



Synchro!



The Newsletter of South Staffs and North Birmingham MG Owners Club

[eMail: info@ssmgoc.co.uk](mailto:info@ssmgoc.co.uk)

Editor: Alan Heeley

Date: September 2010

[Website: www.ssmgoc.co.uk](http://www.ssmgoc.co.uk)

MALLORY PARK RACE DAY— IT GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

It's a bit unusual to kick off with reader's letters, but in this case it seemed ideal. The following account of the Mallory race day was received from Mike Humphries, of the South Leicestershire MGOC. I think that it says it all!



Sunday 1st August 2010 Mallory Park Race Day with the South Staffs MGOC

On a cold sunny windy August day five cars and passengers from the South Leicestershire MGOC took up the kind invitation from Nigel Preston to join the South Staffs club at the Mallory park race day. On arrival, Nigel welcomed us like long-lost friends, which set the tone for the rest of the day. All of us were made to feel like members of the club, and throughout the day we had many visitors joining us in our little green gazebo.

The highlight of the day was the parade laps, where we could all imagine for a short time that we were Jensen Button heading the pack around the circuit; a great experience.

.SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLINGS

As the summer progresses I must say that we have had some really great events. At the start of August there was Mallory race day. It was a great pity that this clashed with the Fest-Jazz event in Brittany, so I was unable to attend this year. From conversations, but more importantly from the messages received following the event, it was undoubtedly a great success (again), and has put itself firmly on the club calendar. What particularly strikes me is the comments about the very friendly welcome to the visiting club mem-

bers. This can only reflect very well on our club, and so could I just say a 'well done' to everybody who went out of their way to welcome the visitors.

Having said that, the event has been a triumph for Nigel and Liz, who put in many hours of work to ensure that all went well. Thank you Nigel and Liz, from all of the club members.

In a similar vein, sincere thanks are due to Janice and Gordon for their outstanding efforts with the Treasure Hunt. The amount of preparation must have been enormous. Just

to explain for those who have not tried to organise such an event, there are two large lumps of work. Firstly there is the road run, which has to be arranged, with all of the usual problems, and then on top of that there is the difficult business of sorting out all of the clues. If they are too difficult and obscure people will get bored and give up. If they are too easy there will be about 20 winners! Well done and thanks to Janice and Gordon; a very well thought-out treasure hunt.

A word about the Fest Jazz event. Again, thanks are due to Roy and Dianne Clarke for the original idea, and subsequent organisation. It all went very well indeed, and although there were only seven cars this year, it was enjoyed so much that it could hopefully attract a few more next year.

horses, dogs ducks, geese, goats and even reptiles and snakes. Apart from the large display



of motorcycles, the world of mechanised transport was also represented with a fly-past by XH558, the last Vulcan bomber. Very impressive!

Shugborough 2010



Personally I tend not to look forward to static events with the same enthusiasm as those involving a nice long drive, but I have to say that the Shugborough Transtar event was very good indeed. The number and diversity of the entries was excellent, from moped to bus. It was particularly gratifying that the South Staffs MGOC stand was judged best in the show. The trophy may not be quite up to World Cup standards, but it is still very acceptable, and pleasing for all of those who helped on the day to put the display together.

August concluded for some with the annual visit to The White Horse Show, at Uffington, in Wiltshire. This is a typical country show, with

Just as last year, the weather was unseasonably cold, with a nagging wind, but the show was most enjoyable for all that.

Except in isolated cases, there is surprisingly little feed-back from our ordinary club members. Please bear in mind that the committee meets each month, usually on the first Monday of the month. If there is anything that you would like to put forward, ideas for events, comment about past events, literally anything, just contact one of the committee Members, who will raise the item on your behalf.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Because of the many events during August, we have had to postpone the club summer barbecue until Saturday the 18th September.

It will be held again this year at the Hatherton Parish Rooms. The big advantage of this is that if the weather should decide not to cooperate, we can all go inside and leave Steve outside in the rain to do the cooking!

But seriously, please support this event, which will again be free for members and just £5 for non-members.

We hope to arrange the presentations to the Air Ambulance and Staffs Search and Rescue Team. The amounts will be down on last year, perhaps reflecting the general state of things, but they will still no doubt be very well received by the two organisations.

If you would like to come along, but can't make a club meeting before then, just ring Steve Gwilt or Alan Heeley so that we have a rough idea of numbers to cater for.

LIN'S RUN

In the past, Lin Hill has organised some quality road runs for the Black Country MGOC. She has kindly offered (at gunpoint) to exhume one of these runs, and graft a bit on so that we start from the Ascot.

The run, which will be an end-of-season run for those who put their cars to bed at the end of September, will take place on Sunday the 26th. September. Again, if you can't make one of the Wednesday club meetings, just a phone call (as above) to let us have an idea how many to expect, would be appreciated.

Please support this run. Let's have a good turnout for the last run of the season.



THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Yes, I know, the summer hasn't ended yet and we start to talk about Christmas.

Unfortunately it is a fact of life that we have to book well in advance. Because last year's party was such a great success, we decided to book for 2010 as we left that evening.

So the venue is the same as last year, **The Terrace Restaurant, Brownhills.**

The club has just had to pay £1200 as a deposit for this year's event, and so very soon we will be asking for deposits from you to cover the club's outlay. The cost this year will be £27.50, with a £5 subsidy from the club for every member.

