



Newsletter August 2015

Introduction. First of all, Roger Skinner has not been well recently, and has spent some time in hospital. We all wish him well and a speedy recovery, and look forward to seeing him out and about again very soon.

Next, my thanks to Pete Thomas for his superb report of the Grand Prix BBQ at Peter & Jill's and the Club Pride of Ownership events, together with excellent photos of the two events. And congratulations to Jack Martin, Mary Skinner and Pete on their successes in the PoO classes in which their cars were entered. Very well done! I also hear that Jack is making every effort to get this TD back on the road for the Bicester Avenue event at the start of August – we are all looking forward to seeing it then! Next on Jack's schedule is a gearbox change for his MGB, so as to get that back on the road too. Despite missing our PoO because of holiday commitments, I've had some success too – the MGA won First in Class in the PoO at *MG Live!* In June, and I subsequently took the 'A' to the Chesham Natter PoO



and won First in Class there too, another nice cup for the trophy cabinet!

The Chesham PoO was a fine event – friendly people, a wonderfully balmy summer evening and a BBQ, and a mouthwatering selection of MGs!

A few of our members visited the Cow Roast at Tring on Saturday 25th July, and Clive sent me this report:

"Pete, Jill, Helen and I were the only ones who went on the club pub lunchtime run to the Cow Roast Inn on Sat 25 Jul, and we had a great time. They do a reasonable selection of beers etc, and the food is good, for its price, and was good value too. George, the landlord, has been there 6 months and previously worked for Rover, so he had contacted me to invite us over to have a look as he is keen to build up his business and his car interests. The pub is located in the middle of several clubs – us, St Albans, Watford and Chesham, possibly High Wycombe too, so is we ever had a joint meet up the Cow Roast would be convenient. Btw, if anyone was in any doubt as to whether we were considering relocating to there, we are most definitely not: the Five Arrows suits us and they look after us, so a move is not on the table.

Over the road from the Cow Roast Inn is the canal and marina, and we believe they run canal cruises from there, so that is a possibility for consideration in the future. Other than that, it's a pub, on the main road, with a large car park".

On another subject, something that our members should be aware of is the issue of the new rules covering the Vehicle Excise Duty (car tax to you and I). This ceases to be valid when a vehicle changes hands, so when you sell or trade in your car, you will get a refund (eventually) of the residual tax from the DVLA. And when you buy a car, new or second-hand, you will have to tax it from the date of purchase – this also applies if you give your



car away to a relative or friend who registers it in his own name. The iniquity of this is, of course, that the car tax will be paid twice in the month it changes hands unless this occurs exactly at the end of a month – nice little earner for the Government! It seems that lots of people have been caught out by the new rules, thinking the car they are buying, possibly with an apparently valid disc in the window, is already taxed, and subsequently being prosecuted and fined for driving an untaxed vehicle. This change may help make the DVLA more efficient, but it makes more work for the poor car owner, and potentially costs more as well.

Another issue currently being considered by the Government is that of the MOT test for older vehicles. Much of the test is now equipment-based, and testers qualified to inspect and rule whether older cars meet the original roadworthiness specifications are now ageing themselves and will eventually retire. So the modern test and testers potentially lack the ability and experience to properly inspect older cars. Thus, according to the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs (FBHVC) it is likely that Europe and our own Government will approve the extension of the exemption of MOT testing for pre-1960 cars. This is justified by the fact that these cars are now in the hands of enthusiasts who maintain them to a high order and ensure that they are kept in a roadworthy condition. It will be interesting to see the outcome of this.

Upcoming Events. Clive wants me to remind you all as a matter of priority about the Kop Hill Climb in September – this is an event we have supported in the past. Andy Burfield at Kop Hill has reserved a number of places for MGs in the display area at this event, and Clive is anxious that any of our members who intend to display their cars book tickets on-line as soon as possible to secure these spaces, and to let him know that they have done so. When you are booking on-line, be sure to select Aylesbury MG Club from the drop-down menu so as to secure your space in the reserved area.

2nd August – MGCC at Bicester Avenue. This is the MG Car Club's showcase to publicise their Club, to promote car ownership, and to encourage new members to join. Our Club supports this event, and we use it as a platform to promote our retail and repair services. Unfortunately, this event clashes with one organisation's Register of the MGCC, and I am trying to work out how I can attend

**Bicester Avenue meeting
is cancelled**



both events

3rd August – Natter Night ... business as usual at the Five Arrows.



30th August – Classic Car Day at the Sow & Pigs. Will and Ali at the Sow & Pigs at Poundon hold a Classic Car day on the August Bank Holiday Sunday. You will recall this is the pub that was the start point for our first road run of the season – the Classic Car day always attracts an interesting selection of classic cars, starting at lunchtime and there is a BBQ as well as Brakspears bitter and at least one guest ale. Well worth attending - picture below was taken



at last year's event, highlighting the fabulous and very rare 7-litre Lister-Jaguar XJS Le Mans.

7th September – September Natter. Our normal monthly meet at the Five Arrows.

13th September -Chearsley Classic. Classic Car meet at Chearsley near Aylesbury - see vehicles@ccvfd.co.uk

19/20th September – Kop Hill Climb. As already noted above. Kop Hill Climb is at Princes Risborough – see www.kophillclimb.org.uk for full details of this interesting and exciting event.

26/27th September – Weekend Away. I think everyone who put their name down for this event has now confirmed with the hotel – The Hollies Hotel at Bower Hinton -, but anyone else who wishes to join us for a weekend in Somerset and a visit to the Haynes Motor Museum should contact Dave Barton davebarton1@virginmedia.com , who has taken on the organisation of this event while Roger Skinner recovers.

30th October/1st November – Classic & Sports Car – The London Show. The Ticket office for this new event at Alexandra Palace is now open, details on www.classicandsportscarshow.com. I'm going – anyone else?

That's it for now. Enjoy the rest of the summer, and let's get as many MGs as possible to Bicester Avenue!

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Club Secretary

PS – Seen in Funchal, Madeira :

