



**Morris  
Garages**

**ARDEN**  **CLUB**

Issue 3 - March 2022

Newsletter

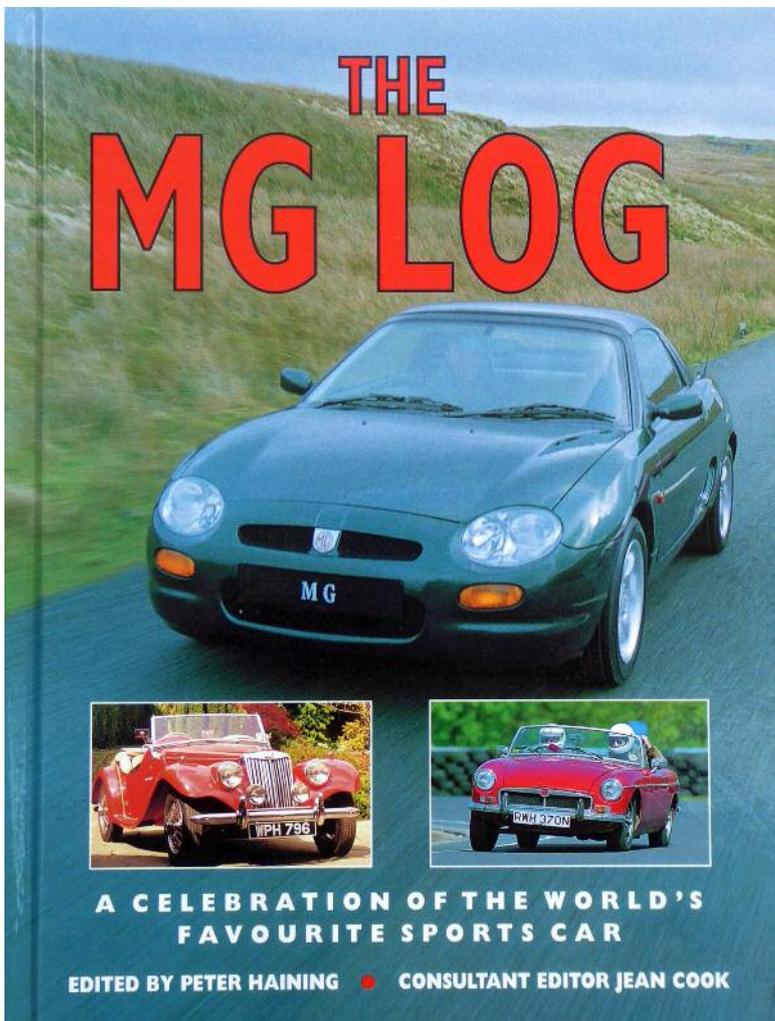
**Welcome to the March issue of AMGC  
monthly newsletter.**

# Book Review

## – The MG Log

by Paul

As some of you will know Caroline is a volunteer at the Oxfam bookshop in Sheep St, Stratford-upon-Avon on a Tuesday afternoon (call in and say hello if you are in Stratford on a Tuesday afternoon). A couple of weeks ago she messaged me to ask if this book (see photo) was of interest. The price was right, so I said yes.



I settled down to read it over several days and I have to say I thoroughly enjoyed the read. It is made up of 10 chapters all written by different authors and the Consultant Editor was Jean Cook (Cecil Kimber's daughter) and indeed she also wrote one of the chapters and most enlightening it was too. This is the inside track on the founder of MG and gives a good insight into the history of Cecil and the foundation of MG cars.

There is also a chapter written by Cecil Kimber, which is actually a transcript of a talk he gave to the Specialloids (the company he worked for at the time) Sports and Social Club, that was thought to have been lost but was published in book form for the first time in this book. It shows the thought Kimber had about racing and it's importance for car manufacturers.

The book was published in 1997, so the last chapter, which is a full list of all the MG models that MG produced, going back to the 11.9hp 'Raworth' Sports built in 1923/4 and up to and including the RV8 and the MGF.

