



MGA REGISTER eNEWSLETTER

March 2020

WORLDWIDE CIRCULATION: 955

Visit the MGA & Twin Cam Register Websites at

<http://www.mgcc.co.uk/mga-register/>

<http://www.mgcc.co.uk/mga-twin-cam-group/>

https://twitter.com/mga_car

Important – Membership Nos.

Can we please remind you that when contacting Committee members with requests for help or information it is important to quote your MGCC Membership No. If you are a Member, it is in your interest to quote your Membership No. 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 Members.

Upcoming Events 2020

Friday 8th – Monday 11th May 2020 - MGA Register Spring Weekend 'One Rally-Two Countries'. Our Spring Touring Weekend in 2020 is to be centred at The Grange Hotel, Mercure Bristol North, Winterbourne, Bristol BS36 1RP and the tours will run through Glorious Gloucestershire and Wonderful Wales. Our hosts this time are Richard and Janet Day who live in the Bristol area and are very familiar with this part of the world. The title of the event reflects the contrasting areas that we will be visiting.

Unfortunately, if you have not already booked this event, all rooms at the hotel are now reserved and the capacity for the Saturday evening Gala Dinner has been reached. Owners of MGAs are still welcome to join either or both of the tours, although they will have to make their own accommodation and dining arrangements. To download the entry form go to: <https://www.mgcc.co.uk/mga-register/events-in-2020/spring-tour/>

Saturday/Sunday 13th/14th June – MGLive The Club is back at its traditional venue of Silverstone. Don't miss out on what will be a very special event as the Club celebrates 90 Years. Tickets are now on sale at <https://www.mgcc.co.uk/mglive/>

Saturday 25th July – Scottish MGA Day - Once again organized by Paul and Jeanne Dean, our Representatives north of the Border. This year's tour is still in the planning stage but will be based in the Kinross area of the Kingdom of Fife. For more information and a link

to register your entry now, go to <https://www.mgcaledonian.com/event/2020-scottish-mga-day/>

Sunday 9th August – MGA Day – The venue for the MGA Register's annual static show has been chosen as the National Trust's Stowe. No pre-booking is required for this event. Details of this wonderful landscaped site can be seen from this link <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe>

MGA Register Golden Anniversary Tour

Friday 25th – Monday 28th September

The MGA Register autumn tour, in 2020, will commemorate the Golden Anniversary of the MGA Register. The Register was formed and officially ratified at the MG Car Club Central Council Meeting in October 1970. To celebrate the first fifty years of our Register the autumn tour 2020 will be a special four-day event from Friday 25th September to Monday 28th September. The location will be East Yorkshire and based at the Cave Castle Hotel, Church Hill, South Cave HU15 2EU, which will be our base for the four days.

<https://www.cavecastlehotel.com/>

The Saturday and Sunday tours will remain in the format of previous years with a Gala Dinner on the Saturday evening. We are honoured to have MG Car Club President, John Day with us for the weekend and on Friday John will give a talk on his life with MGs. The Friday and Monday events will be a half day each. Friday afternoon will be a Navisat Rally and other fun events and Monday morning will be a culture visit in the city of Kingston upon Hull, where it is hoped free parking will be available at Hull Minster in the centre of the Old Town. Participants have the option to join the tours and events on however many days they wish.

The Register had a block booking of 60 rooms exclusively for our event but this arrangement has now expired and the hotel will be taking bookings from the general public. The hotel has a golf course adjacent and is very popular. It is not expected that rooms will be available for long.

The room rates are as follows:

Friday 25th September – 2 course evening meal, bed and breakfast –
double room £121.00; single room £90.50

Saturday 26th September – Gala Dinner bed and breakfast –
double room £138.00; single room £101.50

Sunday 27th September – 2 course evening meal, bed and breakfast –
double room £121.50; single room £90.50

To make a reservation at the Cave Castle Hotel please telephone the hotel reception on 01430 422245 and quote the booking reference '*Wilson MGA Register*'. You will be asked for a non-refundable deposit of £20 per person to confirm your accommodation.

