

MGB Register Newsletter
e-Newsletter - Fourth Edition - 2013

With advent underway and Christmas just two weeks away, now is usually the time of year we start thinking about reminding our loved ones how much they mean to us – including our MG's. Whether we give our pride and joy a winter hibernation in a dry garage until the daffodils start appearing, or we look for novel ways of keeping the mud and grit away from the wheel arches, we must all admit that our MGB's are an integral part of the family.

So for this edition of the MGB e-Newsletter, in addition to our regular News, Events, and Mechanical Matters round ups we will also be offering some gift ideas for enthusiasts and cars alike.

If you are still looking for a last blast in your MGB in 2013, or want to welcome in the New Year, take a glance at some of the regional events planned for the coming weeks:

<http://www.mgcc.co.uk/events-calendar/>

News

MG90

The MG Car Club recently announced the provisional dates of June 21st and 22nd 2014 for the Club's annual festival at Silverstone.

For 2014 the two day event will be renamed MG90 in honour of the Marque's 90 year anniversary celebrations. MG90 at Silverstone will be a mix of MG's rich heritage and exciting future.

To find out more, please check out:

<http://www.mgcc.co.uk/mg90-celebrations-at-silverstone/>

MG Motor

Following the announcement in August that the new MG3 from MG Motor will have a low insurance group which makes the MG3 the cheapest to insure of all super-minis in the UK with similar performance levels, there has been more good news for fans of the modern MG's. Since our last edition, not only have the first deliveries of MG3's started, there have been new MG dealers open across the country, including Woking, Gloucester, and Sheffield,

meaning there are more choices for those test drives you really can't ignore!

<http://mg.co.uk/>

Stolen Cars

There has been a recent spate of thefts of classic cars, with some MGB's reported as stolen. If you have any information which could help recover the cars shown in the link below, please get in touch:

<http://www.mgcc.co.uk/stolen-cars/>

You can also find more information about stolen MGB's at:

www.mgb-register.org

The thefts act as a timely reminder to consider how safe your MG is, especially if it is going to be left untouched during the winter.

Some of the inexpensive solutions you could consider to deter a thief that won't leave a lasting impression on your car are:

- Steering Wheel/Brake pedal locks
- Removing the distributor cap or an Ignition rotor
- Removing the Fuel Pump Fuse
- Remote Battery Cut Off switch
- DataDots

The following link takes you to the Moss website, where many of the parts needed for the above solutions, can be ordered:

<http://www.moss-europe.co.uk/Browse/ComponentMenuProducts.aspx?WebCatalogID=37&PlateTypeID=1>

Have a look at some of the following links to consider your own safety measures:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/motoring/10225872/Classic-car-theft-on-the-rise.html>

<http://bluecollarworkman.com/tips-from-a-former-car-thief-on-how-to-protect-your-car/>

<http://classiccars.about.com/od/owningaclassic/a/cartheft.htm>

Mallory Park Petition

Many of you may already be aware that Mallory Park circuit is under threat of closure due to complaints about noise from the circuit from house owners who have purchased their properties after 1955 when the circuit first opened for motorbike racing.

Leicestershire Council are proposing either complete closure or severely limiting the number of days that the circuit is allowed to operate during any year. If you feel that racing circuits should be kept open for us all to enjoy our motorsport, then please sign the petition at:

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/46739>

This petition is open until 7 March 2014.

We don't want to see the same thing happen to any other circuits. Currently there are over 38,000 signatures but this is short of the required number of signatures. If you are a motorsport fan please sign now.

Ideas

As mentioned in the previous e-newsletter, we would like to hear from you, our members, for some suggestions of what you would like your MGB Register committee to organise for you. All ideas are welcome.

The best suggestions that the committee can take forward will receive a sky blue MGB Register polo shirt, with the second receiving an MGB Register cap.

Please email your suggestions to e-newsletter@mgb-register.org

Review of Recent Events

MGB Register Weekend – The Peak District

This year saw the return of the MGB Register weekend. Two drives around the Derbyshire countryside were interspersed with visits to the 'Cathedral of the Peaks', the Dambusters memorial, and Speedwell Cavern while the accommodation was at a hotel in Buxton. If you would like to read more about the adventures, I highly recommend the article by Ian Deverall in November's Issue of Safety Fast!

