



**MGA REGISTER eNEWSLETTER**  
**March 2023**  
**WORLDWIDE CIRCULATION: 1078**

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The **eNewsletter** is not a publication exclusively for MG Car Club members in the UK. The MG Car Club MGA Register sees it as a shop window on the world of MGA ownership aimed at encouraging readers to join the MG Car Club in the UK and Europe or an equivalent organisation overseas. We welcome all readers, and all contributors.

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## Contents

<b>Editor's Notes – Spring is in the Air, with a busy summer ahead .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>News From Kimber House .....</b>	<b>3</b>
MG Car Club Advantage Member Benefits .....	3
<b>Reports on Recent Events .....</b>	<b>3</b>
MG Events in North America during 2022 and 2023 .....	3
And News from "Down Under" ....	4
<b>Future Events.....</b>	<b>4</b>
MGA Spring Tour 2023 – Lakes to Mountains, 19 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2023 .....	4
Practical Classics Classic Car & Restoration Show 24 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> March, NEC ..	5
Drive It Day – 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2023 .....	6
Oxfordshire MGOC "MGs In The Park" – 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 .....	6
MG and Triumph 100 (formerly MG Live!) – Silverstone 10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> June	6
MG Centenary Celebrations – 2023 and 2024 .....	7
Fancy a Driving Tour of Austria, in Summer 2023?.....	8
"Touring the Trossachs?" – Scottish MGA Day, 2nd July 2023 .....	8
MGA Day Picnic – Gloucester Warwickshire Steam Railway, 6 <sup>th</sup> August.....	8
The "Cotswolds Caper", Sudbury House Hotel, Farringdon, SN7 7AA.....	9
2023 MG European Event Of The Year (EEotY), 2nd to 6th August 2023 ..	10
MG Centenary Final (?) Event – Brooklands on 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 ...	10
Future MGA Tours and Events – 2024 and beyond .....	10
<b>MGA Register Committee Meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Help Wanted .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Notable Journeys .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>History Corner.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Technical Topics.....</b>	<b>13</b>
HRG Derrington Cylinder Heads .....	13
MGA Ignition Key Modification .....	14
<b>Wossatt?? – MGA Mercante.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Is YOUR MGA Famous? Tell us the story .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Side Screen Bags – Repeat Offer .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Fashion Corner.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>For Sale and Wanted.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Car of the Month (yet again!) .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Merchandise Shop.....</b>	<b>20</b>
Appendix 1 – Entry Form Autumn 2023 Tour.....	22
Appendix 2 – Notable Journey Nomination .....	23
Appendix 3 – MGA Polo Shirts Order Form .....	24

My thanks to Colin Manley for helping me make this Table of Contents actually WORK.  
Press and hold the **Ctrl** button on your keyboard, and then click your mouse on the page number in the right hand column, and you will be taken directly to what you want to read...

## Editor's Notes – Spring is in the Air, with a busy summer ahead

Welcome to another edition of the MGA eNewsletter.

Hopefully, the worst of the winter is now behind us and we can now start getting our cars (and their occupants) ready for what promises to be a busy summer for classic car enthusiasts.

From late May onwards we have the start of the MG Centenary celebrations, and there is a large list of events planned worldwide over the following 12 months. – Look at [www.mgcc/mg100/](http://www.mgcc/mg100/) to see that ever growing list.

For MGA owners and enthusiasts, we have already got a lot of bookings for our Spring and Autumn Tours (Lancaster and Faringdon, Oxfordshire, respectively) and there are a number of other less formal events planned. – More details later in this Newsletter.

As you might expect, not much to report this month on recent MG-related events, unless my car serving as a "Wedding Car" for a friend's nuptials early in February counts as an "event"? Yes, - It was very cold, but at least it did not rain!

Looking forward, if you have news and photos on any recent events, or information on future events, please forward them to me for inclusion in future eNewsletters.

I am pleased to report that once again we have some more NEW contributors to the eNewsletter this month, which might open up some new streams of correspondence and debate. My thanks to those new contributors. Please keep your contributions coming – Everything is welcome. Next edition will be issued during the first week of May 2023.

**Brendan Leach**

**Editor – MGA Newsletter**

## News From Kimber House

### MG Car Club Advantage Member Benefits

MG Car Club has negotiated special deals and discounts for members with a number of motoring-related companies, under the umbrella term of the **MG Car Club Advantage benefits package**.

Companies participating so far include MG Motor UK, Opie Oils, Morton's Books, BOXO Tools, Blossoming Gifts, and Silverstone Interactive Museum, with a promise of more to come.

Details of the package can be found in the Membership page of the MG Car Club website, [www.mgcc.co.uk/benefits-of-joining/](http://www.mgcc.co.uk/benefits-of-joining/) and Advantage is advertised regularly in Safety Fast!

## Reports on Recent Events

### MG Events in North America during 2022 and 2023

Our honorary (that means "unpaid") USA correspondent **Dave Nicholas** keeps me entertained with the regular MGVR Newsletter. MG VR stands for MG Vintage Racers, and as the name suggests it is not a group limited to MGAs.

The MG Enthusiasts in the States have got big plans for the MG Centenary celebrations, many of them centred on historic car racing.

These include **GOF Central** (the **G**athering **O**f the **F**aithful MG Owners) at South Bend, Indiana between 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023, and the BIG event for 2023 which is the 41<sup>st</sup> Lime Rock Park Historic Festival in Connecticut between September 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 (the Labor Day weekend).

Their January Newsletter also contained a tribute to US MGA Racer Ted Rounds, who died in November 2021 aged 90, and a reprint of a piece from the August 2022 edition of Safety Fast!, - a tribute to the late Paddy Hopkirk.

Dave publishes 12 MGVR Newsletters per year. - Thanks for all of this, Dave.

### **And News from "Down Under" ....**

From the other side of our MG world, **Mike Ellesmore** is the **MGA Captain** of the Victoria Branch of the MG Car Club Australia, and publishes an excellent regular Newsletter containing news both Technical and Social, plus the usual "small ads" of parts and cars for sale.

The MG CC group is undoubtedly thriving, with lots of events during the year.

During January and February (summer in Australia, of course!) these events included a New Year Run organised by the T and Y Registers (with MGAs in attendance), a Club Golf Day, the annual Club Concours, and two serious race events.

Lots of good links and photos in there, showing MGAs in glorious sunshine (we can dream of summer 2023!).

