



# Spark

Issue 1 – Spring 2025

The quarterly magazine of the MG Car Club South East Centre



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

AGM | Clue-Busting in Kent | Filching Manor Autosolo  
Brands Hatch '25 | MG Sculpture | Modern Gentleman | MGGSE:Electric  
New Charity for 2025/6 | MG Airline Pt 3 | MG Mascot | Teenager Challenge  
30 Years of the MGF in the South | Holy Wanderer | Natters & Wanderers

## Contents

- 2. The Editor
- 3. Chairman's Chatter
- 4. AGM in the Godstone Sinkhole
- 5 - 8. Events Coming Up
- 9. 30 Years of the MGF in the South
- 10. MG Sculpture
- 11. Modern Gentleman: MGs Around the World
- 12 - 13: MGCCSE:Electric
- 13. MGCC Charity 2025/6
- 14 - 16. Clue-Busting in Kent
- 17. Brands Hatch '25
- 18. Competition Update
- 19-20. Filching AutoSOLO
- 21. NATTER / WANDERERS
  - 21. Fairmile 22. Sussex Wanderers
  - 23. Ashdown Adventurers 24. Pinner
  - 25. East Kent Wanderers 26. North Surrey
  - 27. North Downs
  - 27. MG Mascot
- 28 - 29. MG Airline Pt3 – Taking Off
- 30. Obituary – Gareth Evans
- 30. Teenager Challenge
- 31. Cars / Parts for Sale or Wanted
- 32. Get in Touch
- 33. MG Car Club Insurance / The End



## THE EDITOR

*Will Opie has been a member of the MGCC SE for over 50 years and has been playing with MGs all that time. He currently co-leads the North Downs Natter as well as being a member of the Centre committee.*

We welcome you to the Spring (and first) Edition of your new South East Centre magazine.

This edition covers the first quarter of 2025 and includes contributions from the Natters, Wanderers and Members There is also coverage of the AGM, Naviscat, Autosolo. and the Brands Hatch racing scene plus a look forward to what is to come.

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](mailto:mgcc@mgcc.co.uk) or call 01235 555552.

This is your magazine so contributions to the Editor always welcome! Please get in touch as below.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Do you have an article about your MG that you would like to share with the Centre? Is so then please get in touch with the editor and you could see it in the next edition.

Email [spark@mgccse.co.uk](mailto:spark@mgccse.co.uk)

### Cover Picture

*John Morgan's MGB with one of the Centre flags at The Fairmile for last year's Alternative PoO. Look out for all three rounds this year beginning on June 16<sup>th</sup>. We used this image as a placeholder whilst designing Spark... and it stayed!*



My byline photo this month shows me with one of the fastest men on earth – Richard Noble.

Richard, having been a World Land Speed record holder himself, was behind the Thrust SSC project that took Andy Green to the ultimate World record of 763.035mph in 1997. Unbelievably that record still stands some 28 years later with not much sign of it being broken.

The ill-fated Bloodhound, also originally with Richard on board, had sights of 1000mph and got some way to achieving that before the money ran out.

He is now beginning a project to break the Water Speed Record with Thrust WSH. The aim is to break the long-standing record set by Ken Warby way back in 1978 of 317.59mph in the Spirit of Australia. There is a new boat, a hydrofoil, and a new team working on it with 79yr old Richard Noble the inspiration and driving force behind it. Whilst it is highly unlikely that he will be the pilot a certain Andy Green (who “nearly” drove MG EX255!) was in the audience that night at Brooklands. Will Andy take to the water? We’ll see in due course.

It is a sobering thought that of the 13 contenders for the Water Speed record since 1930 seven have perished whilst carrying out the attempt.

**Welcome** to the first edition of our new look MG Car Club South East magazine. I say magazine as it will take on more of that style rather than the newsletter of old. It came about as we hope to engage more readers within the Centre and beyond and looking at some of our MGOC friends it was clear we needed to up our game. I am grateful that the editor, Will Opie, has embraced the idea and has produced this first edition for you to read. As we move along, I am sure there will be some tweaks as to content and format – but what do you want to see? Why Spark? The name is exciting with connotations to “bright spark” and also covers the range of MGs we cover from the vintage to the modern. Let us know what you think of this first edition as this is your magazine and we are relying on you to fill its pages.

I had great fun at the **Spring Naviscat** which resulted in some head scratching as we searched for clues in the countryside and the tiny lanes around Sevenoaks. What a great place to set the competition – it was ideal with lots of stopping places for clue busting and very little traffic (other than the other contestants!). We met one car going down a hill on one of those lanes and that turned out to be fellow committee member Lis Wooley driving the other way. Considering we hadn’t taken part in one of these for a number of years I was quite pleased with our 24 points and 11<sup>th</sup> place overall. We’ll certainly be signing up for the Autumn Naviscat – will you join us?



*Handing out rosettes at the finish of the Naviscat*

We were originally a very **sporting centre** organising the Club’s main race meetings at Silverstone and Brands Hatch amongst many others – hill climbs, autotests etc. In recent years this aspect of the Centre has dwindled but we hope to bring back some of that competitive excitement with things such as the Naviscat, our annual autotest and a new event in May – an evening Autotest. Of course, we need competitors to take part and that means you! None of these are too difficult and you don’t need a specific racing licence as such to take part. All you need to do is register on the Motorsport UK website and apply for something called an RS Clubman licence. This involves answering some questions about yourself and your health and at the end you will have a licence to enter – and it is free!! It lasts a year and will cover all our competitive events.

We held a “**review and reset**” day for the committee in February where all the committee members looked at their particular areas of responsibility. The idea was to gain input from other members and examine whether the Centre was “fit for purpose” for the next quarter of a century...or at least the next year! It was an enlightening experience and one that I think we will continue annually to make sure we are on a track that is of benefit to you, our members. Several actions came from that, and we’ll be reviewing those as we go through the year. As an example, one of the first actions is this very magazine and I hope you are pleased with the changes we have made.

Finally, a massive thank you to Will for all the extra work I’ve put him through to produce this new magazine! Also, I’d like to thank Ray Ruffels for all his help on the old newsletter in the past. Ray has stepped back now but is still helping with the monthly Safety Fast column. I hope you enjoy the resultant new style magazine, and I look forward to seeing you on the new **SOUTH EAST RUN** on 18<sup>th</sup> May



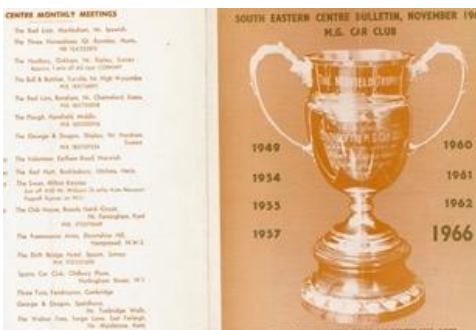
*St Nicholas Hall Godstone once again proved ideal for the meeting.*

The meeting commenced with an introduction from Tim Morris, the Chairman, referring to an email that Will Opie had sent just the night before of a 1966 MGCCSE Newsletter. Burning the midnight oil on Friday night that was ready by Saturday morning. It was interesting to remind ourselves that the South East is a very historic centre and at that time covered East Anglia, the Thames Valley and Hampshire with matters as far afield as Woodstock and Norwich. Gordon Cobban, the secretary at the time, upon winning the Nuffield Gold cup which is awarded for “the most meritorious growth, Enterprise and enthusiasm” within the MG Car Club that that may be the wrong way around. It should be “without enterprise and enthusiasm the centre would have little chance of growth”. That is true and with a committed and enthusiastic committee and natter groups there is no reason that the Centre shouldn’t grow. In fact, there are indications that Membership in the South East is beginning to rise again, albeit slowly.



*Disinterested dog during the proceedings!*

After hearing the reports, the business of the day was conducted and a new committee appointed. This year we welcomed a new member, Lis Wooley, to join the existing team. There was also a motion to raise the limit of committee members to 15 if necessary, this was passed. Currently the committee consists of 12 people so there is room for manoeuvre if anyone else would like to volunteer!



*1966 Bulletin mentioned above*

### The 2025/26 MGCCSE Committee:-

Chairman / Internet : Tim Morris

Vice-Chair / Competitions / Regalia : John Morgan

Secretary : Austin Banner

Treasurer : Ron Kemp

Trophies / Archive : John Davies

Events : Andrew Mitchell

Membership : Diana Calvert

Scribe / Spark : Will Opie

Natters / Wanderers : Ian Russell

Committee Members : Philip Roussel-Smith; Gwen Davies; Lis Wooley


The full report is on the website

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

# Events April-June 2025



**FBHVC Drive it Day to Pashley Manor Tulip Festival - Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025**



For Drive it Day 2025, the MGCC SE Centre is arranging an informal drive from Godstone to the Pashley Manor Tulip Festival.

