



# Synchro!



## The Newsletter of South Staffs and North Birmingham MG Owners Club

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### SECRETARY'S SCRIBINGS

Having felt rather like a expectant mother for the last few weeks, waiting for the start of April, so that the MG can be taxed again, at last, it finally happened. Hooray, we are mobile again. (Well at least the pregnancy only lasted for six months). The new season has got off to a very good start, with events each weekend so far. I hope that this continues through the summer, and above all, that we have a summer this year!

In order to keep down the costs of printing and distributing the newsletter, this issue will be emailed to everyone for whom I have a current email address. We will see how this goes; it depends on the email address being correct, and then on the individual members remembering to check their in boxes, and then taking the time to print off the newsletter. Please let me have some feed-back on this. I would like to know that the system works, or otherwise. The main point is that the savings for the club are considerable, both in the time and cost for printing, but also postage.

### LIFE MEMEBRSHIP

At the committee meeting in March, some thought was given to the idea of recognition of the work put in by longstanding members of the club. It was decided that a gesture of recognition would be to create a new grade of membership-life member. This would have the advantage that the life member would not be required to pay their club subscription, but remain a member of the club for life, and actively join in with all aspects of the club.

There were two club members who, it was judged, were obvious candidates for this, namely Kath Jones and Ann Greetham. They have been given life membership because of the great contributions made by their husbands, both of whom are still greatly missed, but also on their own account. It should be stressed that it is not envisaged that there will

ever be a great number of life members, and that this will be used quite seldom, where outstanding contributions have been made to the club.

### EASTER WEEKEND

For those who used the Easter weekend as their first major holiday of the year, it was rather a disappointment, because of the very cold and rainy weather. This was no doubt in large due to the fact that Easter this year was the earliest for (I think) 74 years. The Easter weather is usually a bit hit and miss, but this year even more so than usual. Despite this, the weekend at Torquay was greatly enjoyed by those who took part.



*Sunday Lunch with the Exeter Group*

### EASTER AT CARY COURT

**By Chris and Ruth Austin**

We still have the internet weather forecast for Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008. Briefly it predicted 100% cloud cover, rain and a temperature of around 2 degrees C feeling more like zero with a possibility of snow.

As we followed Fran and Stan's cliff top walk from Torquay harbour to Meadfoot Bay the actual weather was a cloudless blue sky and, except for the people swimming in the sea who we watched whilst scoffing local ice-cream outside a café, dry.

Stan Aleksandrowicz attempted to secure future alternative accommodation for the SSMGOC by selflessly flying his expensive kite into a tree in a wealthy ladies garden who apparently hadn't had so much excitement for ages.

On the Dartmoor run with the Exeters on Sunday our MGA roadster didn't take kindly to the long hill out of Widecombe (according to Chris Rogers it has an unusually high ratio gearbox handy for motorways but.....) eventually making it thanks to a push from Steve Gwilt and Ruth who has now indefinitely postponed applying to join a gym as unnecessary.

All in all an enjoyable long weekend with good company, good food and our fifty something year old car going really well.

*Chris and Ruth Austin*

### **BEST OF BRITISH, LEEK, 20TH. APRIL**

This will be remembered by those who took part as the coldest day since the world began. There was no evidence of Global warming (or any other warming) at Leek, and most of the day was spent trying to escape the attentions of a freezing wind. It was noticeable



that when turning a corner in the town streets to avoid the wind, it somehow appeared again from the opposite direction round every corner. The attendance at the event, no doubt on account of the poor weather forecast, was not good, and it seemed too much of an effort to hang around looking at the few vehicles that had made it to Leek, in the icy blast.

The South Staffs club plumbed the depths of sadness, in that the only place to escape the wind, apart from pubs, was Woolworths, the only shop open on the day. (it could only be Britain, where all the shops stay closed, even though a major event was taking place). So we had the wonderful distinction of a group photo taken in Woolworths. This has to be a first! (hopefully a last).

### **THE KIMBER RUN**

For several years now, the South Staffs Group have been the mainstay of the marshalling effort for the Kimber run. For any new members, the Kimber run, named after the 'main man' at MG in the days of the Abingdon factory, has been held as about the first major MG event of the year.

This year there were two separate road runs, both starting and ending in the grounds of Chatsworth



House, near Bakewell, in Derbyshire. The situation of the venue meant that the group of marshalls had an extremely early start for a Sunday morning. Having arrived at Chatsworth, they then had a long day in quite low temperatures. For the first time, your secretary decided to actually take part in the run itself. The route was very well planned; an approx. 75 mile run through the Derbyshire countryside, mainly on some very narrow country lanes. The two road runs had stops at either Denby Pottery or Masson Mill.

On arriving back at Chatsworth in the afternoon, we were greeted by rather cold-looking marshalls, who had braved a worse bit of weather than those who had done the runs themselves.

On behalf of Roy Clarke, who did most of the organising, thanks are due to the marshalls, with-

out whom the even could not take place. The raffle raised about £360 for the Staffordshire Air Ambulance, a very worthy effort, as the overall entry for the event was considerably down this year (which may cause a change in the event for next year).

## THE LEICESTERSHIRE RUN 2008

**T**he run to Leicestershire has become something of a tradition, this being its fifth or sixth year. This year it had to be arranged for April due to clashes with other event in May. Being rather early, and so soon after the freezing Leek run, it was approached with some slight weather worries. In the event, the weather turned rather nicely just before the run, and it became one of the best days of the year so far. We were even able to enjoy our picnic outside in the sun.