Thanks for keeping us up to date with all the news, Mike.

### **Future Events**

#### **MGA Spring Tour 2023 – Lakes to Mountains, 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023**

It's almost here! – Just one more eNewsletter to go (May 2023) before the **Spring 2023** Touring Weekend, which will take place on **19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023**, based at the Lancaster House Hotel near Lancaster (LA1 4GJ).

Tour routes for the 2 days are now finalised, and our "local representatives" have completed test-drives of those routes to check their correctness over the last 3 or 4 weeks.

If you have booked a place on the Tour you will have received update Bulletins from organiser **Jon Pollard** over recent weeks. Here's Jon's update on the tour (prefaced by a fine view of Brotherswater, which is East of Haweswater on the Kirkstone Pass):



## Lake District and Forest of Bowland, Lancashire

We now have a whopping 66 cars entered for our Centenary Spring Rally, which is fast approaching! There has been a rumour that the event is sold out- this is not the case; although the main hotel sold out in just 3 weeks last September, there is still plenty of accommodation available in the surrounding area via Booking.com or similar. We are constrained by the number of places available in the Restaurant for our Saturday evening Gala Dinner, but at the time of writing, there is still availability.

We will also be joined in the Lakes by a very famous and unique MGA, and by someone with a direct personal connection to the very designer of our favourite sports car. All will be revealed in due course!

Your Committee has been working hard as a team, with local knowledge, to bring you the very finest routes available in Lancashire and the Lake District, crafted specifically for our cars. For the first time in the UK, we will also have a significant number of MGAs joining us from around Europe. You will also have an opportunity to see the famous Donald Campbell Bluebird exhibition at reduced entry price, at the same time enjoying a coffee with stunning views across the River Leven.

This event is being created by the MGA Register as a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity for MGA owners to celebrate our marque's Centenary year; we can categorically say that it will never be repeated. If you own an MGA, this is for you, - don't miss it because you won't get a second chance! We have never seen as large an entry of MGAs on our Touring weekend, and most likely never will again.

If you would like to join us, please book immediately by visiting the MGCC website here:

<https://www.mgcc.co.uk/mga-register/events-in-2023/mga-spring-tour-2023/> or call Jonny Pollard on 07881 300061.



### Practical Classics Classic Car & Restoration Show 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> March, NEC

This (indoor!) show includes exhibits of classic cars and barn finds, an autojumble and parts traders, car dealers' stands, Dream Rides, and workshop demonstrations.

Adult tickets cost £25.00 for Friday and Sunday, and £25.50 for Saturday, - but use code **MAR23CC135** to get a discount of £3.50 per ticket from these prices.

There may well be a booking charge (for sending you a ticket by e-mail!), and of course parking at the NEC starts at £12.50 per day (when booked in advance).

For further details, go to [www.necrestorationshow.com](http://www.necrestorationshow.com)



## **Drive It Day – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023**

2023's Drive It Day will take place on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

The overall national event is organised and co-ordinated by the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs (FBHVC), who sell commemorative vehicle plates for the event, with all profits going to the Childline Charity. Last year those sales raised £47,000 for Childline.

Prices start at £10 plus p&p for the standard plate up to £30 for a "platinum plate".

For more information, or to order a plate, see [www.driveitday.co.uk](http://www.driveitday.co.uk), or phone 01708 223111 for more information.

Ask your Natter leader what your group is planning for the day.

## **Oxfordshire MGOc "MGs In The Park" – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

The Oxfordshire branch of MG Owners Club have organised "MGs In The Park" at the Cotswold Wildlife Park near Burford OX18 4JP, for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

The park is 165 acres, and residents include penguins, meerkats, lions, crocodiles, red panda, and white rhino. There are numerous quality food outlets in the park. Dogs are welcome on leads and picnics are fine. No barbecues or stoves are allowed.

The show will include a Pride Of Ownership Competition, Car Of The Show Award, a road run around the Cotswolds, and many trade stands.

- **Free** entry to the Wildlife Park for MG and driver
- **Discounted** entry fee for MG passengers
- **Free** entry to the MG event once in the Park
- Event runs from 10am to 5pm; there is no need to pre-book.

For further details please contact:

MGOc Area Secretary - Pete McHugh [areasecretary@oxfordshiremgoc.co.uk](mailto:areasecretary@oxfordshiremgoc.co.uk)

MGOc Events Secretary - Peter Mapson [eventssecretary@oxfordshiremgoc.co.uk](mailto:eventssecretary@oxfordshiremgoc.co.uk)

## **MG and Triumph 100 (formerly MG Live!) – Silverstone 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June**

The 2023 version of MG Live! will be a combined event with the Triumph Clubs, celebrating the Centenary of the 2 marques.

All the usual attractions of MG Live! will be there including a full program of racing on the full GP circuit, a timeline of MG and Triumph cars over the past 100 years, Concours and Pride of Ownership, Russ Swift's Stunt Show, AutoSolo, trade stands, lifestyle marquee, and a live stage with continuous entertainment and music.

For more information, go to [www.mgtriumph100.co.uk](http://www.mgtriumph100.co.uk).

Camping will be available on site, for an extra charge.

Tickets cost £37.50 for 1 day, or £50 for both days.

BUT ....., MG Car Club Members can get £10 discount per pre-booked ticket at any time. – Enter your MGCC Membership Number in the PROMO CODE box and be sure to press **Apply**. That will reduce the prices to £27.50 and £40 respectively (All tickets have a dreaded "booking fee" of about 7.5% of ticket value in addition to the ticket price! – But the parking is FREE!)

## MG Centenary Celebrations – 2023 and 2024

The Centenary Year for the MG Car Club will cover May 2023 until mid-2024, and MG Groups and Enthusiasts worldwide have got events planned throughout that 12 month period.

For a full list, look at [www.mgcc/mg100/](http://www.mgcc/mg100/) - But that list of events is growing every week! For UK readers, in conjunction with our partners - the MG Owners Club, The Octagon MG Car Club, the Early MG Society, and the MG T Society - we will open the year with a major event at the British Motor Museum, Gaydon, on 27 May. Recent experience with the MGB60 event suggests that space will be at a premium, given the

forecast attendance of over 2000 cars. However, the BMM is confident that this level of attendance can be satisfactorily managed.

A provisional site plan has been prepared, to include a timeline of MG models, but limited to 50 cars because of space constraints. The Octagon and T organisations are organising the timeline.