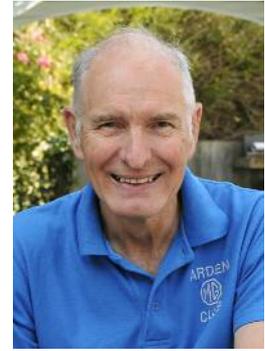
As it was published so long ago obtaining a copy may be difficult, so if anyone would like to borrow the book for a read, they would be most welcome, just let me know.

### Editorial Team:

Paul Dunster & Norman Large

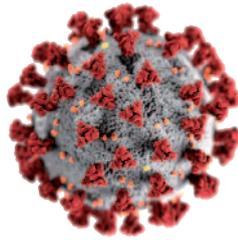
Please let us know if you have any information (comments, stories of interest, photos, a club member's birthday, etc) that you would like to be considered for inclusion in this Newsletter. COPY DEADLINE is 10th of the Month.

ardenmgclub@talktalk.net  
norman.large@btinternet.com



# Another Bumper Attendance

There was another bumper attendance at the March Club Night, with 49 again signing David's register but I have not received any reports of subsequent positive COVID tests this time, although I'm sure this does not mean CoronaVirus has gone away just yet!



Thanks to everyone for taking note of the concerns the Cross had about us blocking the doorway by the bar and for keeping that space clear. It looks like more and more people are making a full evening of it and having a meal before the meeting starts, hence the Cross's comments about no table service once the meeting has started.

## April Club Night Not to be missed

For the April Club Night one of our new members (John Yea) has agreed to give us a short talk about the history of BMH (British Motor Heritage). Anyone with a 60's era Classic MG should know about the organisation, as they are the people who manufacture most of the panels we use to keep our MGs on the road and many of you will be familiar with the 'Heritage Shells', this is where they come from. As a Club we have also made 2



visits to the factory in Witney. John is the recently retired Managing Director of BMH, so he will have the 'inside track' for us. Not to be missed.

### Regional Report for the MGOC Mag

“Unfortunately for Graham (to produce the 'Regional Report for the MGOC Mag, Enjoying MG) there were no events to report on but there was lots to discuss for future events. The first of these will be the visit to Vital Spark and as previously mentioned this is fully booked and I will send further details to the attendees.

## Annual Review

### Club Membership Contact Details

David has done his annual review of the Club Database but when I reviewed it, I could see that a number of the records were out of date as some people have changed their MGs. To be sure that we keep the database current can you please let David or me know if you make any changes to your details (MG, address, phone number, email).

# Arden MG 0511 for the April 2022 issue (never made it to EMG mag in time)

By Graham

*"Various events at the end of February (Half-Terms Cornwall, Storm Eunice) threw my timings and I didn't get the Regional Review to the magazine in time."*

**Not a very eventful month, as we wait for the weather to warm up. Front page news of the newsletter featured the picture with the answers to Our Leader's Photo Competition.**

Not a huge number of entries, and, apparently there was still some discussion over the answers. Anyway, the one at the front was an MG, the one behind it was, too . . . and so on. All the benches had Victory vices and the men were clearly all working with their King Dicks in their hands. King Dicks are, of course, spanners, and they used the model name "Abingdon". Did you know that one of the people credited with the invention of the adjustable spanner was Edward Budding, who designed the first domestic lawnmower?

But enough of this excitement. Lech was nearest the mark on the answers to identifying the cars; apparently the other person who sent in answers didn't merit a mention.

The suggestion of having a Breakfast Run to the Motor Museum was introduced. This is a genius idea;

their bacon sandwiches are legendary, and well worth the trip. To make it even more fun, you could take your car.

