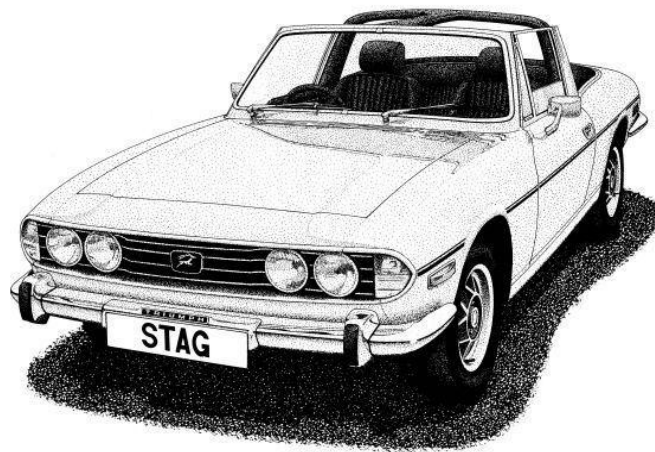




Club Newsletter

For members of MG Northumbria



December 2016

The cover of this month's newsletter is another drawing reproduced with the kind permission of Russell Redwood. You can see his work at rustyred1.deviantart.com.

Not an MG model this month but at least one of our members has a Triumph Stag shown here. Envisioned as a luxury sports car, the Triumph Stag was designed to compete directly with the Mercedes-Benz SL class models. All Stags were four-seater convertible coupés, but for structural rigidity – and to meet new American rollover standards of the time – the Stag required a B-pillar "roll bar" hoop connected to the windscreen frame by a T-bar. A removable hardtop was a popular factory option for the early Stags, and was later supplied as a standard fitment.

The car started as a styling experiment cut and shaped from a 1963–64 Triumph 2000 pre-production saloon, which had also been styled by Michelotti, and loaned to him by Harry Webster, Director of Engineering at Triumph. Their agreement was that if Webster liked the design, Triumph could use the prototype as the basis of a new Triumph model. Harry Webster, who was a long time friend of Giovanni Michelotti, whom he called "Micho", loved the design and took the prototype back to England. The end result, a two-door drop head (convertible), had little in common with the styling of its progenitor 2000, but retained the suspension and driveline. Triumph liked the Michelotti design so much that they propagated the styling lines of the Stag into the new T2000/T2500 saloon and estate model lines of the 1970s.

MG Northumbria club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month.

Most months we have a presentation, often car related but not always. In the past for example we have had talks and demonstrations covering such varied topics as: -

- Car tyre advice
- Northumbrian area history
- Toys & model cars
- Travels in Australia and New Zealand

This month (December 7th) we are looking forward to another talk by Phil Kirkland. This time Phil will entertain us with his exploits in Western America. If it was anything like Australia or New Zealand then we are in for another treat.

Club nights remain very popular with lots of members. Why not come along next year and meet other like-minded members, have a chat and/or a drink, ask others about problems you may be experiencing with your car, find out about club runs, shows or other events etc.

If you've not been before, give it a try. (NB If you want to attend regularly you would need to become a social member of the club but it only costs £10 for a whole year). Go on, make it your New Years resolution to come to your first club meeting in 2017



CHAIRMAN'S CHAT



Hello again

Many thanks for showing your confidence in me to carry on for another year as club Chairman at the AGM. Also many thanks to Mike Mitchell and to Ian Macneish for their time serving on the committee. I'm sure we will work over the coming months to arrange a varied and interesting package of events for 2017.



Also at the AGM, Phil Kirkland won the Emma award, which incidentally is a well designed, hand crafted plaque depicting an MGB and stands for Enthusiastic MG Award. Congratulations Phil

Ten cars came out on a bright but cold, and later wet, afternoon for the winter run from Callerton Metro to Kirkharle. Many thanks to Lorraine Hunter for supplying and receiving the route.



George & Eileen, Tony & Rachel (Sandra) and I went on our own little route to Whitehouse Farm where



we met some of the staff from Useful Vision and families enjoying the Santa specials. Useful Vision were given funds to provide an adventure day out at the Calvert Trust and as it didn't cost as much as they expected they asked if they could use the balance to take 50 children to the Farm. So we went along with the presentation cheque to see them and get some pictures. We then carried on and joined the rest at Kirkharle.

