



Northumbrian

April 2014



So what does Steve Miller get up to in his spare time? See page 8.

www.mgnorthumbria.org

Chairman's Chat

Hello,

by the time you read this you may have already been on two runs. Thanks to Colin & Ros for their night run that ended at the Red Lion at Earsdon. Unfortunately I couldn't get to the start in time but did manage the 3 minute walk from my house to join everyone in the pub. That night was also the first sighting of our new club banner which will be on show at future runs, events and of course at Corbridge.

The excellent news from Peter Hyde, who is managing the entries, is that we already have over 250 entries which is well ahead of the same time last year. If you haven't entered yet please ask him for a form or if you have internet access go the Corbridge page on the website and use the Eventbrite link.

While on the subject of Corbridge, for many years Sandria Wood, Shirley Graham, Eileen Dalgarno & Ann Ruddick (apologies if I've missed anyone) have organised the tombola and bric-a-brac but have decided to take a break. Many thanks for your work in the past. If there is anyone who would like to volunteer to help organise these please get in touch.

I also hope you enjoyed this year's Chairman's Run.

Next month's events include the Durham MG club's Bobby Shafto run on 13/4/14. The closing date for entries is 6/4/14 and it would be nice to see a good turnout from our club as they do support our events.

Spring has barely sprung and I am now going to mention Christmas. Joan Clubbs & Susan Farley have volunteered to spend the next few months visiting and testing possible venues for our Christmas meal. This is clearly a very onerous task and if you would like to join them please get in touch with Joan. Also if you know of a venue that you think meets our needs please let her know.

And finally

if you are reading this and haven't paid your subs this will be your last newsletter. If you want to remain a member please send your subs to George Dalgarno as soon as possible.

It's good to be back on the road

Tim Cook

New Members

This month we welcome to MG Northumbria Kenneth Lopez and Katheryn Cornfoot from Holywell, who have a 1993 Mazda Eunos.

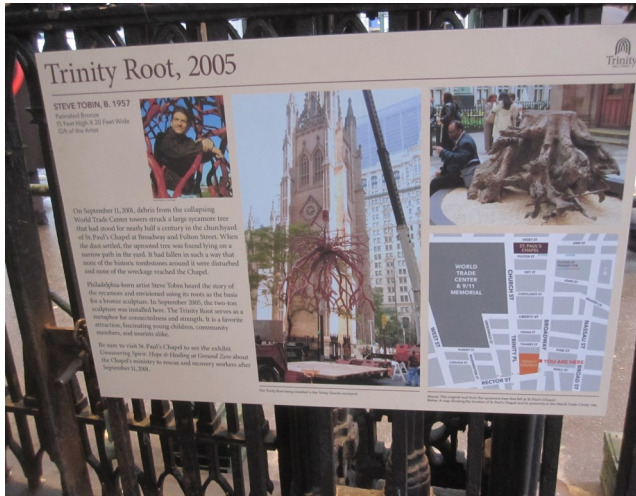
Communion in Manna-hata

Wednesday 16th January 2013, my birthday found Jean and I in Manna-hata meaning 'Island of many hills' and now known as Manhattan, New York City.

We had "gotten off" a tour bus at the wrong stop but found Wall Street. I had to look down a manhole and chatted to the workmen (busy starting to joint cables for Edison Power. The jointer asked me for a job back home!) We walked along Wall Street towards the southern end of Broadway. Immediately opposite the end of Wall Street we found Trinity Church (www.trinitywallstreet.org) and went inside partly to look around and partly to warm up, the day was cold and very wet (just like home).

As there was a service in progress we were ushered into a seat at the back, we would look round and light a candle for everyone back home when it ended. Soon we recognised our own C of E service; we had arrived in time for the reading of the Gospel which was done from the body of the church, then the peace with stranger's hands to shake. For communion we all stood in a single line in front of the choir steps, the line wrapping round the pulpit. It was strange to be somewhere thousands of miles from home but taking part in a familiar event.

After the service we did light a candle, the priest was busy with a point of theology from the sermon with one of his parishioners so we exited back into the cold to find the tour bus for Brooklyn, a memorable experience.



When this neo-Gothic Church was built in 1846, it was New York's tallest structure. This was the third Trinity Church erected at this site; the original built in 1699 was New York's first church. Prominent American families are buried in the churchyard. Further along the street we passed St Paul's Chapel, this was Manhattans oldest public building in continuous use, it is part of Trinity Church's parish. When the twin towers collapsed the church was unharmed and was used for shelter, only a giant sycamore tree in its grounds was knocked over but left the church unharmed. George Washington walked here from Federal Hall to attend a service of thanksgiving following his first inauguration. Today it had been converted into a memorial to 9/11.

Bob & Jean Heslop

Event Diary for April

- 2nd** **Clubnight**, Backworth 8.00 pm. Including a visit from Revline to tell us about Terraclean engine cleaning system.
- 13th Durham MGOC Bobby Shafto Run
- 27th** Drive It Day Run - see page 11 for details.

Did you know that London mayor Boris Johnson is trying to introduce an ultra low emissions area in central London that would see all classic cars banned from the area? If it happens in London then surely it is just a matter of time before other cities follow suit.

David Dodds tells us that *Classic and Sports Car* magazine is organizing an online petition to campaign for exemption for classic cars. You can add your signature by going to this link :

classicandsportscar.com/news/general-classic-car-news/help-csc-fight-the-london-classic-car-ban

Could you do this?

We need a volunteer to put together a route for this year's Heritage Run. The start and finish points have already been determined so it "just" needs the bit in between.

