

MR2



*Best in Show, National Day 2017
Les Fletcher, South West Region*

LOG BOOK

**Volume 28
Numbers 1 & 2
March & June 2017**



MR2DC
PO Box 635
Stalybridge
SK15 9AY
0844 335 0357
0161 303 0022

www.mr2dc.com

A Company Limited by Guarantee
No 2884974

Honorary Vice Presidents

Shin Kato, President SARD - Racing Division
Jeremy Kemble Esq.
Kazutoshi Arima, Chief Design Engineer Mk2
Tadashi Nakagawa, Chief Design Engineer MR2 Roadster
Hiroshi Tsukagoshi, Chief Engineer at Central Motors

Honorary Founder President

Ken Kinnersley

All members holding Club appointments, including Regional Coordinators, can be contacted by email by using their firstname.surname@mr2dc.com. All officials are unpaid volunteers in full time employment, so there may be a delay in replying.

Log Book - Editor, Articles & Delays!

logbook@mr2dc.com (Nik Milford)

Club Chair

Steve Tudor

Adverts - Website & Log Book

advertising@mr2dc.com

Website Officer

webmaster@mr2dc.com (Chris Backhouse)

Regalia, Spares & Accessories

regalia@mr2dc.com (Pete Russell)
spares@mr2dc.com (Shaun & Julie Doyle)

Events - Website & eLogBook

events@mr2dc.com

Technical (all models)

technical@mr2dc.com (Ben Beaven)

Shows Managers

South - Marina Phipps
North - Graham Milligan & Dave Hall

Promotions Manager & Director

promotions@mr2dc.com (Darren Letts)

Health & Safety Officer

Keith Greenwood

Copyright & Disclaimer

Copyright © 2017 MR2 Drivers' Club Limited. All rights reserved. It is expressly forbidden to copy, duplicate, reproduce, sell, hire or distribute all or part of this publication without the written consent of the copyright owner.

Any information, advice or assistance provided by a Director, Officer or Member of the MR2 Drivers' Club Limited ("the Club") is given in good faith based on personal experience. Neither the Club, nor any of the aforementioned, shall be under any liability in respect of such information, advice or assistance given. It is advised to consult qualified specialists on matters connected with cars at all times. Opinions expressed in Club publications do not necessarily reflect the policy or view of the Club. No responsibility will be accepted for loss, damage or injury arising as a consequence of acting on information contained in Club publications. The Club makes no recommendation in respect of any goods or services supplied by a third party and advertising in a Club publication in no way constitutes an endorsement by the Club. It is the responsibility of the individual to satisfy themselves that goods and services offered are bona fide, and in no instance can the Club be held responsible. All offers may be subject to conditions and withdrawn at any time.



From the Driving Seat

Steve Tudor, Chairman



Hello and welcome to this, the latest edition of Log Book.

The show season is almost over and on behalf of the Board I would like to thank all the Regional Coordinators once again for their continued hard work in organising events for us all to attend. I know from personal experience, having now done 3 Club National Days and being a Regional Coordinator for the South Midlands, that it's not an easy task to organise a car show or an event, taking up many hours at evenings and weekends. So thank you all.

Things have been moving at a pace since the last Log Book:

National Day

We had the National Day on 4 June, where around 120 cars attended. Numbers were a little down on last year's figures, but other than the weather it was deemed a success. We also raised £249 for the NSPCC on the day, so thank you to all who bought raffle tickets and had a go at the gymkhana in the GT86. Also a personal thank you to all who volunteered. So a date for your diaries is 3 June 2018, when we plan to do it all again back at Hatton! More details will follow later in the year.

Website

The new Club website has now launched online, at the usual website address www.mr2dc.com. A huge thanks goes to Chris Backhouse, Nik Milford and 'Admin Ann' Campbell for loading everything onto the new site and for getting all the IT 'magic' sorted out. So please feel free to check out all the hard work and your feedback is appreciated.

eLogBook & Log Book

We have launched a new look eLogBook, edited kindly by 'Admin Ann', to coincide with the new website. There have been a couple of role changes as well, and after this Log Book going forward Darren Letts has kindly taken on the role of Log Book editor, which will free Nik up to look after the Club finances. So thank you Nik for all your work on Log Book in the past.

Directors

I'm also pleased to announce that we have recruited two new Directors. Firstly, I'd like to welcome David Crouch (whom many of you know works for Toyota GB) to the Board in a Non-Executive role. David has especially over the last couple of years been a key force behind all the National Days, drumming up support for the Club internally within Toyota. With David joining the Board we can only see this further strengthening ties between our Club and Toyota.