The start will be from **Knights Garden Centre - Godstone Nags Hall**, Oxted Rd, Godstone RH9 8DB between 10.30 and 11.00 for signing-on. The run will comprise suggested villages to visit along the way using a driver selected route to the finish at **Pashley Manor Gardens**, Ticehurst, Near Wadhurst, East Sussex TN5 7HE. Parking will be in the public parking field at the Gardens entrance.

**Entrance to the Gardens is £16 per person** and tickets can be purchased at the entrance gate. The event does not have an entry fee, but is being arranged in support of the **FBHVC Drive it Day Charity Rally plates** can be purchased from: <https://www.driveitday.co.uk/>



In late April May Pashley Manor's spectacular Tulip Festival sees this garden carpeted with over 40,000 tulips, creating stunning scenes for visitors.

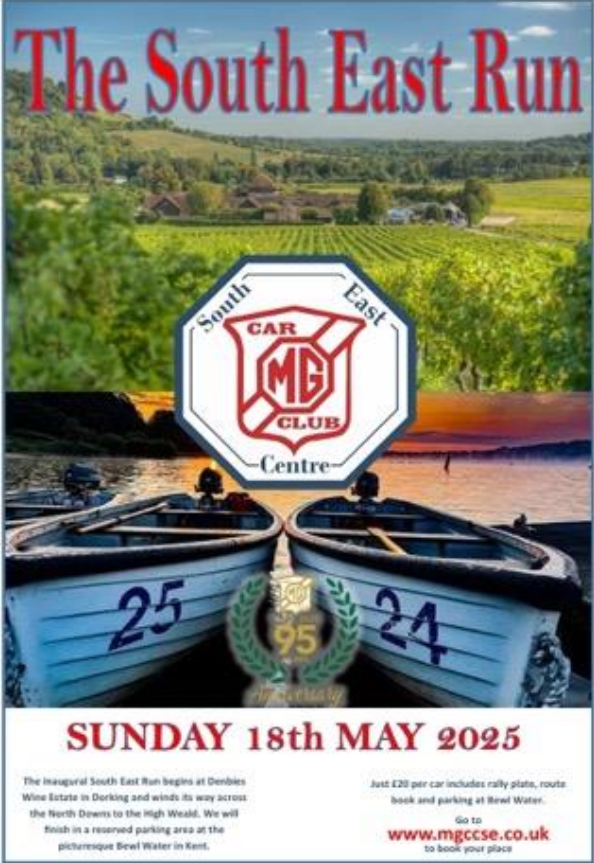
A hundred varieties of tulip are planted in colour themed garden 'rooms' throughout the grounds and in pot displays. Visitors can wander from elegant displays of white lily flowered and palest cream classic tulips planted around an old brick terrace, to the open space of sweeping herbaceous borders covered in a riot of reds and oranges surrounded by tendrils of bronze fennel, or romantic soft pink peony flowered blooms cloistered between red brick walls and pleached pear trees. Follow the winding paths down to the woodland, where the Bluebell Walk is often in flower around the same time as the tulips.

Yet more tulips are on display as cut flowers in the Bloms Bulbs marquee. Bloms, winners of seventy Chelsea Gold Medals, are on hand throughout the Festival to share their knowledge of these beautiful bulbs and to take orders from those inspired by the spectacle.


With a **café serving locally sourced and homemade cakes, scones and light lunches**, which can be enjoyed on the terrace, a shop with gorgeous gifts, souvenirs and plants, and exhibitions of garden sculpture and floral art, Pashley's Tulip Festival makes a superb day out.



Please confirm participation by contacting:  
**John Morgan on 07802 770025**  
[johnv.morgan@btinternet.com](mailto:johnv.morgan@btinternet.com)  
 confirming your name, email, phone number and car by Thursday 24 April.  
 Pashley Manor have requested indication of participation numbers before the day.



**The South East Run**



**SUNDAY 18th MAY 2025**

The Inaugural South East Run begins at Denbies Wine Estate in Dorking and winds its way across the North Downs to the high Weald. We will finish in a reserved parking area at the picturesque Beul Water in Kent.

Just £20 per car includes rally plate, route book and parking at Beul Water.

Go to [www.mgccse.co.uk](http://www.mgccse.co.uk) to book your place

Hopefully you should all have THE 2025 GUIDE below via Safety Fast, it contains all the information on contacts, natters wanderers and importantly, most of the main events this year. It is available on the website as a download too.



**95 YEARS Anniversary**



**2025 GUIDE**

EVENTS / NATTERS / WANDERERS

Join the MG Car Club online at [www.mgcc.co.uk](http://www.mgcc.co.uk)

The details of the major South East events can be found on the website. Application and payments can be made online as well to make it easier for you and for the administration of the event.

The Inaugural South East run should be a great day on the 18<sup>th</sup> May and will be the first of an annual series of day runs for the Centre. Please join in and make it a success.

The FBHVC Drive it Day event to the Tulip Festival is a "DIY Route" event and there is no problem with meeting directly at Pashley Manor, just let John Morgan know.



**Cars at the Castle**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June**

This is a great gathering of all classic cars and very enjoyable! Ed.

# Events Continued



## Newdigate Evening Autotest - Taster Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025



The MGCC SE Centre is continuing to encourage Motorsport in the region by organising an Evening Autotest on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025. Motorsport UK has introduced an Evening Autotest category with reduced permit fees.

For many years, Autotesting was a regular feature of the MGCC SE Centre programme and there was even a Championship through the year.

The event will be held in a level grass field close to Newdigate. The driving tests will be kept simple and mainly forward only.

Arrangements will include two tests running concurrently with entrants having three runs with best two times counting. The test layouts will then be changed to allow two further tests to be run.



Scrutineering commences at 6.30pm with the driving tests commencing at 7.00pm continuing through to 9.00pm or dusk. The event is weather dependent and may be subject to cancellation in the event of inclement weather or soft ground in the field. Passengers are not allowed, unless entering as junior aged 14 to 17 without a driving licence. Entrants may enter in non-MGs

The evening will finish with the rosettes being awarded in a local hostelry which may possibly be the Dorking Brewery Taproom.

**This event is intended for anyone that enjoys driving their car whether experienced or a complete novice at Autotesting.**

**Do enter and have ago!**

**Entry Fee £12.00 for Car and Driver**

This event will be a great for enjoying your MG - Reserve your entry by confirming your name, email, phone number and car, either by registering your interest on the SE Centre website or by contacting:

John Morgan on 07802 770025 or email [competitions@mgccse.co.uk](mailto:competitions@mgccse.co.uk)

Event participation is only confirmed once the follow up entry form is completed and payment has been received by MGCCSE, as per details in the entry form and in the Supplementary Regulations.



## Summer BBQ and Pride of Ownership Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2025



Following the highly successful Summer BBQ and Pride of Ownership last year, the event is being held again this coming July. This event ran for many years as the Rookcross Concours and BBQ and latterly under the Woodcroft name.

The event this year is again being held at the delightful country Kentish Horse Pub at Markbeech, Kent.

The venue is located just south of Edenbridge and with easy access from Tunbridge Wells, East Grinstead and South London. The pub has a large car park and event field. There will be a marquee, just in case of inclement weather.

The pub will be providing the BBQ in the event field, offering a menu choice.

The event entry fee will include the BBQ salads, potato, bread roll and one portion of meat as well as Pride of Ownership participation. Additional meats can be ordered on the day from the multiple choice menu.



The event opens at Midday and the BBQ will be served from 1.00pm. The Pride of Ownership will be self judged commencing at 2.00pm. Classes will be Premier Pride of Ownership for recent past winners and Pride of Ownership split into a minimum of three classes, namely pre 1956, 1956 thought to 1990 and post 1990 to date. There will also be a Car of Show. Rosette awards will be given out at 4.00pm, with keepsake awards being presented at the MGCC SE Centre Annual Lunch and Awards. **Please bring your own picnic chairs and tables.** Event includes carbon offsetting.

**Entry Fee, BBQ and Pride of Ownership just £21.50 for Car and Driver and £17.50 per passenger**

This event will be a great Summer Social - Reserve your entry by confirming your name, email, phone number and car, either by registering your interest on the SE Centre website or by contacting:

John Morgan on 07802 770025 [johnv.morgan@btinternet.com](mailto:johnv.morgan@btinternet.com)

Event participation is only confirmed once the follow up entry form is completed and payment has been received by MGCCSE, as per details in the entry form.