An advert containing details of this event appeared in recent months' editions of **Safety Fast!**, Enjoying MG, and other partner magazines. A May 27<sup>th</sup> 2023 website has been set up (see below), to exclusively promote the days events (only). – [www.mgcentenary.co.uk](http://www.mgcentenary.co.uk)

All tickets will be sold through the website, including entry to the various road runs being organised. The cost of a ticket to the event at Gaydon will be £10 per person, with an additional £18-£20 per car for the road runs. For more information on this "opening event" of the Centenary, see [www.mgcentenary.co.uk](http://www.mgcentenary.co.uk)

The MGCC's first "solo" event of the Centenary programme is the central Oxford "showroom" event on 1 June, marking the first appearance of Cecil Kimber's **Morris Garages Sports Special**. - The 5 cars which will appear in that display have now been selected.

The MGCC's own Centenary website is now in place, containing details of all worldwide centenary events. It includes a Google map with embedded markers to UK and world-wide events, providing links to event details. MG Car Club Centres, Registers, and Branches, both in the UK and elsewhere, are encouraged to place **their** events into this website.

Centenary events will continue until mid-2024, to provide a year of celebrations, some of the events provided in conjunction with the partner clubs. More information about these events will be provided in future editions of this Newsletter and in Safety Fast! and other publications.



For a full list of MG Car Club-connected Centenary events worldwide throughout the centenary Year (May 2023 to June 2024) go to [www.mgcc.co.uk/mg100/](http://www.mgcc.co.uk/mg100/) or for a full list of MG Car Club events (not just MG100 related, but also Competition Events, Centre Events etc) go to [www.mgcc.co.uk/club-events/](http://www.mgcc.co.uk/club-events/)

### **Fancy a Driving Tour of Austria, in Summer 2023?**

Signing up for a tour, particularly an overseas tour, can be a bit of a step into the unknown and thus daunting – there is always some comfort in going with someone you know.

In January, MGA Owner and MGA Register Member **Joe Walsh** told us about an organised tour of Austria this summer (below), which he has joined. – There are still places available on the tour. This was Joe's story ...

Scenic Car Tours has been advertising some of its tours in recent editions of "Safety Fast" and would be delighted to welcome a contingent of MGs on its "Highlights of Austria" tour departing 23rd June 2023. Full details and an itinerary can be found here -

<https://www.sceniccartours.com/austria-highlights>

Joe Walsh is already booked onto the trip so it would be fantastic if other MG drivers (not just MGAs) could join him and make the "Hills Alive With the Sound of MGs".

Scenic Car Tours describe themselves as "old fashioned" in that they prefer to speak with people rather than have them book online. So for more information please contact James Wickenden on 01732 879171, or Joe Walsh at [joe-walsh@hotmail.com](mailto:joe-walsh@hotmail.com)

### **"Touring the Trossachs?" – Scottish MGA Day, 2nd July 2023**

Our Scotland correspondent **Paul Dean** tells us that Scottish MGA Day 2023 will be held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, and will be a driving tour of the Trossachs.

The route will start at 10.30 am at NTS Bannockburn Centre, Stirling, FK7 0LJ, from where the drive takes us over the Campsie Hills to Kilsyth and then back over the hills on the scenic road from Lennoxton to Fintry.

Going by the Lake of Monteith to Aberfoyle, we take the Dukes Pass before heading east to join the A82.

We will now head north along the shores of Loch Lubnaig to Loch Earnhead where lunch is booked at the lochside Clachan Inn.

The afternoon run follows the north side of the loch to Comrie, where we head over the moors to Bracho and finish back in the Stirling area. - ooking forward to seeing you there.

Booking is available **now** on the MG CC Caledonian website – [www.mgcaledonian.com](http://www.mgcaledonian.com)

### **MGA Day Picnic – Gloucester Warwickshire Steam Railway, 6<sup>th</sup> August**

MGA Day 2023 will be held at the Gloucester Warwickshire Steam Railway near Cheltenham, (GL54 5DT) on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

The day has been arranged by MGA Register Committee Member and MGA Register Archivist **Howard Quayle** – a keen railway enthusiast.

The day will follow the usual format of a "Turn Up On The Day" picnic, so no pre-booking will be required (just prayers for a dry and ideally sunny day!).

There will be diesel and steam trains running on the day. See [www.gwsr.com](http://www.gwsr.com) for details of the venue and the (Pink) timetable which will be in operation on the day.

The annual MGA Day and picnic is always an excellent day out. – **Jon Pollard** has dug up some YouTube style videos of "MGA Days Past" at Croome Court in 2017

<https://youtu.be/eOFTHrtADuU>, and at Canons Ashby (very wet!) in 2018

<https://youtu.be/ev-th4EbkJg>

– How many cars and faces can you recognise?



## The "Cotswolds Caper", Sudbury House Hotel, Farringdon, SN7 7AA

The venue for the **Autumn Tour 2023** will be Sudbury House Hotel, 56 London Street, Farringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7AA, where we have provisionally booked the entire hotel – 50 Rooms! The tour has been organised by **Tony Bratt**.



**Sudbury House Hotel**

Here's **Tony's** status update....

The Tour will run from Friday 29th September to Sunday 1st October 2023 with runs on Saturday and Sunday taking in the best of the Cotswolds and the MG history surrounding Abingdon.

The Saturday and Sunday tours will offer opportunities to visit Kimber House, if you have never been, as well as the beauty of the Cotswold villages and for the adventurous - a dash to the British Motor Museum at Gaydon.

After a small flurry of bookings over Christmas, as this eNewsletter goes to press we are down to the last 4 rooms available at Sudbury House Hotel; 46 having been booked. Booking the hotel accommodation only requires a £30 (non-refundable) deposit so if you want to be sure of being part of the main event, as we will have the whole hotel to ourselves, please do call soon and book.

(Of course, there is other accommodation nearby, and you can still join the tour without staying at Sudbury House, but ...)

Sudbury House Hotel - Farringdon. **01367 241272**.

For the 2 main dates of Friday 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, rates will be:

- £185 double / £150 single per night so £370 double and £300 single for the 2 nights.

There will be an informal buffet meal on the Friday night and our traditional 3 course meal Gala Dinner on the Saturday night. These are both included in the "Dinner & B&B" rates quoted above.

For the Sunday night the rate is £175.00 double / £140 single occupancy for an informal dinner on the Sunday night and breakfast on the Monday morning.