Elsewhere in the newsletter (page 12) you will see details of the proposed trip to the Isle of Man, if you are interested please let me know as soon as possible.

Hopefully we will soon have a supply of the membership packs. If you have never had one please let Eileen Delgarno know. We will also be able to sell new club rally plaques if yours has got a bit weather worn.

By the time you read this we may have already met at the Christmas Party Night at the New Kent, if not I may see you at Club night and if not then it will be my chat next year.

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year.
Tim

D e c e m b e r 2 0 1 6



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunset on an Evening Run by Les Davison				1	2	Xmas Party @ New Kent Hotel 3
4	5	6	Club night with talk by Phil Kirkland 7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	Committee 21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

For 2017 we will continue to produce copies of the calendar on line, each month with a photo taken by one of our members this year and a list of events and runs. A copy will also be included in your newsletter.

New Members

No information supplied by new members for this month but an update on a couple of members with new cars.

“Not sure if anyone would be interested but I've just acquired a new car. I joined the club a bit back and own a MGB GT. The car was running but I soon found it needed the dreaded tin worm sorted so took it off the road. This has now turned into a full restoration and the replacing of a lot of panels. Although attending meetings and helping with the shows I still felt I was missing a big part of the membership as I have as yet never attended any of the rallies. Somehow never felt right to turn up on my motorbike or in the Kuga! Talking to Eileen Delgano set me thinking about an additional car. Long story short I picked up an MGF yesterday. The drive back from just south of Doncaster was a dream. The car is a 2001 and has only 25,000 miles on the clock, full service history and only two owners from new. Looks like it's been very well looked after. So when I'm at the meetings you will certainly see my hand go up for a quite a few of the days out. - Mel Edgar”



Well Mel, you shouldn't have left it so long to come on a run, plenty of people turn up in their every day car and we are happy to have them along. Never had a motorbike in my experience (unless other members know differently) but hey why not! You can still bring it out next year and give your new car a week off. Look forward to seeing you soon.



The MG bug has certainly bitten Rachael Dyson and Tony Old. Not content with one recent acquisition they have decided to buy a “proper MG” Only joking folks! Meet Lil, spotted on eBay, test driven in Catterick and now in residence in deepest darkest Felling. Keep going guys; you might catch up John Mitchell or George Dalgarno with the most cars in the club (not sure who has the record currently, do you know?)

If you are a new member or lucky enough to have purchased a new car, let me know about it on editor@mgnorthumbria.org

Searching for the elusive John 'O' Groats

Steve Miller

Some of our members may recall in an earlier club newsletter our little shunt on the second day of our holiday in Scotland last year. Anne, Maggie the TF and I had to return home from Fraserburgh after a mishap with a cyclist. Happy to say it all turned out ok in the end.

One year later our summer holiday included a second attempt to reach the official furthest point North on the Scottish mainland, John 'O' Groats. We joined forces with another car club I am involved with called Border Patrol. BP are enthusiastic owners of MGFs and TFs with member up and down the country. Keeping in touch mainly through social media, they attend charity runs, car shows, weekend runs and annual holidays. Plans were finalised for this year's annual vacation, a week in August in Aviemore.

Day 1, A697, sunshine and roof down, early first stop, Heighleygate for a coffee and a two car meet. Heading north to Lauder we stopped for lunch and met up with another four cars, two members had travelled up from Hull. The six car convoy continued north on the A68 to Edinburgh over the Forth Bridge onwards following the A9. We skirted around Perth and continued our journey north on the A9 to Aviemore. As with all trips in Scotland we were met with torrential rain, so roofs up and roofs down was the norm for the rest of the week. We arrived at the lodge late afternoon in glorious sunshine. Three further MGs, arriving from London, joined us later that evening.



Each of the following days were planned by a different member including my day trip to John 'O' Groats on the fifth day.

Day 2, Loch Ness. All nine cars headed west looking for the quiet B roads, causing chaos as we headed towards Loch Ness. These road workers did not expect a traffic jam in the Glens?



We stopped off for lunch at Fort Augustus before heading back to base camp that evening.

