



Northumbrian

March 2015



Fancy leaving those papers on top of a load of old junk. What were they thinking of?

www.mgnorthumbria.org

Chairman's Chat

Well here we go again, its March but you've still got a few weeks to dust off the old car before our first run on 29/3/15, see more details elsewhere. Despite not having much of a winter there has been plenty of salt and grit used so maybe your use has been limited. In January & February I've done more miles on my bike than in my MG.

After the "excitement" in last month's newsletter I suppose I could tell you about my trip to Goole on 14/2 to collect a bumper for Neil's ZT that he had bought on Ebay for 99p. Newcastle council tax payers may be pleased to hear that the fleet of pool vehicles do not always lie idle at night and weekends but can be hired by staff thereby bringing in some income. So I hired a Ford Connect van for the weekend. This meant I couldn't fully enjoy two leaving do's on the Friday night and as I had taken the Monday off to recce the Chairman's Run, I didn't get a lie in as the van had to be back by 8.15. So that was all well planned.

So off we went to Goole and came back with both a front and back bumper. On the way back we called in at Simon York Car Sales near Knaresborough to look at an all black BGT with chrome wire wheels but it had been sold. They had another ten ranging from £2 - £9k. Being restorer, enthusiast and MG owner he certainly knew what he was talking about unlike, perhaps, some other MG dealers no longer with us. Enough said. So I didn't come back with a "new" BGT but did have lots to think about.

Front page

This is the barn find Ferrari California Spider that fetched 16.3 million euros in Paris last month.

As I mentioned earlier I did the first recce with Emma on 16/2. Just in case the weather is the same as last year I can tell you there were some very nice views. The recce was timed so we arrived at the Black Horse at lunchtime, and both had a very nice meal by a roaring open fire.

Oh and another thing, I said my visit gave me lots to think about. So much so that I went back the following weekend with Simon and came back with a 1975 BGT Jubilee. I got a deal on Rosie, not quite as good as I would have liked but to have brought her back with extra costs of insuring her for Simon to drive and the fuel I took it. It was a good drive up the A1, handles nicely, lovely comfortable leather seats and hopefully many years of driving.



*Tim's new
Jubilee
BGT.*

Cheers and enjoy the coming season of runs and shows.

Tim Cook

chairman@mgnorthumbria.org

All at Sea

We left Amsterdam cruise terminal late one Saturday night.

The next morning found us cruising at a leisurely nine knots along the North Friesian coast. We had a date early the next morning with the Western lock of the Nord Ostsee Kanal (Kiel Canal). To Starboard were low islands often with lighthouses at one or both ends. We must have been quite close to see such detail.

Sunday morning at sea means off to the Neptune Lounge for the interdenominational church service. Both sides of the lounge had their curtains fully open, the Sun streamed in. What a glorious day!

The simple service consisted of three hymns, a reading and Prayers for the ship (Black Watch) and all travellers, our homes and families and those in need and the Seafarer's version of the 23rd Psalm.

“The Lord is my pilot, I shall not drift.

He lighteth me across dark water.

He steereth me in deep channels. He keepeth my log.

He guideth me by the star of holiness for His name's sake.

Yea, even amidst the thunders and tempests of life,

I dread no danger; for Thou art with me,

Thy love and Thy care, they shelter me.

Thou preparest a harbour before me in the homeland of eternity.

Thou annointest the waves with oil – my ship rides calmly.

Surely sunlight and starlight shall favour me on the voyage I take,

And I will rest in the port of my God forever. Amen.”



As we came to the end of the service I glanced left and right (port and starboard) out of the lounge’ picture windows. I could see nothing but the North Sea shining in the bright October sunlight. It was quite an emotional sight.

Bob and Jean Heslop

Event Diary for March

4th **Clubnight**, Backworth 8.00 pm

29th Chairman's Run— see details below.

Chairman's Run 29/3/15

The Chairman's Run begins at The Parlour, Blagdon, NE13 6DQ <http://theparlouratblagdon.co.uk/> which opens at 9.30 serving a range of breakfast items as well as cakes. If you want to enjoy these please arrive leaving time to leave no later than 11.30.