Most of the rooms booked so far are booked for all 3 nights, so the Sunday night should also be lively.

In addition to booking accommodation, you will need to complete the MGA Register entry form which can be found at the register website. ***But at time of writing the Hotel has more room bookings than Tony has Tour bookings? That means that 7 members have booked the hotel but Tony has not received their entry form yet. – So if you***

*are not just looking for a romantic weekend in Faringdon (?) and want to join the tours, please check you have sent your Tour Entry Form and cheque to Tony.*

The entry form for the Autumn 2023 MGA tour is Appendix 1 to this Newsletter, so you can print it and complete it before returning it with your entry cheque.

Alternatively members can contact the organiser **Tony Bratt** to get an entry form.

Phone 07771 947247. e-mail to [brattanthony@aol.com](mailto:brattanthony@aol.com) or by post to 47 Greenwood Avenue, Chinnor, Oxfordshire, OX39 4HW

More details on the Tour to follow in the May edition of this Newsletter.

With the Spring 2023 Tour around Lakes and Mountains, based at Lancaster pretty well fully booked for 19th to 21st May, 2023 is already looking like a good year for UK MGA Events.

More news in future editions of this eNewsletter, and in the events section of the MG Register web site.

### **2023 MG European Event Of The Year (EEotY), 2nd to 6th August 2023**

The 2023 MG Car Club European Event of the year (EEotY) is being arranged by the MG Car Club of Denmark, between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of August 2023.

This event will be part of the MG Centenary Celebrations, of course – but it is also the 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the MG Car Club Denmark.

Planning is still in progress, but attractions will include:

- Exhibition of MG Cars of the past 100 years
- 2 \* "Birthday Party" events for the 50<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries.
- Anniversary Auto-Themed Market Day at Hindgavl Castle ( <https://hindgavl.dk> )
- Concours Competition
- MG Sports – Track Racing events (with cars – you won't have to run!)
- Rocker Cover Racing
- Organised outings and tours

For more details, look at <https://mgcc.dk/jubilaem-2023/>

Registration for this event started on **1<sup>st</sup> October 2022**.

### **MG Centenary Final (?) Event – Brooklands on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

The South East Centre of MG Car Club has arranged for South East MG Day at Brooklands Circuit on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024, which will probably be the final (UK) event of the MG Centenary year. They are looking for volunteers to help run the event on the 2 days.

More news as we get it .....

### **Future MGA Tours and Events – 2024 and beyond**

Planning for MGA tours and events never stops. – And the scale and popularity of those events means we need to book suitable venues up to 2 years in advance of the event date. We already have tentative plans for Spring and Autumn Tours in **2024**, along the same format as those for 2023 and past years (nice hotel, great tours, good company etc).

Believe it or not, we are also working on a **big** tour for **2025**, which will be the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MGA. (In 2015, our intrepid tourers went from Lands End to John O'Groats, of course!).

On behalf of all participants, our thanks go to the volunteers working hard to organise those events for our enjoyment.

More news as we get it....

## MGA Register Committee Meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

The MGA Register Committee met via a ZOOM call on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

I doubt that readers of this Newsletter really want the details of the discussions – But if you do wish to read the formal Meeting Minutes they are on the MGA Register website now.

So I will simply summarise the meeting as follows:

- Robert / **Bob Bull** has joined the Committee as our new Registrar, and will be taking up his responsibilities from **Stuart Mumby** over the next 2 or 3 months. – **Welcome aboard, Bob!**
- We plan to upgrade the Access Database software we use to maintain the Register of MGA Cars.
- Committee reports all indicate that the MGA Register is in generally “good health”, and is one of the more active Registers within MG CC.
- We have a good schedule of National events planned over the next 2 years, and we are active in most of the MG CC Centres.
- Our finances are “comfortable”. (Don’t get excited, folks. – Our income is from merchandise and Tours only, so our reserves are comfortably small!)

**The AGM of the Council of the MG Car Club** takes place in March 2023.

The Council sets the policy of the Club, and guides the Directors / Executive Committee and thus the employees of the Club on future actions.

Council comprises 39 representatives , 1 from each of the 39 Club Centres, Registers, and Branches. Our Register Chairman, Edward Vandyk, represents the MGA Register at Council.

## Help Wanted .....

In common with many “volunteer led” organisations, the MGA Register is always on the lookout for volunteers to fill roles on the Register Committee.

We still have two further roles to fill immediately, with a third role falling vacant by the end of 2023.

Here is a bit more detail on each of these roles: - **Your Register needs YOU!**

- **Safety Fast! Correspondent.** You will produce copy for the magazine editor four weeks prior to publication. Nine editions each year have a limit of 500 words (half a page). The other three are four full pages including words and pictures. For the months when it’s just a half page, the publicity of MGA events and snippets of news fills the available space. For the four page months, the Correspondent does not have to write the four pages in full. Articles from members and reports from overseas should be more than enough. Previous experience in journalism is not necessary, just a love of the MGA and the ability to create documents in “Word” or similar will be fine.
- **Register Secretary.** The publication of agendas and minutes for two committee meetings and an AGM each year is the main activity. The Secretary may choose to attend the MGCC Council and AGM as one of our two delegates. Some experience in business or voluntary administration would be an advantage. Two formal meetings per year are currently held in person at Kimber House although the use of virtual meetings is likely to become more widespread.
- And from the end of 2023 we will need a new **Register Chairman**, as Edward Vandyk steps down from the role. In addition to keeping the wider Committee “in order” as it were, the Chairman represents the Register at Council, and thus has a role in the future direction of the wider Club.

Be assured. – For all of these roles you will not be simply “Thrown in at the deep end” as it were. – There will be chance to “work alongside” the current holder to learn how it works.

For more information on any of these roles, please contact the current job holder via their email address on MGA Register website **Contacts** page. (“Free consultations - No obligation!”)

## Notable Journeys

So, - “What’s this Notable Journey story, then?” you may be wondering.

Here’s **Stuart Mumby’s** background to the Award:

The Notable Journey Award was gifted to the MGA Register by former Committee member Roger Martin. The first recipients were Geoff and Pam Barron in 2011. Since then, the award has been made every year except for 2020, when no nominations were made owing to Covid restrictions having curtailed any notable journeys. There are two couples who have won the award twice. We are sure that there must be more owners who have made notable MGA journeys and not put themselves forward. If you are planning a trip during 2023 that you feel would qualify as a Notable Journey, (see the guidelines in Appendix 2 at the end of this eNewsletter) don't hide your light under a bushel, bring it out and provide the Committee with a bit of a challenge in choosing a winner. The winner does not necessarily have to have made a circumference of the globe, in fact there are two years in which the winner has not left this Sceptred Isle.

