



*Northumbrian*

May 2014



*MG on the Flying Scotsman Rally spotted by John Pearce. See page 5.*

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

## Chairman's Chat

*Hello,*

April clubnight had a talk about the Terraclean engine restorer. We had previously heard from George Dalgarno about the big improvement he got when he had his Rover 75 done. If you have taken up the offer and are happy to share your findings please send them to Alan for the newsletter.

Members have been out twice this month. On the 13th there was a choice between Durham MG club's Bobby Shafto Run which went north into Northumberland with a lunch stop at Rothbury, or Bellingham Heritage Open Day which for many years was organised by Ian McInnes or since his death used his routes. This year was a new route devised by Les Davison that started from near the Post Office that Ian ran. Thanks Les. The quiz was won by Peter & Pam Hyde.

Thanks also to George & Eileen Dalgarno for the Drive It Day run on the 27<sup>th</sup>. This saw 39 cars from MG Northumbria & NECPWA leave the Linskill Centre in North Shields and head for a coffee stop at Bellingham before returning south to the Swan at Dinnington. The morning weather required wipers all the way although it did begin to dry up in the afternoon.

A variety of problems caused a few to withdraw. So far this year it's rained on all the runs I've been on.

For the last year or so John Mitchell has been looking after new members and sorting their new member packs. John has decided to give up this work due to his planned absences during the coming year from runs and club nights. Many thanks for doing this task. Ian MacNeish will be taking over and has a list of recent members who haven't had their pack and will be in touch with them, or if it's you please get in touch with him.

One element in the member packs was a car info sheet for a number of MG models. These fact sheets have now been added to the website and if your car, MG or other, is not there and you would like to write an owner's view sheet please do, and send to [webmaster@mgnorthumbria.org](mailto:webmaster@mgnorthumbria.org)

Finally, just a reminder that the closing date for entries to Durham MGOC show at Houghall College on 18/5/14 is 9/5/14. I hope to see a good turnout.

Happy driving

*Tim Cook*

## 25<sup>th</sup> birthdays

Your Editor complained last night [*i.e. at the committee meeting - surely not! - point out/cajole/threaten/plead yes but complain, never!* Ed.] that I hadn't done my due piece as a committee member (that will get edited out for a start), so here goes with the official offering;

February 1989, Chicago Auto Show and Mazda introduced a car to send shivers down MG executives' spines. If only *they* had been quicker with the F-16!

The Mazda was the Miata, known as the MX-5 over here. It spurred MG Rover on to produce the F and TF (Graham Day is quoted as saying that he could find £40million if a sports car could be built for that, hence the F/TF being built down to a price.)

In September the same year, at the Frankfurt Motor Show, the Landrover Discovery (ex Project Jay) was unveiled to the world. This was a winner and the making of modern Landrover. It is now in its fourth incarnation and speculation is that it will produce a family of cars much as the Range Rover (RR, Sport and Evoque) has done.

*Bob Heslop*

## **In the news**

Landrover has chased Dunlop overseas.

The famous old factory in the midlands known as Fort Dunlop has succumbed to expansion at Jaguar Landrover and is to be closed. As a result, the Dunlop Motorsport operation is to be moved abroad.

Dunlop Motorsport is a joint venture between Goodyear and Sumitomo (who own Dunlop).

*From page 1*

The MG number 103 is a 1937 TA owned and driven by Patrick Engleberg from Luxembourg, and his Canadian navigator Christine Borg-Mathiot. They finished 49th and 3rd in class for pre41 cars up to 1400cc. The photo was taken at the start of the timed speed hill climb in the old mine works 5 miles west of Stanhope on the Saturday morning. The hill was tarmac from the start with a small chicane after about 600 yards, and a 5 second stop after 1 mile and then a blast through the trees to the finish in the quarry.

John Pearce

## *Event Diary for May*

**7th**      **Clubnight**, Backworth 8.00 pm. Tonight we have a talk on tyre technology by Jeremy Valentine from e Tyres.

**14th**     **Evening meal and run.** About 24 miles starting and ending at the Hadrian Hotel in Wall. Meals are served until 8.30 so we will need to start off by about 6.30 p.m. Please meet in the hotel car park.

**25th**     **Club Run.** About 50 miles starting from Brockbush Farm (Styford roundabout on the A69/A68 junction) at 1.30 p.m.

**Cumbria Classic Weekend**  
**16/17th August**  
**At Dalemain near Ullswater**

*From Wigton Motor Club*

The 26<sup>th</sup> Cumbria Classic Weekend once again promises a packed programme of events and attractions. The action kicks off on the Saturday (16<sup>th</sup>) with the Rose & Thistle Challenge which is a 140 mile touring event taking in some of the best roads in northern England and the Borders.

The Cumbria Classic Show on the Sunday takes place in the superb parkland at Dalemain with over 600 cars expected. As well as the cars there will be lots of club displays, motorsport displays and all action autotests as well as autojumble and trade stands. Visitors also get discounted admission to Dalemain and its famous gardens.