Ticket costs include provision of the marquee

The Evening Autotest is a new event for 2025 and looks like great fun with your MG. If you would like to do something a bit more competitive with your MG then this is for you. Don't forget there are trophies on offer as well!

The Summer BBQ and PoO is a revival of an event held in the past and this year it will recognise David Griffiths, the former leader of the Sussex Wanderers, who sadly passed away. The Rookcross and Black Horse trophies once used by the Wanderers group will be awarded at this event in his honour.

**Below is the event schedule for April with May and June on the next page. This takes us to the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch train trip on the 29<sup>th</sup> June – details on that coming soon. Following the calendar is the Car Club event of the Year at Croft Circuit. Worth the trip !!**

Sat 12th	University Motors Reunion	The Fairmile, Cobham, Surrey	Fairmile Natter	<a href="#">email</a>
Sat 19th	Brooklands Easter Gathering	Brooklands Museum, Surrey	Museum with MGF & T-Type Registers	<a href="#">email</a>
Sun 27th	Drive it Day	Pashley Manor, Kent Meet up or start at Denbies	North Surrey Natter	<a href="#">email</a>

# Events Continued

## May Events

Sun 5th	SDMC Autosolo	TBA	Sevenoaks District Motor Club (MGCCSE Invite)	<a href="#">email</a>
Sun 18th	The South East Run	Starting at Denbies Wine Estate and finishing at Bewl Water	MGCCS 95th Anniversary MGCC Main Event	<a href="#">Details</a>
Mon 19th	The MG Y-Type with Mick Breare	Fox & Hounds, Walton on the Hill	North Surrey Natter	<a href="#">email</a>
Wed 21st	MGCCSE Evening Autotest	Newdigate	MGCCSE	<a href="#">email</a>
Sun 26th	Brooklands Best of British	Brooklands Museum	Museum event with MGCCSE stand	<a href="#">email</a>

## June Events

Thu 12th	Crossthwaite & Gardiner Visit	Crossthwaite & Gardiner	North Surrey Natter	<a href="#">email</a>
14 / 15th	Brooklands Festival	Brooklands Museum	Museum Event	
Sun 15th	Cars at the Castle	Hever Castle, Kent	Hever event with MGCCSE parking	<a href="#">email</a>
Mon 16th	Alternative PoO 1	Fox & Hounds, Walton the Hill	MGCCSE first of three rounds – (evening event)	<a href="#">email</a>
Sat 21st	Alternative PoO 2	The Surrey Oak, Newdigate	MGCCSE Second of three rounds (lunchtime event)	<a href="#">email</a>
Sat 21st	MGF Mini Golf Challenge	TBC	SE MGF Register	<a href="#">email</a>
Thu 25th	Goldie Gardner – a talk by John Mayhead	Brooklands Museum	Brooklands Members (MGCCSE invite)	<a href="#">email</a>
Sun 29th	Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway	RHDR, New Romney station	MGCCSE	<a href="#">email</a>
Mon 30th	Natter BBQ	Old Walcountians Rugby Club	North Surrey Natter	<a href="#">email</a>

# The Main MG Car Club Event – MG Fest North



*MG Car Club are coming to the North*

**MG Car Club announce - MG Fest North 6-7th September  
Croft Circuit - Darlington**

***Celebrating MG Car Club's 95th Anniversary***

**A FUN FILLED FESTIVAL WEEKEND**

**Arena entertainment, trade stands and circuit racing**

**Enjoying friends old and new**

**Eating, drinking and enjoying music**



*An MG Car Club event for all MGs*



**This weekend Festival will feature displays, trade stands and motorsport action**

**Full weekend race programme provided  
by British Racing and Sports Car Club including MGs**

**Main Arena attractions • Anniversary cars celebrations • Arena Compere**

**Pride of Ownership • Show and Shine • Road Runs • Carkhana**

**Parade Laps • MG Register parking • MG Car Club shop**

**Classic buses into Northallerton • Music entertainment**

**Live band (Sat night Ticket entry) and DJ**

**Bar • Food • Trade stands • Auto Jumble**

**more to be confirmed!**



**No camping on site - but there are lots of local campsites and hotels around the area**

**Tickets and further information available via the website.**

**For more information - [office@mgcc.co.uk](mailto:office@mgcc.co.uk)**

**(Subject to change)**



**Croft Circuit, West Lane, Dalton On Tees, North Yorkshire DL2 2PL**



There is much to celebrate as the MGF reaches middle age – 30 years of Fs on the road is a significant milestone this year and the South East played a role at its launch way back in 1995.

There were two things associated with the launch in 1995 that took place on our patch. Firstly, a press road run that started at Ghyll Manor (the former CSMA hotel in Rusper) and wound its way across the South Downs to finish at Goodwood motor circuit. This gave dealers and press in the south the chance to sample the delights of the new sports car in action.

Secondly the southern dealer launch took place at Brooklands Museum. Once again press and dealers were invited to see the car revealed in the Bluebird café.



The MGF register displayed at Brooklands MG Day in 1997

The South East MGF Register have been staunch supporters of Brooklands from the early days as can be seen in this 1997 picture of an MG Day with one of the very first register stands.

The third and fourth “birthday Parties” of the MGF were both held at Brooklands, although organised independently by members of the MG Enthusiasts internet forum. Most of those early members transformed into the South East region of the MG Car Club’s Register and continued to organise the Register’s presence at Brooklands events. This tradition continues with MGF Register parking at several Brooklands events throughout the year.

**5th July 2025**  
Walton Hall Hotel

**6th July 2025**  
British Motor Museum

**SATURDAY—SOCIAL DAY**  
Walton Hall Hotel  
30th Anniversary Road Run  
Glo Car Competition

**SUNDAY—SHOW DAY**  
British Motor Museum, Gaydon  
Special Display cars  
Museum Exhibits - including new MGF related features  
Film Show | Longbridge Panel | Guests  
Spectra Disco | Live Music  
Trade Stalls | Craft Village

Tickets for MGF30 at the British Motor Museum are available from the Museum website  
<https://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk/whats-on/mgf-30th>

A limited number of priority parking rally plates are available from the MGF Register Shop. Road Run booking also available.  
<https://www.mgcmgregister.org/shop/>

The main “parties” since then have mostly been held at Gaydon, home of the British Motor Museum with two exceptions – a wet West Midlands Airport in 2000 and Billing Aquadrome in 2007.

The Register will be back at Gaydon with MGF30 on July 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> with featured celebratory road runs and Glo Cars on Saturday and a full MGF/TF show at the Museum on Sunday featuring talks, displays, crafts, traders, music and all the things you may have come to expect from a large scale MGF event.

Tickets are available now from the British Motor Museum website but rooms at Walton Hall Hotel on Saturday night have sold out.

It’s not just MGF/TFs as all MGs are welcome at the show – to book click here:-

<https://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk/whats-on/mgf-30th>

More about MGF30 here:-

<https://www.mgcmgregister.org/mgf-30/>

New College, Oxford has commissioned the sculptor Paul Day to create an artwork to celebrate the college's role as the birthplace of MG. The sculpture will be cast in bronze and sited in the courtyard behind the Longwall Street garage where Morris & Kimber officially registered the MG trademark in May 1924. The buildings are no part of New College and used for undergraduate accommodation, but several features remain including the garage's double doors (seen below with a new Cyberster).



The sculptor is known for his Battle of Britain Monument and The Meeting Place at St Pancras Station, but he also has an MG link.

Paul says *"Some of my fondest, most vivid memories are of my father driving the numerous MG sports cars he either owned himself or which belonged to the famous company with which he was associated, namely University Motors, which was a very well-known MG dealership including a branch in the heart of Mayfair. I grew up around the magic of MG sports cars and this commission is the ideal opportunity for me to reconnect with many happy memories and powerful emotions"*

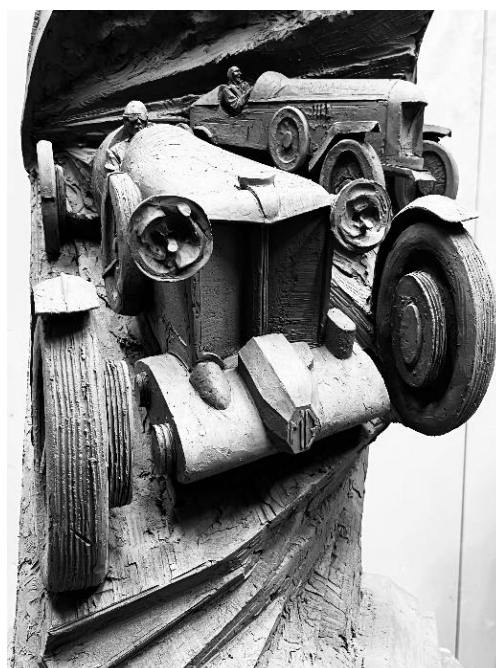
This has some synchronicity with the Centre's University Motors reunion held at The Fairmile Natter on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

The sculpture is now progressing from the clay model seen in the picture and is expected to be unveiled in the Summer of 2026. The smaller versions are available for purchase soon – they are in a limited run of just 50.