Day 3, Speyside. It soon became obvious we were in the land of distilleries. We must have passed dozens on our day trips so it would be rude not to visit at least one.



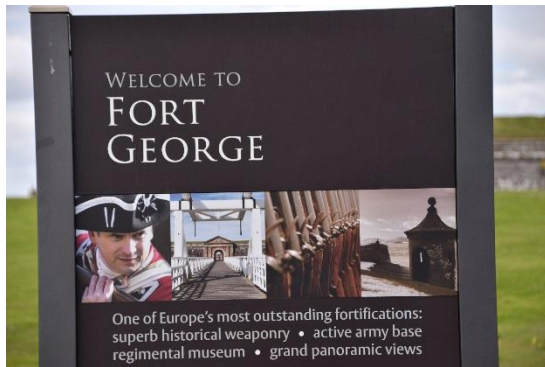
After the guided tour, several bottles at various strengths were purchased in the gift shop and the whisky tasting continued into the evening. 57% proof helped to ease me into a comfortable sleep that night.

Day 4, Applecross. Today we headed west to one of the best driving roads in the UK. I cannot recommend this route highly enough. Fantastic scenery and hair pin bends, this road off the A890 north of Kyle of Lochalsh has it all. We stopped off for a light lunch at Eilean Donan Castle on the A87 before heading further west through fantastic glens and mountains before dropping down to sea level turning right onto the A890 through Achmore, Ardnarff, New Kelso and through quaint Lochcarron golf course at Kirkton, on to Kishorn and then finally turning left at Tornapress. We climbed up through the pass, at the top we were met by fantastic views toward the Isle of Skye before dropping down to Applecross. Here we stopped for a late lunch. We did not book, but 16 weary travellers were met with open arms and our unexpected hosts made us welcome. We squeezed into a corner in an already full

restaurant. We ate well that day. We continued around the peninsula, again graced with fantastic sea views to our left as we looked west for more breath-taking views of the Isle of Skye. The Applecross run is all single lanes with passing places. We were met with the odd camper van, bus and an articulated lorry! I recall a similar experience when going the wrong way with the shopping trolley in Asda. Why is that? The road looped back onto the A896 and we headed east back to base, leaving behind great memories we will treasure for a life time.



Day 4, today we split into two packs. One trip took us to Fort George. The second pack took a different route through Nethy Bridge to the Cairngorms National Park. Anne and I decided to head to Inverness and then onto Fort George for some dolphin watching. This 18th century working fort was designed for modern warfare with low embankments to withstand repeated cannon fire. Deep moats and low defence walls were the thought of generals when designing one of the most expensive forts ever built after the Jackobite uprising of 1745. The original budget was £92,673 and doubled to £200,000, a vast figure at the time. Although open to the public it is still in use by the army. Another worthy trip if like us you enjoy history and castles.



That evening we received news that our eldest daughter had finally given birth to our first granddaughter Emily. Two weeks overdue!! So the following day, Anne, Maggie the TF and I headed home. Then the following day we were on to Coventry to see our granddaughter. And yes day 5 was my trip to John 'O' Groats!. Next year's holiday is booked. Slightly further afield with trains planes and automobiles. Pacific coast route 1 in a Mustang convertible.

Ah well one day, maybe.





Again this great marque has forged great friendships with like-minded people. Both Anne and I had a wonderful time. Thank you MG.

Thanks to Steve for this contribution. Do you have a favourite trip, or a dream trip you would love to undertake? Let us hear all about it at editor@mgnorthumbria.com

Les's Dusty Archives

Long time member Les Davison has been rumaging in his drawers again and come up with this interesting snippet from around 1987 we think, do you know better? Les has promised to keep rummaging and come up with a few more for 2017. Others have items I know so let's be 'avin 'em.

