

Winchester MG Owners Club



April 2016 www.winchestermgoc.co.uk

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Your Committee

Secretary	Steve Favell	stevenfavell@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Clyde Cunningham	clyde.cunningham@btinternet.com
Programme	Steve Favell	stevenfavell@btinternet.com
Programme	Andy Young	andrewyoung2@ntlworld.com
Regalia	Niall Fitzgerald	Nbritfitzy@aol.com
Cobweb Spin	Hank Dawson	allanahjane@btinternet.com
Newsletter	Dave Tilbury	dave.tilbury@me.com

Dear Winchester mg owners club.

Thank you for my prize I especially like the calculator watch. Daddy and I had a great time!!!

From will

Winchester MGOC meet on the last Tuesday of the month at:
The King Charles, Lovedon Lane, King's Worthy, SO23 7NU

NB. We are an active group and may sometimes meet at some far off pub, so please check with the Secretary and join us... somewhere.)

What a fantastic Cobweb Spin we had at the Hillier Gardens with perfect weather and a great turnout of cars. In fact we had so many that we ran out of space. This was Hank's 10th and final year of organising the Cobweb and he is now ready to pass on the baton. He certainly bows out on a high note and our thanks go to him and all the other helpers that made it such a great success.

The results of the public voting at the main viewpoint for the "car I would most like to take home" were very close. First place went to Colin & Anne Hazzard for their MGB V8 Roadster. In second place was Neil & Nita Simpson's bright yellow MG Midget which complimented the daffodils perfectly and third place went to Dave Stubbington for his '67 B Roadster. Each collected a rosette. There were a lot of positive comments on the day regarding the variety of cars, the friendly atmosphere and the number of new faces. It was especially nice to receive a letter afterwards from one of the young competition winners thanking us for his prize. (See opposite)

As a 'thank-you' for organising the event, Hillier Gardens donated two annual passes to the club and you will recall that we took the decision to raffle them in aid of charity. As a result, at our March meeting we were able to present a cheque for £255 to the Motor Neurone Disease Association. This was accepted on their behalf by Shane Dixon, who gave a short talk on the work of the MNDA and drew the winning tickets for us.

First prize of two annual passes went to Ian Deverall of the Newbury MGOC. The second prize of shortbread in a nice MG tin went to Meryl, who promptly opened and shared them! Now that the lighter evenings are here at last, the event calendar bursts into life. April is particularly busy and also includes the first of our monthly evening runs. Don't forget to take a look at our calendar and make a special note of our visits to the Cathedral and Cranbury Park. Sadly there is no Awbridge Fete this year, but I hear it is planned to make a come-back in 2017.

Chat

STEVE



Cobweb Spin 2016



As we all know, this year's Cobweb Spin at Hillier Gardens was our most successful since the event transferred there. The weather on the day will always play a large part, but I like to think that as we become established and iron out the wrinkles, word gradually gets around and the event builds its own momentum. There were certainly a lot of new cars and faces this year and hopefully people enjoyed themselves and will tell others about it. A few days after this year's event I received an email from Malcolm Le Gry's that stirred my interest. Malcolm wrote: -

"Firstly, thank you for a most enjoyable Cobweb Spin last Sunday, my wife and I brought our MGF along and had a great day exploring the Gardens in the lovely spring sunshine! I appreciate that this is rather a long shot, but I'm wondering if you and the club can assist with a query.

As my wife and I were about to leave the Gardens last Sunday, we noticed a Trophy Blue TF parked on one side of the MG car park, reg. no. BU51 JFO. I immediately recognised this car as being the car used by Autocar in their TF road test of March 2002, also featured on pages 114 to 119 of the Brooklands Books MGF & TF Performance Portfolio 1995-2005. The car is a very early pre-production TF and, as such, is quite a significant car in terms of F/TF history. I took a picture of the car, a copy of which is attached to this email. I subsequently mentioned having seen the car to Adrian, and he would dearly love to speak to the present owner about the car and certain aspects of its history [as] the owner would be able to help the MGF Register in completing their database records on this car.