Any interest can be emailed to [mark.curtis@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:mark.curtis@new.ox.ac.uk).



Paul Day with the clay model and two of the smaller versions



Detail from the clay

MG is doing well marketwise in the UK breaching the top ten manufacturers list for the first time with UK sale of 81,536 in 2024. The total market share was 4.18% with 27.1% being EVs, so well past the ZEV mandate. The MG4 was the 4<sup>th</sup> best-selling EV (2<sup>nd</sup> amongst private buyers) and the HS came in at number 8 in the top ten models list with over 30k sold. MG introduced the MG3 Hybrid+, ZS Hybrid+, MG Cyberster, New HS Petrol and Plug-in Hybrid in 2024 and more new models are planned for this year, the MG S5 has already been announced for Spring delivery. Year to date figures show the HS the 7<sup>th</sup> best-selling car and the ZS Hybrid at number 9. Probably the first time MG have had two cars in the top ten! MG are introducing petrol only versions of the MG3 and the ZS Hybrid plus to the UK, as they reflect demand with 49% of people still buying petrol only cars.

## Utes Down Under

In the last newsletter we looked at some of the Worldwide offerings from MG and they were a pretty mixed bag indeed from tiny electric city cars to large pick up trucks. So, now we hear that the Australian/New Zealand market is getting one of those pick-ups or “Utes” as they call them.



It was recognised that MG would never break into the antipodean Top 5 without one in their range. With the MG Maxus 9 pick up already in India you might have thought that the obvious choice but no.... or is it? The Oz Ute will be the MG P9/U9 or rather a re-badged and slightly modified LDV Terran 9. LDV now being part of the SAIC conglomerate of course. Just to confuse things further the LDV T60 is already on sale in South East Asia badged as the MG Extender! Basically they all pretty much the same! Will one come to the UK? Unlikely although the SAIC Maxus 9 is already on sale in this country (with MG nuts!)

At the least it means that there will be an MG Ute down under where these are big sellers and vital for MG to break into the top of the charts. It will remain with the Terran 9's 2.5 litre turbo-diesel for the time being and it will run alongside a more powerful dual-motor all-electric version later (badged as the e-Terran 9 in SE Asia).



MG India continues to bring out new MG models with their partnership with JSW , known as the tongue tripping “JSW MG Motor India Pvt.Ltd” company. The latest product is the MG Majestor – a large D segment SUV boasting to be the “longest, tallest and widest” in its class. It is based on the good old Maxus D90 Max and is bigger than the current MG Gloster model.

It is likely to be a conventional power source of a 2.0litre diesel engine with 8 speed auto box. A new version of the MG Comet (the Blackstorm) is also becoming available featuring a “starry” black exterior and black interior with red “Blackstorm” word embroidered in red on the seats. An opportunity to beef up the not too exciting Comet EV. It is interesting to note that these Indian MGs seem to be using versions of somewhat obscure British aircraft names – The Miles Majestor, De Haviland Comet, Vickers Windsor and Gloster Aircraft Company (MG Majestor, MG Comet, MG Windsor, MG Gloster)

The Cyberster is being seen on the UK roads, and we were delighted to welcome Alan Dolby with his Cyberster to the Brooklands New Year's Day meet where he joined the MGFs and it didn't look out of place at all – albeit slightly larger than the MGF/TFs next to it! One thing though, it did draw an awful lot of attention from those at the event.



## A New MG4EV?

A new MG4EV has been revealed in China. However, this will not be a replacement for “our” MG4 in the UK. The car is more like a larger MG3 in style and is also larger than the current UK MG4. The styling seems to be a little more conservative and the battery pack in the initial statement is entry level only. It does seem to be a car designed for China where they like large vehicles and smaller ones like the current MG4 are not selling well for them. It is reported they only sold 13 MG4s in China in February! This may be why a new version has suddenly appeared.

## Charging and Statistics

Latest charging stats are also in with an extra 20,000 being installed last year – that's 1650 new chargers per month leading to just under 74,000 public charge points in the UK. More will follow this year along similar lines putting paid to one of the anti-ev sentiments concerning infrastructure. With MG continuing the MG4, Cyberster and a new MG S5 and the new HS PHEV that is important for modern MG drivers.

We have seen that MG have exceeded the ZEV mandate for 2024 in the UK so are safe from any “fines” although I hear that these may be waived in any case. 27.1% is a good figure but that has to raise to over 28% in 2025. With the rise in numbers of EVs sold that should be achievable for MG as the MG4 in particular sits at an appropriate number 4 in the EV charts.

The projection overall is that 440,000 EVs will be sold this year in the UK, or 24% of all new cars, which will not meet the 28% target. Many companies don't have enough EVs in their range so may have difficulty in achieving that and it seems regressive for MG to produce another petrol model as we have seen already.

The beginning of the year showed a decline of 11% but March bucked that with an overall increase of 12.4% including an all time record for EV sales with nearly 70,000 registered – that's a 43.4% increase on last year. However that is still around 20% of new cars sold and about half are electrified in some way. In a couple of months if trends continue the majority of new cars sold will be electrified in some way.

The rise in March may be due to the new tax coming in of £195 a year on EVs and cars being registered and taxed prior to that so we will see how it progresses in April and May. With the government softening the ZEV mandate and lessening the “fines” on cars sold by companies not reaching the 28% may give manufacturers some more room to manoeuvre plus extending the “life” of Hybrids to 2035. It is interesting to note that McLaren and Aston Martin have been given an exemption on the 2030 target for conventional fuelled cars beyond that date.

## MG S5 is Here!

MG have announced the arrival of the MG S5 (already in China as the ES5) replacement for the ZS for Spring 2025 delivery and a new MG4 estate is rumoured later in the year as a replacement for the MG5. The S5 comes in three guises- The SE standard, SE Long Range and Trophy Long Range.

An all-new brighter interior and extra features such as a self-opening boot and actual physical buttons. So the problem of scrolling through various menus on the move should be solved.



The ability to remember custom settings also appears for the first time so no more fiddling about on the screen at the start either. It is built on the same modular platform as the MG4 and Cyberster and there are other cues from the Cyberster in its styling. 49kwh and 64kwh are available giving up to 298 miles range. Performance is spritely as you might expect from an MG with 0-60mph in 6.2secs.

## Solid State Batteries

The exciting development on the horizon are solid State batteries with the possibility of one appearing at the end of the year in the form of the IM L6 , a large executive saloon. Whether SAIC will badge this as an MG or keep the IM badge is yet to be seen – it is already on sale in some eastern markets. Most other manufacturers are probably a further year or two away with their SS batteries. A new MG executive saloon would seem to fill a gap in the MG range in the UK.

---

---

# Charity 2025

---

---

Tim Morris



Make a donation on our Just Giving Page here:-

[MGCCSE JUST GIVING](#)

Find more about the Royal Marsden here:-

<https://www.royalmarsden.org/>

The Centre's charity for the year is chosen by the committee who vote on suggestions put forward from members/natters. This year the winner of that vote was announced at the Annual General Meeting and as a result we will be supporting the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

The Royal Marsden are a centre for excellence in cancer treatment and the charity raises money to help improve the lives of people affected by cancer. They do this with your help in making donations to ensure that the hospital's world-leading doctors, nurses and research teams can provide the very best care and develop life-saving treatments which are used in the UK and across the World.

You can make voluntary donations when booking for Centre events throughout the year and there will be a collection tin at most of our main events this year. Natters will also be helping out and we are delighted that over £150 has already been raised from the AGM and a talk by the Chairman at the Fairmile Natter.

The MGCCSE Spring Naviscat was a high-scoring event open to all comers and all abilities in any type of car!

