

MGCC SE Newsletter

Contents Page

Editorial Comment	1
Committee Notes	2
Events	3
Local Club meets	7
Members Corner	13
Regalia	17
Contacts	18

MGCC SE

October 2019 Newsletter

A warm welcome to you all; we hope that you will enjoy the new style newsletter and continue to send in any comments or news that you wish to publish. We very much look forward to meeting you at MGCC SE events.

To access the Newsletter on web go to MG Car Club South East centre web site – <http://www.mgccse.co.uk> - click on News then Newsletter.

Editorial Note: Your new Newsletter Editors / Scribes.

Will Opie has been a member of the MGCC SE for over 40 years owning a multitude of MG variants and currently leads the North Downs Natter.

Ray Ruffels was introduced to MG motoring whilst working for Wadham Stringers in the late 1970's and now runs several classic MGs plus a ZT-T daily driver.



Members will be pleased to hear that our Chairman Derek Edwards is making good progress with his return to health and is now convalescing at home.

Further details of his recovery can be obtained from Adrian Malthouse – Tel 01737 779076.

Philip Bayne Powell our SE Area Secretary has decided, after 7 very successful years in the role, to step down at the next AGM on October 16th. The committee would like to express its gratitude for his great commitment, energy and organization ensuring the success of the SE region over this time.

We would now like to reach out to members for applicants for two new SE Committee roles:

- a) Competitions / Events Secretary
- b) Minutes secretary

For further information please contact Interim Chairman Chris Leigh at candjleigh@yahoo.com.

Events for next 3 months:

Sunday 6th October	Autumn Navisat	See web for details	Chris Leigh candjleigh@yahoo.com
Sunday 13th October	Brooklands Motor Sport day	Brooklands Museum KT13 0QN	John Davies 01737 241971
Thursday 10th November	Talk by Club Chair David Tynan	The Fairmile KT11 1BW	Ian Ailes 01932 856960
Saturday 16th November	Annual General Meeting	St Nicholas Youth Centre Godstone RH9 8DT	Philip Bayne-Powell 01483 811428



October
2019

Events

Summer
Gathering
Michelham
Priory
July 2019



Events in 2019

MGCC SE Summer Gathering 21st July 2019

Organized by John Morgan

This year's Summer Gathering was held at the delightful Michelham Priory located in East Sussex near Hailsham; cars were lined up on the lawns giving a lovely backdrop in the moated garden.

Around 50 MG models ranging from T Types through to the latest MGF supported the Gathering. A 1937 MGSA Charlesworth Tourer owned by Gary Peacock was awarded car of show. Amongst the MG's on display were a delightful pair of ZA and ZB Midgets owned by members from Abingdon Centre who had travelled to the event on the day. The event somewhat unusually attracted 3 supercharged T Types and was even visited by a South African member visiting the UK on holiday.

The competitive element was the Concours and Pride of Ownership with only one car entering the Concours, Richard Thorpe with his lovely yellow ZR. Seven MG's entered the Pride of Ownership ranging from TD's through to MGF and RV8:

First place: MG RV8 Karl Foo

Second place: MGF Bob Willet

Third place: MG TD John Brinkhurst

Full results are available on the SE web page.



October
2019

Events

Tour of the
South East

Copthorne
August 2019

Organized by Roy Baker

Tour of the South East 11th August 2019

The tour started with an assembly at The Dukes Head, Turners Hill Road in Copthorne West Sussex. It was due to commence with coffee at around 10.30 a.m. and depart sometime after 11 a.m. Luckily due to the lateness of serving coffee there was time for a number of participants to go outside to put up their hoods when a fairly heavy shower arrived. Jill Baker helped in the meantime with the delayed serving of coffee and subsequently thereafter the first cars left.