Secondly, I'd like to welcome Scott Barton to the Board. Many of you may know Scott as the leading light in IMOC (the International MR2 Owners Club) and also the guy with the Black Mk2 Turbo who keeps winning the Modified class at the National Days. Scott brings with him a wealth of knowledge and new ideas to help drive the Club forward and hopefully grow the membership numbers to make sure our Club is sustainable. It will also hopefully bring the two Clubs closer together in terms of events etc.



From the Driving Seat (continued)

AGM

It is being held this year on 14 & 15 October at the Wyboston Lakes Hotel, which is between Bedford and Cambridge. The AGM is as usual on the Saturday afternoon, with a dinner dance in the evening, followed by a trip to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford on the Sunday, where we are having a display of cars near to the runway. Thanks to Darren and Nik for organising this year's event. As usual bookings for the AGM and Duxford are being taken via the Club Office.

NEC

Following the AGM, the Club will be once again attending the Lancaster Classic at the NEC in November. We have a four car stand this year, near the entrance to Hall 5. Dates for the diary if you are planning to come and see us are 10, 11&12 November and a ticket discount code is available on the advert later in this Log Book and on the Discounts page of the new website. This year supporting the show will be Les Fletcher and Mike Jackson with their Mk1s, Simon McMurray with his immaculate Mk3 Roadster and my Mk2 10th Anniversary. So a big thank you on behalf of the Club to Les, Mike and Simon for giving up their time to support the show at their own cost and representing their respective Regions.

That hopefully gives you some idea of what we as a Board have been doing over the past few months and what's coming up before the end of the year. So it just leaves me to say enjoy what's left of the show season and hope to see you soon!

Steve Tudor

Website Members Only area password

To access the Members Only area of the new website, you will need a password which will be changed periodically and notified to you in this magazine and in eLogBook. If you cannot locate the password at any time, please contact the Club Office who will be able to tell you the latest. The same password can be entered in the 'Coupon Code' box in your Shop basket to apply your 10% Member discount before checkout. The current password is **MR2DC1108**

The screenshot shows the MR2 Drivers' Club website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Home, Club News, About the Club, The Toyota MR2, Membership, Gallery, Events, Marketplace, Members Only, and Contact Us. Below the navigation bar, there is a section titled "Protected: Members Only". This section contains a message: "To view the Members Only section, please enter the password. The password is published in the Club magazine and is available to all Club members. Please be aware that the password is changed regularly so be sure to check you have the latest one. If you are having problems accessing the page, please get in touch with the website admin." Below this message, there is a "Password:" label followed by a text input field and a "Submit" button. To the right of the password field, there is a "Your Shopping Cart" section. This section contains a table with the following items: "Softshell Jacket (Red) (XS (34/36))" with a quantity of 1 and a price of £35.00. The total for the cart is £35.00. Below the cart, there is a section titled "Enter Coupon Code" with a text input field and an "Apply" button. A yellow circle highlights the password input field, and another yellow circle highlights the "Enter Coupon Code" input field. A black arrow points from the text "Enter password here & here" to both of these input fields.

MR2 Drivers' Club

Home Club News About the Club The Toyota MR2 Membership Gallery Events Marketplace Members Only Contact Us

Technical Downloads Discount codes

Protected: Members Only

To view the Members Only section, please enter the password. The password is published in the Club magazine and is available to all Club members. Please be aware that the password is changed regularly so be sure to check you have the latest one.

If you are having problems accessing the page, please get in touch with the website admin.

Password:

Your Shopping Cart

Item Name	Quantity	Price
Softshell Jacket (Red) (XS (34/36))	1	£35.00

Total: £35.00

Enter Coupon Code

Enter password here & here

Club AGM 2017

Notice
The MR2 Drivers' Club Limited AGM
will be held at
Wyboston Lakes Hotel, Bedford, MK44 3AA
2pm, Saturday 14 October 2017

- Please note this is a closed meeting for Members and their guests only (refer to your enclosed voting form for conditions).
- Members (First and Second named Members) not attending the AGM in person may vote by post using the enclosed form.
- Members intending to stand for election to the Board of Directors please inform the Club Office as soon as possible.
- Members intending to attend the AGM please inform the Club Office (unless you are also attending the Club Weekend) so that we can cater for refreshments.

At the AGM, or by post using the enclosed form, you will be asked to vote on the following:

Adoption of the 2016/17 accounts - This is an annual formality to agree the Club's 2016/17 accounts before submission to Companies House. A copy of the accounts will be available on the 'Members Only - Downloads' page of the website.

Re-appointment of the accountants - This is an annual formality to select an external accountant to prepare the 2017/2018 Club accounts.

Appointment of new Directors, David Crouch & Scott Barton - Whilst new Directors can be identified by existing Directors and start to act during the course of the year, they must be agreed by the Members at the next AGM. Please see later in this issue for more details of the two new Directors being proposed.