People are off to see The Vital Spark company do amazing electric things to Classic Cars; we are aware, of course, that an electric MGB would be subsequently robbed of its trademark exhaust note, but a sister company, The Vital Bits, will eventually supply sound systems on the cars so you can broadcast classic car sounds to alert pedestrians. Currently in the range are, MGB or MGC exhaust notes, squeaky suspension, wheel bearing hum and, for large enough orders you get a free can of aerosol CO2 gas to spray into the atmosphere.

Paul's been doing great work with his MG on the re-carpeting; Caroline's reluctant to mention the lounge carpet's looking a bit ropery in case Paul takes the house to pieces.

David Rayner reminded us that elaborate repair work on an MGB is a recipe for a Bad Back; if you look very carefully on Paul's black and white picture of the 1930s MG workshop you can just make out several bottles of company-supplied horse liniment.

## Events Calendar:

Cricket St Thomas Crown-wheel-and-pinion trip in May

Bloxham Steam Rally in June

Badsey Flower Show in July

MGB Fest at the British Motor Museum

Happy and safe motoring

## Errors & Corrections

*A grovelling apology from me (Norman) as I made a typo when copying Paul's text over to the photo. The MG J2 Midget (second from the bottom in the February issue) should have read MG J1 Midget. And guess what? Lech was on the phone to Paul within minutes of the Newsletter being released to put us right. Is this one correct Lech?*



Photo published with kind permission of The BMIHT (British Motor Industry Heritage Trust).

# THE TON UP KID

(Mike Green) -  
**AGED 70**

As 2021 was closing, I was 70 on 29 December, when a good friend of mine remarked with his northern wit, "you don't look 70 Mike, but you did 10 years ago." What!

As I started my 8th decade, this set me focused that time was now much more precious and lineal. The 'One Life - Live it' marketing phrase used by Land Rover, was inspirational to my 'Ton Up at 70' goal.

Life had been particularly demanding for Jane and I over the last 2-3 years with the house rebuild etc, but that's now done and my work commitments will be more easily managed going forward. We need more fun in our lives, starting now.

Moreover on the motoring front, life has been tough for us all over the last 2 years and we needed a catch up plan. Starting with the end in mind, the answer was simple - Jane and I would attend 100 car related events in 2022, excepting that Jane will invariably excuse herself from some.

With some focus, I mapped out the basic plan for the year and surprisingly it came together quite well. I'll share some of the events with you, others will be a surprise.

With our membership of the 2 MG Clubs and 2 Jaguar Clubs, I reckon we can score a sporty 50 events. Membership at Prescott and Brooklands should clock up another 10, taking us to 60.

Silverstone, Donington, Mallory Park, Oulton Park, Castle Combe, Goodwood etc should add another 10, leaving 30 to go.

With places like Gaydon for example being close by, the 100 Event goal looks doable.

## Series 1 of many to come!

By Mike Green

So, apart from the MG events we all know about, what's planned you might ask?

In no particular order:

- A Morgan driving day
- A Jaguar Driving day
- A 12 day summer tour of Ireland with some Jag folk.
- A talk by Paddy Hopkirk
- A talk by John Watson

A drop in at Mathewsons, whilst wondering around Yorkshire, could perhaps be engineered to add another and there's always a Land Rover event or two worth attending; at a push maybe watching some night Rallying in the middle of Wales, as I did some 50 years ago.

So what's the score so far - well certainly not at the required run rate of circa 8 per month. The highlight so far has been a visit to Hall and Hall in Bourne, run by Rick Hall and his son Rob. Rick was a former key BRM employee, who left and set up his own engineering business when BRM ceased trading. Hall & Hall are the world's leading authority on BRM's

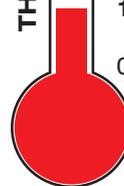


THE TON UP KID's Events Target

100  
The score to date is 11.5, the half being a live stream interview with Paddy Hopkirk at Brooklands on 17 February

11.5

0



and in fact recently built a new and only the 5th Supercharged V16 600HP BRM of the type that came 1st, 2nd and 3rd at the "Daily Graphic" Trophy at Goodwood