After crossing the M23 the route went due west to skirt south of Gatwick Airport then went through Charlwood before going on the road towards Parkgate. Thereafter we went south via the villages of Cudworth, Rusper and Faygate therefore covering some 19 miles of lovely Surrey countryside which was followed by a further 19 miles of beautiful Sussex roads and villages before reaching the Copthorne Hotel for our lunchtime stop completed in sunshine and with hoods down.

At the Copthorne Hotel we had the choice of either a hot starter (soup) or a cold starter (most had this with the enormous choice of cold meats and fish and salad items), followed by roast joints and choices of vegetables and desserts and/or cheese and all for a very reasonable cost of £17 for three courses. This was helped by good bar staff, waiters and chef service.

Every one of the 17 cars and 38 people had arrived safely and it was commented that the route had introduced some new roads to those normally encountered in the Surrey and Sussex Wanderers monthly meetings.. Roy and Jill Baker were thanked for their respective help in planning the route and helping at The Dukes Head respectively,

In conclusion it was good to see such a variety of cars and participants taking part from the region and some beyond it, including an MG3, MGRV8's, MGBGTV8, MGB, MGF, MGA, MG MAGNETTE, MGTF's, MG YT's, MG NA and MG YB to name a few, all immaculately driven and presented of course!



October
2019

Events

Shere Hill
Climb
September
2019

Created by John Davies

After a three-year gap, as a Committee we decided to attend this event due to its overall popularity.

The organizers were keen that we should return with gazebo and up to ten cars.

In this years event over two hundred cars and motorbikes were picked to drive up the Staples Lane Hill, which was closed for the day as a public right of way.

As always an eclectic mix of vehicles took part ranging from a 1948 Larmar Microcar powered by a 250cc BSA engine to current super cars.

Our stand was busy during the morning with a number of genuine enquiries from non-members who were interested in joining and in some cases seeking technical advice regarding their MGs.

The display boards recently produced by Austin Banner created considerable interest. The latest of these 'MGs in competition' was well received as naturally many members of the public attending were competition minded and pleased to see the MG Car Club still supports racing and other forms of motorsport.

Next year is the MG Car Club's 90th birthday and it is hoped further emphasis can be made in this direction, as competition has always been one of the key objectives since its formation in 1930.

SE Centre members will be able to keep in touch with what is going on via our 2020 calendar. Safety Fast magazine, SE Newsletter and of course our website.



October
2019

Local Club
Meets

North
Downs
Natter
French Trip
May 2019

Created by Chris and Janice Leigh

A pre-Brexit go-slow from the French passport control in Dover did little to dampen our enthusiasm when our queue was full of old cars heading for Spa!

For the second year running, a select group of MGs from

the North Downs Natter were meeting at Dover Docks for a long weekend in France ably organised by Clive & Clare Taylor.

The drive along the coast road south of Calais must surely rank as one of the best MG routes anywhere. Almost no traffic, breathtaking views and a superb road.

Following an excellent lunch in the Audresselle brasseries we motored south to the Hotel du Park in Hardelot and strolled along the very beach that Louis Bleriot established his first flying school. After parking the cars for the night, the hotel meal was delicious and was washed down with plenty of excellent wine.

On Saturday we motored in small groups to our lunch stop in Houlle where we filled every lot in the car park of the highly recommended Au Rallye d'Artois - top quality food and wine at a really affordable price! After lunch we staggered to the nearby artisan Gin distillery for a French commentary cleverly translated for us by our natter leader - Will Opie. Then back to Hardelot avoiding all traffic on the smallest, greenest roads that we could find for a relaxing swim in the hotel pool, canapés and Champagne.

Our final day (which unfortunately clashed with the South East Centre Annual Awards Day) was a short drive to Le Touquet for the monthly gathering of classic cars.

We were made very welcome by the local car club and provided with croissants and coffees as we parked on the Casino Lawns. The local cars were refreshingly varied and even included a left-hand-drive MG 1100! - when did you last see one of these? Lunch followed at Le Matisse - a seafood restaurant in the centre of town.