If you would like to have a go but have not done a route before don't worry. There is plenty of helpful advice available.

Friends Round London 2014

This was an event I didn't want to miss. Just over a year ago I happened on this annual F/TF get together on MG-Rover.org. The forum was buzzing with video footage and photographs for weeks leading up to the big day and for months afterwards. Just had to get me some of that.

2014 FRL went live on the forum last October and plans for fellow F/TF owners from the North East to meet up at South Mimms was well under way. Sponsor sheets were down loaded and the link copied over to various other forums to try and raise money for a worthy charity. Uk Homes for Heroes is a charity for soldiers released from the army for physiological disability and physical disability only to find they are homeless. 2013 FRL raised over £4000 and this year was for a similar target.

So after a post-Christmas meet and a run out with F/TF owners from the Border Patrol, hotels were booked and a planned convoy south with various rendezvous for 12 cars was hatched.

With an ongoing heating problem on my TF I decided to drop the convoy idea and travel down on my own to the MGOC Centre at Swavesey on the Friday. I was booked in for a midday fix. Tony, my Son in Law and designated co-pilot for the weekend made it quite clear that the heater had to be in full working order for him to participate. With reassurances made, Tony and I would meet up at the Premier Inn at South Mimms that evening.

With roof up and heading into yet another storm from the Atlantic sweeping across the south of the country I steered my little car south. I left Blyth, my hometown and two hours later pulled into Blyth Services on the A1 for a quick stretch, double checked the Sat-Nav, as I felt I was in a time warp. Where had I been for the last two hours?

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Arrived in torrential rain/sleet and gale force winds at MGOCC centre just after midday. 3 hours and several cups of coffee later I was disappointed to find that the mechanic had found the possible fault but had ran out of time to fix. What was I going to tell my co-pilot?. He had already text me to say he was on his way from Coventry.

Say nowt, and nod if asked, was my cunning plan.

So we met up at South Mimms, booked an evening meal and met up with other FRL attendees who arrived as we did the night before.

Saturday, the car park was filling up nicely with F/TFs and I decided to head up to ST Noets near Cambridge to a friends to fit a new soft top and rear glass screen. Five hours later we were back at South Mimms to meet the gang from the Border Patrol.

8.30pm we all met up at Potters Bar to start the 117 miles round the M25 at midnight and topless. The wind had dropped and a full moon filled the night sky. As my knee caps continued to do the samba there was definitely a chill in the air but thankfully dry. Checking out mods with Lambo doors and single to triple exhaust finishers from TT/Daytona and Milteck exhaust systems. Lights glowing from every orifice (cars that is) go faster stripes and various ideas for interior fittings, I was definitely in heaven. Giant Minions and a couple of large mice lightened the evening.

Just before midnight 93 F/TFs headed anticlockwise to do 117 miles and 2 hours round London. For the driver, trying to dodge 3 lanes of MG's was a challenge, thus keeping the cold from my thoughts. For Tony, camera operator with frozen fingers, well he reminded me of Captain Scott's South Pole expedition when Oates, before he went on his fatal walk, stated that " I am going outside and may be sometime".

We met at Thurrock for a final group photo and several hot drinks. Then drove the final 40 miles back to South Mimms under a starlit sky.

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Sunday morning, we awoke to blue sky, so after a hearty breakfast and before heading north with roof down we all decided to call into the Ace Café on the north circular for another photo shoot.

Tony hasn't spoke to me for days. Not sure why.

Monies are coming in all the time with sponsors and donations adding to the coffers. Still time to donate on www.friends-round-london.org.com

I just love what we as MG owners can do. Giving a little of our time to help others. Looking forward to next year already.



Steve Miller

DRIVE IT DAY

Sunday 27th April

**TO COMMEMORATE THE 64 CARS THAT TOOK PART IN THE
Royal Automobile Club 1,000 MILE TRIAL on 23rd April 1900 TO
PROVE THAT THE MOTOR CAR WAS HERE TO STAY**

ALL CLASSICS WELCOME including all MG models

Free entry

10.30 am Start

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NORTH SHIELDS NE30 2AY**

**90 miles scenic route of Coast and Country
finishing at
THE WHITE SWAN at DINNINGTON**

**where Sunday Lunch is Available
Please register for lunch at start**

**Supported by MG Northumbria & NECPWA
(North of England Classic & Pre War Automobiles)**

Good news!

When working on your car have you ever wished that you had the sort of facilities that meant you didn't have to crawl around on a freezing cold floor? Well, Peter Craigan has informed us of a fully equipped garage (including 4 post lift ramps) that is available for MGN members to use.

The garage is located in Shiremoor, just behind Arnold Clark. It is available at weekends and weekday evenings from 5pm at a charge of £10 per hour or £40 for a full day. Ian is happy to be there for as long as you need to be.

Anyone wanting to use the garage should call Ian on 07901957845. When calling please inform him that the number was supplied by Peter (with the Metro) from MG Northumbria so that he knows who you are.



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Wingrove & MG Newcastle

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Unbelievably starting at £8,399, for the entry model. The real value lies in the mid-spec 3Form because it starts at £9,299, with spec including iPod connection, DAB radio, aircon, Bluetooth and steering wheel audio controls. The top-spec 3Style adds parking sensors, cruise control auto wiper/lights and diamond cut alloys.

MG Newcastle are the dealer for Newcastle at Fox & Hounds 388 West Road Newcastle NE51ER and fully trained service and after sales department. Follow us on Facebook MGNewcastle. Call on 0191 2288025

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