So that’s the history of the Award– We had 2 nominations for the 2022 Award:

In the January, March, May and July 2022 editions of this Newsletter we read of **Beth Corbett** from Exeter, who drove her 1600 Coupe, Mavis, to and through Italy during the summer, retracing the footsteps of her father when he escaped from POW Camp 49 in Fontanello in Northern Italy in 1943, and then made his way on foot to Mount Majella and the Allied lines. That epic journey took him 3 months. Beth’s trip was quite a journey, which has now been nominated for the 2022 MGA Notable Journey Award.

Beth’s story is too long to print in this Newsletter, but the following link takes you to her excellent write-up of the trip, which is well-worth reading.

[https://1drv.ms/b/s!AqblwACX3Q97gbADe0CFQMF\\_XL9HjQ](https://1drv.ms/b/s!AqblwACX3Q97gbADe0CFQMF_XL9HjQ)

Beth joins **Charlotte Vowden** (see July and September 2022 Newsletters) in the 2022 nominations. Charlotte took her MGA to the 4 corners of the British mainland (N, S, E, and W) to raise money for a charity called Blood Runners. – She covered 2,000 miles in 48 hours. If you don’t remember the Newsletter articles, here’s a summary of the trip from the MG Car Club website:

<https://www.mgcc.co.uk/the-four-points-challenge-driving-an-mga-to-extremes-for-the-riders-that-save-lives/>

Judging is in progress, and we will announce the winner soon, in Safety Fast! and in this Newsletter.

If you make a Notable Journey in your MGA in 2023 and wish to enter for this prestigious award, the Notable Journey Nomination form is Appendix 2 to this Newsletter.

## History Corner

**Stuart Mumby** has sent me a fascinating article about the final years of the Abingdon factory, from the viewpoint of a senior HR Manager within British Leyland at the time – Geoff Armstrong.

The article originated with the MG Classics Club of Jacksonville, Florida, and is reprinted in the link below with their permission. It was recently reprinted in The Octagon, which is the magazine of the MG Owners Club in the USA (which is a USA Affiliated organisation to our MG Car Club, and has no connection to the UK MG Owners Club).

***Ed:** Sorry, I am unable to embed a .pdf file of this article within this .pdf format Newsletter (the mysteries of Microsoft!), so instead here is a link to the December 2022 edition of Octagon magazine – Article is on pages 10 to 13 (You may need to cut and paste this into your browser – Another mystery!)*

[www.mgocsf.org/Portals/0/NEWSLETTERS/2022/Octagon%201222.pdf?ver=hJSSUtRhWeDV1NC1INohyg%3d%3d](http://www.mgocsf.org/Portals/0/NEWSLETTERS/2022/Octagon%201222.pdf?ver=hJSSUtRhWeDV1NC1INohyg%3d%3d)

**Editor's Note:** Much of the article brings back memories for me. – I worked at BL and successor companies for 40 years from 1976 onwards, and I remember Geoff Armstrong as a very important leader of the company in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

## Technical Topics

### HRG Derrington Cylinder Heads

In the late 1950s and early 1960s there were a lot of companies developing and selling performance-enhancing modifications for the B series engine. Many of these mods were centred on the cylinder head and on improving the flow of gases through the engine (both fuel and exhaust gases).

BMC, of course, developed the Twin Cam version of the B Series, with a highly sophisticated head and valve actuation.

A simpler arrangement was developed by HRG - a Surrey-based maker of sports cars between 1935 and 1956, who when they ceased making cars concentrated on performance modifications. One of these was the HRG Derrington cylinder head for the B Series, which (for a price!) delivered twin-cam performance with greater durability.

The HRG Derrington head was a cross-flow head (fuel in one side of the head, exhaust out of the other). Ford used this cross-flow arrangement very successfully throughout the 1960s and early 1970s.

On the B Series engine, the inlet and carburettor was moved to the right hand side of the engine (viewed from the cockpit) leaving the exhaust on the left. With this set-up, both the inlet and exhaust valves could be larger, and there is more room in the head casting for better gas porting (no more "siamesed" ports!).

Reader **Dave Adams** found this article in the November 2021 edition of Hemmings magazine, outlining the design, and then testing a 1622 MGA with an HRG Head.

<https://www.hemmings.com/stories/2021/09/21/rare-period-speed-parts-make-this-1622-mga1600-mk-ii-de-luxe-perform-better-than-a-factory-twin-cam>

Here's a picture of a Derrington B Series head, courtesy of Curtis Jacobsen / BritishRaceCar.com and the internet– You can see the (separate) inlet ports going into the "wrong" side of the head (the right as viewed from the driver's seat).





Do we have any Derrington-headed cars amongst our readers? – Let me know!

### MGA Ignition Key Modification

The position of the MGA ignition switch can be a problem. Anything more than a single key and the rest of the keyring blocks your view of the fuel gauge.

Here's an ingenious fix (plus a story!) from **Robert Zannetti** .....



To the left is a picture of my MGA TC's dashboard. Examination of this picture reveals something that is a little odd.....

If you have not spotted it yet, I could give a clue. At least you can see the inclinometer/fuel gauge clearly. - I am sure you are there now.

Whilst you ponder either the question or the mental state of he who asks, let me tell you, briefly, of my MG heritage.

My first MG was an MGA in 1962. It was fantastic in so many ways, not least as an aid for pursuing the fair sex. I have included a picture of this car at Southend. A number of us were bunking off lectures (City University) to check out our luck. I was not smart enough in those days to check exactly what I was buying. It was obviously MGA and it was red! It was labelled as a '1600' but it turns out the only bit of the car that was '1600' were the badges.



Never mind it was still an excellent device for chasing true love. – Well, maybe not necessarily 'True', but ..... Sadly it was to become extinguished during the period that its owner was engaged on such a quest. It was in Surbiton and it was parked, under a streetlamp, outside a small block of flats. I was quite involved with my amorous intentions but they were brought to a sudden and dramatic halt by the sound of a large bang. It was a lot like a Goon Show explosion, ending with tinkling glass.

I looked out of the window and saw my MGA's front end half way through the streetlamp concrete upright.