After a reluctant farewell to Le Touquet we returned to our ferry via that coast road again stopping off at the Majestic Wine Warehouse just as the first rain arrived.

If you have never taken your old car across the Channel then do it now - before they pull the drawbridge up!



October
2019

Local Club
Meets

Alternative
Poo Report
July 2019

Created by John Morgan

Final round took place last night at The Pheasant, Buckland. A total of 33 cars were entered across the three rounds with a dedicated core of members supporting all three events. After the disappointing weather for the Fairmile June meeting leading to postponement of round 1, the event kicked off in July with fabulous summer weather for all three rounds.

Steve Fletcher with his lovely MGC narrowly won car of show from Tony Atcheson's MGBV8 roadster. Peter Thomas won Best Restored closely challenged by Steve Arthur's MGB. Les Hudson's modern MGTF won Best All Rounder and as ever, Dave Naylor's L2 captured the votes for Most Used.

The scores from all three events were computed and Dave Naylor won the overall trophy with an impressive score of 55. Runner up was last year's winner, Peter Thomas with his lovely 1969/70 MGBGT with a score of 38. The overall award is the only one that has an annual trophy.

The intention for the Alternative Poo was originally to provide classes for cars having a condition across the broad spectrum from 'well used scruffy everyday' to 'restored'. These days it is rare to see MGs being used for commuting, etc. and it has become more difficult to categorize entrants. I think it does still provide an entertaining opportunity for member's to bring their cars to a natter meeting and the chance of winning a rosette for cars that would not normally be entered in a Poo. Any suggestions from members would be welcome, but it needs to be simple and able to cater for a widely varying entry. As always it shouldn't be taken too seriously.



October
2019

Local Club
Meets

Alternative
Poo Pictures
July 2019



October
2019

Local Club
Meets

Sussex
Wanderers



Sussex Wanderers July and August Runs

Led by David Griffiths

The Sussex Wanderers gathered at the Cricketers, Duncton for a quick coffee and meet before setting off on a great run through the Sussex countryside the lovely weather attracting some 30 MG's; including Paul Campbell's VA recently returned from Holland, Simon Worte's supercharged J2, David Blackford's left hand drive TD and in addition several new members.

The route set out on the A285 towards Petworth then detoured through many country lanes and stunning scenery regularly crossing back over the A285 on the way, passing the Goodwood Race Course and ending up at the West Dean College of Arts and Conservation; the lunch destination (<https://www.westdean.org.uk/>). It was glorious to see so many MG's hoods down driving through the English countryside.

Our MG's were parked on the South lawn in the wonderful parkland setting forming an interesting display of excellent condition MG's. A buffet lunch was served in the Old Library enjoyed by some 70 Wanderers. Prior to which we had drinks in the Oak Room which housed an old piano. David Blackford seized the opportunity to knock out an excellent rendition of Happy Birthday with an adhoc Sussex Wanderers Mixed Voice Choir singing along! The visit included an interesting history of the College and exploring the surrounding gardens. We were delighted that so many members attended the event including one birthday celebration and a couple commemorating their Golden Wedding anniversary. A raffle was held to collect funds for Riding for the Disabled and thanks to everyone's generosity raised £166.

The August run started at the Fox Inn, Bucks Green, Rudgewick with 62 members and guests attending. There was a superb collection of MGs in the car park including M type, J2, PA, NA, T types, YT, MGAs, MGBs, V8s, RV8s, Fs and TFs over 30 cars in total!

The run followed A, B and smaller roads in the beautiful Surrey and Sussex countryside ending at our destination the White Horse near Maplehurst.

Lunch was a Barbecue, with seating in a large open sided marquee, followed by



October
2019

Local Club
Meets

Sussex
Wanderers



SW at the July event



October
2019

Local Club
Meets

Ashdown
Adventurers
2019

Created by Richard Clark

Ashdown Adventurers, or 'AA' for short, is now in its 5th of activities and this Season is already half way through. Its certainly true that time flies when you are enjoying life, especially with your MG for company!