There are two dog friendly rooms available with an additional charge of £15 per night also there are some superior rooms with four poster beds at an upgrade cost of £40 per night.

There is complementary use of the Health Club and swimming pool. A spa is also available on site and treatments can be pre booked direct on 01430 426267. The hotel has an 18-hole golf course and a discounted golf fee is available (can you get your golf clubs in an MGA?).

When you have reserved your room at The Cave Castle Hotel, (or alternative accommodation), click here to download an Entry Form , <https://www.mgcc.co.uk/mga-register/events-in-2020/mga-register-50th-anniversary-weekend-28th-28th-september/> then print, complete and return with the entry fee to Ian Wilson, 10 Westgate, North Cave, Brough, HU15 2NJ.

Future MGA Register Touring Weekends

The popular series of MGA Register Touring Weekends are planned well in advance in order to secure the reservation of a sufficient number of rooms to satisfy demand. The MGA Register Committee is now looking ahead to the Spring 2021 event. Preferred locations are the Midlands or the South. The Committee would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in taking on the role of Organiser for the May 2021 event. Having fulfilled this role myself for 14 years, up to 2016, I can assure potential organisers that there is a great deal of satisfaction in organising this event. We are not looking for anyone to take on this role on a permanent basis, merely one event at a time.

If you would like to know more about helping to organize these events then just get in touch at ian@mulberryhouse.karoo.co.uk

Join the MGA Register Committee

The MGA Register Committee is looking for candidates to join its ranks with the aim of ensuring there are sufficient hands on deck to deal with the future running of the Register. Being part of the Committee is fun and can help provide an outlet for your particular skills.

If you'd like to find out more about what is involved, then contact the Register Chairman, Ian Wilson at ian@mulberryhouse.karoo.co.uk or, better still, why not come along to the April Committee meeting on 18th April 2020 at Kimber House. The Committee meeting starts at 11:00am, following the AGM which starts at 10:30am. You will not be held at gunpoint to join there and then and there is even a free lunch and as much coffee as you can drink! If you'd like to come, please let the Secretary, Colin Manley, know in advance. Contact Colin at colinmanley99@gmail.com or phone 07808 369205.

Notable Journey Award

Nominations are now closed for the 2019 Award, and now open for 2020. Do you have a trip planned during this year that you consider to be worthy? We want to hear from you. See the qualifying requirements at the end of this eNewsletter.

Longest Restoration of an MGA

Jon Mullins wonders whether he holds the record for the longest restoration of an MGA. Jon began restoring his Old English White 1500 Coupe in the mid 1980s and finally drove it on the road last year. We'll call that 34 years, can anyone beat that?

ERIC OAKES

We are sorry to report the death of Eric, who with his wife Anne, were regular supporters of our tours in his 1958 roadster 11GPB. Pictured with Anne at Portmeirion at the Spring Tour last year, he was quiet and thoughtful man and great company, he will be missed by all his friends on the Register.

At his packed Memorial Service, we learnt of a rich life well lived; as well as churchwarden for the past fourteen years, he was also President of Frome Swimming Club. His family gave moving tributes of a father and grandfather much loved and respected by everyone who knew him.

After a successful career in the agricultural industry, he set up a very successful business with Anne from their lovely cottage near Frome supplying clients in the Middle East with nutrition products for the racing camel industry. He developed the products from his knowledge of the pig industry and spotted a niche in the market during a visit to the Middle East. He was also an accomplished ballroom dancer in his early years at Agricultural College in Warwick, having sussed that it would be a good way to meet girls!

As well as his A, he had an MG ZTT and a very rare Mini Countryman Estate, both in mint condition, bought from new and immaculately maintained. He was also a lover of Jaguar saloons.