TYNE + WEAR MG OWNERS CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Salamanca
19 Druridge Crescent
Newsham Farm Estate
BLITH Northumberland NE24 4SB
Tel : 0670 - 355765

Dear Member (Old or New)

25/9/87

Well here it is, the FIRST of regular Newsletters keeping you informed of what is happening in YOUR CLUB. At the last meeting we had some new members present and I would like to extend a warm welcome to them, I hope you will enjoy YOUR CLUB and that we can have a long and rewarding friendship. After all that's what the idea of the Club is, to bring together people from various backgrounds who all share a common interest - the love of their M.G. YOUR CLUB can only survive if we have plenty of members who turn up regularly and support the many functions that will be arranged. I would like to make a plea to ALL of our members, old and new, we all know someone else who has a M.G. - persuade them to join us and together we can make the TYNE & WEAR MG OWNERS CLUB a real success. It doesn't matter if their car is a tatty run-about or a prestige Concours winner, as long as it is a M.G.

Progress is being made with the Club Badge for the cars and Sweatshirts etc and I hope to have some examples for you to see at the next meeting (WED 4 OCTOBER at 8)

Any ideas that you may have for future Meetings or Events you would like to see can be discussed at the next meeting, so put your thinking caps on and see if you can come up with something??

- DATES FOR YOUR DIARY -

WED 4 OCTOBER 8 PM

CLUB NIGHT - TRIVIAL QUIZ/MATTER
RAFFLE & BUFFET SUPPER (if I don't burn the cakes)

SUN 22 OCTOBER
REST DAY

TRACTOR & CLASSIC CAR SHOW LYHEMOUTH - A chance for you to show off your pride and joy to the club members and to the public. These shows are generally very good so get the polishing cloths out and bring YOUR CAR along. A Proper M.G. STAND will be available for the CLUB.

EXCURSION

SUN 29 OCTOBER 1000

Club Run and Treasure Hunt - Start Point the Crafters Arms (Old Kenton Bar Pub) Kenton Bar Roundabout. PUB LUNCH en route - names to me at next meeting (please)

SUN 19 NOVEMBER 1030

Club Run - Mid Northumbria - Meet at Highlander Pub Belsay for coffee. Convey drive to Rothbury for Lunch at a Watering Hole, then over meers to ALNWICK CASTLE for Photo Call and then afternoon tea at White Swan.

WED 15 DECEMBER

Indian Christmas Party Night - A chance to sample the delights of Indian Cuisine at a local Indian Restaurant. English alternatives available for those who wish it.

It is hoped that we will be able to have a M.G. Stand at next years Whitley Bay Car Show and if anyone has any ideas/suggestions regarding this, please let me know.

SEE YOU ON THE 4th OCTOBER AT 8'o'clock

Cheers

Chris

And finally, if you are interested in joining the club on a trip to the Isle of Man next year, read on and contact chairman Tim Cook ASAP



MGN Isle of Man Tour 2017

Thanks to information from Stephen Ruddick from a tour he did earlier this year with his new club we have an almost ready made tour. It uses the same hotel, which he recommends, and the routes, one of which follows the TT course but at a more leisurely pace. The proposed details and costs are given below: -

Depart Heysham 16/5/17 on 14.15 ferry, arr Douglas @ 17.45
Depart Douglas 19/5/17 on 8.45 ferry, arr Heysham @ 12.15

My route planner says it is 2hr 21 mins from Newcastle to Heysham via A69 & M6, so possible to drive down in the morning.

Ferry Costs: <https://www.steam-packet.com/>

Car & Driver £154 retn Car, Driver + 1 £162

Reserved lounge seat £9 per person retn

Premium lounge £35 per person

Deposit £40 non refundable – minimum 5 cars

Hotel: <https://www.classiclodges.co.uk/our-hotels/ramsey-park/>

Ramsey Park Hotel

Double/twin – B&B £272.22 – B,B & 3 course EM £371.24

Single room as above £239.25 or £288.75

The single course option seemed popular in Northern Ireland but is not available in the package, but if you go B&B you could have a single course from the menu, or eat more during the day, (or both!!).

10% deposit with booking, 70% 56 days before remaining 20% 14 days before.

Total costs

Double/twin from £434.22 - £483.78 excl seats

Single from £393.25 - £442.75 excl seats

As a comparison, a four-night tour with Scenic Car Tours is from £399 per person.



