



Newsletter November 2018

Classic Car Day at Blackthorn

The Classic Car Day at Blackthorn Village is now a biannual show, which seems to have improved the attendance at this event. It promised to be a warm sunny day, and so it turned out. Dave Barton and I set out early (Jackie and Heather were planning a trip around the shops instead) as we had not pre-registered, and had to be in place before 11am. Dave took the RV8, and I was in the MGA, which hasn't seen a lot of use this year. We parked up, just behind Brian Rainbow's B roadster and Roger Withers' BGT V8, so we knew we would have company during the day – and we had also seen Jack Martin and Ian Canning on the way in, so not a bad club response.



The RV8 and MGA basking in the sunshine – Brian's B and Roger's BGT V8 in the background

This event always attracts a good selection of classics, and this year was no exception. As usual local-lad-made-good Les Harris had brought along a considerable number of the cars from his collection, as well as a couple of the vehicles he used when he was a part owner of H & H Fruiterers in Bicester, and has subsequently had restored. Also there was a grand 1920s Hispano Suiza with an even grander picnic, which we would see again later in the month at Kop Hill.



Les Harris' restored fruit lorry and pickup



1920s Hispano Suiza



A very good day out, with the only complaints being that I had not thought that sun blocker would be necessary, so I got a bit burnt, and the food arrangements were a bit lacking, which didn't matter too much to Dave and myself, as we had brought our own picnic which we tucked into while members of the public admired Dave's RV8 – it is surprising how few people know what it is, so it attracted a lot of attention. And we managed to get the last of the ice cream from the barrow

Kop Hill Climb

I had been too late in getting around to entering the MGA for the Kop Hill Climb, but decided to go anyway as a spectator. Dave's RV8 is too young to enter for the climb, and he was going to go as a spectator too, so I picked him up on the way. Public parking at such a popular event meant a long queue to get in, so we were fortunate to avoid this by parking outside Dave's step-daughter's house, who lives just a stone throw away from the Fire Station at Risborough, a couple of hundred yards from the Hill. Again, it turned out to be a fine day despite starting out cold, so we had to carry our jackets around. It is two years since I was last at Kop Hill, and it seems to have grown quite considerably since then – the paddock seems much bigger than I remembered it, and better organised.



Keystone Kops – look at those tyres...



Lots of MGs

First to greet us were the Keystone Kops, who had just apprehended a miscreant who was protesting his innocence, to no avail. MGs were naturally well represented, with a highlight of the MG Car Club stand being a good selection of Z type Magnettes, which is a little surprising to me because there were plenty of Zs at the demolition derby which was always the finale of the banger races I used to attend in the 60s and 70s, but good to see that so many have survived! Clive's B was there, but we didn't run into him during the day. Also much in evidence were the Daimler SP250 Darts on their day out – I have never seen so many in one place.



Many Daimler Darts



Fabulous Art Deco Alfa Romeo

The two cars that particularly caught my eye were a fabulous 1930s Alfa Romeo with sweeping wings in the Art Deco style, and, because I have always had a hankering for a Big Healey, the Healey 100-6 in metallic blue and white ticked all the boxes for me. Dave was not so impressed,



he had his eye on a new Porsche Cayman on the Porsche trade stand and which I thought we would never get him out of! He test drives one next week, so watch this space



The Big Healey (drool, drool)



Roger blasts up the Hill

At lunch time (much better than Blackthorn) we met up with Brian Rainbow and Roger Withers, and after lunch we watched the cars drive up the hill, seeing Roger blast up in the V8. A superb day, much to be recommended to fans of old and new classics and motorsport.

Weekend Away in The Isle of Wight

The day of the long-anticipated weekend on the Isle of Wight dawned, but the weather – wall-to-wall sunshine up to then – decides to let us down, with an appalling forecast. Not too bad for the trip over, and most of us met up in the designated car park as arranged prior to boarding, but we got separated on arrival because we were a few minutes early and a boat show was on in the ferry car park, so some of us were allowed to board an earlier ferry, and some sent away until the reserved time. Still we all eventually arrived at the hotel – 11 cars and 22 people – and we settled in, changed and had a pint before dinner. We were booked into the Spyglass Inn in Ventnor, where the arrangements for ordering food seemed at first pretty chaotic, but actually turned out to be surprisingly efficient. Some of the members of the IoW MGOC had come along too, and so after introductions we sat down to an abundant and very good meal (and decent beer) The views from the Spyglass are supposed to be very good, but the weather was closing in, so we didn't see a lot