This year started in March with a short 'Run' to The Laughing Fish' at Isfield, reachable by main roads, should the weather be poor. Some 30 people in 16 cars took part to enjoy the country pub ambiance of this lovely old village house as well as to sample the home cooked food using local ingredients.

Our April 'Run' took us into Kent to The Merry Harriers, Boodle Street Green, last visited in 2015. There we enjoyed freshly cooked food in an ideal sizes private room overlooking the gardens and view.

In May, owing to my planned but enforced absence in France, Graham White very kindly took on the responsibility for organising the Day. He adopted one of our earlier 'Runs' in 2014 to The Green Cross Inn, Goudhurst, which specializes in excellent seafood, being owned and run by the former Head Chef at Sankey's, Tunbridge Wells. Thank you Graham.

Mike and Dianne Hennessey very kindly organised the 'Run' in June starting at the Four Elms, Edenbridge preparing a longer 'Run' of 38 miles to The White Hart, Netherfield, near Battle. We were able to join the lunch, which was excellent and with very select company as only the most dedicated 'AAs' were present, to witness also the flight of Dakota aircraft in celebration of the Normandy Landings.

July and our fifth 'Run', saw us drive a pretty route of mixed roads and lanes from Duddleswell Tea Rooms to another old haunt, The Star, Old Heathfield. This 14th Century pub has real atmosphere and presence, and a lovely picturesque garden, with a superb upstairs dining room for us. As a bonus the owner/manager is a very keen classic car enthusiast, who gladly reserves all of the upper car park for our MGs.

After our first five 'Run's' of this year, in August and September we visited two new venues for lunch.

Firstly, in August, Peter Haynes and Maria Chaborel, planned and organised a very successful Day, starting at the Lamma Park, Wych Cross and finishing for lunch at The Half Moon, Warninglid following an interesting and challenging route.

Then in September we met at The Chequers Inn, Maresfield, and drove some 20 miles to lunch at The `Kentish Hare, Bidborough in lovely dry fine weather.

Our numbers on these thoroughly enjoyable days out have been around 28/30 people which is perfect for the individual type of characterful pub with good food and adequate safe parking.

'AA' is in good health and we are enthusiastic for the following meetings in October and November, when for a change we are planning to visit two pub/restaurants, one with Latin American, and the other with Caribbean themed cuisine!

October
2019

Local Club
Meets

Ashdown
Adventurers
2019



AA August and September meets



October
2019

Local Club
Meets

East Kent
Wanderers
2019

East Kent Wanderers

by John Bennett



EKW has now been running for over six years. We were spawned directly from the Surrey model and we have achieved a similar level of success. We are relaxed about membership. Not everyone is a Club member but our attendees do turn up in MGs with the exception of a founder member who arrives in his Singer saloon but we don't hold that against him! What matters is that everyone gets along well as is proved by the sharp increase in decibel level whenever we gather together. This conviviality is due in large part to our ability to attract ladies as much as men for some reason I can't quite fathom but very pleasing it is.

Our members live between the Ashford area and the North coast and between Dover/Folkestone and the Maidstone area. Consequently, our runs tend to start and finish fairly close to where that month's organisers are based. That said, we have been known to venture abroad to France, the Isle of Sheppey and even the lands beyond the Medway, foreign territory all!

A typical run will be attended by up to 30 people and, whilst we don't want to get much bigger, we don't turn newcomers away either. Indeed, our September run, on the first Wednesday as usual, will see a new face join us together with our first 50's saloon in the attractive shape of his ZB Magnette.

We find that size does matter. Pub catering capacity and their car parks are both limited meaning so we're comfortable to stay more or less the size we are.



October
2019

Members
Corner

MG ZT-T

Created by Ray Ruffels

ZT-T BX05 KDU

Purchased new in 2005 immediately following the demise of MG Rover at Longbridge, my wonderful X-power grey ZT-T came complete with 'fully loaded' specification including BMW 135bhp diesel, air-con, leather seats, roof bars and cruise control.

