



WC READING MATTER



West Cheshire MG Owner's Club Newsletter

September 2017

Area Secretary Welcome by Angie Haughton

September has been a quiet month for most of us with the best of the weather, well lighter mornings and evenings over. There was a good turn out for the final show of the year that we attend at Cholmondeley Castle and many thanks again to Ange & Kev for supplying the sausage & bacon butties, and donating the money taken for them to club funds to go towards the new gazebo. Well done to Terry and Neil on their awards at the show.

A few of us had our cars on show and helped running stands at Event City for the Manchester Car Show, which not as big as the NEC but a worth a visit if you haven't been.

Now we can look forward now to getting all those (hopefully) little jobs done on our cars as we tuck them up for the winter.

Also reminder that our December meeting is our Christmas meal, I will be taking orders at the next meetings and a £5 deposit.

Member news

If you have joined us recently, please ensure we have your contact details so we can include you in the mailing lists.

Put the flags out Stuart has got his Heritage bodyshell at last, he may be on the road next year; will it be ready in time for the Candles Run? Bets are now being taken.

Martin's 1100 restoration is coming along nicely, whilst Kev and Craig have been having fun driving the hill at Shelsley Walsh; we haven't found out yet who was the quickest, or noisiest: our money is on Kev and Craig respectively!



Quickest and noisiest behind - Photo by "Chef" Ange Robinson.



"Great last Summer evening run tonight. Great weather and a great venue, even if I did have a little difficulty getting out of the place. I think I ended up in someone's campsite!"

- Steve Brace on the last of the Summer evening runs.

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THREE COUNTRIES TOUR. By Angie Haughton

In August Mike and I took our MGC GT (or it took us) across the water to attend the MG European Event of the Year in Porto, Portugal. We travelled with friends who were in their MGRV8. We met on the way to Portsmouth where we caught the ferry to Santander, a 24 hour crossing, which thankfully was a calm crossing.



Within half hour of landing we saw our first Spanish MG, a TD, he didn't wave. We headed along the northern coast of Spain between the mountains and the sea, the roads were in very good condition and empty, ideal driving, but you did have to look out for the bulls.

Our first stop was in the city of Oviedo. Just outside the city was a Fernando Alonso museum, unfortunately I can't tell you anything about as only the boys went, but they did wave to us from the top of the hill just outside the city. While us girls went shopping and tried the local cider, which they poured in their own unique way. So far

so good, no trouble with the cars. Well just squeaky brakes. We stopped in some lovely villages and towns; it's a very unspoilt area and we seemed to be the only English people around,. Its also a very friendly area, the bar owners didn't mind us asking for the grand prix to be switched on! There are many surprises as you drive round the countryside, this was an abandoned monastery, Monfere.



As we headed to Portugal the car decided that we weren't using enough fuel and the overdrive stopped working. On the plus side when we got into Portugal we went to the toll booth to register the car for the automatic tolls, it gave us the OK but the ticket showed 'error' where the registration number should be, so far we have not been charged, hooray for old number plates.

The event in Porto included several organised runs in the Douro valley to Port vineyards and wine tastings in the old Port houses, it was a hard work. The car behaved, not overheating, even when climbing mountains in temperatures of 34°C.

On the final day we had a car show with many locals bringing their MGs and Jaguars. The Boavista Circuit in Porto no longer exists, but the old straight was the main road outside our hotel, and was the first circuit

outside of the UK on which Jaguar cars won a major race, and the locals just love their Jaguars; there were at least three XK120s at the show.



We left Porto and headed across Spain towards the Pyrenees, the plan was to go over but the weather changed, to torrential rain, so we went round, and we had our first problem...a wiper snapped off. Never fear, Google to the rescue,. We found a garage that did British classic car spares. They were brilliant, cup of tea as soon as we pulled up, and they had a wiper to fit, not a MG one but one that would do the job, it didn't rain again. So if you are in the Angouleme area and need help, try Landypoint. They even had Castrol 20W50 oil which was just as well as we had used the gallon we took with us.



They rest of the holiday was trouble free, so for all the spares we took with us, and there were a lot, we didn't use them, hurrah.!

So 2700 miles, and no major breakdowns, 1.2 gallons of oil used and around 22 miles to the gallon (damn you, overdrive) ;not too bad for a fifty year old car. Next year he (Mike or the car? Ed.) is taking us to Switzerland!



This was at 4000ft and we stopped to let the drivers cool down.

The dreaded MOT test.

“On 14th September 2017 the Government published their response and they confirmed most vehicles first registered over 40 years ago will as of 20 May 2018 be exempt from periodic testing, unless they have been substantially changed.”

So for most MGs over 40 years of age; and this is a rolling status like the Historic tax status; this means that there will after 20th May 2018 be no requirement for the car to have a valid MOT before it can be taxed and legally driven, although the car must still comply with all current road traffic legislation.

There is one caveat mentioned in that Government statement, and it is, ‘unless they have been substantially changed’. Whilst there will have to be some more detailed information in due course, at this time this is explained in the following...