Our condolences go to Anne and their family at this difficult time and we hope to see Anne at our events when she feels able.

Peter Morgan



Technical & Maintenance

Jaeger Dual Gauge

Dave Adams has very helpfully shared the outcome of his successful purchase of a new dual gauge (oil & water). After 2 previous failures and repairs he decided to buy a new MGB gauge from MGB Hive and switch the Smiths face for the Jaeger one from the failed gauge. The new gauge was made in Wales by Caerbont Automotive Instruments <https://www.caigauge.com/>. Reflecting on the idiocy of buying a new gauge to then modify it he persuaded Caerbont to make the MGB gauge with a Jaeger face. Apparently they have a good relationship with the owner of the Jaeger brand and so were able to include the Jaeger dual gauge for sale through their distributors as shown on their website. The cost is £111.27, plus VAT and carriage. This would seem to be preferable to purchasing an item made in the Far East. The contact at Caerbont is Gavin Roberts. Dave makes it clear he has no commercial interest in the MGB Hive or Caerbont.

To view an interesting video about Caerbont go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0g-dkZxtvc>

MGA Maintenance Session

MGLive Silverstone 13-14th June 2020

Would you like to know how to look after your precious MGA and have a basic knowledge of what makes it go?

The Register is proposing to hold practical maintenance sessions at MGLive 2020. Join us as we pass on knowledge and experience of running and maintaining an MGA in good order.

If you are interested in having a better knowledge of what makes your car work do put this date in your diary. To get the most out of the session we need to know what you would like covered.

The sessions will only take place if there is sufficient demand so please contact:

Ian Wilson at ian@mulberryhouse.karoo.co.uk
and let us know what you would like.

Derrington Heads

MG Car Club Member, John Francis, has a Derrington Head he wants to fit to his 1600 Roadster, ideally with twin 1½ S.U.s, but he has concerns about clearances. If anyone out there has experience of such a set-up and would be willing to chat to John, would they please contact him on 01446 771726, or email jh.francis@btinternet.com

Car of the Month

Our picture this issue is a reminder that Spring is on its way. The clocks go forward, the days get longer and we can get out and about in our MGAs. Here we have Tim and Mel Green's 1600 Roadster with Brill Windmill, near Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire. They were participating in the Maharaja's Tour, organised by the Craven Motor Club, which raises money for local charities.



We have a few other interesting pictures on hand for future editions, but if you would like to see your MGA featured, then just send a high resolution image taken in an unusual or picturesque location to mqcarclub-mganewsletter@outlook.com

Merchandise Shop

Don't forget to visit the MGA Register Merchandise Shop, just click on the link below to view our current list of products

<https://www.mgcc.co.uk/mga-register/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2019/07/MGA-Register-Merchandise-Catalogue-9-July-2019.pdf>

MGA Register 50th Anniversary Badge

The Register has produced this enamelled Grille badge to mark its 50th Anniversary. Production has been limited to 100 badges and after pre-orders have been supplied there are now less than 24 available in stock. When they're gone, they're gone and so will always be a limited edition. Measuring 54mm x 54mm the badge is the same size as the MG emblem on the radiator grille. It is supplied with 2 stainless steel machine screws and toggles.



Click this link to order your badge:

<https://www.mgcc.co.uk/mga-register/merchandise-catalogue-november-2016-2/>

MGA Register 50th Anniversary Book

In 2005 the MGA Register published a book to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the launch of the MGA. Now it's the turn of the 50th Anniversary of Register itself to be commemorated. Members of the Register Committee and others are in the process of compiling a book covering all aspects of the work and history of the Register. There will be approximately 18 chapters on '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 will be A4 sized, 130 pages, hard-back and in full colour. The cost will be approximately £30. The current time plan is to have the books printed in time for MG Live, if possible, or if not, in time for MGA Day in August.. The book is sure to be a very collectible item for the future.

