MGA

GEORGE DUTTON 01925 756305
george519@o2.co.uk www.mgcc.co.uk

News: The Twin Cam Group's distinctive grille badge will be back in stock in time for ***MGLive!***. If you cannot get to Silverstone this year, order one from Frank Burry, the Twin Cam Group Secretary on 01784 483383 or at frank.burry587@btinternet.com

UMO 20, a well known historic rally car, has been sold by Richard and Liz Pugh. They had owned UMO for 20 years, competing extensively in rallies all over Europe and North Africa, with top 10 finishes in the Monte Carlo and Sahara events. The first person to ring in response to the advertisement in the HRCR 'Old Stager' magazine was David Scothorn. "That's my car," said David, who owned the car back in the late 60s. Our picture shows David, on the right, closing the deal with Richard.

Derek Tucker's report on his MGA model featured in April's Notes prompted this update from MGA model guru Alan Feast. 'The Victory MGA came in red, white, or blue and was almost exclusively remote control with some designed to run on a track. "Tri-Ang" did make MGAs, both remote control and free running (battery powered as the Victory); they are slightly smaller than the Victory. They also made an excellent MGA pedal car and their subsidiary "Spot-On Toys" did the MGA as a single vehicle, in a set of four sports cars, and in several other sets.'

Events: The second 'Scottish MGA Run' will be on Sunday July 15. This year's event of about 110 miles will meet at 10am for a 10.30 start from *Loch Lomond Homes and Gardens Centre* at Loch Lomond (G83 8NB) and travel towards Gaerlochhead before heading up Loch Lomondside towards Crianlarich and Glen Dochart. The afternoon section takes in Lochearnhead and Strathyre before turning off towards the Trossachs, Aberfoyle and Thornhill to finish at the *Gargunnock Inn* (FK8 3BW). There are plenty of places to stay overnight in this area; if anyone farther away wishes to join us they will be most welcome.

The entry fee of £5.00 covers the MSA Permit and detailed road instructions. Admission/parking charges are extra. To enter, please book through the MGCC Caledonian website. Organisers are George and Wendy Rome.

MGB

NEIL HYETT 01869 241180.
neilhyett54@btinternet.com www.mgb-register.org www.mgb50.com

The MGB50 Birthday Run at Gaydon was a huge success. We had about 500 cars there with the vast majority being MGBs – a great sight to see.

I'm sure there will be full reports on the event so all I will do is thank all the organisers and helpers who made the event possible but not forgetting those who took part, giving MGB50 a great kick off for the year – well done.

For those who took part, you will recall as you arrived at Gaydon a photographer took a picture of each car. The photographer was contracted by the Heritage Centre and was nothing to do with the Register. Copies of the photographs were available on the day; however, if you missed this and would like to get a copy just email minniebagel@btinternet.com quoting the event and your registration number, or you can go to the website www.sandsimaging.com.

I spent some time whilst at Gaydon selling MGB50 regalia – boy it was going like hot cakes so we must be doing something right. I can recommend the MGB50 Book which has been produced in association with British Motor Heritage. I bought a copy which is well worth a read – a nice little keepsake.

By now I'm sure everyone must realise that MGB50 Blenheim tickets have been available for some time either online or by post. Don't forget, advance bookings close on August 31. The advance booking price is £22, a saving of £5 from the 'on the day' price of £27, and you receive a commemorative rally plate. Even better, if you order before the August 10 you also get your car details listed in the programme – so don't delay.

The next big event for MGB50 is of course MG*Live!* where no doubt you will have seen advertised the MGB Street Party on the Saturday lunchtime. Oh boy am I going to have a great day with car parking duties in the morning, Street Party at lunch time and co-driving 'The Boys Special Mk 2' in the Rocker Box Racing in the afternoon – I just can't wait! Then on the Sunday lunchtime there's the parade of 50 MGBs driving around the GP circuit, so if you haven't applied yet for a chance to join the parade visit the MG*Live!* website now. The proceeds of this will go to the Macmillan Cancer Support so give it a try, you might be one of the lucky 50.

I have received an interesting email from a couple in New Zealand who are thinking of building a copy, or something very similar to the Coune MGB Berlinetta which was built by the Belgian coachbuilder Jacques Coune. Sadly Jacques Coune died earlier this year so a major source of information has been lost, so they are asking if anyone else out there has any information on the cars. Obviously they have photographs of the cars but are interested in any details no matter how small to help with the design. If you have any information please email them at barbara.henrylangguth@xtra.co.nz

The MGB 50th Birthday Run to Gaydon

The plan initially was to limit the run to 251 entries but apparently this soon got put to one side as the organisers got swamped with entries. In the end 450+ cars did the run which started from four locations. I was a late entry myself and managed to squeeze in (thanks John) as number 386 from the favourite starting point at Millets Farm, west of Abingdon.

We arrived at 9:20 to find most of the cars already parked up bathing in the warm sunshine on what was a chilly morning. At least 95% of the cars were unsurprisingly MGBs of every variation and colour possible, what a great sight it was. A quick sign-on was followed by the usual pre-trip kicking of the tyres etc plus 'hellos' to several of the familiar faces present. Being one of only three MGAs present, mine got some admiring comments despite being surrounded by lots of very nice examples of its replacement in the MG model sequence.

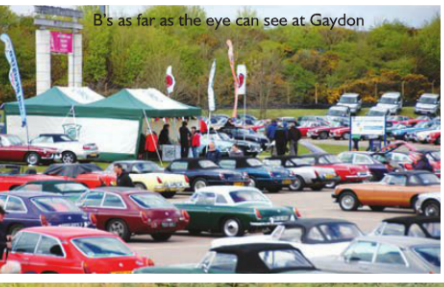
As there were so many cars doing the Millets Farm start we decided to set off quite early to try and avoid the inevitable 'train' that often happens on popular runs. We left at 10:05 and managed to do a considerable amount of the run on our own with only the odd sighting of other cars. The initial part of the run went through the villages of Charney Bassett, Bampton, Asthall Leigh and Chipping Norton. The weather remained cool but dry so it was hood down all the way which is a roadster's best configuration without a doubt.

The second half of the run took in Over Norton, the Rollright Stones, Whichford, Honington, the impressive Sun Rising Hill, Avon Dassett and finally Gaydon. On arrival at Gaydon (12:20) we were greeted by an amazing display of hundreds of cars parked up facing the front of the museum building. We parked up and said a quick hello to the Kimber House staff who were manning the MG Car Club marquee, before going in to the museum.

A tasty hot lunch was enjoyed in the restaurant before a look around the excellent exhibition that never ceases to impress. For those of you who have not been to Gaydon you must give it a visit, you will not fail to have a great day out where plenty of MGs as well as other makes are on display with lots of interactive stuff for the kids to try. The display is constantly changing and since I last visited there were some more 'record breakers' including the 1927 Sunbeam 1000 HP car, the first to exceed 200mph, alongside the 2006 JCB Dieselmax car that exceeded 350mph.

Having taken part in over a hundred road runs I can honestly say that the Millets Farm run was one of the best I have done and the culmination of the finish at the wonderful Gaydon Museum was the icing on the cake. Thanks to all those involved.

Report Peter Macwaters
Photos: John & Gill Watson.


B's as far as the eye can see at Gaydon

Some brave the cold and kept their tops down

Variety of MGs at Gaydon

Peter Macwaters in his MGA

John and Jenny Inness set off from Millets Farm in their MGB