A total of 18 cars, ranging from a 1933 Riley Lynx to a very modern Tesla, signed-in at the Coblands Garden Centre Café just West of Sevenoaks. The café staff had prepared well for the event with warm drinks and hot food and after a short safety briefing, the question sheets were handed out to the 36 contestants on the stroke of 11.0am. (The management at Coblands were most helpful and even showed us a large, flat unused area which they would be happy for our club to use for any future club event).



Most drivers and navigators, very sensibly, spent a good half-hour studying and marking-up their maps to sort out their own chosen route to the finish with an aim of gaining as many points as they were able to en-route. The clue sheet provided a lot of choice from 1-point answers which, like many Treasure Hunts, can be worked out without leaving your car; 2-point answers which required a small search but were always situated close to a convenient parking area; and the dreaded 3-point answers which meant that you wasted time parking and searching for very well-hidden or tiny items!

*Chris Leigh(Left) explaining the event at Coblands*

In Motorsport UK terms it was also a “Taster Day”, which meant that the event was open to all-comers and not just MGCC members, from the very experienced to the complete novice. Help could also be provided whenever it was needed. It should be noted that MGCCSE has a long-established link with The Inter-Register Club which sports a wide variety of older car types including MGs. We are pleased to say that our link with the Association of South East Motor Clubs, which actively promotes sporting links between different clubs in the area, has meant an increase in members entering from other member clubs taking part. We are pleased to note that four of our very busy Committee members also took part.



## ...more Clue-Busting

Answer Sheets were collated after arrival at the finish line, which was in the garden of The Wheatsheaf at Bough Beech, with only one car losing penalty points for late arrival. Awards, in the shape of rosettes were handed out by our Chairman, Tim Morris, after a Sunday Lunch in the upstairs dining room of a pub which was suitably decorated with old car racing paintings! The Wheatsheaf was a great choice of venue with plenty of car parking and a very helpful staff!



*Relaxing over lunch upstairs at The Wheatsheaf*



The scores achieved were of a record high standard but our congratulations for the top three highest scorers in this Naviscat must go to Steve & Rowan Thompson of The Blackpalfrey Car Club (with their 2012 Alfa Romeo Giulietta), Andrew Mortimer & Hannah Warren of The Inter-Register Club (with their 1933 Riley Lynx) and to Neil & Andrew Ayling of the East Surrey MGOC (with their 2022 Hyundai 120)!

Not every MGCC member was driving an MG for the event but you will be pleased to hear that six various types of MG did take part, with many of the earlier MGs winning the IRC team prize.

In addition, the Best Novice Award on this occasion was taken by Alex & Toby Galbraith of the Sevenoaks & District Motor Club in their 1991 Mazda MX-5.

Full details of the MGCCSE Autumn Naviscat 2025 are not yet available but we certainly plan to take part in it ourselves!

Chris & Janice Leigh



*Clues and answers – so you can see where you went wrong!*







---

***“THE CAFÉ STAFF HAD PREPARED WELL FOR THE  
EVENT WITH WARM DRINKS AND HOT FOOD”***

---

# Spring Naviscat Results

## MGCCSE SPRING NAVISCAT 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 - RESULTS

Overall position	score	names	Car	Class	Class win	IRC win	club
<b>1</b>	40	Steve and Rowan Thompson 	Alfa Romeo	E	Overall Winner		Blackpalfrey
<b>2</b>	39	Andrew Mortimer & Hannah Warren 	Riley Lynx	A	1 <sup>st</sup> in class A	Overall	IRC
<b>3</b>	39	Neil & Andrew Ayling	Hyundai 120	E	2 <sup>nd</sup> in class E		ESMGO C
<b>4</b>	37	Gary & Steve Goodwin	MG Midget	C (now A)	1 <sup>st</sup> MG		MGCC
<b>5</b>	36	Toby & Alex Galbraith	Mazda MX-5	E	Best Novice		Sevenoaks D
<b>6</b>	35	Richard & Emilia Keil	Jowett 8HP	A	2 <sup>nd</sup> in class A		IRC
<b>7</b>	34	Joss Martin & Ulf Gleby	Riley RM Drophead	A			IRC
<b>8</b>	26	Richard & Chris Patten 	MG Magnette	A		Group Prize	MGCC
<b>9</b>	26	Andrea & Si Kellow	MG ZR	D (now A)			M+MK
<b>10</b>	25	Philip & Rosemary Bayne-Powell 	MG NA	A		Group Prize	IRC + MGCC
<b>11</b>	24	Liz & Tim Morris	Nissan Juke	E	3 <sup>rd</sup> in Class E		MGCC
<b>12</b>	24	Martin & Lesley Neal 	MG TA	A		Group Prize	IRC + MGCC
<b>13</b>	22	Keith & Elaine Lawford	BMW Z4	E			IND
<b>14</b>	20	Lis Woolley & Bob Bond	Honda CV	E			MGCC
<b>15</b>	19	Niamh Howatson & Matthew Meredith	Nissan Micra	E			M+MK
<b>16</b>	19	Nick & Margaret Skew	Tesla 3	E			IND
<b>17</b>	17	Austin Banner & John Morgan	Jaguar	E			MGCC
<b>18</b>	11	Angus & Hilary Farquhar 	MG TA	A		Group Prize	IRC

Awards:  Overall Winner  IRC Overall Winner  IRC Group Prize

1. Single cars in Class C and D have been amalgamated into Class A
2. Class prizes and the Novice Award are shown in blue
3. IRC (pre 1963) prizes marked in green





*"HE WAS FLYING ROUND THE TRACK"*



Excellent weather helped make the Brands event of Equipe racing enjoyable to watch.

Some great MGs on the Sunday including 2 MMM races competing against single seater Austins! Don't ask who won both!!

Peter Bramble (pictured left) in his MGB was third overall in the Equipe MG Cup chasing two MGZR190s. He was flying round the track and came First in class as well. He told me that it helped having no windscreen for less resistance! ED.

*Lots of track action all day*



*The Beer K3 making a rare appearance on track.*

Two competitive events have now been run in the SE Centre, with the Spring Naviscat in late March and Filching Manor AutoSOLO on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

The Naviscat had a full entry with 7 MGCC teams competing out of an entry of 18 cars drawn from Inter Clubs Register and other motoring clubs from the SE – see report elsewhere in Spark.

This was followed in April by our third AutoSOLO. Twelve MGs entered with eleven actually competing on the day out of a total entry of 40 cars. Without support from SE clubs such as Sevenoaks and District Motor Club, we wouldn't be able to run events such as this, but the partnership allows the MGCC SE Centre to run prestigious type of events such as this. It also opens other club's events to MGCC members.

The weather was fantastic with sunshine and clear skies all day albeit with a blustery cold wind. There are some excellent videos on social media including Ruurd Ottens from SDMC driving the course to achieve FTD. To illustrate the view of other club members, who regularly compete in AutoSOLO Championships, one SDMC member posted this on Facebook:

*'What an absolutely epic fun day we just had at Filching Manor with the SE MG Car Club. This is right up there with Brands for Autosolo fun, the old kart track is tight, twisty, technical and with the topography built into a steep hill it's really good fun. We should really hold our own event here sometime. There is an on-site museum here too containing Bluebird, as an added bonus'.*

SDMC has now offered to add an MG class within their historic category in their AutoSOLO at Brands Hatch on 5<sup>th</sup> July. SDMC also have an AutoSOLO at Brands Hatch on 5<sup>th</sup> May if any members would like to enter or spectate.



John Morgan explaining the rules of the Autosolo with Jenny and Paul from Sevenoaks club.



MGs ready for action at Filching!