MGB Register Lecture - 3rd October

In October the fourth in a series of lectures, covering Great British Engineering, took place in Abingdon. This year, the A1 Classic Pacific locomotive, 'Tornado' was featured. 150 people attended the presentation by Roger Dye, who explained how an idea over a pint of beer resulted in the building of a steam train from scratch. 'Tornado' is capable of running on the mainline network, and has been featured in a 'Top Gear' race in 2009. If you are interested to find out more, this website is a good place to start:

<http://www.a1steam.com/>

You can even organise a trip to hire the locomotive yourself, or have an experience at driving this piece of British history!

There is a plan to hold a fifth MGB Register Lecture in October 2014. The subject has not been confirmed as yet, but a reasonable clue would be an "iconic aircraft of the Battle of Britain".

Watch this space for more news.

MGB Register Rebuild Day - 26th October

This year's Rebuild event was held at the facilities of British Motor Heritage at Witney in Oxfordshire, on 26 October.

As well as having a tour of the factory, a demonstration was given about how to assemble an MGB wing. Aldon Automotive demonstrated their new range of electronic ignition performance parts, and Zircotec introduced their range of ceramic exhaust coating systems.

You can see a 5 minute video about how the wing of an MGB is made by the team at BMH Witney, at this website:

<http://www.bmh-ltd.com/>

If you are interested in finding out more about the factory, then contact BMH directly, and they will organise a trip for you to look round their facility.

Upcoming Events

MG and Triumph Stoneleigh Day

In 2014, the show at Stoneleigh will be a joint MG and Triumph day.

You can find out more about what's on, how to buy tickets, and who the exhibitors are at:

<http://mgandtriumphsparesday.co.uk/>

If you have never been, it is definitely worth a day out. There will be a large number of trade stands selling parts and equipment, many club and register stands from throughout the MG world, and numerous cars for sale.

If you do attend, make sure you visit the MGB Register stand in the main hall and say hello. We will have a number of committee members on hand to answer technical questions, give information about future events, or point you in the direction of a hot cup of tea!

MGB Register AGM

The MGB Register AGM is taking place on Sunday 23 March 2014, at Kimber House in Abingdon. If you would like to attend, or are interested in getting involved, please contact the Register Chairman, John Watson prior to the meeting. You can reach John either via email: chairman@mgb-register.org, or via telephone: 07770 575 236.

MGB Register Annual Spring Run

The ever popular annual MGB Register Spring Run is now open for entries for Sunday 6th April 2014.

Our 2014 Spring Run will take us to Waddesdon Manor, HP18 0JH (www.waddesdon.org.uk).

There will be three start options for you to choose from:

1. Millets Farm, Frilford, Oxfordshire OX12 5HB (www.milletsfarmcentre.com)
2. Hatton Country World, near Warwick, not far from the M40 Junction 15. (www.hattonworld.com)
3. For those feeling adventurous, you can plot your own route, and meet us at Waddesdon Manor.

More details, and the online entry form can be found at the MGB Register website:

http://www.mgb-register.org/MGB-Register/Spring_Run_Entry_2014.html

A paper copy of the entry form can also be found on page 40 of December 2013's *Safety Fast!* Magazine.

MGB Register Weekend, 12 – 15 September 2014

Grab your bucket and spade – we're off to Cornwall for the MGB Register Weekend 2014!

Join the MGB Register for a weekend away in Cornwall, based at the Falmouth Hotel in Falmouth (www.falmouthhotel.com) from 12th – 15th September. Enjoy a weekend of scenic driving, excellent food, and socialising.

More details can be found here:

<http://www.mgb-register.org/MGB-Register/Events.html>

2014 European Event of the Year

The European Event next year is taking place in Denmark from 21-24 August 2014, to celebrate the MGCC Danish Centre's 60th anniversary. Registration for the event went live from 1st December 2013, at:

www.mgklub.dk

Mechanical Matters

In each e-newsletter we like to give you a handy technical tip from one of our members. This edition we have thought about something that can occupy those long winter hours, and can even be undertaken indoors – re-covering of MGB seats.