### The awesome roar of the V16

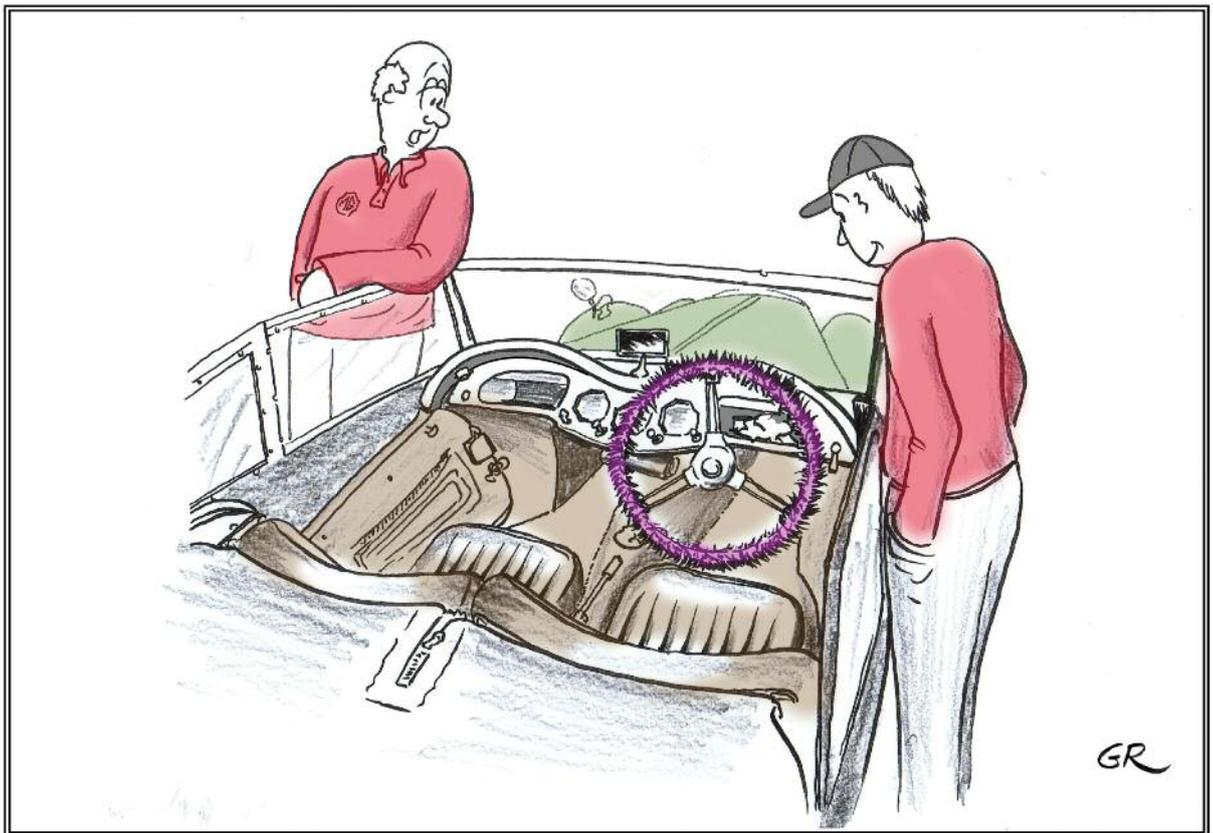
in 1952, the year after I was born. I saw the car run at the Goodwood Festival of Speed last June. Some of you may know that BRM, owned by the Owen family (Rubery Owen), made the entire car themselves and Ferrari are the only manufacturer to claim the same achievements. For those interested, I suggest you visit their website, where you can hear the awesome roar of the V16 - remarkably just a 1500 cc engine: <https://hallandhall.net/>

All that said, it was of course our Chilly Willy run that opened the batting.

Looking ahead to the 100 goal, I have an open mind to any interesting events".