# Filching Manor Autosolo - Results

Here are the results of of the MGs entered in the Autosolo

B. 1955 to 1980 MG and Historic carsB	33	David Smith	1 Beginner 0-3 events	MG Car Club	MGCCSE event	MGB	1860	45.2 52.3 45.6 TOT=90.8	57.5 54.9 56.6 TOT=110.5	55.4 53.7 52.7 TOT=106.4	307.7	2	28	2nd in Class
B. 1955 to 1980 MG and Historic carsB	30	Andy Everest	2 intermediate	MGCC	MGCCSE event	MGB Roadster	1800	47.4 42.3 45.5 TOT=87.8	58.1 56.8 55.4 TOT=112.2	55.4+1Cone 54.9 55.3 TOT=110.2	310.2	3	29	3rd in Class
B. 1955 to 1980 MG and Historic carsB	32	Jonathan Hall	2 intermediate	MG Car Club	MGCCSE event	MGA Twin Cam	1588	48.0 46.0 46.0 TOT=92	59.6 58.3 58.3 TOT=118.6	55.7 55.2 54.2 TOT=109.4	318.0	4	30	
B. 1955 to 1980 MG and Historic carsB	31	William Ople	1 Beginner 0-3 events	MG CC	MGCCSE event	MGA TWIN CAM	1588	47.9 44.6 46.4 TOT=91	60.8 59.4 57.9 TOT=117.3	56.0 55.5 55.2 TOT=110.7	319.0	5	31	
B. 1955 to 1980 MG and Historic carsB	27	Chris Matthews	1 Beginner 0-3 events	MGCC	MGCCSE event	MGC roadster	2912	50.6 45.6 45.3 TOT=93.9	63.6 60.3 58.3 TOT=118.6	57.9 55.2 54.6 TOT=109.8	322.3	6	33	
B. 1955 to 1980 MG and Historic carsB	38	Stephen Thompson	1 Beginner 0-3 events	Sevenoaks & District Motor Club	MGCCSE event	Alfa Romeo GTam	2000cc	51.3 52.7 48.6 TOT=99.9	65.1 62.8 61.0 TOT=123.8	58.8 58.4 59.3 TOT=117.2	340.9	7	37	
B. 1955 to 1980 MG and Historic carsB	28	Francesca Smith	1 Beginner 0-3 events	MG Car Club	MGCCSE event	MGB	1860	70.5 56.2 56.0 TOT=112.2	72.1 64.4 63.2 TOT=127.6	62.5 64.0 59.5 TOT=122	361.8	8	39	
B. 1955 to 1980 MG and Historic carsB	29	Rod Steveson	1 Beginner 0-3 events	MGCC	MGCCSE event	MGB GT	1800	WT=141.5 54.3 WT=138.8 TOT=193.1	82.4 67.1 62.4 TOT=140.2	66.0 63.1 62.4 TOT=125.5	458.8	9	40	
C. Post 1981 MGC	26	Ian Cleghorn	1 Beginner 0-3 events	MGCC	MGCCSE event	MGF	1800	WT=145.7 52.5 48.9 TOT=101.4	63.7 62.2 60.9 TOT=123.1	59.7 57.9 54.7 TOT=112.6	337.1	2	36	2nd in Class
C. Post 1981 MGC	25	Lis Woolley	1 Beginner 0-3 events	MGCC SE	MGCCSE event	MG TF	1800	52.2 50.0 49.4 TOT=99.4	WT=154.4 65.4 59.6 TOT=125	60.2 58.4 58.3+1Cone TOT=118.6	343.0	3	38	
D. Production Saloons/Hatchbacks/Estates/4 seat Coupes/Convertibles up to 1400cc	23	Stephen Mitchell	2 intermediate	MGCCSE	MGCCSE event	Suzuki Swift	1249	46.1+1Cone 42.2 44.0 TOT=86.2	60.8 54.6 53.4 TOT=108	53.2+1Cone 51.5+1Cone 51.6 TOT=108.1	302.3	6	26	



Andy Everest on track in his MGB roadster came 2<sup>nd</sup> photo

Morgan Willard @A.M Photography



David Smith and his daughter Francesca both ready for action



Jonathan Hall negotiating the cones in his MGA TC



Chris Matthews in his MGC

Photo Morgan Willard @A M Photography.

# Filching Manor Autosolo – a bit more!

The fastest MG was the MGB driven by David Smith who clinched it by 2.5secs after a close competition with Andy Everest. MGCC member Steve Mitchell was slightly quicker than Dave in the Suzuki, his MG Midget was a non-runner. Several members were competing for the first time including Chris and Cathy Matthews, Ian Cleghorn and Dave Smith's daughter Francesca who enjoyed it so much she now wants her own MG to compete with.

Forthcoming competitive events include:

- **An evening Autotest on grass on 21<sup>st</sup> May between Newdigate and Capel in Surrey. The event will last two hours starting at 7.00pm and finishing with refreshments at the Dorking Brewery Tap Room.**
- **Summer Pride of Ownership & BBQ at The Kentish Horse pub, Mark Beech on the 19<sup>th</sup> July.**

More information on the SE Centre website or contact John Morgan [competitions@MGCCSE.co.uk](mailto:competitions@MGCCSE.co.uk) or 078022770025



*Lis Wooley finishes a round and timekeepers make a note*



*Overall MG winner Dave Smith in his MGB*



*At ease in the holding area prior to heading out on track*

---

**“DAVID SMITH CLINCHED IT BY 2.5secs  
AFTER A CLOSE COMPETITION WITH ANDY  
EVEREST”**

---

*Queuing up for the last run of the day below.*



## FAIRMILE RACE CHALLENGE

The Fairmile broke with tradition by deferring our New Year Meal to later in the year and better weather. Instead, we bought a second-hand Scalextric on eBay, fixed it up and held a racing night. 13 members attended and knockout rounds were organised with the first-round losers going into a second tier so that everyone got at least two races. Members were invited to bring their own cars to race subject to FIA rules applying! The ultimate winner was Sarah Teuten (whose great uncle was Guy Robins who holds the record for the fastest lap at Brooklands in an MG - an F type. He was also a joint founder of HRG cars). Daniel her husband came second. That they ended up in the final was pure co-incidence.

One race was a dead heat between Ian Ailes and Steve Arthur and was re-run. Following that race, cameras were on hand for photo finishes! The challenge is now out to nearby natters to take us on. Possibly a little childish, but it was a fun night to chase the cobwebs of 2024 away.



The UNIVERISTY MOTORS  
Reunion is on 12<sup>th</sup> April

Following a quiet February meeting, which was a chance for our regulars to catch up with their MG tales, MGCC regional chairman Tim Morris gave an illustrated talk in March on the record-breaking Campbell Family. "C is for Courage" told the story of Sir Malcolm Campbell, his son, Donald Campbell, Donald's daughter Gina Campbell and his nephew Don Wales. All have broken records on land and on water and the story was of pushing the limits, daring and immense courage. An excellent talk with some iconic Movietone footage of both Malcolm and Donald – a chance for Jon Glover to practice his 1930s elocution away from the Archers!

21 attended including 4 ladies. We ask for donations of £5 per person when we have a speaker to defray our costs with the surplus going to our nominated charity. As a result, we collected £80 for the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity which is based in Kensington and Sutton just a few miles from us.

Future meetings include a film show on 10th April - Inside the Octagon 2 – not often seen – and the University Motors Reunion on 12th. The T Register will be at Brooklands Easter Gathering on 19th. We hope to run a workshop morning in late April/early May with the intention of changing our brake fluid ready for the new **South East Run** on 18th May across the Downs from Dorking to Bewl water



Malcolm & Donald Campbell with Blue Bird at home in Povey Cross



The Sussex Wanderers continue to flourish, with numbers appearing to grow almost monthly. Our first outing of the year was based at Adversane and attracted 55 folks for lunch after a sunny drive in the surrounding Sussex Countryside.

April sees us based at West Dean, The Selsey Arms, for coffee and lunch with 58 for lunch, after a 30-mile drive around South Harting, Midhurst and Singleton.

A great array of various MGs graced the car park, and roads around, a wonderful sight to behold.

My late husband, David Griffiths, would be so pleased to see the Sussex Wanderers continuing to enjoy the second Wednesday of the month meetings, exploring the beautiful county that is Sussex, with the Marque of Friendship very evident.

**The support for the club is a testament to him and his long association with all things MG.**



On 3rd April we had our usual first Wednesday in the month Luncheon. Our venue this month was The Star Inn, Waldron.

It's a great village pub and twenty of us were fed well. The weather also allowed for some great open top driving to get there!

After the luncheon, a number visited the early Medieval All Saints Church, conveniently situated opposite the pub! The bolder (and fitter) were also treated to a visit up to the Bell Tower.

Our next Luncheon will be at the Piltdown Man (TN22 3XL) on 7th May 2025. If you wish to join us and wish to dine, please let us know in advance.



---

**“THE BOLDER (AND FITTER) WERE ALSO TREATED  
TO A VISIT UP TO THE BELL TOWER”**

---





The Pinner Natter has so far enjoyed three Breakfast meetings this year in beautiful weather by the river Thames. The location was the Bells of Ouzeley Harvester just across the road from the river itself at Old Windsor. The meetings have been held in conjunction with the South East MGF Register folk who also meet just a few miles away on a regular basis. Due to the weather most of the MGs have been MGF/TFs but our last meet in April saw some older MGs venturing out in the sunshine again.



