



Northumbrian

April 2015



**Happy
Easter**



This MG may be for the future but see page 7 for innovations you can have on YOUR MG NOW!

www.mgnorthumbria.org

Chairman's Chat

I am writing this on Sunday 22/3/15 and have already been out for a 10 mile bike ride and am now sat outside listening to Cerys on 6music and putting pen to paper. Let's hope the weather is as good next weekend for the Chairman's Run, that will be a change from last year when you couldn't see the views. From the show of hands at club night and the emails I've received it should be a good turnout.

Jubilee news – when I decided to buy Lottie, as mentioned last month, I was aware of a few things that needed to be done and some improvements I wanted to have done. I was not expecting a call from Gordon at Sports Cars Unlimited with a list of items he thought were MOT failures. It had passed only two days before I bought it and has only done 130 miles since. Thinking I might have a case of being sold not as described and possibly of a “suspect” MOT, I contacted the seller and the DVSA. Following discussions with the DVSA examiner, who was willing to take up the complaint even though most of the issues were possibly borderline given the flexibility in the rules, I managed to get some money back. I was tempted by the parcel shelf Tobias was giving away, (apparently MGOC had only 50 made) but as I am not going to do anything to affect the original look I will stick with less visible changes. Round 1 – upgrade headlights to halogen & lowered suspension (it made such an improvement on the last two cars), after that internal tidying up, restore dashboard from its interesting handpainted effect including brush strokes!!

At the end of 2014 we had a record membership and we always loose some when it comes to renewal but after a few reminders it usually picks up. This year at cut off point, that is end of March when we stop sending the newsletter, our membership is down on last year so I will be contacting them to see if it is forgetfullness or choice.

Are you going on the Borders Trip in June? If so and you want to go on a club stand at Thirlestane on the Sunday please let me know by 12/4/15.

If you are going to Vintage Newbiggin on 6/4/15 I will have some flyers and posters to put on our cars to advertise Classics in Corbridge.

And finally following in Ian McInnes' footsteps if not tyreprints I have booked a holiday to Malta in October that coincides with the Mdina/Valletta Grand Prix that he used to attend as marshall and competitor. I'll be flying not driving though.

Happy driving now we are back on the road.

Best Wishes

Tim Cook

MG TF OFF TO SPAIN

After visiting my son I left Scarborough, (Car loaded and refuelled) at 21-30 16 July 2012. This being the fourth time I have driven to Spain I decided to try and keep off motorways and follow the scenic routes.

My route took me past Driffield, Howden, and joined the A1 at Doncaster which I followed down to the M25, turning eastwards followed the M25 over the Dartford crossing and onto the M20 arriving at Le Shuttle at 02-55 17 July 2012 drove through customs and into line.

The euro shuttle Left Folkestone at 03-27 the fastest part of the journey 140kph (not forgetting to alter the clock) arrived in Calais at 05-05. Before Leaving the terminal (05.15) this would be a good time to give the work horse a drink (33.55 Litres, 41.6 mpg)

From Calais followed E402 to Evreux, and on to Dreux N12 (now 09-15 am) I stopped for a well-earned Break, Coffee and Breakfast (now 09-40 am time to leave and get on with the journey).

Chartres, Bailleau – le – Pin, Yevres, Logron, Vendome and on to Villedomer. (12-10 pm) where it was time to feed the workhorse (28.93 Ltres. 45.47 mpg)

I travelled on for a few more hours (15-30) when services came into view, it was time for food, water and a rest.

On leaving the services (16-30) I travelled a few more miles through Tours where I took a sharp Right turn and by mistake

ended up on the E5 Signposted Bordeaux (arriving at the Bordeaux Tolls at 18 -00)

This was the end of a perfect day!!

Got out of the car and went to the machine entered my card, machine says card not recognised!! Got another card out – machine spat it out!!

Got third card out and put it in machine!! Machine does not recognise your card, It was red hot and by now I was steaming,

I pressed the help button on the machine and waited and waited, Eventually, a French lady answered asking what the problem was, explaining that I had entered my card on a number of occasions and the machine would not accept it, Abruptly she answered you will have to put cash in the machine.

“I have not got any cash on me”,

Put your card into the machine, I have already done that, eventually she came over, and again abruptly told me to put card in machine it spat it out, She then asked me for my passport and car documents and told me to park in the parking bays. It was so hot I stood under trees to shelter. Looking around to find out where she had gone with my documents I went to some offices and could not get in as the doors were locked, after seeing someone come from around the rear of the building I went to have a look, there were some stone steps which I went up and through the glass doors at the top there were a number of people in the office amazed that I had walked in.