Group shot outside The Spyglass Inn weather not too bad yet



Lots of MGs outside the hotel



Our train arriving on Platform 1

Day 2 dawned, and yes, it was raining. Still, we tucked into a (very) substantial breakfast, and then extricated our cars from the car park and headed to Haven Street, to the IoW Steam Railway. This turned out to be very interesting – Haven Street must have been a busy place in its heyday, with its rail sheds, workshops and goods depot. Nowadays these are used for different purposes, providing restoration facilities for the railway, museums and catering for the visitors. Our train arrived, and we had reserved compartments for our trip up and down the preserved line. Lunch followed – again, good facilities – and then we looked around the rather disappointing Cider and Cheese festival, which didn't detain us for long. Not that it mattered very much, because we had arranged to meet up with the IoW MGOC crowd for an afternoon run in the MGs. They had obviously spent quite a bit of time planning this route, and it was such a pity that we couldn't actually see the magnificent views along the route, although we did get tantalising glimpses of these through the misty haze from time to time. And the roads were a joy to drive on- narrow, twisty lanes with (allegedly) wonderful views across the island. We stopped for tea at a large pearl shop which had an attached cafe where we had a reserved room, and a very entertaining quiz (who would have thought that there were 31 Carry On films, and so many famous actors and actresses cut their teeth on them?) Several of the girls indulged themselves with purchase of the fine merchandise before we set off for the hotel, but not before we said goodbye to our hosts at the IoW MGOC – They had gone out of their way to make our visit memorable, and a sincere vote of thanks to them for all their efforts, perhaps we might return the compliment sometime. I retained my set of instructions and intend to drive the route again on a future visit to the Island.



Group photo at the Pearl Emporium



We were booked into a local restaurant in Shanklin, Morgans, and had intended to walk there. But, knowing it was going to be wet and windy, Dave had very sensibly made the decision earlier in the day to contact the minibus we had used to get to Ventnor, and booked them to take us to and from Morgans, for which we were all most grateful. The meal and wine were superb. Back at the hotel we all (except Jackie, who retired to bed) congregated for a drink in the bar, and one by one drifted off to bed until there was just myself, Jack and Debbs putting the world to rights until 1 am.



Osbourne House and some of the formal gardens

Sunday – and it's still raining. No matter, check out of hotel and off to Osbourne House, where we met up in the car park as we have to go in together on a group ticket. Osbourne House is grand and fascinating, but I did wonder how it would be possible to live with so many fine old paintings, statues, curios and *objets d'art*. Like living in a museum, very depressing I would think. Worth a visit, and the gardens are superb – something you couldn't accuse the cafe of being, they desperately need a good time and motion consultant to have a look at their operating practices. After a quick look at The Swiss Cottage (in the sun, which had at last condescended to come out) it is time to head for the ferry, where we are fortunate to catch the earlier one. We all agree that the weather has not spoilt our highly enjoyable weekend and that the IoW is definitely worth another visit, but we will wait for better weather!

Dave Barton had done a truly excellent job of organising the weekend, and everything went like clockwork, so a huge thank you to him for all his efforts to ensure we had a great weekend.

Upcoming Events

Monday 1st October - Club Night

This will be the talk deferred from September – Alan Dyson and John Passmore. Their talk will be entitled: "The many lives and memories of two car enthusiasts". I for one am looking forward to this very much, and, as always, guest and visitors will be most welcome to attend. We hope to have the Coach House at The Five Arrows for this event. The Club Night will start at 20.00 as usual.



Saturday 13th October – RAF Croughton

I have heard again from Ian Canning about his car show at RAF Croughton which had to be deferred from September. This will now be held on Saturday 13th October, and Ian has sent me this:

"Hi Adrian

We now have a confirmed date of Sat 13th October for our little event. We are putting on a car show as well as a Mercedes F1 car on display with two Mercedes crew available to talk about the car. We also have a drink drive simulator and a motorcycle trials team plus a rolling road dyno. Refreshments will be available as we are also putting on a BBQ and Starbucks will also be open. The event starts at 10am till 4pm. I would love to see members from our car club there. I will need names/registration numbers/make model and drivers licence numbers and or passport numbers along with either one of those on the day providing they have photos on them as the security police will need this to cross check..I know it sounds a lot but it really is straight forward.. If you could get this out as I need responses asap. Those who are interested can contact me on. 01280 708458 or 07763 185013 or e-mail me iancanning@hotmail.co.uk I do have two members coming Jack & Debbie hopefully I will get some more. Many thanks Ian."

23rd October -Chesham Natter Quiz

Chesham Natter are holding their annual quiz at The Chartridge Park Golf Club (HP5 2TF) on 23rd October. The entry fee of £5 includes choice of meals – Sausage & Mash, Chicken Curry or Veggie Lasagne. Please let me know if you are able to attend – I unfortunately will be away in Plymouth during that week, but let us see if we can field a winning team

Other Stuff

Club-branded Clothing

The latest batch of clothing has suffered some issues concerning sizing. Many of the items, although labelled, seem not to be to the required size. Dave is chasing this matter up with the supplier, and hopefully will be able to give us a position update at the October Club Night.

The Skinner Trophy

I have again attached the current position in respect of the points accrued this year for the Skinner Trophy as far as I know it. Please check your own entry to see if you agree with the points awarded, and let me know of any discrepancy so that I can correct it.

Looking at the spreadsheet, the points are awarded as follows:

- Points awarded in columns headed 'Jan' to 'Weekend Away' against your name all count towards the final score. These are all either club nights (green, 2 points for attending, double if in an MG), or club-organised activities (red, 5 points).
- Columns headed 'Kop Hill' to 'AN Other' are events not organised by the club – those in red are supported by the club and attract 5 points, those headed yellow are not supported and attract 3 points for attending. Scoring in both these categories is limited to 6 events, and I will maximise these points when calculating the year-end total.
- The 'Detail' column specifies for which events 'AN Other' points have been awarded, a key is at the bottom of the table against 'External Events'.

I will be at the October Club Night if you have any queries. Many thanks.

Adrian Bennett

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Club Secretary