkhana type event. It looks like there is still work to do to make them competitive for the actual Rallycross. It could be a sign that MG are now actively thinking about getting back into motorsport again.

So, as we have seen, there is plenty going on in the world of modern MG and there is also plenty of choice from MG Motor UK - the MG3 small hatch; MG ZS medium SUV (EV and Petrol); MG HS large SUV (petrol and hybrid); MG5 EV Estate Car (BEV only); and MG4 EV (coming in four different varieties, all electric) and don't forget your MG Car Club Affinity Scheme discount if you are thinking of a new MG. You could save up to £3.5k.

Tim Morris

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Electric
Avenue

Electric Avenue - Tim Morris

I have been on the road or avenue (thanks Eddy Grant) to an electric car for some years now and have finally plucked up courage to dive in. I have always been intrigued by them and I was tempted by the ZS EV when it first came out but had some range anxiety with its 163 miles WLTP. I did have a test drive in one and thought it was a good car but those niggling doubts were still there. The MG4 was then on its way but not yet released and I liked the look of the all-new BEV so decided to wait a bit before committing.

That "bit" turned into well over 12 months by which time the MG4 was on its second iteration. The MG Affinity scheme, of which you as an MG Car Club member are a member of too, was persuasive offering around a 10% discount – so a request was made in October – just prior to the Cyberster arriving at Richmond Motors in Guildford. They hadn't had time to respond before the visit so I popped into the office whilst I was there, after I had sorted out the miscreant MGF that had deposited its coolant on their forecourt. Good news – MG had that day increased the discount so that it was now just over 10%! Whoopee and I hadn't even had a test drive yet.

The Green X-Power MG4 in the showroom alongside the Cyberster was very tempting – 0-60mph in 3.8 seconds anyone? However, I had opted for the Trophy Long Range in Camden Grey which takes twice as long to get to 60mph but still packs a hefty punch and has a good 270 mile WLTP range. That spec changed slightly to Dynamic Red after a last-minute change of heart and luckily there was one already on a slow boat from China heading for Richmonds. I won't go into how the dealer managed that as MG Motor probably would not approve but it did mean the wait for the MG4 was significantly shorter – just a month away.



Excitedly, we picked up the car even quicker than that as it arrived a week early. There wasn't much preparation time and we were plunged into the energising world of electric motoring headlong. Insuring the car was easy and reasonably priced and it even includes insurance for the charger! A quick familiarisation of some of the controls made sure I could go forward, backwards and stop when required. Then it was off from the forecourt in a quiet whirr and a whole heap of acceleration!

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Getting back home was the furthest I had ever driven an EV and it didn't disappoint. Smooth when needed, intense where the speed limit allowed. Prior to this my electric experience had been with an MGF converted to run on electric, a Renault Zoe and a friend's reports on his Peugeot e-208 so the 4 seemed like a spaceship from another planet.

It's a purpose built BEV with all the bells and whistles you might expect - LKA, TJA, ACC, AC, heated seats & steering wheel, Autoplay (or Apple if you are that way inclined), Bluetooth, wireless phone charging, pre heat, Wi-Fi, Amazon Music, collision assist, blind spot alert, auto dipping lights, 360 degree cameras - the list just goes on and it is by far the best equipped car I have ever owned. The batteries are under the floor and the electric motor is at the back producing just over 200ps which is pretty good considering the highest powered MGTf was 160ps. That power is instant as well - no gear changing so it's foot down and hold on to your seats!



So, now a month on and I am still finding out what it can and can't do. I am slowly getting used to one pedal driving - no brakes! However, it can't do that with a nearly full battery. You can't go backwards unless the seatbelt is plugged in. You can't switch it off before you get out of the car! That takes some getting used to as the radio and lights are all still on the dash until you get out and lock the car. Weird, but you can only do it in the car after navigating a number of on-screen menus. The hatchback isn't powered like it is on the HS, not a deal breaker but it can be a bit heavy. The view out of the back is restricted thanks to the three rear headrests but there is an option to remove the middle one if you want. You have all round and above cameras so it's not much of an issue really.