Deeply embedded in the rear end was a large van owned by The Great Universal Store, well at least that is what it said on the side! By the time I was outside the police were there. An ambulance took the woman driver to hospital and the police were not taking the matter as seriously as I expected. I owned a write off!



Anyway, back to the present and the picture below shows the answer to the conundrum. This 'key' looks like it should always have been there, is a lot easier to find in your pocket than a bare key and the fuel gauge can be seen – simple.

**Editor's Comment:** Clever, eh? I might have a go at making one of these myself. -

For information, a standard switch knob costs about £5 from Moss or MGOC, plus of course you will need to have a spare cut key. Then it is a matter of filing the key head and the

switch knob to get a tight fit, plus a bit of superglue or similar.

## Wossatt?? – MGA Mercante

Here's a car I have never come across before – An MGA with a Mercante body. That ("manufacturer approved") body comprises aluminium panels over a tubular steel frame – all mounted on an MGA chassis and running gear. The car for sale here appears to be the only one of its kind still in existence, and is for sale on Car and Classic. Included in the sale are the original MGA doors, bonnet and boot, which are described as "suitable for refurbishment".

Look at <https://www.carandclassic.com/auctions/1958-mga-mercante-8EaRV8>

## Is YOUR MGA Famous? Tell us the story ....

Some weeks ago I came across an article in Classics World magazine, - an MGA Buyers Guide. <https://classicsworld.co.uk/guides/mga-buyers-guide/>

Reading that article, the car featured on the first page looked familiar – a red roadster LSU 323...

Where have I seen that car before, and who could the owner of that car be??

The owner of the car is of course our very own **Pete Macwaters** – a regular contributor to this eNewsletter.



I forwarded the article to Pete, who told me that the photos and much of an original feature were done for Classic Car Buyer magazine, and dated back to 2012 (classic cars never age!). He then (modestly) told me that he and / or his car have been featured in no fewer than 15 different publications over the years. (Pete is not always shown or mentioned in those pieces, but he usually puts X in the "No Publicity" box, to minimise the begging letters .....)

The picture (left) shows Pete at the wheel in one of those 15 public appearances, in his "cool dude" glasses.

In the ensuing correspondence, we got to thinking about whether any Newsletter readers could match or better Pete's 15

appearances? – Can any reader even come close to that number? Please let me know your "claims to fame", and I will total up the scores and publish a Top 3 Table.

Here are the "rules":

- It does not have to be a motoring-related publication.
- It must be a proper feature or article – not just the car amongst others on a run or on a car park, which do not count.
- Similarly, it must be a "proper picture" – Not "third red dot from the left at the bottom of page 62.." or similar.
- Appearances in this eNewsletter will not count. – It is a well-known fact that I will publish anything ....
- (There is no prize or trophy for the winner. – Just the glory of winning!)

I will award extra points based for front-page appearances, and for the publications in which the car or owner featured. – Hello! And OK Magazine will each get an extra "celebrity point", Playboy and Playgirl will get an extra 2 points, Bolton Evening News and the Blackburn Bugle will get an extra 3 points – you get the picture .....

Perhaps most important - Editor's decision will be FINAL.

Seriously, if you have an interesting claim to fame, or if you think you can beat Pete's 15 appearances, please let me know.

ALSO – Does any reader know anything about the grey LHD roadster **642 UYN** which appears later in the Classics World article mentioned at beginning of this piece?



Here is Pete's list of "appearances":

1. February 2005 – Safety Fast front cover (only just!)
2. August 2011 – Safety Fast European Event of the Year feature main photo
3. April 2012 – Local paper did a piece showing me on the MGB run
4. July 2012 – Classic & Sports Car Big Feature
5. July 2012 – Safety Fast front cover
6. July 2012 - Classic Car Buyer MGA Day Out feature
7. December 2012 – Classic Car Buyer MGA feature
8. December 2013 – Auto Express Big feature
9. September 2014 - MG Enthusiast Big feature (Front cover picture, above)
10. February 2015 – Trans Pyrenean Challenge Article in [www.namgar.com](http://www.namgar.com)
11. May 2015 – Regency Run programme front cover.
12. June 2016 – Classic & Sports Car item in letters page
13. July 2018 – MG Enthusiast – Front cover & feature
14. February 2021 – Stupid Cupid feature and video [www.fionaharrison.biz](http://www.fionaharrison.biz)
15. January 2023 – Classics World MGA buyers guide.

## Side Screen Bags – Repeat Offer

During 2022, we offered readers a chance to buy a professionally-made, purpose-built "envelope" for their sidescreens, to protect them from damage when being carried in the boot of the car. Those bags were made by a professional car trimmer.

In summary:

- The outer casing is made of foam-backed vinyl (so the inner surface against your glass is a thin layer of foam).
- The "divider" between the 2 screens is Everflex vinyl
- The top flap folds over and closes with a heavy duty Velcro strip (not studs)
- The carrier is made in Black material.
- Inner dimensions of each pocket are 900 mm by 470 mm.



Around 30 readers ordered the bags last year, and all have been very pleased with them.

So much so that I have since had a couple more readers asking if the offer could be repeated. – And so I have agreed a deal for a second batch, which will cost £85 each plus £15 post and packing to a UK Mainland address. (Offshore and overseas deliveries will cost a little more.)

Note that this product is NOT being sold by the MGA Register but by the maker, who is a professional car trimmer based in Knutsford, Cheshire.

So this is your **VERY LAST CHANCE** to order.....

– Contact me at [mgcarclub-mganewsletter@outlook.com](mailto:mgcarclub-mganewsletter@outlook.com) **BEFORE Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March**, with the **postal address to which you wish your bag to be delivered**. I will then send you details of the maker's bank account to which you will make payment by BACS. Manufacture will not start until payment is received. You should receive your bag by 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**Note:** The MGA sidescreens are a "snug" fit in the carrier, but the carrier is also suitable for sidescreens on many other cars, including the AC Ace.

## Fashion Corner

In the January 2023 eNewsletter our very own (newly appointed) Fashion Guru and part-time model **John Robinson** told us what all the fashionable MGA Drivers and Co-Drivers will be wearing in 2023.

The answer, of course, is the stylish new MGA Register Polo Shirt, available in 4 colours (red, black, navy blue, and heather grey), and in sizes S to XXL.



The polo shirt is 'Fruit of the Loom' cotton, the MGA 'register' grille is silver embroidered on the front, - and on the rear the car profile is a heat transfer.