This will again include a really high-quality dinner, with a wide variety of meal choices actually on the evening itself, (no need to deliberate what you might fancy to eat in several weeks' time!), plus a disco. We will no doubt also indulge in various silly games. In past years we did not issue tickets, but as the numbers have increased we have decided that this year we will have tickets printed, and hopefully these will be on sale from September onwards.

For anyone who has not experienced one of our parties, please get a ticket; bring some friends, it will be great again, I am sure.

I would emphasise again that the Terrace has a reputation second to none in the area for good food; not the usual mass-produced fare that you normally get at this type of event.

And now for a look back at some of the recent events.

FEST JAZZ 2010.

By Alan Heeley

The jazz festival took place in Brittany, at a small town called Chateaufort-du-Faou. We took the overnight Brittany Ferries route from Plymouth to Roscoff. Roscoff is unlike most ferry terminal towns in that it is very attractive, and following our disembarkation at 0700h., we had a good breakfast followed by a wander around the town. The journey to Cle-F was very pleasant. Away from the joys of the M5 on a summer Friday etc., it was a joy to drive along the beautiful French roads without traffic.

Our little contingent comprised Dianne and Roy Clarke, Peter Fitzwater, Clive Webster, plus a couple of good friends Gina and Maurice Povey, from Ruthin, with their interesting Porsche 916. On the other side of the channel we were joined by a couple from Wimbledon, and another couple from Shepton Mallet, both with MGB Roadsters.

On arrival, we attended a small reception at the Town Hall. We were greeted by Breton pipers plus a glass or two of Kir. In the evening there was a dinner at the local hotel followed by a couple of hours of jazz from the Magnolia Jazz band (from Liverpool). What then followed came as a complete surprise. The stage was taken, at about 10.30 by a soberly clad bespectacled gentleman called James Compton. Bearing in mind the time, what I had expected was some after-hours gentle tinkling jazz piano playing. What we got was a fierce attack on the keyboard, and a selection of boogie-woogie and rock and roll tunes which literally had the whole place jumping. It was truly terrific.

The following day we were treated to a drive around some of the marvellous Brittany coastline, with a picnic by the sea. This was followed by a visit to the local community centre, where we were treated to more jazz, from among others, a quartet whose instruments comprised a clarinet, a banjo, a bass saxophone (I had never even seen one of those before; almost as big as the player), plus a washboard. This unlikely combination produced some quite surprising sounds.

The Sunday was a full day of jazz. There were four separate venues within a short distance, with a programme so that you could choose in advance which band you wanted to see. After carefully lining up the MG's to form a little display, we happily passed the day, from 11.00h until about 01.00h the following morning watching and listening to the various bands. One notable one was a trio with jazz violin (similar style to Stephane Grapelli), who

came from North Wales. A really excellent local Anglo-French traditional jazz band, calling themselves Good-Time Jazz, were outstanding. Following the feast of jazz, the remaining few days were happily spent wandering around the local area.

The return to good old Blighty was the usual traumatic experience. Back to horrendous August traffic on the M5, crowded motorway services with their outrageous prices etc.

Oh for the empty roads of La Belle France! If the Fest Jazz takes place again next year, and I hope it does, I hope that we may be able to repeat the marvellous experience.

Mike Greetham Memorial Treasure Hunt

By Steve Moore

A big thank you to Gordon and Janice assisted by Roy and Charlotte for organising this years



treasure hunt. The weather stayed dry with stops at Brewood, Bridgnorth and Claverley. Personally I have been to Bridgnorth many times but never been round the top of the town by the



church where there were some fantastic views of the town. The clues were just hard enough to sort the wheat from the chaff to produce worthy winners Dave and Sally.

As the picture shows Dave had clearly got his reading specs on! They of course win the Mike Greetham Trophy for a year and get the pleasure of organising next years treasure hunt. Also glad to see Sally back to good health after her trip to hospital. Looking forward to next year—Steve Moore

We would like to offer a warm thank you to all our members who sponsored Paul Hill for his rather cold swim across Blithfield Reservoir.

In total he raised £510 for the British Heart Foundation and Cancer Support Dudley, of which over 20% came from our members (£110)!!!! Well done. The Swim took place Sunday 8th August, swimming a mile across Blithfield in 33minutes. most people wore wetsuits, whilst Paul did it in his Speedo's

A quote from Express & Star...."swimming is not usually allowed because of the dangers and we don't have people there to monitor it. it's a site of scientific interest and we have a duty of care. We also have Blue Green Algae which is naturally occurring and **POISONOUS!**"

Thanks, LIN.....

Quick competition—No prizes!
How well do you look at the photos in the newsletter? Spotted anything unusual in one of them? Emails to the editor!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 5th September Charity Road Run organised by the Potteries and South Cheshire MGOC

Wednesday September 8th. Club meeting, The Ascot Tavern, Cannock

Saturday September 18th. Summer Barbecue, and cheque presentation to The Air Ambulance and Staffs Search and Rescue Team, The Parish Room, Hatherton, starting at 3.0 p.m. Free to members, £5 to guests. Don't forget that there is covered accommodation even if the weather is bad. (but it won't be!)

Wednesday September 22nd. Club meeting, The Ascot Tavern, Cannock

Sunday September 26th. End of season run, organised by Lin Hill. Starting from The Ascot. Time to be advised. If unable to sign on at a club meeting, please ring 01922 415680, or 0121 353 9916