Continued on page 10

Event Diary for April

1st **Clubnight**, Backworth 8.00 pm

12th **Half day run.** Meet from 11am for coffee/ chat at Valley Farm pub, First Avenue, Team Valley NE11 0NU. Run to start at 12 noon ish, a little over 50 miles finish at Kirkharle courtyard,

26th **Drive it Day** (with NECPWA) starting from the Linskill Centre, Linskill Terrace, North Shields, Tyne and Wear NE30 2AY at 10.30. About 100 miles including a stop at the Wheelbirks ice cream parlour.

It's The Future!

One car manufacturer recently announced that they will have a driverless car i.e. one that will steer, accelerate and brake all by itself, on sale in 2017. That's just two years away.

Google of course have recently also been making headlines with their own testing of a driverless car.

What you may not know is that this futuristic technology **can already be applied to classic cars including MGs**. Tucked away from the headlines in one of the motoring magazines last month was a report about a firm in Oxfordshire who normally design and supply electronic management systems for a number of racing teams including those competing in historic racing where MGs and other cars from the 1950s, 60s and 70s appear regularly. It seems that some of the systems developed to make this racing safer, whereby computers take over when a car is deemed to be out of control, can be installed in ordinary cars. The race governing body has still to give this technology race type approval but there is apparently nothing stopping this being used in road cars now.

Kits can be supplied which will manage, throttle, steering and braking up to speeds of 55 mph. All you have to do is sit back! Apparently they are particularly suited to the MGB because of the engine bay configuration. .

Installation and price details can be found on the firm's website at www.urkiddingme.com

New Members

This month we welcome to MG Northumbria:

David Craig. David lives in Newcastle and has both the roadster and GT versions of the B as well as a Midget. All are the chrome bumper model.

Wanted

MGB or C Roadster with chrome bumpers, must be in very good condition. Please email:- mark.petterson@btinternet.com

CLUB NIGHT IDEA

Following the success of the former Toy Museum night I wondered what interesting gems you may have and if we could have a “show and tell” with or without the “tell”. Have you got something motor-related, old books, posters, car badges etc? Not that rusty old car part unless it is something unusual. If you have please let me know and we have enough we'll plan it in sometime.

Tim

From 4–6th April there will be an Easter celebration at Newbiggin by the Sea. There will be special events taking place each day but the Sunday includes a classic car display and we have been invited to go along and show off ours cars.

There will be reserved parking along the High street for classic cars.

For more details please see:

<http://www.visitnorthumberland.com/sporting-event/vintage-newbiggin>

Double Your Money in 2 years!

Don't worry, MG Northumbria have not gone into the get rich quick scam business.

If you are not already aware, the current series of *The Classic Car Show* is currently being shown on Channel 5 each Thursday at 7.00 pm. Anyway, each week the show features a classic that Quentin Wilson tips to buy before it starts going up in value. Last week the featured car was none other than the MGB, which he considers to be seriously undervalued.

In the current soaring classic car market he reckons a Mk 1 MGB, including the GT, can be expected to double in value over the next two years.

One lady sat at a desk with my documents asked for my card and swiped it through a machine on her desk and explained it was a different type of machine at the tolls. If only they had told me sooner.

This had lost me another hour leaving the tolls at 18-45pm.

From then I headed off down the E72 For Toulouse and at 19-50pm I Pulled in for petrol (29.96 litres 42.00 mpg) passed tolls at Toulouse and headed off down the A66 towards Andorra, arriving at 22.15pm. On passing through one of the small villages the sat nav told me to turn right ending up on a single track road only wide enough for a car, with a mountain on one side and a deep valley on the driver side (not very appealing in the black dark at night), my next thought was what if someone came the opposite way!! Further down this road I came to a railway level crossing.



Services at 6.00 am

The road surface was rough and I could not see very far for the trees and darkness. Just as I crossed over the crossing a car approached fast in the opposite direction - best place as the road was wider by a parking bay just over the crossing. This road bypassed the Spanish Customs and eventually met the E9 to Barcelona.

At Rubi 00-45 18 July 2012 stopped again for petrol (31.14 Ltres 43.21mpg). Then headed off towards AP7.

An interesting point when crossing the Pyrenees Mountains. I passed through 12 tunnels and I wished that I could have filmed this part of the road as they were lit and some of them had markers along the walls, they were brilliant.

04.00 Stopped at services for coffee and a rest (Services were not open). Calculating the journey ahead I was going to arrive too early (I had planned to arrive at 10-00hrs) so I got my head down for a couple of hours. Leaving at 06.00hrs just breaking daylight following the AP7 past Valencia in the rush hour arriving in La Nucia (Spain) at 10.00am 18 July 2012. A fantastic journey in a MG TF, which loves long runs in hot weather. The only time I had the roof up was during the hours of darkness to stop being blinded by the flying bugs.

Total Hours 36.5

Total Miles 1482

Ave mpg 41.89

Ian MacNeish

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