The special features this year are “**90 Years of MG**” and “**Lotus Legends**” and MG and Lotus clubs are especially welcome. There are special rates at local hotels or camping on the show field. We would like to invite your club to join us this year for which is regarded as the best show in the region. See <http://www.wigtonmc.co.uk/> for entry form for the Rose & Thistle Challenge.

## ***New Members***

This month we welcome to MG Northumbria quite a few new members:

Colin & Christina Rees from North Shields with a MGB GT

Stuart Collingwood from Acklington - MGB Roadster

David Horne, South Shields - MG RV8

Dave Morrison from Whitley Bay - Daimler 250 V8

Geoff Lambton also from Whitley Bay - MGB

Christopher Smith, again from Whitley Bay - MG Midget.

Brian Dickinson from North Shields - MGB GT.

Leon Lindsey from Gosforth, Newcastle - Triumph Stag.



## Drive it Day

*This was posted on facebook by **Les Davison** (hope you don't mind me copying it Les! Ed.)*

Miserable day yesterday, weatherwise, Still, 39 cars turned out for our "Drive it Day Run" .

Mist, rain, and thick fog, on the hill tops of Northumberland, and some very bad pot-holed roads, The good bit, we came in 3rd position overall, in the MG TF, thanks to navigator Susan Farley. plus a very nice lunch at the finish, @ The White Swan in Dinnington. Black Pudding in Pepper sauce, starter was very nice.

**Ian McNeish** also posted this photo of George, Les and Susan taken at Bellingham at the Heritage Day.



## Bellingham Heritage Show

Sunday 13th April and a very bright and sunny start early on, but by 10:00hrs the clouds were rolling in. Even so 12 cars turned up at the start at Denton Burn Library for the run up to the Heritage Classic Car Show, in Bellingham. I used the MG6 as I had 4 passengers and a lot of prizes for Pam's Charity Tombola Stall in the boot. The start list included 4x MGB's, 2x MG TF's. 1 MG Midget, 1x Triumph Stag, 1x Sunbeam Tiger, 1x Morgan +4 and Ken Wood in his Mazda MX5, who was only doing the start and the first few miles as he was teaching his grandson, about route instructions and tulip diagrams. (a future classic rally navigator)

The route proceeded from Denton Burn, through Westerhope, to Stamfordham, Matfen, and Ryal. When it reached Stagshaw Roundabout, we Headed north straight up the A68. I had intended to put in another loop off the A68, through Cholerton, Barrasford, Wark, and Birtley but when I recce'd the route the roads were so pot-holed, a Land-Rover could have damaged it's suspension, so I deleted this section.

When we arrived at the Station Yard in Bellingham, we parked up with all of the other Classic's on show, with a very good cross-section of cars, commercials, and motor-cycles totaling over 70 vehicles on show. I was very pleased to see, yet again a "KIT-CAR" winning best in show, this time a Nostalgia cars Jaguar XK120 replica. Our Ian McInnes Memorial run was won by Peter & Pam Hyde in their MGB, BRD361K who answered all of the questions correctly and all of the answers were spelt correctly. Megan Allen (one of my passengers) played the Northumbrian Pipes (the Strolling player) during the afternoon, and Pam and Amanda raised £105:00 on their tombola stall.

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The rain kept off, so very good day all round. This included our "history lesson" by George Dalgarno, about the "Bellingham Lang Pack"

In medieval times the owners of LEE HALL, Bellingham had gone off to London for the week-end, leaving the servants in charge of the house. Late that evening, there was a knock at the door and when a servant answered the door, there stood a tinker, and he asked if it would be possible to have a bed for the night? The servant replied that the owners were not at home and he could not allow a stranger to stay without their permission.

The tinker said he was very tired, and he would try to find alternative accommodation, but would it be possible for him to leave his bag of wares in the house and he would pick them up first thing in the morning. The servant said that should not be a problem, so the tinker left his bag, which was a very long pack, in the kitchen. Later that evening, a chambermaid, who was working in the kitchen, thought that she saw the bag move, so she called for the gamekeeper, who was busy cleaning his guns. When he arrived, he kicked the pack, and it let off a grunt, so thinking it was some sort of animal in the bag, shot the pack, from where came a scream, and a trail of blood!!! When they opened up this pack, they found a little man, with a whistle tied round his neck, so they deduced that when the servants had all gone to bed, he would blow his whistle and let the tinker in so they could steal all of the valuables from the hall.

*Continued on page 12*

The Gamekeeper then went and got some of his friends from the pub, because he did not know how many tinkers would try to rob the house, so when they all assembled in the hall the gamekeeper blew the whistle, and within a few minutes 6 tinkers arrived to strip the hall of all of its valuables, but these were all chased off into the night

This meant that the owners were now left with a dead body and no identification, so the body was buried in the LANG PACK, in graveyard of St Cuthberts Church, where the headstone is simply inscribed

#### THE LANG PACK

George Delgarno assures us that this is a true story, as he was there at the time and he took a few of us, the 200 yards (more like half a mile) to the church yard to show us the grave

Les Davison

### ***Help!***

Does anyone know where Emma Allen can get the wire wheels on her MGB balanced while on the car? Apparently the equipment to do this is not held widely in garages.



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