*The Winter meets have been mostly modern MGs – others came in “ordinary” cars!*

We'll be heading off to Denbies Wine Estate on the 18<sup>th</sup> May for our final breakfast meet where we will be waving away those MGCC members taking part in the Centre's new South East Run.

There has been a good turnout to the meetings despite the season and we are always happy to welcome any local MGCC Member along as well.

*Photos showing MG folk enjoying Gerry's Breakfast meets at Old Windsor!*



*Warmer weather in April brought out the older MGs from hibernation*



## THE HOLY WANDERER

Here, in the village of Herne, after many years of being ministered to by lady vicars I, for one, eagerly anticipated the arrival of our new male incumbent – particularly when I discovered that he was a Formula 1 enthusiast.

The Rev Chris Carnaby-Denyer, despite his slightly forbidding name, turned out to be young, friendly, enthusiastic and, above all, an MG owner! A Heaven-sent choice I thought.

It would be too much to expect that he would be a member of the MG Car Club as well and that matter is now a work in progress. When I told him about our monthly East Kent Wanderers excursions he wasn't just politely interested – but wildly enthusiastic to join us.

However, there was a problem. The EKW meets at a different venue for coffee from about 10:00 each first Wednesday prior to setting off at about 11:00 for our country lane “Wander” to the chosen pub for lunch. The problem being that Chris had newly instigated a midweek service in Church at 10:00 each Wednesday.

So, another bright idea bit the dust, I thought. But, no, he brought the time of the service forward by 45 minutes then changed all the newly printed notices just so he could meet his clerical responsibilities and leave sufficient time to join us for our wanders – keen or what?

He doesn't manage to join us every month because some people are thoughtless enough to pass away at the wrong moment and he, understandably, has important duties on those occasions. But, for the most part our gatherings are enhanced by another smiling face often accompanied by his equally cheerful Dad, Richard – a retired Police Sergeant.

I can think of no finer way to illustrate the character of our new Vicar than to add this image which he circulated when claiming to have landed his dream job – Chaplain to the F1 Drivers Association. However, it turned out that the date of that announcement was significant - April 1<sup>st</sup>!

So, what MG does he drive? It's an all-electric extended range MG4. Has he ever suffered acute range anxiety? Yes, but he prayed earnestly and a charging point appeared around the next bend. That's his story anyway.

---

**“OUR GATHERINGS ARE  
ENHANCED BY ANOTHER  
SMILING FACE OFTEN  
ACCOMPANIED BY HIS  
EQUALLY CHEERFUL DAD”**

---



The natter has continued to receive excellent support. The March meeting saw members gripping their seats with an excellent video of the 2024 Goodwood Revival that included some lovely close in racing as well as features on the event displays and parades.

There was an excellent day of motorsport at the Filching Manor AutoSOLO on 5<sup>th</sup> April, with some of our natter members entering for the first time including Chris and Cathy Matthews in their MGC and Ian Cleghorn in his MGF.

Coming up over the next couple of months:

- **Drive it Day to Pashley Manor for their Tulip Festival on 27<sup>th</sup> April** in aid of the FBHVC Childline Charity. See SE Centre website for information.
- **Evening Autotest** on grass near Newdigate/Capel on Wednesday Evening **21 May** followed by Natter at the **Dorking Brewery Taproom**.
- **MG parade** as part of the **Walton in the hill pageant on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2pm**. Huge parade through the village including May Queen.
- **Natter lunch and visit to Crosthwaite and Gardiner** near Uckfield 12<sup>th</sup> June. Specialist in Historic vehicle building/restoration.
- First round of Alternative Pride of **Ownership** at Fox & Hounds, Walton on the Hill, 16<sup>th</sup> June.



Our Natter continues with its monthly lunches, with the next trip to the Dover Museum followed by lunch.

The Five Bells (below) hosted our April Lunch in fine spring weather.

Sadly, over the winter we lost long term Members Michael Bishop, Paul Bernal-Ryan (who raced in many MGCC events) and a founder of the Wealden Weekend, Rob Stevens. Our condolences to their families.



## MG Mascots

Jon Glover

Here are a couple of snaps featuring our MGC 's mascot – Brendan 'O Bear.

We picked him up at The Downton Cuckoo Fayre – near Salisbury – a few years back, when we were on our Annual C Register Outing to The Downton Classic Motor Show, which coincides with the Fayre .

Brendan was on the first of the stalls that stretch the length of Downton High Street on Fayre Day.

He is obviously Irish as he sports a Shamrock and is green in colour! As all my MGCs have been, bar one, that same colour. He also celebrates my Irish ancestry on my Father's side – a proud Ulsterman.

Brendan is well-travelled - last year he even went to Luxembourg and back, keeping the car going without missing a beat.

He doesn't say much, if anything, just sits there quietly enjoying the ride and casting a quizzical eye over the gear changes.





The interior of the Airline is a very classy place to be, echoing the Art Deco feel of the car. You had to get something for the extra £68 pounds in 1935 so it had to be right!

Fortunately, we had some of the original leather and pieces of trim and carpets. The original dash was restored by long standing MG TC friend Martin Franklin (a retired cabinet maker) who made a wonderful job, even filling worm holes!

My sister-in-law rather usefully works for T Brown Interiors in Maidstone and Terry Brown and George, who have done many hoods and much leather work, were entrusted with the original remains to recreate the interior.

They did a fabulous job with superb attention to detail covering the ply sections I had made. However, on the first drive after 57 years to their workshop in the centre of Maidstone, the original coil packed up twice, the second time on the yellow zigzag outside a school!

By the end of 2021 I was able to test the chassis with just the bare body shell around the garden, which is always a highlight for any restoration project!

The usual 'be in touch soon' never materialised from a local paint shop so in Spring 2022 I decided to do it myself, which I did over the summer.

I promised myself never to do black again but in respect for its original colour I decided to go two tone Black/Rouge de Garance to accentuate the lines. The cellulose paintwork finally complete and cut back it was then onto the assembly of all the panels and the wiring plus lights.

I assembled the doors off the car with the newly chromed window frames and glass fitted. With visits of encouragement and help from Tom Metcalf and Neil Reynolds all was going in the right direction.



*How the dash and interior was originally!*



## Airline Part 3 - extra



Someone said driving it is like being in a swarm of bees in a biscuit tin, but once carpeted and trimmed it was OK (or my hearing is poor) and ready for running in. With 200 local miles, I was just in time to join the June 2024 Centenary run on the Kent to Fairmile and Brooklands event, which had been my target a year earlier.

The wonderful Summer Gathering was its next big outing, 100 miles each way and at this superb event other kind owners voted it the 4-cylinder winner.

---

***“DRIVING IT IS LIKE BEING IN A SWARM  
OF BEES IN A BISCUIT TIN”***

---



*A chance meeting led to some original colour slides above, here at Pensford Autocross 1964.*

*Left: Overhead view showing the Cathedral roof lights.*

# Obituary – Gareth Evans

In March the club was saddened to hear of the passing of Gareth Evans.

Gareth was a staunch supporter of the Centre in recent years and could often be found helping and marshalling at various club events, indeed he used to be a race marshal.

He was a regular at the North Surrey Natter and is the current holder of the Carrisma Cup – awarded for showing the true spirit of the club. He won this at our awards lunch in November and was delighted to hold the cup aloft. He showed grit and spirit in competing in the “MG Pull” event at MG100 when he fell, hurting his leg, but carried on regardless. He recovered from that mishap and carried on in his support for the club.

Gareth owned a yellow MGBGT and, more recently, an MGZT. His familiar face and spirit will be missed by the Centre.

Funeral details are not known as we go to press but keep an eye on our website and Facebook page.



*Gareth holding the Carrisma Cup high at the Awards Lunch in November*

## Teenager Challenge

Are you in possession of a teenager? We are looking for parents or grandparents who may have children/ grandchildren aged 14 – 17yrs.

This is a new Centre challenge designed to encourage young people to take part in club motorsport.

There are three challenges for a youngster to complete including where they can actually drive a car.

### **Challenge 1 - Driving.**

**Autosolo** – we hold one a year, and you have read about that already, but a youngster aged 14 and above can enter these with an adult accompanying.

**Autotest** – similar to the above, they can drive but need an adult with them – we have one on 21<sup>st</sup> May

### **Challenge 2 - Navigation**

**Naviscat** – this is on the public road so they can't drive! However, they can navigate using the OS map. The next Naviscat is in the Autumn.



### **Challenge 3 – MG Quiz**

A quiz about MG that can be completed at home.