Price is £25 per shirt, payable to John by BACS or by cheque. That price includes postage to any UK address.

John will co-ordinate all the orders and liaise with the supplier in order to get a single batch of shirts made, and will oversee the delivery arrangements.

**"Last Orders" for the shirts is 17<sup>th</sup> March, and they will be delivered to you within 6 weeks of that date, - just in time for the MGA Spring Tour!. - The order form is Attachment 3 to this Newsletter.**

If you think the shirt looks good, then please don't think "I will order one later", - because you will forget all about it until you see other members on the Spring Tour wearing the shirt, and then you will be very jealous. – Order it **now**, and it will be a nice surprise when the parcel arrives in April. (Order one for your wife / husband / partner as well! – they will **love** it!)

## For Sale and Wanted

The advertisements below are placed in good faith on behalf of readers of the eNewsletter. The seller writes the advert and the description of the parts or car. These products are not covered by the MGCC public liability insurance. The MG Car Club and the MGA Register has no responsibility for the quality or completeness of the products offered, or the accuracy of any description. Buyers should convince themselves the part is of the required condition and / or specification when buying.

### For Sale - Parts

Various MGA Spares for sale

Please tell me what you want and I hope I can help you

Contact **Bob Cole** 01276 475581 or email [bobskiing1@gmail.com](mailto:bobskiing1@gmail.com) (Camberley, Surrey, area)



### **Wanted – 4-Post Lift**

Reader **Tim Carpenter**, who is based in London, is looking for a 4 post lift.

Wanted - a light-duty, 4 post car lift with single phase supply for non-professional use. A second hand item is fine. I can collect it. Please contact [timcarpenter13@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:timcarpenter13@yahoo.co.uk) or 07932 002 462 if you have one or can point me towards one. Thanks.

### **For Sale – MG Parts**

Following a restoration of a 1962 MGA 1600 Mk 11 Parts available:

- Pair 7" Used Osram Sealed Beam units 60/45w - RHD £20
- Pair 7" New Wipac Halogen headlamp units with bulbs and Boots RHD £50
- Pair Used Lucas Front Light Units good chrome and lenses £15
- Rear Used Lucas No. Plate light unit good condition £10
- Pair New Door Hinge Fixing Kit NTG T142K £15
- 5 Used Wire Wheels painted 48 Spoke VGC splines need TLC £50 Buyer Collect.
- Pair of used K&N 1.5" Pancake Air Filters including air filters good condition £10
- MGA/MGB Oil Spin on Conversion Kit £20 (Retail £20)
- 2x Spin on Filters £10 (Retail £15)
- MGA Hood Frame – used good condition

### **NON MG Parts and Tools**

- 4 Garage Wheel Doll Dolly's Unused £100 (Retail £72 a pair)
- Milenco Tow Mirror £20 (Retail £38)
- Millers 250ml VSP Fuel Additive & Tank Safe dilution for 40 gallons of petrol £8 (Retail £13)

Contact **Chris Norman** (Suffolk)

E-Mail [chrishnorman2211@btinternet.com](mailto:chrishnorman2211@btinternet.com) Tel. 07591177490

### **For Sale – Wheels and Tyres (and a Hardtop?)**

Reader **Alan Feast** has invested in some new wheels for his MGA, and so has a set of 4 minilite type knock-on wheels for sale, complete with tyres.



**For Sale.** A set of 5 knock-on aluminium minilite-style wheels, and Michelin XAS tyres, all with good tread, on offer, as I've invested in some different wheels for my car. Although these are not new, they haven't covered that many miles, and the wheels haven't been curbed or damaged. I was stunned to see that the wheels alone today would cost over £1250 plus carriage, and then you have to buy the tyres! So someone is going to get a bargain – I'll entertain all serious offers, but no really silly ones please. They are in Wandsworth, south London. Any questions or to discuss please get in touch with Alan on 07973 216260, or message at [alan@feast.me.uk](mailto:alan@feast.me.uk).

Also, I may part with an original hard top – not aluminium but the factory vinyl covered version, along with a stand and cover, also in very good condition.

## Car of the Month (yet again!)

Since September 2022 we have been following the story of **Peter Leyland's** Twin Cam YDI/2423 (XLE 40), - which he won in a raffle!.

In January we read the story and saw some pictures of the restoration, and Peter told us that from February 2023 the car was to be exhibited at the Atwell-Wilson Motor Museum in Calne, Wiltshire along with a number of other MGs to mark the marque's centenary.

Here are pictures of the car at the museum, where it will remain for the rest of the year.



This story is not *quite* complete, however. Newsletter reader **Robert Zannetti** has been following the story and the earlier photos, and asked Peter for further information (including source) of the inlet manifold which is fitted to XLE 40 to suit its twin-choke Weber carbs whilst retaining a fitting for the standard dynamo. Robert has struggled to find a manifold suitable for his Dellorto 40 Twin Choke carbs.

With information and photos from Peter (it turns out Peter's car used a modified manifold from a Lotus Elan, to suit Weber carbs), plus some background information and historical contacts from **John Halton**, Robert is now on the trail of such a Lotus manifold for his car. Once again, one story leads to a number of questions and good information for Newsletter readers.

If you'd like to share an unusual story about your car, or pictures of your car in a particularly interesting or picturesque location then let us have a story and a high-definition image. Make sure the car is well represented and preferably in a three-quarter view. If the front wheels are turned to the left or right, do make sure it's the wheels that are shown, not the tyres. Send your images and background story to:

[mgcarclub-mganewsletter@outlook.com](mailto:mgcarclub-mganewsletter@outlook.com)

## Merchandise Shop

The MGA Register Merchandise Shop has stocks of just about all current items.

MGA Register caps, priced at £10, are now available again, including in Black and Navy Blue. To view our current list of products, go to <https://www.mgcc.co.uk/mga-register/> and click on Merchandise Shop in the menu on the left.

The Merchandise operation is in the hands of **Graham Eke**. The email address for orders remains as [mgaregistershop@outlook.com](mailto:mgaregistershop@outlook.com) and our PayPal account continues to be the preferred method for invoicing and payment.

## Call it MGA

This excellent book by Roger Martin and the MGA Register's late Historian, Piers Hubbard, has been reduced in price from £25.00 **to just £12.00 + post/packing**. Visit the Merchandise Shop, as above, for details of the book and how to order.