Many members and friends were skeptical about the ability to be able to source or replace parts and were confident that I would have all number of problems by purchasing the MG at such a time.

We have now careered around the UK countryside and Europe racking up some 200,000 plus miles replete with children, various animals and even our pet ducks. From being loaded with birthday cake and balloons to being stuffed full of holiday paraphernalia, band equipment, carrying Kayaks and then University runs rammed with clothes, bikes and even a TIG welder. Countless miles have also been accrued commuting long distance to work, however the ZT-T is finally entering a period of semi-retirement no longer having to face such long drives. Over the years it has proved to be exceptionally good value for money as well as a tremendous car. Since new it has met with a few incidents, none of my making of course, but despite all it remains in relatively good condition and continues to motor on reliably, regularly lining up at MG Live alongside the other ZTs. What a great and seriously practical car this is as well as amazing value for money and fantastic flexibility as regards use. As a family we have been able to engage in MG days and activities which we have very much enjoyed.

The ZT-T is a great driver's car with excellent road holding and performance which combined with its estate utility makes it a particularly versatile machine.

I am sure that the car will continue to grace the roads as my daily driver for many years to come and have absolutely no thoughts of changing it at this stage. Here's to another 100,000 miles of motoring!





MG FRIENDS REUNITED

Created by Roger Marlow

The story of the search for MG TF - WPK 19 - goes back to 2005 when I met up with Brian Perrins at my local Probus Club. Sadly Brian died a few years ago but my wife, Freda and I stayed in contact with his wife Rosemary through various organisations. At some point in 2017, Rosemary became aware that we owned Ruby, an MG PB and told us about 'her' TF she used to own.

Brian and Rosemary had purchased the 1500 MG TF brand new in 1955 from H. Beart and Co. Ltd in Kingston upon Thames. She still has the original invoice dated 31st March 1955 and a delightful photograph of Rosemary and Brian sitting on the back of the TF.

The search for the car began in earnest with the help of the Fairmile, Cobham MG Natter who contacted the T Register of the MG Car Club who were able to confirm the car was still alive and well somewhere in Surrey but Data Protection did not allow it to say who now owned it! We then wrote a letter to the current owners care of the Register who forwarded it on for Rosemary and they kindly replied. Margaret Cosnett and her husband Josh now own it. It has been re-registered 123 SMY and they have had 'Sammy' recently restored and finished in immaculate metallic green.

A few weeks on we hit on a mutually convenient date visited Josh and Margaret, who provided us with afternoon tea. Unfortunately, Sammy would not start and Josh had hoped to take Rosemary out for a spin but she was able to sit in the MG and recollect owning him back in 1955. The upside of this is we will have to go back when he's working!

As to the history of the car, the Perrins sold it in 1962 via a dealer to an American working in this country. They bought the car in 1967 when the owner was returning to the USA and have owned it ever since, carrying out a major restoration in 2009 and a later re-spray.





Cursed Condensers

Condensers cause a lot of aggravation when trying to sort out those engine gremlins. As many of you have already found out, a lot of the current condensers are pretty useless, especially the cheaper ones from the Far East. It isn't any use hoping that original condensers are any better, as they break down over the years, to become just as bad as the modern ones.

Good condensers should have a resistance of around 1 ohm; many have a resistance of much more – even up to 50 ohms!

The actual condenser is housed in a tube with dished contact plates, which are the cause of the high resistance if not properly in contact.

As a result of these problems the Distributor Doctor (Tel. 01984 629540 e-mail martin@distributordoctor.com) has produced his own condensers, and these are much better bet.

He also produces his red rotor arms without rivets or short-circuiting! I have fitted these for peace of mind, and had no troubles since. I confirm that I am just a satisfied customer, and hope other members can also be satisfied by him.