We are wondering whether you or anyone in Winchester MGOC knows the owner of BU51 JFO!"

I do love a challenge, so immediately scoured the photographs I had taken on the day [and] found a couple of shots that suggested it was parked very near [where] several Chichester MGOC cars were parked so I fired off a quick email to Andy Harris. Bingo! Andy was able to confirm it was owned by one of their members and the information was duly passed back and forth.

The current owner was found to be David Blackford who lives at Sidlesham near Chichester. He was amazed and delighted to learn that his TF is a pre-production car with a significant history - he had no idea! David and Adrian will have plenty to talk about.

Malcolm commented *"I guess this has all been very good news not only for David but also for the car, it's quite scary how a significant car can lose its provenance over the years and possibly miss out on preservation. Once again thank you so much, and please thank your contacts at Chichester for tracing the owner so quickly"*.

It was also interesting to learn just what David Blackford has been up to with the car, which I am sure can only add to its interesting story.

"Wow! I was very interested to receive the emails and most grateful to you all for taking the trouble to track me down. I had absolutely no idea that the car was a celebrity. I bought her last Summer from a chap near Alton. Before him there had been 5 owners. The last one before him had apparently been an MG mechanic who spent considerable time and



money on ensuring that the car was mechanically perfect. Although low mileage (around 38k) and without any head problems, he had stripped down the engine and done the usual preventative work, including an over-heating alarm.

She has now done 48k miles. I have had another TF and F in the past which I much enjoyed. My reason for buying this one is that last year I bought a 1952 TD, which I had rather naively thought I could do trials and hill climbs in. Common sense then prevailed. The TD is a much too fragile and valuable old lady for this, and it was more logical to have a TF in addition, so as to indulge in a spot of motor sport.

So last summer my first ever hill climb was in the TF at Wiscombe Park. She performed in an exemplary manner and was tremendous fun. As we all know the handling is perfect for this type of event. This Summer I have entered her so far for Crystal Palace sprint on 30/5 and Goodwood sprint 23/4. Completely bog standard road car.

I will certainly try to track down the Autocar report and the Brooklands MGF/TF book. I am a member of Brooklands, so the history and the book will be very interesting, when I take her there. Many thanks for your interest"

I will leave the final words to Malcom Le Grys.

"It's a great story, isn't it? Luckily BU51 JFO has been looked after, David is obtaining copies of the MGF & TF book and the Autocar road test, and I'm sure that he'll now attach a history file to his car. So thank you once again for your crucial role in bringing the story to a happy ending, and we look forward to joining you on the 2017 Cobweb Spin!!"



Some Crackin' Tyres



How often do you replace your tyres? Our classics generally don't do many miles a year so few of us wear out our tyres. However sunlight and the compound tyres are made from are not good bedfellows and eventually your

tyres will become hard, losing grip and forming small cracks in the casing. Manufacturers recommend changing between 7 and 10 years, worn out or not.

Events for 2016

Always check before you travel – locations & times sometimes change

	date	Event
April	24th	National "Drive it" Day – proposal for meet up with Taunton MGOc
	26th	WMGOc Club night run
May	1st	Crotch Cooler
	2nd	Popham aero & auto Jumble, classic car rally & fly-in
	tba	Awbridge Fete & Car show
	tba	Basingstoke Festival of Transport
	21st	Sparsholt Celebration of Motor Vehicles and open day in aid of Macmillan Cancer
	22nd	MGs in the Park, Stansted Park,
	tba	The Bill Targett Memorial Steam Rally- Highbridge Road Eastleigh SO50 6HN
	28 & 29th	Prescott - La Vie en Bleu
	31st	WMGOc Club night run – volunteer required
	tba	Lunchtime gathering of MGs at The Boot, Houghton
	tba	Bournemouth Wheels Festival
June	5th	Crotch Cooler
	5th	Southampton & New Forest MGOc New Forest Run
	tba	Bishops Waltham show incl. classic car show & parade
	23-26th	Goodwood Festival of Speed
	12th	Run to Cranbury Park open day (Once home to Sir Isaac Newton)