## **MGA Register 50th Anniversary Book    **Second Edition SELLING FAST!****

This new book, compiled and published by the MGA Register, celebrates the history of the MGA Register from its inception in 1970. Members of the Register Committee and others compiled this book, covering all aspects of the work and history of the Register in its 19 chapters, totalling 153 pages. Topics include 'How It All Began', the development of the Register Database, touring events, MGA publications, Safety Fast! down the years, Technical Support and much, much more. The book is A4 sized, hard-back and in full colour. The cost is £35, plus £5.50 post/packing to a UK address. **The second edition is now in stock at Register HQ (a.k.a. the Eke Household!) and we are now down to the last few copies – A further reprint is unlikely, since there is a minimum print quantity.**

To place an order for one of these final few copies, – Just visit the merchandise shop for a preview and details of how to order. <https://www.mgcc.co.uk/mga-register/merchandise-catalogue-november-2016-2/>

## **Important – Membership Numbers**

Can we remind you that when contacting Committee Members with requests for help or information it is important to quote your MGCC Membership Number. If you are a Member, it is in your interest to quote your Membership Number. as priority will always be given to Members and there is some information that is only available to Members. There are many cars on the Register owned by non-Members and whilst we are happy to help where we can, the MGA Register is a part of the MG Car Club and priority will always be given to paid-up MG CC Members.

## **And Finally.....**

We like to keep our contact lists for both the Newsletter circulation and the MGA Register Listing up to date, so if your details have changed at all just let us know. Perhaps you have sold your MGA or you've bought another one.

For all Newsletter contributions or comments, or if you wish to be "unsubscribed" please tell us at:

**Brendan Leach**

**MGA e-Newsletter Editor**

[Mgcarclub-mganewsletter@outlook.com](mailto:Mgcarclub-mganewsletter@outlook.com)

And for vehicle registration and history matters, please contact

**Stuart Mumby**

**Registrar, MGA Register (but not for much longer!)**

[mgcarclub\\_mgaregistrar@hotmail.com](mailto:mgcarclub_mgaregistrar@hotmail.com)

**Happy MotorinG, All.....**

**Brendan Leach, March 2023**

## Appendix 1 – Entry Form Autumn 2023 Tour

# MGA REGISTER

## “The Cotswolds Caper”

Farringdon, Oxfordshire

Fri. 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. to Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Oct.  
2023



Driver's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Navigator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

MGCC Member No: \_\_\_\_\_

MGA Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Colour: \_\_\_\_\_ Reg. No: \_\_\_\_\_

### \*Please now delete all that do NOT apply

\*I / we have booked our own accommodation arrangements

\*I / we have booked accommodation at Sudbury House Hotel, 56 London Street, Farringdon

\*I / we will be joining the Dinners at Sudbury House Hotel on Fri\* / Sat\* / Sun\*

\*I / we will be joining the Saturday\* / Sunday\* / Both Tours\*

I / we enclose a cheque payable to: **The MG Car Club MGA Register** for our entry fee of £25.00 per car (£50.00 FOR NON-MEMBERS)

**Please print and send this completed form with entry fee cheque to:  
Tony Bratt, 47 Greenwood Avenue, Chinnor, Oxfordshire, OX39 4HW**



We will only use your personal data to process your entry for this event. You can obtain further details on this or withdraw from the event by contacting the organiser named above. For a copy of the MGCC Privacy Policy contact the General Manager, MGCC on 01235 555552 or [info@mgcc.co.uk](mailto:info@mgcc.co.uk) or at 12 Cemetery road, Abingdon, OX14 1AS.



## **Appendix 2 – Notable Journey Nomination**

# **MGA REGISTER 'NOTABLE JOURNEY' AWARD**

When they were new, MGAs were driven significant distances, not only as everyday cars on an annual basis but also long-distance individual journeys. A notable example was when MGA Register founder Chairman Dennis Ogborn drove his MGA home to England from Qatar.

Half a century later, some MGAs hardly do any mileage at all. Yet, if maintained and serviced properly, MGAs can still be relied upon to undertake enjoyable significant journeys.

The MGA Register 'Notable Journey' award is intended to acknowledge the exploits of those UK members who do undertake significant journeys in their MGAs and to encourage others to do so.

Journey award considerations include:

- a 'notable' journey is likely to have encompassed a relatively high mileage;
- the location in which a journey is undertaken may be significant, e.g. a journey in north Africa is likely to be more 'notable' than a similar mileage in Britain;
- successful perseverance against set-backs, e.g. on-road repairs, could make a journey 'notable', especially if imaginative improvisation was involved;
- a significant journey undertaken in competitive circumstances, e.g. an organised long-distance rally/raid could make a journey 'notable';
- a write-up of such a journey for Safety Fast! would add weight to any claimant's eligibility for the award.



## Appendix 3 – MGA Polo Shirts Order Form

**MGA Register polo shirt**  
**Only available for UK delivery**  
**ORDER FORM – orders to be received by 17th March 2023**

### ‘Fruit of the Loom’ cotton polo shirt

Name:							
MG Car Club Member Number							
Delivery Address							
Your e-mail address							
<b>To fit Chest Size (inches!)</b>		<b>35-37</b>	<b>38-40</b>	<b>41-43</b>	<b>44-46</b>	<b>47-49</b>	
Colour – RED	Size Quantity	S	M	L	XL	XXL	TOTAL RED
Colour – BLACK	Size Quantity	S	M	L	XL	XXL	TOTAL BLK
Colour – NAVY	Size Quantity	S	M	L	XL	XXL	TOTAL NVY
Colour – HEATHER	Size Quantity	S	M	L	XL	XXL	TOTAL HTR
Total Number of Shirts Ordered							

**Total number of shirts X £25.00 = £.....**

Shirt price includes P & P to UK Mainland only and shirts will be despatched (APC) out to the customer approximately 4-6 weeks after order closing date of 17<sup>th</sup> March.

### Ordering and Payment details:

#### Order by post.

Cheques should be made payable to: "J P Robinson" and sent together with your completed order form to:

John Robinson  
Meadowcroft  
Bridegate Lane  
Hickling Pastures  
LE14 3QA

**Or by email.** to jarobbo@btinternet.com; Please attach completed order form and confirm a direct transfer (BACS), to:

Bank account: J P Robinson  
HSBC. Sort Code: 40-10-06  
Account number: 21787845

Please state your name and membership number as the payment reference.