



**December  
2013**

***Merry Christmas***



**Longest MGN member Les Davison cuts 20th anniversary cake at clubnight.**

[www.mgnorthumbria.org](http://www.mgnorthumbria.org)

## *Chairman's Chat*

Although we haven't had any runs since the last chat there is still plenty of news.

New members on the committee are Eileen Dalgarno as Secretary and Ian MacNeish and I hope they enjoy being part of the team. Unfortunately I also have to report that Dave Ellison has decided not to continue, thanks to him for his involvement.

The new logo launched at the AGM has now been passed to Emblematic and to Susan Farley and is available for you to order new items. Emblematic have been invited to put on another rummage sale, possibly in March.

We have heard from Northumbria Blood Bikes that they have now purchased the bike we funded (see *page 4*). We were asked to come up with a name for it and have suggested "Octagon". When the livery has been sorted we hope the service will be launched.

The photo competition will run as before with changes to the judging process. All photos sent in for the website will be considered as well as any specially taken for the competition. This covers the period from after this years Heritage Run up to and including next year's Heritage Run.

By the time you read this you may have had an email from me seeking volunteers to help with various tasks relating to organising the show next year. This is for help between now and the show day and if the show goes ahead a separate request will be made for help for the day itself. If you want more information please get in touch and if you are able to help please let me know before Christmas.

I hope to see many of you at The Badger for our night out when the Pride of Ownership and Emma awards will be given.

Seasons Greetings

*Tim Cook*

## **Caption competition**

The deadline for submitting entries for this has been extended as to date none (that are printable) have been received.

Come on you lot, there must be someone out there who would like a nice tax free tenner!! You now have until December 24th to think of something and send it to me.

Alan

I have quite a number of MGB parts for sale, if anyone is interested because of the amount I have it may be easier to phone or e-mail me to find out if I have what they are looking for. If this is ok please contact me to arrange thanks,

**Jimmy Clynes**  
jimclynes@talktalk.net  
01661 833072

### News from Blood Bikes

I'm pleased to be able to report, we've bought our second bike, a Honda Pan European, and have attached a picture. We spent £7,300 on the bike (it was originally up with an asking price £7,999, so we were pleased with that!), and our current BMW cost around £1,200 to kit out, which we envisage being roughly the same for this bike, so it's worked about perfect for your £8,600. I'll be looking to get in touch with a vinyl graphics place this week, so should have their requirements for logo format etc soon.

**Richard Scholfield**

## ***New Member***

Our 101st member is George Thurston-Coull from Wideopen. George doesn't have an MG at the moment but is on the lookout for an MGB.

Welcome George!

**ANOTHER GOOD DRIVE WITH MG NORTHUMBRIA!!**

**Sent in by John Mitchell.**

**Not sure if the car is left hand drive or the girl is an extraordinary driver! [Ed.]**



## *Event Diary for December*

6                    **Clubnight**, Backworth 8.00 pm.

This month we have guest speaker Maurice Milne who will be telling us about 300 years of North East newspapers.

### Christmas Meal 14th December

As we are also occupying the annexe at the Badger there are now 4 places still available.

If you wish to go please contact John Pearce asap.

*We have been invited to join NECPWA on their trip to visit the largest classic car show in Europe.*

*See details below.*

## **Essen trip March 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> 2014**

We would take the Lufthansa flight (LH3457) from Newcastle to Dusseldorf @ 13.25 to get there @ 15.45. Then take the train across to Essen, where we would stay @ the Ibis Hotel in the centre of Essen for four nights bed & breakfast.

You will have two days in which to visit the local area, we normally do this as a group on the local train system as its much better then in UK.

We would plan to visit the Classic Car Show on the Thursday.

We will then on the Friday make the way to the Airport to catch the flight home @12.25(LH3456) to arrive back @ Newcastle @12.50.

Having checked prices @ the moment the flights are £163.00 per person & the Hotel is £312.00 for a double & £278.00 a single.

Those wishing to go please Ring me 0191 2534954 or email [john.bilton77@btinternet.com](mailto:john.bilton77@btinternet.com) ASAP

## Driven to distraction

Driving down the road behind a learner driver under tuition yesterday, reminded me of my days as a driving instructor in the late 60's.

