

MG CAR CLUB LIMITED

DEVON AND CORNWALL CENTRE

AUTUMN 2009 NEWSLETTER

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Dear Member,

Welcome to the Newsletter, being written this time by your Hon. Treasurer, Barry Smith, the decision having been taken by your committee to spread the workload around this time. Let me apologise for this being somewhat later than intended, it being due before September.

Firstly, welcome to several new members of the Club and Centre, confirmed by MGCC HQ since the last Newsletter in May. They are:

Mr & Mrs John Biggs	Bideford
Martin Bishop	Launceston
Chris Bonner	Bideford
John Bower	Ermington
Patrick Collier	Crediton
Paul Freestone	Chudleigh
James Goad	Bodmin
Peter Gower	Bideford
Peter Haselhurst	Torrington
Steve Lea	Teignmouth
Mr & Mrs David Melzer	Exeter
Mr & Mrs John Powell	Tavistock
John Searle	Saltash
Aimee West	Exeter
Robert Winterflood	Liskeard

Its great to see a good cluster in N. Devon, who will all be made most welcome at the local "Natter" meeting at the Westleigh Inn. Contact Paul Turner on 01237 474736 for further information, or to break the ice if it's your first visit.

Now on to past events:

The **Atlantic Coast Express Run** took place on 21st June and was fully reported, with pictures, in the August "*Safety Fast!*" This was the last "ACE" to be organised by Colin Lennox-Jones, who devised the format and developed the event over 12 years. Your committee has subsequently determined that the run will continue and the Okehampton station start is provisionally booked for the anniversary date of 20th June 2010.

On 11th & 12th July the Centre mounted a stand at the **Powderham Castle Classic and Vintage Rally**, normally one of the biggest events of this type West of Bristol. Tony

Short, supported by several stalwarts, put on a brave show on the Saturday despite most unseasonal conditions. Better weather on the Sunday resulted in improved attendances.

Unfortunately, the **Mount Edgecumbe Classic Vehicle Gathering**, scheduled to take place on 2nd August, was another victim of the non-arrival of the predicted “barbecue summer”. Waterlogged conditions in the meeting field forced the cancellation of this large event which is normally very well attended.

Threatening clouds were gathering as a collection of MGs of all ages met at the Royal Inn, Horsebridge, for the **Devon Day** run on 30th August, organised by Pete Moores & Tony Bolt. Following coffee provided by the Inn, cars set off in two groups to follow an interesting route through the lanes along the Devon & Cornwall border. The theme was to keep as close as possible to the course of the Tamar, the river being crossed several times using bridges getting ever smaller as we headed North towards the river’s source.

Just inland from Bude, we paused and parked our cars in a farmyard in order to take a short walk to a recent restoration project undertaken by Pete’s company. A small, single arch, stone aqueduct carries the former Bude canal (now drained here) over the Tamar, at a height of about 20 ft. This historic structure has been sympathetically rebuilt utilising considerable amounts of new local stone – quite a job when the nearest hard road is around ¼ mile away.

Returning to the cars, a further short drive took us to the Bradworthy Transport Museum, where we could look round the exhibits and take lunch in their tearoom with it’s views across to the Tamar Lakes. Heavy rain had settled in by this stage so the undercover facilities were most welcome! The museum is remarkably extensive, for a private collection, incorporating 3 halls housing cars, commercial vehicles, farm machinery and an array of related artefacts. This all results from a lifetime hobby for Ken Wilson, a haulage contractor, originally from Kent.

The weather jinx seemed to have been broken for the **Cornish Riviera Run** on 13th September which took place in ideal conditions, dry with plenty of sunshine. Sun block factor 15 was the order of the day for those in open cars! 84 cars and crews lined up on Plymouth Hoe and were able to enjoy a hot drink and bacon butties, courtesy of the caterers for Plymouth University, who were staging their graduation ceremony there. A good number of spectators were around to view the proceedings as the Plymouth Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Jonathan Dream and his wife inspected the cars and crews in their period attire. The first car was flagged away at 9:30, the rest following at intervals to spread out the entry.

Organisers Sue & Pete Heath had declared their intention to avoid major roads where possible this year and this became apparent as the route dived off into the lanes shortly after crossing into Cornwall. We passed the entrance to the National Trust’s Cotehele House and soon encountered a convoy of T type MGs going in the opposite direction. These were the T Register members who were in the area for a weekend based on Dartmoor and presumably heading for Cotehele itself. Much exchange of greetings took place as the narrow lanes briefly became an MG traffic jam. The route took us round the North side of Kit Hill and onto the flanks of Bodmin Moor via Minions, before

dropping to cross the main A38 at Dobwalls. There followed a loop to the South of the Boccnoc estate, eventually emerging at Lostwithiel, then down to the coast at Par. The views from some of these roads, in bright sunshine, rendered the devious route really worthwhile.