Tip from an advanced driving instructor

When you see a car waiting to join the main road that you are on, it is very difficult to assess whether he is going to jump out in front of you, as the background to his car is constantly changing due to your own forward motion. The trick is to look at his wheels, to see if they are moving in relation to the wheel arch.

Created by Philip Bayne-Powell

October
2019

Regalia

Regalia

The following merchandise is available:

Sweatshirt	£21
Polo Shirt	£16
Umbrellas	£21
Tee-Shirts	£11.50
Baseball Caps	£8
Beer Glasses	£2.50
Beer Glasses (Pair)	£4
Windscreen Stickers	£1.60
MGCC Pens (red or blue)	£4.50



We are now able to take payment for regalia by PayPal, if you wish to make a purchase please contact Sue Munday via email, (mundaysusan@hotmail.com).

For a limited time only we are offering a special price on the T Shirts, normally £11.50, now only £9. Sizes available, large & ex large. We are also discounting the display cards to show off your model cars, normally £1, now only 50p. If we do not have your size or colour of clothing in stock we will be happy to order this for you.

For Sale

5 Bearing early MGB engine for sale running fine when removed from car
Contact Will Opie on 07768 022044

SE CENTRE COMMITTEE AND CONTACTS

Chairman	Derek Edwards	01737 765891	edwards.mgmadness@ntlworld.com
Secretary & Competition Secretary	Philip Bayne-Powell	01483 811428	1942mgman@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tony Atcheson	0208 6417837	tony.atcheson@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Diana Calvert	01737 350489	peter_diana_calvert@hotmail.com
Safety Fast Scribes & Newsletter	Ray Ruffels & Will Opie	07970 640219 01795 521846	raywillmg@gmail.com
Webmaster	Ben Hill	07510 532732	im.benjamin.hill@gmail.com
Regalia	Sue Munday	07881 936142	mundaysusan@hotmail.com
Committee Members	Andrew Mitchell John Davies Austin Banner Roy Baker	07703 138419 01737 241971 7850 769506 07768 314226	andrewmgfvvc@gmail.com santana@sweethaven.biz austin.banner@gmail.com roycbaker@gmail.com

Natter Leaders

Queen's Head Pinner	Gerry Edwards	07768 657797	pinnermgnatter@live.co.uk
The Ship, Mortlake & Brooklands Museum	Danny Byrne	01932 829814	dannybyrne@talktalk.net
The Pheasant, Betchworth	John Morgan	0208 6572714	johnv.morgan@btinternet.com
The Fairmile, nr Cobham	Ian Ailes & John Glover	01932 856960 07802 770025	iailes@as-r.co.uk jongloveractor@gmail.com
George & Dragon, Speldhurst	Grahame White	01892 654591	pgwhitemg@gmail.com
Plough, Stalisfield	William Opie	01795 521846	willopie@aim.com
The George Inn, Trottiscliffe	Ian Russell	0208 3014966	mrberniefly@gmail.com
The Black Horse, Nuthurst	David Griffiths	01403 264548	dr.gjazz1@timetalk.co.uk
Stag Inn, Balls Cross	Edward Way	01798 865320	edwardway@twincamltd.co.uk
The Golden Lion Broad Oak, Canterbury	John Clark David Smith	07940 769225 07879 015525	cmgow.sec@gmail.com
The British Queen, Lower Willingdon & Boship (Lions) Farm Hotel Hailsham	Dennis Webb	07885 485255	dcmotorseastbourne@msn.com

Various locations

Ashdown Adventurers	Richard Clark	07818 420921	ricky140clark@btinternet.com
Sussex Wanderers	David Griffiths	01403 264548	dr.gjazz1@timetalk.co.uk
Surrey Wanderers	Piers Hubbard	0208 6572170	piers.hubbard@talk21.com
East Kent Wanderers	John Bennett	01227 637813	johnbennett698@yahoo.com
Kent Nomads	Ian Russell	0208 3014966	mrberniefly@gmail.com

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



The 200,00 mile ZT-T