Hall and Hall in Bourne Public Domain Photo



Don't remind me . . . . . the grandchildren bought it me for Christmas . . .

## What Have You Done In or With Your (or someone else's) MG?

### It all comes at once!

by *Dusty*

The lady's ZR went in for it's MOT and passed with no advisories. 19 years old and must have clocked up almost 50,000 miles. This was followed by the HS second service over at Jay Bee Motors at Banbury. Then it was the TF160VVC for it's annual service and MOT. This is also celebrating it's 19th birthday. All ok, I usually get "noisy exhaust" on the report to which I reply "you fitted it". It is an MG Rover Xpower stainless system which echoes nicely through the narrow streets of Shipston. The TD restoration is coming to an end, just a few finishing touches. It's

probably advisable to renew the tyres as we have no idea how long they sat in the Arizona sun and although with plenty of tread one has signs of cracking. We're still debating whether to change the seat covers to the correct colour. There's trim refining to do and we need someone to check the ignition timing and the twin carb settings.

It's nearly 60 years since I last did it on my old J2 - if only I still had it!

### *Rumblings*

There's now rumblings of "Wouldn't it be good to do a MGA next".



# Progress with the new carpet set:

by Paul

I'm safe, all the new carpets are in and the car is ready for the 'Wedding' but not without some difficulties.



I followed the instructions that came with the set and started with the 'Sill Step' covers, the first one took about an hour as I carefully check it and retried again and again before

spraying the glue, however it all went well. Needless to say the one on the other side was done in less than half the time!! Next was the inner rear wheel arch covers and again the first one took some time, with some mistakes, the second was much better. Next was the boards in the footwell, the most difficult part here was finding the original holes to avoid drilling new ones in the body, Caroline came in useful here holding the carpet whilst I marked with a bradawl from the outside!!

Having followed advice, I purchased the set with a 'moulded' tunnel cover and that fitted well, except the hole for the speaker console was not cut out, however there was the shadow of the hole where the under strengthening was omitted, so I cut it to this (it was very difficult to offer up in situ or even measure) only to find the hole was too small. This required a lot of

fettling to remove the under felt and repair the carpet I had already cut. The cover was in and out numerous times to try and achieve an

acceptable fit but eventually I got there and it looks OK but will still need a little repair work in the future.

On to the battery tray cover and because of the way the new carpet was folded under I couldn't use all the original press-studs, so new ones had to be fitted (I must learn how to rivet better). That just left the floor covers, the seats hold the rear one's in place but you still need to make holes for the bolts to pass through, so I marked the holes with chalk then laid the carpet down pressing where the holes would be, which gave me a good guide for where to punch the holes. I used a similar approach to locate where the press-studs needed to be fitted. That just left the seats to be refitted, which is very fiddly trying to keep the spaces in the holes of the wooden supports, then getting the seat runners (whilst attached to the seat) in position and the bolts pushed through but after a bit of cursing they were back in place. All done ready to be driven again.

by Paul

*Do you have a story to tell? - if so please let us know*





## Proposed Club Events for 2022

### March Tuesday 15th – Breakfast Meeting, British Motor Museum

See Chairman's Report for details but let me know if you are interested in attending.

### March Thursday 17th - Factory Visit...

...to The Vital Spark, Electric Classic Cars, which is now fully booked. Gary and his team are looking forward to welcoming us to the factory to see their operation. We should be there at 10.30am and coffee will be available and Gary will give us an introduction to the company and MGB Electric Conversions, followed by a look around the works. There are cars to be inspected (The finished white BGT, a 'B' Roadster being completed, as well as several of the Sebring Healey 3 litres), so lots to see and do. It will also be possible for a few to have a drive in the B GT, not sure of the number but time will be limited, so only a few 20 minute runs. If you would like to have a go, then let me know and I will select at random those who will get the chance.

