



Newsletter June 2016

Introduction

May was a busy month for events, and the weather was a mixed bag, to say the least. Two events, the Regency Run and the Thames Valley Sports Car meet at Hambleton, basked in record temperatures, being the hottest day of the year so far, the mercury topping 26 degrees C, whilst the Chiltern Hills Rally experienced temperatures barely half of that, but fortunately remained dry throughout the day.

Regency Run

Dave Barton attended the Regency Run from Kempton Park to Brighton, and his report is below:

"Sunday 8th May. The sun was up, the roof was down and we were off to the last ever MG Regency run from Kempton Park to Marina Drive Brighton.

363 MGs from the very oldest to the very newest were included in this event which started with the obligatory bacon roll and tea. Once we had all registered, admired the many different cars, and attached the rally plates we were off on the run to Brighton.

I think I am right in saying that it was the hottest day of the year so far and it must have triggered that thing deep inside of us all that makes us all head for the sea on a bright sunny day. The route planned took us through some of the most beautiful villages and scenery and not a motorway and very few A roads either. It did take us nearly 4 hours to do the 2.5 hour route due to the high volume of non MG's on the road, but the sun was shining so who cares.

Arriving in Brighton the cars were directed to the sea front which was closed to other traffic and we all parked up for another ogle at the cars, the beach and those reclining in the sun and then to the inevitable fish and chips and a cold beer.

It was a very full and enjoyable day, shame this particular run has come to an end after 34 years but the costs of the venue for the meet and the charges from Brighton for closing the



Gathering at the start



Dave at the Seaside

road and marshalling traffic have made this unviable for the future."



Thames Valley Classic and Sports Car Day, Hambleden.



Hambleden 2016, in its wonderful Chilterns Location

Jackie and I packed the picnic hamper and loaded up the MGA for the drive to Hambleden. I opted to go the motorway route to get there – M40 to junction 5. From there the run is through the Chilterns to the village of Hambleden, about 4 miles north of Henley-on-Thames. The route goes through a village called Ibstone, and the road was lined on both sides for miles by a stunning display of bluebells – a beautiful sight. The cars gather on the huge sports field



Ghia L 6.4



Alfa Romeo Junior Zagato

behind the Stag & Huntsman pub – the marshalls directed me to an area where a number of MGs had already assembled, and I parked up behind another MGA.

Ever heard of a Ghia L 6.4, or seen one? No, neither had I. But there was no mistaking that it was something a bit special when it arrived, and is said to have once been Dean Martin's car! And it was in good company – there was a mouth-watering selection of cars of every sort – some, like the Ghia, really quite rare. There were some really exotic and valuable cars, but also the more mundane transport, but equally worth preserving, and certainly loved by their owners. In all, I would estimate that there were around 200 cars of all marques and ages. MGs were well represented, with the Thames valley MGF register out in force – I chatted with their co-ordinator, Ian Wright, and hopefully we will meet up with them at a joint event at some stage. Interestingly I was parked close to a friend of Pete Thomas' who had driven over



in his beautiful Lancia Fulvia (he has a brace of MGB GTV8s too, lucky chap!).

The car of the show for me, though, was a beautiful red Alfa Romeo Giulietta Superleggera, a rare car, standing alongside which was an equally rare Alfa Junior Zagato. Or an alternative could have to be the original unrestored, tatty but much loved and much-used MGA!!



Alfa Romeo Giulietta 1900 Superleggera

All in all, a good day out.



Much-loved MGA!

Chiltern Hills Rally

I had been watching the weather forecast all week, because the warm sunny weather was scheduled to break before the Chiltern Hill Rally Sunday. And break it did, with a couple of days of downpour in the week leading up to the rally. I managed to get soaked several times during the week, because I cleaned the outside of my conservatory, which had turned green during our wet winter. This is a job I do each spring on a rainy day – the rain water helps to rinse off after I have attacked the conservatory with my water broom, and prevents smears from the hard tap water. Also, every time I went out to do some gardening, the heavens decided to open and deposit their watery contents on me.



Club Stand at Chiltern Hills Rally - the now leak-free MGA on the right!



During a break in the rain on Thursday morning before the rally, I took the MGA down to the local filling station to fill up with petrol, only to discover when I returned a trail of oil up the road from my incontinent MG! Bonnet up, torch and mirror out and half an hour later I had traced the leak – the flexible oil pipe from the block to the oil pressure gauge had failed. So a quick drive to the MGOC HQ at Swavesey in the afternoon produced a new one, which when quickly fitted cured the problem. Phew!!! Timing is everything, so they say.

However, we were lucky on the Sunday – whilst not particularly warm, it remained dry all day, thankfully. Some of us met up at the Aylesbury Tuck for a bacon sandwich and a mug of tea at 09.00 before going to the showground – it was the best bacon sarnie I have had for ages – and great value - £6.20 for tea and sarnies for two!!! The Aylesbury Tuck is highly recommended! Then, while the others went on the organised road run, Jackie and I went straight to the showground to find our club stand and erect the flag. We had a very good showing – we were joined by the Midget and Sprite Club and a few others – 17 cars in all.

For those who haven't yet been to the Chiltern Hills Rally, it is quite something. Obviously, there are loads of vehicles of every shape and size, but there is lots more going on, with trade and craft stalls a-plenty, beer tent and food outlets, and even a dog show. It is fascinating just walking around and taking in the atmosphere. The vehicles are grouped by class, and there are 16 of these – everything from commercial vehicles and buses to military and emergency vehicles, with 7 classes of cars. So hundreds of interesting and mouth-watering vehicles to admire and photograph, and perhaps also to which to aspire.