### **Requirements**

The young person must be aged 14 – 17yrs and be covered either by a family membership or a Young Person membership to the MG Car Club. Must have use of a family car for the driving events and have permission of a parent or family member.

30

**To enter go to our website:- [TEENAGER CHALLENGE](#)**

# For Sale and Wanted

## WANTED

Wanted for 1953 TD Lucas Distributor D2A4 DA37 part no 40368A/B with 15 deg action plate part no 420670 and springs part no 420756 or 15 deg action plate on its own.

Contact Ian Ailes [mgv8ian@gmail.com](mailto:mgv8ian@gmail.com) mobile 07962 426863

## MG Midget MKIII 1972 RWA.

Contact Mick Abrahart 0771 905 9034 ( This car is amazing and it is surprising that no one has snapped it up!!- Editor.)

Superb 1275cc Midget, excellent condition with 49990 miles on speedo. The cylinder head was skimmed and valves re-seated at 48000 miles, the Goldseal engine was fitted in 1992. The body has been sound proofed before new carpets and door cards fitted. The seats and door cards have been upholstered in magnolia leather by M.G.O.C. It has a s/s four branch exhaust. The speedo has been re-calibrated to the 5 speed type 9 gear box. The engine runs very well with the K.N filter and ram pipes. The Midget comes with full and also half tonneau cover plus the genuine factory hard top with glass windows. It has a heritage body with no rust and also wire wheels. MOT until April 2025 and comes with the full history of the car. **Price £8750**



# Get in Touch

## SE CENTRE TEAM

Chairman	Tim Morris	07801 591689	<a href="mailto:chair@mgccse.co.uk">chair@mgccse.co.uk</a>
Secretary	Austin Banner	07850 769506	<a href="mailto:secretary@mgccse.co.uk">secretary@mgccse.co.uk</a>
Events Secretary	Andrew Mitchell	07703 138419	<a href="mailto:events@mgccse.co.uk">events@mgccse.co.uk</a>
Competition Secretary	John Morgan	07802 770025	<a href="mailto:competitions@mgccse.co.uk">competitions@mgccse.co.uk</a>
Treasurer	Ron Kemp	07726 326070	<a href="mailto:treasurer@mgccse.co.uk">treasurer@mgccse.co.uk</a>
Membership	Diana Calvert	07762 163617	<a href="mailto:membership@mgccse.co.uk">membership@mgccse.co.uk</a>
Scribe – Safety Fast	Ray Ruffels	07970 640219	<a href="mailto:scribe@mgccse.co.uk">scribe@mgccse.co.uk</a>
Scribe - Spark Editor	Will Opie	07768 022044	<a href="mailto:spark@mgccse.co.uk">spark@mgccse.co.uk</a>
Internet	Tim Morris	07801 591689	<a href="mailto:webmaster@mgccse.co.uk">webmaster@mgccse.co.uk</a>
Trophies/Archive	John Davies	01737 241971	<a href="mailto:trophies@mgccse.co.uk">trophies@mgccse.co.uk</a>
Regalia/Shop	John Morgan	07802 770025	<a href="mailto:regalia@mgccse.co.uk">regalia@mgccse.co.uk</a>
Natter/Wanderers	Ian Russell	07590 498514	<a href="mailto:mgashnatter@gmail.com">mgashnatter@gmail.com</a>
Member	Gwen Davies.	01737 241971	<a href="mailto:gwen.davies@mgccse.co.uk">gwen.davies@mgccse.co.uk</a>
Member	Philip Roussel-Smith.		<a href="mailto:PhilipR-S@mgccse.co.uk">PhilipR-S@mgccse.co.uk</a>
New Member	Lis Woolley		<a href="mailto:lis.woolley@mgccse.co.uk">lis.woolley@mgccse.co.uk</a>

## NATTER LEADERS

Queen's Head Pinner	Gerry Edwards	07768 657797	<a href="mailto:Pinner@mgccse.co.uk">Pinner@mgccse.co.uk</a>
The Ship, Mortlake	Danny Byrne.	01932 829814	<a href="mailto:Mortlake@mgccse.co.uk">Mortlake@mgccse.co.uk</a>
Brooklands Museum	“	“	<a href="mailto:Brooklands@mgccse.co.uk">Brooklands@mgccse.co.uk</a>
The Fox & Hounds Walton on the Hill	John Morgan Austin Banner	07802 770025 07950 769506	<a href="mailto:northsurrey@mgccse.co.uk">northsurrey@mgccse.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:northsurrey@mgccse.co.uk">northsurrey@mgccse.co.uk</a>
The Fairmile, nr Cobham	Ian Ailes & Jon Glover	01932 856960 07802 318950	<a href="mailto:Cobham@mgccse.co.uk">Cobham@mgccse.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:Cobham@mgccse.co.uk">Cobham@mgccse.co.uk</a>
The Red Lion, Charing	William Opie & Ray Ruffels	01795 521846	<a href="mailto:NorthDowns@mgccse.co.uk">NorthDowns@mgccse.co.uk</a>
The George Inn Trottiscliffe.	Ian Russel (Temp)	07590 498514	<a href="mailto:Ashnatter@mgccse.co.uk">Ashnatter@mgccse.co.uk</a>
The Golden Lion, Broadoak Canterbury.	John Clark	07940 769225	<a href="mailto:Broadoak@mgccse.co.uk">Broadoak@mgccse.co.uk</a>
South East MGF Register	Tim Morris	07801 591689	<a href="mailto:south.east@mgccmgfregister.org">south.east@mgccmgfregister.org</a>

## WANDERERS

Ashdown Adventurers	David Oakenfold	07818 420921	<a href="mailto:AshdownAdventurers@mgccse.co.uk">AshdownAdventurers@mgccse.co.uk</a>
Sussex Wanderers	Ursula Griffiths	01403264458	<a href="mailto:SussexWanderers@mgccse.co.uk">SussexWanderers@mgccse.co.uk</a>
Surrey Wanderers	Philip Bayne-Powell	01483 811428	<a href="mailto:Surreywanderers@mgccse.co.uk">Surreywanderers@mgccse.co.uk</a>
East Kent Wanderers	John Bennett	01227 637813	<a href="mailto:Eastkentwanderers@mgccse.co.uk">Eastkentwanderers@mgccse.co.uk</a>
Kent Nomads	Ian Russell	07590 498514	<a href="mailto:kentnomads@mgccse.co.uk">kentnomads@mgccse.co.uk</a>



# Club Insurance and the End!

Specialist **insurance**  
for **MG Car Club** members  
Includes **additional benefits** as **standard**

**NEW**

UK and European Breakdown Cover Included at **no extra charge**

Additional **discount** based on length of membership **rewarding** our most loyal members

**FREE** Salvage retention  
Receive your agreed value, and keep the salvage at no cost

**£3000** Tools and Spare Parts Cover

Free **Member to member** cover – drive another club member’s MG with **fully comprehensive cover** regardless of who they are insured with

FREE and Simple **Agreed Value**



 **MG CAR CLUB INSURANCE**

Speak to one of our dedicated team today  
**0121 506 6026**  
[peterjamesinsurance.co.uk/mgcs](http://peterjamesinsurance.co.uk/mgcs)

Policy benefits, features and discounts offered may vary and are subject to underwriting criteria.  
Peter James Insurance is a trading name of Kingfisher Insurance Services Limited, registered in England No 01469545. Kingfisher Insurance Services Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) No 310218. Registered office: First Floor 2 Parklands, Parklands Business Park, Rubery, United Kingdom, B45 9PZ. DCCIDM448



If you have reached this point I hope ‘Spark’ has proved an interesting read. Ray Ruffels and myself were the joint editors of the previous Newsletter, and I would like to thank Ray for all his help over the years.

I agreed to produce and edit Spark as we needed to improve the opening rate on Mailchimp which is how we measure the newsletter’s success. Your contributions are invaluable from all directions, and I want to thank contributors for their input. We welcome any comments on this new magazine and if you wish to contribute for the Summer 2025 edition then please get in touch with me at:-

[Spark@mgcse.co.uk](mailto:Spark@mgcse.co.uk)

Many Thanks - **Will Opie, Editor Spark Magazine**

**SPARK Issue 1 Spring 2025**

**Editor : Will Opie**

**Deputy : Tim Morris**

Spark is produced by the MG Car Club South East. All opinions are those of the contributors and not of the club or editors. The MG Car Club or editors cannot accept any responsibility or loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from acting as the result of any material in the magazine including any mechanical or other modifications to vehicles.

Copyright MG Car Club South East 2025