I opened my Driving School in 1967 and my fees for placing my life in the hands of clueless strangers, was 15/- an hour, (75p).

One day an elderly lady came into the office enquiring about driving lessons in customers' cars, and as I was also pretty skint (and crazy) in those days, was foolish enough to offer a discount of 2/6p (12.5p) if the lesson was taken in the customers' car. It took some time to extract the address from her as she kept on repeating that we couldn't miss it as the car was outside of her door and was bright red with a black roof. (I did say that she was elderly) anyway, I wrongly thought she was booking a lesson for her grandson,

When I arrived for the lesson in my school car, I found the customers' car parked facing down the street on the wrong side of the road so I parked up behind it. The door was opened by a chap who was as old as my granddad at the time and his first words to me were "you'll ha nay both-er wi' me son" which he repeated throughout the next hour of his lesson.



He then proceeded to open the boot, take out a length of hose, a funnel and a gallon can of petrol, which he then decanted into his tank. When I asked him why he hadn't been prepared and put the petrol in before I arrived as this was eating into his hour, he explained that he didn't want to waste the petrol if I hadn't turned up.

Sitting in the car before we started I asked to check his driving licence. In those days the driving licence consisted of a little 4 page booklet with a provisional licence for 6 months at a time, affixed to the first page and any driving endorsements were subsequently affixed to the last page. What was handed to me resembled a small bible!! He had been getting 6 monthly provisional for donkeys' years and endorsements for various offences such as driving unaccompanied with a qualified driver, no L plates, no insurance etc. It was so thick it couldn't close.

He started the engine, which was running as rough as a badgers bum, checked the mirror and wound his window down and gave a hand signal that he was about to move off from the kerb. "Hold on pop," I said with a smile, "that's the right hand turn signal for when you are pulling out from the left hand side of the road, we are parked on the other side", at that he replied, "Ahh, sorry about that, but you'll ha nay bother wi me son" and immediately gave a left turn signal waving his hand in an anticlockwise direction, obviously trying hard to impress. *Continued on page 10*

After vigorously pumping his clutch pedal, because of lack of pressure, he eventually managed to engage 1<sup>st</sup> gear with a cccrunch and we were off like a Kangaroo across the road and down towards the High Street. We didn't quite stop at the "T" junction as the clutch wouldn't disengage and we jiggled into the next adventure.

Our entry onto the High Street was not too hindered as other cars seemed to have good brakes although they simultaneously tested their horns for some reason. Nay bother was oblivious. "You'll ha nay bother wi me son" continued until we conked out halfway up a hill. I asked him to pull the handbrake on and to lift the bonnet so I could check the engine over. He replied "Ahh there's nay handbrake son! " "Ok. Keep your foot on the brake until I find a brick to stick under the back wheel." The thought crossed my mind, 12/6p, I must be mad!!

Eventually we managed to got sorted and reached the top of the hill and beyond. Trouble was actually making plans for us, beyond. We were travelling down a bus route intending to turn right at a "T" junction, there on our left was a bus discharging passengers at a bus stop, we overtook the bus and instead of pulling in after that manoeuvre we then overtook a pedestrian traffic island which now put us on the wrong side of the road still heading towards the "T" junction Unfortunately, we were met by another bus travelling in the opposite direction now on a collision course with ourselves!

I've got the useless handbrake almost ripped out of the floor, I can almost feel the ground through the floor with my right foot pressing on an imaginary footbrake, he has both feet on the pedals, we are stopping but the clutch won't disengage, we are nose to nose with this bus and all I can see, because we're so close, is an Indians' head in full headdress! This turns out to be the mascot on the radiator of a Guy bus.



*Guy bus mascot*

*Continued on page 12*

As the mist clears, into focus appears the driver with arms crossed on his big steering wheel, laughing and shaking his head from side to side at this little car still kangarooing against his radiator, because the clutch wouldn't fully disengage, giving the impression that we were determined to force the bus backwards.

When we got back to his house he told me that he had just bought this car and had wanted to give it a little try out and would I take him out again because he had enjoyed it so much, being legal that is!

Was it worth 12/6p? 'course it was, it made an old man very happy.

***George A Dalgarno***

## **2014 Calendar**

The calendar will again be available at the club night for £4. This features pictures from the entries to the photo competition.

Go on, make George Dalgarno happy!!



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