Merry Christmas and a thank you to everyone who has contributed to this year's newsletters. The more we get the easier my job is. Keep 'em coming in 2017

Peter Hyde
Newsletter Editor

ATTENTION ALL OWNERS OF MODERN MG'S

AutoService Centre

- Service, repair, MOT's & Cylinder Head Specialist
- Experienced and Factory trained technicians
- Full diagnostic facilities for MG Rover and others
- Clean, tidy & well organised workshops
- Fully synthetic oil used on customers request
- Established 1955, family owned & run

MG ROVER Specialists

Lion Garages

Front Street West
Bedlington
Northumberland, NE22 5TZ
Telephone (01670) 828505




ESTABLISHED SINCE 1977

SPORTS CARS UNLIMITED

SOUTHEND GARAGE • JESMOND

Southend Garage • Bk. Fernwood Road • Jesmond • Newcastle upon Tyne • NE2 1TJ
Telephone & Facsimile: 0191 281 4036

Gordon Russell

SPECIALISING IN
RESTORATION • SERVICE • PARTS • SALES

MATRA • MG • TRIUMPH

CLASSIC SPORTSCAR

CHIC DOIG

Established 1983

Scotland's largest stockists of new & used MG & other Classic Parts.
MGOC Recommended Supplier & 5 Star Spanner Award .
Full Workshop facilities, Bodywork specialists, Insurance work undertaken.
Always breaking Maestros, MGAs, MGBs, Magnettes, Midgets, for spares.
Fast & efficient Mail Order service

131, Jamphlars Road, Cardenden, Fife, KY5 0ND
E-mail :- sales@chicdoig.com
Tel:- Office 01592-722999, Parts Department 01592-722666



PREMIER INSURANCE

NUMBER ONE FOR

Classic Car Insurance

For the best quotes on Classic Car Insurance call, click or visit to see how much you could save on your current premium!

We have access to 100+ Schemes
Quality Service • Immediate Cover
Monthly Payments

01207 592 222
Email: enquiries@premierinsurances.co.uk
Head Office: 11 - 17 Victoria Road, Consett, Co. Durham DH8 5BQ
Motor Home Commercial Travel

sportscar supplies
Triumph & MG Spares

WELCOME TO SPORTSCAR SUPPLIES : MAIL ORDER CLASSIC CAR PARTS & RETAIL SHOP
Tel 0191 496 0522 email: sales@sportscarsupplies.com

SHOP OPENING HOURS SPRING 2016

MONDAY	10.00 - 4.00
TUESDAY	10.00 - 4.00
WEDNESDAY	CLOSED **
THURSDAY	10.00 - 4.00
FRIDAY	10.00 - 1.00 **

THE SHOP WILL OFTEN BE OPEN OUTSIDE THESE TIMES AND BY APPOINTMENT . PLEASE CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ANY CHANGES TO OPENING TIMES OR OCCASIONAL DAYS & HOLIDAYS WHEN THE SHOP WILL BE CLOSED .

Local customers please remember it is possible to collect pre-ordered parts outside normal hours from the cafe / cycle shop in our old workshops including weekends.

TRIUMPH SPITFIRE, MG MIDGET AND MGB GT CLASSIC CAR SPARES

WORLD WIDE FAST MAIL ORDER
MGOC 5 STAR RECOMMENDED SUPPLIER
TSSC LISTED SUPPLIER
OVER 70,000 PARTS IN STOCK!



Sportscar Supplies Ltd.
Collingwood Building
Quality Row
Swalwell
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne
NE16 3AQ

Classic car restoration & body paint repairs



Vehicle Restoration • Damaged Paint Work • Corrosion • Bodywork Specialists

Proud to stand as the north east's one-stop shop for all classic car servicing, repairs and bodywork. Fenham Garage Services has been in continued operation for over 30 years.

At FGS, you know that your classic car is in safe hands, and we'll look after it just the way you would...

Our Bodyshop has recently received accreditation from The Volkswagen Group, which allows us to carry out body and paint work repairs to all vehicles with the highest of standards. We also offer a comprehensive range of other services to keep your classic car in tip top shape.

Mon to Fri 8.30am - 6.30pm Sat 8.30am - 1.30pm

37 Hadrian Road,
Fenham,
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 9HN
Telephone: 0191 272 23 22
info@FGSgarages.com www.FGSgarages.com

FGS
COMPLETE VEHICLE CARE ACROSS TYRESIDE