The address is: Unit 2, Bird Industrial Park, Station Road, Long Marston, CV37 8RP. It is off the Long Marston to Lower Quinton road, turn opposite the end of the 'Greenway' which is where the level crossing used to be (the rails are still in the road!). Weather permitting it would be great to see a collection of our classics at the factory.

Is anyone interested in going to the Mason's Arms for a drink afterwards?

### April Tuesday 8th - Club Night:

Social evening at the Golden Cross - to include a short talk about the history of BMH (British Motor Heritage) by John Yea

### April Sunday 24th - Drive- it-Day Run:

We will meet up and start from The View at Wootton Wawen, B95 6DE. See <https://www.theview-eat.co.uk/> for more information. We will have the use of their overflow car park and should be able to have their upstairs room (with an even better view!) to ourselves which is where the route / instructions will be handed out. They have an excellent restaurant with a menu that offers a wide range of choices from a cup of tea / coffee to their 'Ultimate Breakfast'. Any takers?

We will meet up from 9.30am-ish with the run starting at about 10.30. Distance is 40 miles according to OS Maps but this will be checked in the near future. The route instructions will be tulip diagrams with instructions. The finish will be at the Hook Norton Brewery, OX15 5NY.

Any additional information will be published in the next newsletter but please let us know on [dlpitt@btinternet.com](mailto:dlpitt@btinternet.com) if you want to be added to the list or you need more information. As of the last club night 27 cars have already booked in.

### May Friday 6th to Monday 9th May - Weekend Away...

...to Warner's Cricket St Thomas, Somerset

**May Sunday 15th - Ragley Hall - £4 per car plus passengers - please let Trevor know if this would be of interest.**

### June Sat/Sunday 25th & 26th - Bloxham Steam Rally - Bloxham

Trevor is now in receipt of a booking form, and the prices for this event are: classic car and driver is free, passenger is £12.50 per day. Camping is £55 and includes free entry both days for two adults and 2 children. The organisers will allow us to do a local run before arriving at the rally - sometime during the morning. If there is enough interest in this Trevor will organise it.

### July Saturday 23rd - Badsey Flower Show

Cars have to be in position before 12pm.

### September Sat/Sun 10th & 11th - Road, Rail & Ale Festival.

This is a two-day event held at the Statfold Narrow Gauge Museum Ltd, Tamworth, Staffs, B79 0BU. This is a weekend of classic, vintage and steam themes. If one goes in one's classic car, entry is £5 per day which includes entry for two people. They also have a campsite for those who may wish to stay for the weekend, £20 non-electric and £25 with electric per night. Trevor has made enquiries for a club stand, so please let him know if this is an event, you would like to attend. More info at [www.statfold.com](http://www.statfold.com)

### September Sat/Sun 24th & 25th - Sywell Classic Piston & Props.

Another two-day event held at Sywell Aerodrome, Sywell, Northamptonshire NN6 0BN. An extravaganza of all thing's cars and planes. Take your classic car (pre-1992) and its £5 per day which includes entry for two people. There is also camping available at £40 for three nights. We can have a club stand at this event, and Trevor has sent off an application form, numbers attending will be required 4 weeks before the show. More info at [www.sywellclassic.co.uk](http://www.sywellclassic.co.uk)

**To reserve your place or for more information on any of the AMGC events please contact the appropriate organiser:**

Date	Event	Organiser
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Breakfast Meeting BMM	Paul
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Visit to Vital Spark	Paul
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Drive it Day	Sheila & David Pitt - <a href="mailto:dlpitt@btinternet.com">dlpitt@btinternet.com</a>
May 6 <sup>th</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup>	Weekend Away to Warner's Cricket St Thomas, Somerset	Alan Griffith - <a href="mailto:alan.griffith@hotmail.co.uk">alan.griffith@hotmail.co.uk</a>
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Ragley Hall	Trevor
June 25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	Bloxham Steam Rally	Trevor
July	BMC & Leyland Show BMM	Paul
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Show Night	Paul
July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Badsey Flower Show	Steve
August (tba)	Brailes show	Fred
September 10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup>	Road, Rail & Ale Festival	Trevor
September 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	Sywell Classic Piston & Props	Trevor
Summer (tba)	Aunt Sally	Trevor
Summer (tba)	Happy Hereford's Run	Trevor
Summer (tba)	Chairman's Picnic	Paul
Summer (tba)	Heritage Run Revisited	Paul
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Meal	Paul

