

MGCCSE – Events Secretary Report for the Year 2025

Andrew Mitchell – Events Secretary MGCCSE

There were lots of great events, again, in 2025 (coupled with some great summer weather, for a change!) including a few re-visits to places we hadn't been back to for quite a while including **Chiddingstone Castle**, **Newhaven Fort** and the resurrected **Bromley Pageant** (now being held at Ardingly Showground).

The main events, for 2025, kicked off with John Morgans **Autosolo at Filching Manor** – now in its 3rd year and going from strength to strength. This will be held again on Saturday 11th April 2026 – So; Book a reservation as it's something totally different and great fun!

In May; We saw the running of **our official inaugural "South East Run"**, which started at Denbies...and then ran onto Bewl Water via some interesting back roads and pub stop offs en-route. This event has now become a permanent fixture in our events guide and we will be repeating it again in May 2026 and will run from Leonardslee Gardens to Herstmonceaux, complete with Tulip Rally maps, Rally plaques, A bacon butty start and a Union Jack flag send off..

We visited **Hever Castle** for the Classics at the Castle in June, which is firmly established in our Events diary and very popular and represents fantastic value at just £10 / Car.

Similarly; Our **Summer Gathering at Chiddingstone** was on a very hot day in August and again it was just £10/Car...and we then also managed to get our **Autumn Gathering, at the newly refurbished Newhaven Fort** in September, for (again) just £10 / Car too..

For 2026 we look forward to some of our regular events, like Auto Solo in April, South East Run in May, Hever in June, BBQ and PoO at The Kentish Horse in July along with Bromley at Ardingly showground, MG Fest at Brands Hatch / Lullingstone Castle in August and a visit to Parham House in Mid-September.

In addition to the usual evening Alternative PoO rounds and other runs..

Back to last year & 2025; Here's a reminder of some main MGCCSE events and highlights which some of you may have attended :-

- **Filching Manor AutoSOLO – 05th April 2025**

Just outside Eastbourne and nestled in the South Downs; The ancient valley in which Filching Manor nestles reverberated, once again, with the sounds of revving engines and the occasional squealing tyres as the Centre hosted its **3rd Autosolo** on the old Go-Kart track!



If you fancy giving it a go, this year?....

Look out for details for our 4th AutoSolo on April 11th 2026 ! 😊

- Drive it Day –Pashley Manor – 27th April 2025



What a lovely day for our Drive it Day run to Pashley Manor Gardens in Kent. An unusual DIY route saw MGs spreading out from two start points in Surrey and Kent, or simply just turning up at the Gardens to enjoy the hordes of tulips in the grounds. Most MGs managed to get there at their own pace and their own route – although we have a feeling a couple may still be driving around the Kent / Sussex borders!

Combine the free and easy run with a fantastic homemade lunch on the terrace of the manor house, beautiful weather and a host of MGs in our own parking area in the fields and it was the perfect day out.

• **18th May 2025 – MGCC95 – The South East Run – Denbies to Bewl**

The start at Denbies Wine Estate, another largest – this time the largest Vineyard in the country, attracted around 50 MGs who were given their rally plates and printed souvenir route books before a quick coffee and, maybe, stocking up on some Surrey Gold. The Chairman flagged the cars off with his giant Union Jack and they set off on the scenic 53 mile run through Surrey, Sussex and Kent.



The Start @ Denbies...(Above) Both MG's taking part in our inaugural run & over 60 years apart...



Some of the MG's arriving at Bewl, after the run, and then all parked up...





Green RV8's are just so common !... 😊



- **15th June 2025 – Classics at the Castle (Hever)**

30 Centre members put on a great display after a really early start in prime position, joined by the East Surrey MGOC. With many diverse car makes on display it made for an interesting day set against the stunning gardens and lake and over £50 raised (by our members – Thankyou) for our charity, this year, Royal Marsden Cancer...



Karl Fooks RV8 drew admiring looks..



Some other classics at Hever :-



• June/July 2025 – Alternative PoO – Rounds 1,2,3 + “Winners!”



- **10th- 13th July Goodwood FoS**

Goodwood Festival of Speed....and MG were out in force again, with some new models and concepts..



(Above) The MG IM5 heads the MG stand at Goodwood



(Above) 100th Anniversary Limited Edition of new MG Cyberster on MG stand @ Goodwood FoS

- **27th July Bromley Pageant (@ Ardingly South of England Show Ground)**
Resurrected in 2025 at Ardingly Show ground (Its now new home!); The Bromley Pageant being previously “cancelled” due to ULEZ was a huge success with around 2000 cars and 130 owners clubs. **We will be returning back again 2026... !!**



- August –South East on the Beach (Fish & Chip Run)

MGs on the Beach

Tim Morris



Traditional semi-circle of MG people on the beach

The MGF Register's Fish n Chips on the Beach has been a long-running event in the calendar. Lately it was opened up to any MG from the South East Centre and today it is run as a South East Centre event, although quite a few MGFs do still attend!

The word "event" is probably not too applicable as there is so little organisation to be done. The date is normally the first Saturday in August and the location is the Sea Front car park at Hayling Island. It was originally in the central car park by the fun fair but moved as the Fish n Chip shop opposite the car park was thought to be better!

How you get there is up to you – there are no organised runs to the beach – just park up (pay the fee), bring your chair to the pebbly beach and sit in a semi-circle watching the cruise liners leaving Southampton.