After a brief foray on the St. Austell ring-road, we swung South, to arrive at our lunch stop at the Lost Gardens of Heligan. One side of the large car park was set aside for MGs, with plenty of space for those with picnics, whilst those who had booked lunches went through to the garden restaurant. The friendly sociability of this pre-arranged lunch stop is one of the elements of the Riviera Run which has made it so popular.

Leaving Heligan, Caerhays Castle soon appeared, overlooking the road towards the sea, then over Tregony bridge and into Truro. The long creeks of the River Fal, reaching far inland, mean Truro cannot be realistically avoided!

More quiet lanes through Mylor and Penryn thus brought us into Falmouth, via the lower road, beside the river, then through the town to our finish at the Falmouth Hotel. Parking here was a challenge for the later arrivals as the Hotel had not ensured the space reserved for us was kept clear. Cream teas were served efficiently by helpful hotel staff happily providing tea top-ups and additional warm scones when asked. In these convivial surroundings, awards for the day were announced and presented by Sue Heath:

Best car (at Plymouth)	Robin & Maureen Wotton	MG SA Tickford
Period Dress (Plymouth)	Phil Taylor & "flappers"	Austin Berkeley
Best car (at Heligan)	Sean Leverton	MG MkIII Midget
Period Dress (Heligan)	Mr. & Mrs John Noblett	"Flower Power" Midget
Distance award	Roger & Liz Webb	MGA (Bishops Stortford)
Best Saloon car	Peter & Catherine Balme	MG Metro
Oldest car	Colin Bird	MG J2
Marshal's Draw Winner	Malcolm Reynolds	
Murray Duff Award (Persistence in adversity)	Tamsin Coxen	

Now on to future events:

On 4th October we are running a **Treasure Hunt** in Tavistock. Meet in the main Wharf car park at 2:00 p.m. The access to this is signed from the Plymouth Road about 150M from the Bedford Hotel. A gentle stroll round the Bedford Square area should yield the solutions to some simple clues, before we adjourn to our Chairman, Colin Bird's home for tea. There will be an entry fee of £2 for each clue sheet issued to cover this.

Please note the meeting venue car park is not free, but charges £1:90 for 2 Hours, which should be ample time. Ample free parking can be found in the Crelake Industrial Estate, accessed along Pixon Lane, which is off the mini-roundabout just after the Texaco station, entering the town from Plymouth. A short walk from here, across the river footbridge, then turning right along the river bank, will bring you into the back of the main car park.

On 11th October, the Healey Driver's Club is running the **Exmoor Rut** to which MGCC members are invited. This run will be starting at Buckfastleigh, travelling around

Exmoor to finish at the Fox & Hounds, Eggesford for a cream tea. Entry forms and details from Colin Lennox-Jones on 01752 892434 or downloadable from www.healeydriversclub.co.uk

25th October see this year's running of the **Tamar Trial**, promoted by the Launceston & N. Cornwall Motor Club, assisted by our Centre. 7 out of a total of 17 Observed Sections are being organised by the Devon & Cornwall Centre, requiring around 30 marshals. If you would like to enjoy the serious "mud-pluggers" in action, including the (usually entertaining!) motorbikes and combinations, then volunteer by calling Pete Moores on 01579 370419. You will get close to the action, but rest assured, you will be well briefed if you have no previous experience.

On 14th November we have a **Skittles Match**, organised by the E. Devon natter at the New Inn, Broadclyst. We like to make up teams representing each of the Natters, so if you fancy joining in, bring along as many of your natter members as you can rope in! Phone Tony Short on 01392 832665 to book yourselves in, as food is usually provided.

Looking ahead for diary dates for 2010, we have the **MCC Exeter Trial** on 8th/9th January. This Centre is usually given the task of running the Simms Hill section at Ilsington, Near Bovey Tracey. Give Bob Slatter a call if you want to come along.

Why not come along to the Centre's annual dinner at the **Cottage Hotel, Hope Cove** on 27th February. The venue is a really cosy, family run hotel overlooking the sea, where we always receive a warm welcome and are provided excellent value. Rooms are usually at a concession rate for those booking the dinner, making it really good value. Many will make a weekend of it. Further details and tariffs nearer the date.

That's it for the moment except for the usual reminder to members to let Bob have an up to date e-mail address for direct transmission of the newsletter, if available, or a phone call to ensure you receive your free hard copy via the post. Additionally, the latest newsletter will always be available to all on the Centre website www.mgccdc.org.uk

For Sale: 1930 Fabric Boat tailed MG M Type. 3 speed, recent MOT. Needs TLC and odd jobs doing which I can't manage due to 3 other MMM MG's. £7000.00 Also available Brian James folding tow bar trailer, winch, tiedowns etc. £1000.00. Phone Ian T Coxen on 01872 863507

SafetyFast,

Barry Smith