You will then follow a route of 56.7 miles ending at The Black Horse near Beamish for lunch. <http://www.blackhorsebeamish.co.uk/> Lunch is booked for 1.30 and unlike other runs where I have taken orders at the start please order when you get there. Don't wait for everyone to arrive as this will help to avoid delays.

If you intend to go but aren't at the show of hands on clubnight please let me know.

Thanks

Tim

Last chance!

To those members who have not yet paid their subs — please remember that these **MUST** be paid by the end of March to George Dalgarno at clubnight or post to George at:

Denecroft, Wallridge Drive,
Holywell Village, Whitley Bay.

The cost is £8 plus £10 Backworth membership (which enables you to come to clubnights)

Thank you.

New Member

This month we welcome to MG Northumbria Mark Easton from Ponteland. Mark has a MGF reg. P707CTY.

2015 Heritage Run

We still need volunteers to plan and organise this year's run. If you would like to get involved please see Tim or Mike Mitchell at clubnight or e mail them.

chairman@mgnorthumbria.org

mjsmoothell@btinternet.com

Morgan's diary

for 2015 will be available at clubnight. The cost is £5 per copy and can be obtained from George Dalgarno, who will of course be pleased to sell you a calendar as well. It might even be this year's!

Borders MG Northumbria Weekend

5th - 7th June 2015

Staying at the Marshall Meadows Country House Hotel at preferential rates for two nights.

The specially negotiated cost will be £115 per room per night (double or twin room depending on availability) or ££92.50 (single occupancy). This will include a 3 course evening meal, and full breakfast on both nights/days. A 10% deposit will be required to hold your room which is non refundable after 5th May. There is plenty of off-road parking for MGN guests.



*Marshall
Meadows
Hotel*

I have mapped out a proposed itinerary however at this stage this is an anticipated outline and could be subject to change before the actual weekend.

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Itinerary

Friday 5th June - make your own way to the venue to arrive at any time after 1:00pm and meet up in the evening for dinner (at a time to be decided).

Saturday 6th June – A circular route of ?? miles (to be decided). The first half of the route will pause for lunch at the riverside restaurant in Abbey St Bathans (not included in price for weekend accommodation).

After lunch a suggested route back to the hotel with several interesting options to suit everyone from the mildly active to the completely bone idle!

You can do one, two or three options or neither, you decide but you will need to schedule your own time.

Option 1 a lovely 3 mile walk from Abbey St Bathans to Edin's Hall Broch and back. A 2nd century iron age round house. Riverside walking, mild climbs and stunning valley views. Then resume the route.

Option 2 a visit to the Jim Clark Room in Duns, containing a display of trophies, photographs and other memorabilia. It provides a full and compelling account of Jim's life in motor racing.

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A newly opened second room, created with the assistance of the Jim Clark Trust, allows visitors to view new images and watch Mark Stewart's biographical film on Jim Clark, "The Quiet Champion". Then resume the route.



*Paxton
House*

Option 3 Paxton House. Not as old as Edin's Hall Broch but a fine example of a Scottish Borders Country Estate. Built between 1758 and 1763 by architect John Adam and his brother James for the young Patrick Home. You can visit the house and grounds or just the 80 acres of woodland and river-side scenery overlooking the majestic River Tweed

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with a large variety of riverside walks, trails and outdoor attractions for visitors to enjoy (entrance to the house and or grounds is not included in the price for the weekend accommodation). Then re-sume the route.

Option 4 simply take a leisurely drive around the entire route stopping where you want to and make your way back to Marshall Meadows in time to get ready for dinner.

Dinner in the hotel at a time to be decided.

Sunday 7th June – those who wish can make the 32-mile drive across to Thirlstane House for their annual car show. If you want to do this could I would need to know so that I can confirm separately with Tim to meet the registration deadline. If you prefer you can take another suggested route drive from Berwick through Kelso and Kirk Newton back to the A697 and then on to your home.

Any questions, you can contact me at hydep@sky.com or phone 0191 2376378 for a chat.

Peter Hyde



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