“The criteria for substantial change - A vehicle will be considered to have been substantially changed (and hence not to have been historically preserved or maintained in its original state and to have undergone substantial changes in the technical characteristics of its main components) if it meets one of the following criteria. Such vehicles will not be considered of historical interest and will be continue to be subject to vehicle testing.

Criterion 1 - If a vehicle has a power to weight ratio of more than 15% in excess of its original design, unless such a modification took place before 1988.

Criterion 2 - If a vehicle:

- 1, has been issued with a registration number with a ‘Q’ prefix; or
- 2, is a kit car assembled from components from different makes and model of vehicle; or
- 3, is a reconstructed classic vehicle as defined by DVLA guidance; or
- 4, is a kit conversion, where a kit of new parts is added to an existing vehicle, or old parts are added to a kit of a manufactured body, chassis or monocoque bodyshell changing the general appearance of the vehicle. “

It is interesting to note that the Government received a total of 2217 responses to the consultation and over half supported continued annual or new biennial testing for 40 year old vehicles, as MGOC did, but the Government chose to reject this majority by commenting, “We consider the element of risk arising from taking vehicles over 40 years old out of the testing regime is small. The option for owners to submit their vehicles to a voluntary MOT test will remain and they will still, like all vehicle owners, need to ensure that they meet the legal requirement of keeping their vehicle in a roadworthy condition at all time.”

As far as West Cheshire MGOC is concerned, members should comply with the law and have a valid road tax and MOT (if applicable) and insurance in place where the vehicle is being used in club events. We’d strongly recommend continuing to have an annual assessment of your vehicle, however for your own safety. Information from the MG Owners’ Club site.

Cheshire Candles Charity Run - 2018

Mark your diaries for the Sunday, the 13th of May 2018 for the 4th Cheshire Candles Charity Run.

The two charities chosen for 2018 are “Guide Dogs for the Blind” and the “Clwyd Special Riding Centre”.

Please note the new web address for the Candles Run below, which is now being hosted on the club website and a booking page will be opening in the next few weeks.



www.candlesrun.org

Committee Matters

For a list of the committee members, please see the last page.

Newsletter Matters and Competition

The newsletter is produced monthly and we hope it is of interest. Whilst we have some content for ongoing issues, it would be great to get input from you as members. Whether that be photographs or updates please send anything through to martin@mginfo.co.uk

On the subject of competitions, each month we hold a competition on Facebook for the front page photo which was won by Stewart Haughton for his photo of the MGC prototype. However, for non-Facebook users, please feel free to send me your shots for inclusion.

Please note the rules that are posted each time; one picture only and extras will be deleted, it must be an MG, it must be your own photograph that you took, and it must not be a picture that you've entered previously. Previous winners are not eligible to enter for three months subsequent to their win.

2017 Club Events

Visit the club website for online information and details.

October:

- Sunday, 8th - Final 2017 Cars & Coffee Cheshire at Manley Mere.
- Sunday, 8th - Another Cars & Coffee at Alderford Lake starting at 9.00am.
- Tuesday, 10th - Monthly meeting at the Old Hall Farm
- Sunday, 15th - Vintage & Classic Car Owners' Event at Combermere Abbey.

More dates to follow in the next issue and keep an eye on the website.

Monthly Talks: The November meeting will include a talk by Tim Kendall of Grove Components on fasteners, should be a riveting talk! Please let us know of any candidates willing to give a talk on their industry, career or hobby.

Winter Plans:

- The Club's Christmas meal will take place as part of the December monthly meal at the Old Hall Farm, Angie will be collecting deposits at the October meeting.
- If there is enough interest, we'll organize some Saturday or Sunday trips to The Lakeland Motor Museum and Bicester Heritage. Please let me know if you are interested.

MGOC Member events and news:

John Twist Technical Seminars

After last years very successful seminars the MG Owners' Club are once again welcoming back celebrated North American MG expert John Twist, Over the weekends of **14th - 15th October and the 20th - 22nd October** the MG Owners' Club will presenting the following seminars:

Seminars at the MGOC Workshop, Swavesey:

Saturday 14th October – The Complete MGB Tune-Up
 Sunday 15th October – The Complete MG Lubrication

Seminars At Wroxall Abbey, near Warwick:

Friday 20th October – MGB Tune-Up
 Saturday 21st October – MGA/Magnette Tune-Up
 Sunday 22nd October – T-series MGs Tune-Up

In association with the MG Octagon Car Club & the MG 'T' Society & Wroxall Abbey Hotel & Estate.

At Wroxall Abbey there will be the option of an evening dinner, on Saturday 21st and John will be a guest speaker. Numbers will be limited to 30 attendees per day. Call (01954) 231125 for further information.

Contact Us

Send us an email for more information about the club's activities or to join us.

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Volunteers:

Steven Brace, Rob Fryer, Neil Gray, and Neil Kennedy.

Visit us on the web at:

www.westcheshiremgoc.club