Thanks to Richard Searle for putting together a fantastic manual for re-covering seats. Photos are included in the pdf that can be found on this link:

http://www.mgb-register.org/MGB-Register/Tech_Seat_Refurb.html

If you are finding that your MGB is requiring some technical attention, then a good first port of call is to contact one of the MGB Register's committee via tech-advice@mgb-register.org , where you can be directed to a technical guru.

If you have any experiences you would like to share with MGB owners, please do contact Roger, via email at newsletter-editor@mgb-register.org, or myself via email at e-newsletter@mgb-register.org

Christmas Fun

Lunch on Christmas Day is never the same without a few classic jokes from the crackers, or a mental teaser to keep people's minds away from how much food they are eating. Why not try some of these out on your friends and family:

Jokes

'A man went into a garage and asked "Have you got a wiper blade for my Triumph Spitfire?"

The garage owner took one look outside on the forecourt and replied " OK. Seems like a fair deal".'

'How do you double the value of an Austin?
Fill up the petrol tank'.

'A man in a Jaguar passed an MGB that had broken down by the side of the road. Being a kind driver, he stopped and fixed a tow-rope to the MG, and began towing it to the nearest garage. After a few minutes, a Porsche passed them at high speed. The Jaguar driver was not going to be outdone by a Porsche, so, forgetting that he had an MGB in tow, he slammed his foot down and indulged in a high speed race with the Porsche down the road. The MG and its occupant trailed wildly about at the end of the rope, frantically trying to attract their attention. A police driver saw them and gave chase. He radioed back to the Police Station "Sarge, you'll never believe this. I've just seen a Porsche and a Jaguar neck and neck doing 150mph, and a bloke in an MGB flashing his lights, blowing his horn and trying to overtake them!"

Wordsearch

M	O	R	R	I	S	T	A	T	G	B
I	S	O	G	N	I	M	G	B	A	P
D	T	A	A	O	R	S	I	G	R	A

G	R	D	R	D	K	I	N	B	A	D
E	E	S	T	L	I	C	E	C	G	T
T	M	T	S	B	M	E	Y	T	E	E
Q	P	E	D	A	B	C	P	E	S	G
I	B	R	A	K	E	P	A	D	L	A
C	V	M	O	R	R	C	L	C	E	R
N	O	D	G	N	I	B	A	T	B	G

Answers: ABINGDON, BGT, BRAKEPAD, CECIL, GARAGES, KIMBER, MIDGET, MORRIS, ROADSTER

Christmas Gifts

We all know how hard it is to buy Christmas gifts. So here are a few ideas that may pique your interest.

'MGB50 - A Year to Remember.' DVD

We announced last time that the 'MGB50 – A year to Remember' DVD had gone on sale. So if you are looking for some nostalgic memories as part of a gift this Christmas, look no further. A compilation of all that made up the celebrations for 50 years of the MGB is available to buy from Kimber Stores.

<http://www.kimberstores.co.uk/mg-dvd-video-c-30.html?zenid=226hgk3tnneg8s6t5i68fq39I0>

A gift for the car

We know you love to spoil your car at Christmas too, so how about a little treat, that will encourage your B to start first time in the Spring!

<http://www.mgcc.co.uk/shop/category/car-care/>

Stocking fillers... and more

If you want to peruse too many MG items to choose from, then the MGB Shop and MGCC shop have more than you can fit in a sleigh, never mind a stocking. Take a look at these links for inspiration:

http://www.mgb-register.org/MGB-Register/MGB_Shop.html

<http://www.mgcc.co.uk/shop/>

My personal favourite has to be the Car Club coasters:
<http://www.mgcc.co.uk/shop/product/mg-car-club-coasters/>

Happy Christmas

May I finish by wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas. We look forward to catching up with old friends, and meeting new ones, at the various events in 2014.

And whatever Father Christmas has in store for us this year, I trust we will like our gifts more than this little boy!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sv4Hpz-GI3g>