The midway break was at the Bosworth Battlefield site, which made for a very good coffee stop,



with several people saying that they must have a longer visit there some time.

The route then went through some of the beautiful scenery of Charnwood Forest, and ended at the Discovery Museum at Snibston near Coalville.

The museum was built on the site of a former colliery, and one of the attractions is a guided tour of the pithead facilities, which are still all intact. The tour is

still conducted by one of the ex miners from the colliery, and so there is ample atmosphere from those days.

The museum itself is a showcase of the many and varied industries of Leicestershire, which range from mining to engineering to knitwear to various specialised industries such the manufacture of precision optical instruments. Even aircraft were built in the county, at the Auster factory at Rearsby.

### *Through the Chair*

Summer is almost here and things are now getting into full swing, with June being a very busy month indeed, with something happening every weekend. Of course MGs in the Trees is on Sunday 22nd June and things are now starting to slot into place. We now have over 100 entrants which is well up on last year. The preparation of the actual run is almost complete and promises to be as well received as last years. Just a little reminder that Meryl is again organising the "Motabola" stand. Last year this was very popular and raised a lot of money. Please don't forget she needs prizes. Anything car related small or large, cheap or expensive, just bring them along to the next club night. Also plants are required for the plant stall, so all of the green fingered amongst our numbers get potting please. All prize blooms to Ann Greetham. We now have the T Shirt design for the event and this will be on display with an order form at next club night.

*Steve Gwilt*

## MG's IN THE ANTIPODEAN TREES

Steve Gwilt remarked in the article in 'Enjoying MG' that the 'MG's in the Trees' name became a bit uncomfortably true during last year's run,



when a fallen tree had to be cleared from the road so that the MG's could pass. Steve had the following email from New Zealand:

I have just been reading my January 2008 copy of Enjoying MG and was reading your story about MG's in the Trees 2007 and thought I must let you know that I had a very similar experience over here not too long ago. We had organised an MG club run and the day before the run was particularly rough weather wise with very strong gale force winds. The day of the run was calmer and brighter but halfway along our route we came across a large tree across the road which completely blocked the route. See the photo's attached. Luckily a farmer in his ute turned up with his chainsaw on board and cut an MG size hole in the trunk so we could all carry on. Any way thought I must share this little snippet of MG similarity from this side of the world!

I always enjoy reading my MGE mag - always very interesting to see and read about all the activities the clubs have over there. One thing we are blessed with is great driving

roads and very little traffic once you are off the main routes. We hope to visit the UK in the next year or two and we certainly hope we can meet up with a few people from some of the clubs over there.

MG wise we own three cars! We have a fully restored 2 owner MGB done 70,000 miles in Damask red and a very tidy 1977 MGBGT done 160,000 miles also in Damask Red (twins!). The third car is a 2004 MG ZS180 V6 done 40,000 miles - very rare car out here in New Zealand. Evidently there is only about a dozen of them on the roads over here. This car

was built under MG Rovers monogram programme and is finished in Nocturne Blue with full dark grey leather - really quite a nice car. Both the B's were first registered new in NZ and the ZS had a year in the UK (sold in Essex) before coming over here. A couple more photo's attached!

Best regards and happy MG'ing from New Zealand!

Dominic  
Dominic & Jennette Scott,  
28A Collingwood Street,  
Palmerston North 4410,  
New Zealand.



## ***DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (and plenty of them!)***

May 25th. (Spring Bank Holiday Weekend) Tom Rolt Rally, at Tywyn, Wales. This is the home of the Tal-y-llyn railway, and features all types of vintage transport. If interested, please contact Pete Walker or any committee member.

28th. May Club Meeting, The Globe

1st. June MG's in the Park. We will be joining in with the large MG event at the Cotswold Wildlife Park, Burford. If interested in joining in, contact Pete Walker.

11th.. June Club Meeting, The Globe

15th. June Trentham Gardens Rally. This is a Transtar event, and we will be entering as a club. If interested, please contact Pete Walker.

**22nd June MG's in the Trees, Cannock Chase. Help needed to make this a successful event. Volunteers needed for marshalling and general help on the day. Please speak to any of the committee if you are going to be available.**

25th June Club Meeting, The Globe

29th June MG's at Moseley Old Hall. In many ways a antidote to the large event the previous weekend; much smaller and more informal. Please contact Fran Davis or Pete Walker if you would like to attend

### **FOR SALE**

A very good-looking 1967 MGBGT, Tartan Red with wire wheels, with lots of history, fully restored.

An exceptional MGB Roadster, heritage body shell, and looking pretty immaculate.

An 1975 MG Midget, British Racing Green, converted to chrome bumpers.

Alan Heeley has all of the contact details for anyone who may be interested

### **WANTED**

One 14 inch Minilite alloy wheel. Condition not important. Contact Alan Heeley if you have one to dispose of. Also, has anyone got (and I bet they have) some nice open-ended Whitworth spanners sitting in their garage waiting for their next use (or the end of the world, whichever comes sooner? Again, if you have, please contact Alan Heeley.

**PLEASE NOTE: Sales and wants could become a regular feature of the newsletter provided that a few items are notified to the editor. Remember, any odd cast-off item for sale could be just what another club member needs.**