There is actually a small bit of competition. An annual Beach Boules and Quoits competition takes place with everyone taking part including our two youngest visitors this year, Gracie & Ivy. It was great to see members with youngsters joining us along with members from local MG Owners Clubs.

So, by now you want to know who the victors were don't you? Well, the Boules was won by Fred Vickers (MG V8) with Alan Field (MGA) runner-up. The Beach Quoits was won by Roger Gasson (MG Magnette) with Les and Fran Hudson as joint runners up (MGTF).

Luckily the seagulls here are of the small variety and were not threatening, as we thought that the temptation of all those fish and chips open on the beach may be too much for them. I have suffered two incidents of being attacked by much larger gulls this year but they were both after my ice cream! Thankfully on this occasion they withheld their assault.

So, there we are...almost. A couple of our regular MGF people were away cruising the Fjords so decided to head down to Hayling again the following weekend for Fish n Chips on the Beach part two!



Neil Wolohouse throws his boules



The Sea Gulls aiming for this MGB roadster

- **17th August – Summer Gathering –Chiddingstone Castle & Gardens**

Over fifty MGs attended the Summer Gathering at Chiddingstone Castle, Kent. This year the Surrey Region of the Porsche Club GB were our invited guests providing a total of 16 Porsches representative of most models produced over the last fifty years. Concours and Pride of Ownership took place against a beautiful backdrop on a beautiful sunny day...

(Below) – Concours and PoO cars being judging outside Castle..



(Below) –Picture taken from Chiddingstone Castle 1st floor + Porsche Line up..





- 12th – 14th September – Goodwood Revival



An early MGBGT parked in place around the circuit....waiting for the historic racing to begin!



(Above) Our new Honorary Member of the MGCCThe Duke of Richmond or better known as The Earl of March (who also personally signed my poster!)

• **28th September – Autumn Gathering – Newhaven Fort**

Our Autumn Gathering took place at the newly refurbished Newhaven Fort, which we last visited back in 2011. Over 40 cars attended and quite a few new displays and attractions to see there..





Rare Berlinette MGB on display



And finally.....

- Sunday 16th November 2025 - Our Annual Lunch at Hartsfield Manor :-

Annual Lunch & Awards 2025

Tim Morris



The Centre returned to the country house setting of Hartsfield Manor in Betchworth for the 2025 Annual Lunch & Awards. This is the third time we have been to the hotel and this year, due to numbers attending, we moved into the conference room for the awards themselves.

Outside the MGs ranged from a beautiful MG VA through to the latest MG Cyberster and all MGs in between. A good number of F/TFs, Bs, Cs, T Types, MG Motor cars, a metro but we rarely see a Zed car these days.

Before the awards commenced we held a moment's silence for those departed and then MGCC Vice-Chair Michael Murkin presented the SE committee with the Nuffield Gold Cup.

After the awards some of those attending left and others staying for the whole day moved into the dining room for pre-lunch drinks. Member, Simon Gray, then performed two Nosmo King monologues – Providence and Timmy's Lament to a piano accompaniment. An unusual and entertaining way to begin the afternoon's proceedings. After lunch our invited guest, Dr Ian Pogson, spoke about some of his experience with MG in China and showed an unseen and eye-opening film of early MG6 testing.

The results of the secretary's challenge were announced and most of the categories were won by Chris Matthews!

The raffle was the final act of the day and we were delighted that £180 was raised for the Centre's charity of 2025 – the Royal Marsden Cancer Care. A further £50 was raised for the charity in sales of the 2026 Wall Calendar making a grand total £230 for the charity.

There were record numbers at this year event and we will be returning to Hartsfield again next year for the 2026 Annual Lunch (TBC)



Simon Gray performing a monologue



Those staying for lunch with the Gold Cup



Ian Russell and Will Ople with the Nuffield Gold Cup

The lunchers getting ready



Guest Speaker Dr Ian Pogson with Chairman Tim Morris

MORE PICTURES ON OUR WEBSITE

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



Parking in front of the manor



Beautiful VA Oldest car at the awards



MGCCSE Main Award Winners 2025

Congratulations to all our award winners for 2025. Most of these awards are for attending MGCCSE events in some way or other. To be in with a chance of a top award you will need to attend and take part in the large range of events, natters and competitions we hold throughout the year. The 2026 programme will be announced shortly.

Club Member of the Year	Will Opie
Significant Contribution Trophy	John & Jenny Morgan
Carrisima Cup (Spirit of the club)	Roger Gasson
Young Member Participant Trophy	Alice Hanson
It Could Have Been A Better Day Award	Chris & Janice Leigh
Andy Turner Trophy (Best article in Spark)	John Morgan
Lew Wooster Trophy (Most marshalling)	Jenny Morgan
Enthusiasts Trophy (Entering most but not winning!)	Les Hudson
South East Championship (Highest MGCC points scored)	Tim & Liz Morris
Ladies Award (Best results from entering events)	Lis Wooley
Pentathlon Trophy (Best results from entering events)	Ian McCullough
Social Championship Trophy (Best overall attendance)	Mick Breare
Lingfield Trophy (Best overall results from Naviscats)	Gary and Steve Goodwin
Magic Midge Trophy (Best results in driving tests)	Ian Cleghorn
Alternative PoO Trophy (Overall Alternative PoO winner)	Adrian Malthouse
Barnard Trophy (Winner Premier PoO at Summer Gathering)	Richard Thorpe
Summer Gathering Trophy (Car of the Show)	Gary Barden



And we look forward to seeing you all at our

2026 Events... 😊

Andrew Mitchell – Events Secretary MGCCSE