## What's On - Elsewhere

### Other Events for 2022

**April 3rd - Festival of Transport Classic Car Show -**  
Three Counties Showground, Malvern

**April 10th - MG Car Club Ltd - Spring Run**  
finishing at Broughton Castle, Banbury  
Full Details: <https://www.mgb-register.org/events/>  
Email Paul or Norman for a pdf flyer if you are interested

**April Saturday 23rd - Pride of Longbridge.**  
Held on Cofton Park, no need to book just turn up and join hundreds of cars with any link to the Longbridge factory. Starts from 10am.

**June 4th - Summer Classics -**  
Three Counties Showground, Malvern

**June 12th - The 24th Ratae Road Run**  
£28.00 Per car includes driver and one passenger.  
Full Details: <https://www.mgleicester.org>  
<https://www.mgleicester.org/event/ratae-run-2022/>  
Email Paul or Norman for a pdf flyer if you are interested

**June 18th and 19th - Ashby Magna Vintage Rally**

**June 19th - MG Owners Club MGs in the Park -**  
Cotswold Wildlife Park, Burford  
Take your MG, no booking needed, driver has free entry, passengers have a discounted rate.

**June 24th and 25th - Stratford Beer Festival -**  
Stratford Racecourse

**July 15th & 16th - Coast to Coast**  
Starting in Morecambe on Friday 15th July 2022 with a banquet and setting off on Saturday 16th July 2022 from the Midland Hotel, Morecambe the run crosses the Forest of Bowland, Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors ending in Scarborough with gala banquet at the Crown Spa Hotel.

Full details and prices negotiated with the hotels and pubs (tea and lunch stops are arranged) this will be the fourth coast to coast run organised by Norman Verona and is a re-run of the 2018 run. See <http://www.frenchblat.com/c2c.htm> for further details and how to register.

**July 16th & 17th - Classic Nostalgia - Shelsley Walsh -**  
Tickets are £15 per person if you arrive in a classic (pre-1985)

*If you know of any other events that you feel are worth a mention in the Newsletter, or there is an event that you would like to organise, please let Trevor know.*

*Do you have a story, a relevant joke, a point of 'MG' interest to tell or share?  
- if so please let us know*



## Snippets

### MG Mart



**MG Mart** Sell your MG related item(s) (car, parts, regalia) here. Just send us an email with a short description, photo (if applicable) and contact details.

### MGB LE roadster

**(1981 registered):**

Unrestored with only 41,265 miles.

- Dry use only (garaged) & runs well.
- Waxoyled & in excellent condition.
- Electronic ignition & immobiliser.
- Heritage certificate & MOT until Aug'22.

Looking for offers in the region of £12,000. **Contact Simon** on [sredmile45@btinternet.com](mailto:sredmile45@btinternet.com) or 07788-623597.

*"Just not using it as I've got other sports cars - only done ~300 miles since buying it in Aug 2020. Criminal really!"*



### Humour!



For those outside the AMGC who have never had the pleasure of owning a classic car, but want to know what it's like: Tell them at the next big rainstorm to take their regular car out for a run but, wait 'til dark, roll down all windows, leave off the lights, and heater, and wipers, and go for a drive. Stop at every junction and throw out a twenty pound note. It's not exactly the same, but it's really close.

### Editorial Team:

Paul Dunster & Norman Large  
Please let us know if you have any information (comments, stories of interest, photos, a club member's birthday, etc) that you would like to be considered for inclusion in this Newsletter. **COPY DEADLINE** is 10th of the Month.

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