Pontiac Chieftan



Cadillac Eldorado

My car of the show? Very difficult, but probably either one of the bling-laden 1950s American monsters – Pontiac Chieftan or Cadillac Eldorado, or a delightful 1950s Bentley razor-edged



Ford Zephyr Convertible



Bentley Razor-Edged Saloon

saloon. Or maybe the Ford Zephyr convertible



Not to be missed was the fully restored Bedford mobile cinema, the subject of much recent interest in the motoring press. The Ministry of Technology built seven of these custom mobile cinema units in the late 1960s, to tour the country, promoting modern production techniques to British industry. The seven Bedfords were operated by PERA, or the Production Engineering Research Association. Films would be played within the cinema, with supporting displays shown in the trailer that accompanied the towing unit as they toured the nation's factories. This is the only surviving example of the seven, and it reportedly sold at auction in 2015 for £120,000 – so a rare and valuable piece of motoring history!!



The Bedford Mobile Cinema then and now

You may get another chance to see this very interesting vehicle, because it is now owned by Ben Moorhouse and lives at Bicester Heritage.

Also of interest was one of the new Tesla electric cars on display – a luxurious executive express – but a bit disconcerting when you see that it has two big boots – one in the normal place at the back, and one under the bonnet, but with no engine! It is apparently driven by electric motors at each wheel and has phenomenal acceleration and a good range. I couldn't see where you put the batteries in, though One notable absentee, though, was Jack Martin's TD – he had planned to come along in this, but he managed to break one of the windscreen brackets a couple of days before the event, and had to come in his modern-day TF instead! One day we will get to see the legendary TD on the road, but don't hold your breath.....

Jack's knee was giving him some trouble, so he volunteered to look after our cars while we all looked round the exhibits and stalls, and then met up again for a sociable picnic lunch, before again wandering around to make sure we didn't miss anything. And then it was time to depart for home after another very pleasant day out. Definitely coming back next year!

Upcoming Events

Sat & Sun 4th / 5th June – MG Live! At Silverstone. The big MG weekend at the home of British Motor Racing. www.mgcc.co.uk/about/mglive9/

5th June - Vintage Stony
www.vintagestonycars.co.uk



Monday 6th June – Natter Night at the Five Arrows, Waddesdon

Sunday 12th June The WAMGOC's Octagonal Run 2016. and Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration

On Sunday 21st August, Wycombe and Amersham MGOC are holding an Octagonal Run, in aid of Amersham & Wycombe Parkinson's Society.

A scenic drive starting at The Polecat Inn, Prestwood ending at Hazelmere Golf Club with a lunchtime stop at Claydon House. £27.50 (entry to house not included. NT members free entry). Rally Board and full Tulip Map provided. Come and help us raise funds for this worthwhile charity! Contact is Keith Darbon <kndwamgoc@hotmail.co.uk

Sat & Sun 25th / 26th June – Banbury Steam Fair & Classic Show

www.banbury-rally.co.uk

28th June – Chesham Natter Pride of Ownership.

This is an informal 'judge it yourself' Pride of Ownership for all MG's (and other classic cars whose owners regularly attend the Natter).

Location : Chesham & Ley Hill Golf Club, Ashridge Road, Ley Hill, near Chesham HP5 1UZ.

The Clubhouse and Bar Area is large enough to accommodate all inside, but hopefully (weather permitting) we can be outside. There is limited seating on the Club's veranda, so please bring picnic chairs if you wish to sit down and eat outside.

Awards : There will be some great trophies, and five classes for MG's.

Entry : Just arrive from 6.30 pm and enter on the night for a nominal donation – all MG's are very welcome.

Refreshments : Full Bar plus buffet meal of BBQ style food inclusive of a burger/sausage/chicken, salads, bread or roll, etc.. Food will be £7.50 per head.

2nd July – Buckingham Classic Car Show at Gawcott

www.buckinghamrotary.co.uk

Sat & Sun 2nd / 3rd July – Flywheel – Bicester Heritage

www.bicesterheritage.co.uk/events

Monday 4th July – AMGC PoO. We have now resolved the issue of where we will hold the PoO. Dave Barton has spoken to Alex McEwen at the Five Arrows, who is very keen that we continue to hold it at the Arrows. So he has arranged that we will have the space between the hotel and the coach house, and also he will cordon off half the car park for us. And he will also arrange to provide the ever-popular Five Arrows Bangers and Mash! So the PoO will go ahead at the Five Arrows as usual. This event will start earlier than our usual natter - at 19.00, with committee members arriving a bit earlier to set things up in preparation. A big vote of thanks to Alex for his continuing support for our club.

***Note** – Full list of events is on the Club website – www.aylesburymgclub.org.uk



And Lastly

As it was a sunny day, I decided to drive over to Abingdon in the V8 to pick up my tickets for *MG Live!* in person rather than send off for them by post. I have been to Kimber House (The HQ of MG Car Club) a few times before, and, as usual, the people there were very friendly and welcoming. Colin Grant, Deputy Editor of *Safety Fast!*, showed me around the new extension, which houses a second meeting room, an extension to the showroom and the archive – most impressive. If you are in the area, call in and see them – they are always glad to see members.



V8 and Self at Kimber House

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Club Secretary