In the dark it lights up like a spaceship with zig zag lines across the rear and glowing screens in front of you. The screens can be difficult sometimes and trying to hit the buttons to change menus whilst driving is nye on impossible so its best to make sure everything is set up before turning the dial to Drive. Steering wheel controls help with that as well with two programmable buttons for different functions so once you've set your personal preferences it's not too bad.

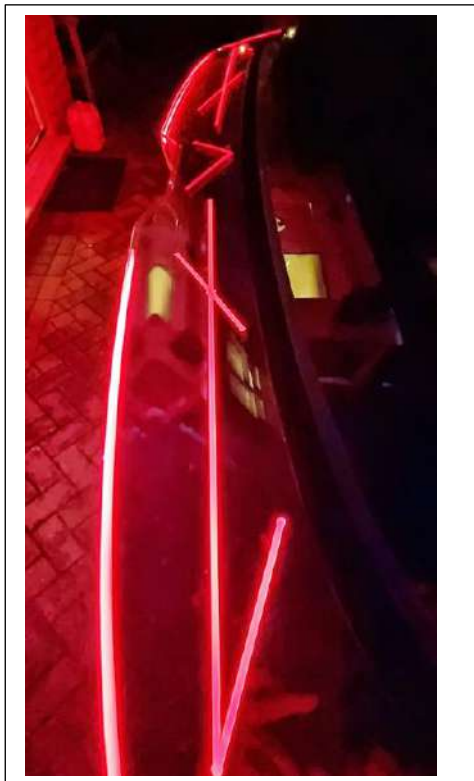
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Avenue



So, in conclusion, it's great and easily the best MG, in fact, any car I've ever owned and I am now looking for excuses to get out and drive it as it is just so much fun. Even charging, for me, is not a worry thanks to having a home charger recently installed with a cheap overnight charging rate meaning I can fill up for around a fiver. I have yet to try out public charging but with Zap Map on my phone there seem to be an awful lot of charging points around the country - there are seven within half a mile from my home! A fellow committee member took his to the south of France so I am not anticipating too much trouble when I do venture further afield. The MGCC embraces all types of MG so, if you have an MG EV please let us know how you are getting on with it.



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Regalia New
Range

Regalia. New Designs and Shop Plus Centenary Regalia out 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 or contact John Morgan (details below)

[MG Car Club South East - Catalogue \(ace-online.co.uk\)](http://ace-online.co.uk)



New Centenary logo



Jan
2023

For Sale

Parts For Sale

NOTE FROM EDITOR – THESE PARTS FROM BRIAN ARE STILL AVAIABLE AND REPRESENT GREAT VALUE-ESPECIALLY THE FREE BITS!!!

1976 Model MG Midget parts unused in a rebuild

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

.....

MGB Wire wheel silver good condition has not been used since refurbished. £35
Also Chrome Front B bumper fair condition £30
Contact Will Opie 07768 022044 or email willopie@aol.com Location Faversham kent



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For Sale

Car For Sale

Parts For Sale

Philip Bayne-Powell has a pair of car ramps that need a new home for just a small donation to the Riding for the Disabled Charity.

Contact - 1942mgman@gmail.com

LOCATION NORMANDY NEAR GUILDFORD

The family of the late Derek Edwards is selling his MGA coupe twin cam. It has recently been recommissioned and is currently for sale through Stone Cold Classics in Banbury. Have a look at the link below.

<https://www.stonecoldclassics.com/1959-mga-twin-cam-fhc/>



Thanks to Cherished Insurance for their continued support of the Newsletter.

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Natter Leaders

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The Ship, Mortlake & Brooklands Museum	Danny Byrne "	01932 829814 "	Mortlake@mgccse.co.uk Brooklands@mgccse.co.uk
The Sportsman, Mogador	John Morgan	07802 770025	Buckland@mgccse.co.uk
The Fairmile, nr Cobham	Ian Ailes & Jon Glover.	01932 856960 07802 318950	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 George Inn Trottiscliffe.	Ian Russell	07590 498514	Ashnatter@mgccse.co.uk
The Black Horse, Nuthurst	David Griffith.	01403 264548	Nuthurst@mgccse.co.uk
The Golden Lion, Broadoak Canterbury.	John Clark	07940 769225	Broadoak@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, the Chairman with his new MG4 at Brooklands, a bit early for MG100SE!