At this stage, we would like to know the level of interest in the book to ensure that the print run will meet demand. To express your interest and to reserve a copy, without commitment, please email mgaregistershop@outlook.com with your name and address for delivery.

From the Safety Fast Archives – 20 Years Ago

Frank Burry kicks off the February 2000 Register Report by commenting on how often MGAs are used in advertising. This is still the case today and we should welcome the exposure as it has the potential to tempt new people into ownership. Frank then announced the imminent MGA Register AGM on 12th February with an invitation to anyone who might like to attend. To finish, there is a photo showing a rather disappointing turn-out of MGAs at the South-East Centre Autumn Gathering at Groombridge Place in the previous September.

Further on in this issue is a splendid two-page colour feature on Geoff Awde's victory on LE JOG in his Island Green 1500 Coupe, SL5940. The feature was penned by Geoff's co-driver, Peter Ward. Geoff and Peter's win was notable in that they were the only team, out of 72 finishers, to win a Gold Award. SL5490 is currently taxed at DVLA; does anyone know whether Geoff Awde still owns this car?

On the full-colour Cars & People page is a picture of the ex-Works Targa Florio Austin-Healey Sprite ready to be trailed by Arthur Appleby, red MGA 178CTA. This MGA is no longer registered at DVLA, does anyone know its fate?

March 2000 sees the first four-page spread of the new Millennium. Frank opens this issue by welcoming 15 new members to the Register. The remaining three pages were given over to an article by Rob Sharpe, detailing his racing career in the 1980s in a 1600 Roadster LSV540. The car was seriously damaged in a major off during the six-hour race at Snetterton, with Rod suffering a couple of broken bones. This ended Rod's racing career, though the car was totally restored over a period of eight years by students at Northampton College, taking to the road again in a new livery of Connaught Green in 1996. However, DVLA records show that the tax expired in April 1988; that would be following the crash at Snetterton. Rod firmly states that the car returned to the road in 1996 and the article includes a photo of the car in its dark colour, yet the current DVLA record has the car as white. Does anyone know Rod Sharpe? It would be interesting to discover the truth behind these anomalies.

MGA prices 20 years ago

A round-up of prices being asked for MGAs includes the following:

1959 1600 Roadster Red, everything renewed or professionally restored in 1998, 3,000 miles since: £12,000

1956 Roadster Discs, hardtop, good hood and interior, recon gearbox, sound car needing some TLC: £5,550.

1956 Roadster 1622cc engine, disc brakes, roll cage, fibreglass & steel wings, ex-racer hardtop, needs body rebuild – offers.

Twin Cam Roadster Part restored to concours, superb condition - £8,000.

1958 Roadster White, red interior, reliable, used weekly, good condition, engine rebuild 1992 - £8,500.

And finally - Better the Devil you know?

Before you rush out and buy an electric car, read this article from the Daily Mail:
https://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-7968085/Eco-edict-new-cars-electric-15-years-doomed-backfire-says-JOHN-NAISH.html?ito=email_share_article-bottom

And staying with the EV theme have a look at this, hilarious:
<https://www.v8register.net/DD/VIDEO-2019-11-16-08-38-32.mp4>

General Data Protection Regulations

For the purposes of GDPR in the EU, you are receiving this as a result of your 'legitimate interest' in the MGA Register. If you wish to unsubscribe, please reply to that effect to mga@live.co.uk and your information will be removed from the records.

The MG Car Club Privacy Policy can be viewed by following this link <https://www.mgcc.co.uk/about/privacy-policy/>

We strive to keep our contact lists and the MGA Register Listing up to date, so if you or your car details have changed at all just let us know. Perhaps you have sold your MGA or you've bought another one. If you wish to be unsubscribed from these eNewsletters please tell us.

If you would like to subscribe to the separate Twin Cam Group Newsletter, please request this from Colin Manley at mgatcg@outlook.com

Happy **M**otorin**G**

Stuart Mumby,
MGA Register,
2nd March 2020

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.