Re-appointment of existing Director, Steve Tudor - It is Club policy that Directors must be re-elected by the Members every three years. This year it's our Chairman Steve's turn.

Adoption of new Articles of Association - New Articles were proposed last year to bring them up to date with changes in company law and to assist in the practical operation of the Club (such as reducing the minimum number of Directors required, as we struggle to get enough suitable volunteers). These new Articles were approved at last year's AGM ... but unfortunately were not filed with Companies House on time, so we need to vote on them again! A copy of the new Articles and comparison with the old ones is available on the 'Members Only - Downloads' page of the website.

If you have any questions on any of the above items, please contact nik.milford@mr2dc.com

AGM Autumn Break Weekend 14-15 October 2017

Wyboston Lakes, Bedfordshire & Imperial War Museum, Duxford

This year we'll be staying at a beautiful hotel & leisure complex in the Bedfordshire countryside on Saturday, followed by a visit to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford on Sunday with our MR2s on display there for the day!

Saturday 14 October:

Morning – Arrival & use of leisure facilities
Afternoon – Club AGM
Evening – Gala dinner & entertainment

Sunday 15 October:

Imperial War Museum,
Duxford
visit & cars on display

***** Please contact Club Office to book *****
0844 335 0357 or 0161 303 0022

Saturday 14 October:

- Single (AGM, dinner, entertainment, bed & breakfast) - **£90**
£20 payable on booking
- Double (AGM, dinner, entertainment, bed & breakfast) - **£160**
£40 payable on booking

Friday night can be booked at the same rates if required

- Gala dinner & entertainment only (not staying at hotel) - **£35 pp**
(payable on booking)
- AGM only (not staying for dinner or hotel) - **free**
but please register with the Club Office so we know how many to expect

Sunday 15 October:

- Imperial War Museum, Duxford - **£12.50 pp**
(payable on booking)
if also displaying your MR2, please provide registration when booking



New Directors - who do they think they are?



As mentioned earlier, we have lined up two exciting new additions to the Board, in the form of David Crouch and Scott Barton.



David Crouch

Scott Barton

What's your current day job?

Press Officer at Toyota (GB) PLC.

Engineering account manager.

What other jobs have you done in the past?

I have only worked for 2 companies: Sainsbury's then Toyota!

Factory apprentice electrician, Metropolitan Police Engineer.

If you had £1,000 to spend on a car, what would you buy?

Toyota Starlet - an extremely reliable car.

Mazda MX5 for a track hack!

If you had £100,000 to spend on a car, what would you buy?

I have a soft spot for 911 Porsches...

Porsche 911 Carrera 4S

What 3 words describe what you think you'll bring to our Club?

Opinion. Advice. Perspective.

Experience. Passion. MR2 Knowledge.

Your house is on fire, what 2 things do you pick up before you run out?

My wife and Oscar the cat!

The family ... and the animals! (dog, cat & hamster)

What's your guilty pleasure - what do you like that totally ruins your 'street cred'?

I am a bit of a foodie, but Pot Noodles ... there I've said it.

I'm a Star Wars nerd...and own a genuine 'Return of the Jedi' Storm Trooper costume with E11 blaster and voice changer unit!

Has your current car got a name? If so, what is it and why?

I have an original 1994 Celica GT-Four - no name, but my wife says 'he' and I say 'she' when referring to it!

No name ...but the car is a 'she'.

What famous dead person would you like to have dinner with?

Eric Morecambe.

Ayrton Senna.

What famous living person would you like to have dinner with?

Tom Petty.

Peter Kay.

David Crouch

Scott Barton

What's the last job you did on your car?

I have to be honest and say I get help looking after my car, but their last job was replacing the washer bottle motor.

Fitted bespoke made Confetti Recaro door card inserts to match the Recaro seats.

If you did karaoke, what song would you sing?

Elvis Presley, Suspicious Minds.

The Boys are Back in Town.

What music do you want playing at your funeral?

Tom Petty, Learning to Fly.

Anything Metallica

What's the fastest you've driven, where was it and what were you driving?

Five runs in a Lexus IS F at Bruntingthorpe. I went through the speed gun at 168 mph each time. (its top speed).

MR2, Ten of the Best at Elvington, top speed run c.140 mph.

What's on your conscience right now?

The fact I am on two weeks leave during Frankfurt motor show.

Must crack on with the DIY decorating in the house!

What tell-tale signs are you displaying of a mid-life crisis?

I was excited at having a new boiler fitted in the house.

Keep looking at Porsche 911 in Autotrader!

What are your main interests other than cars?

I enjoy tennis and photography.

Family, DIY, watching Charlton Athletic (someone has to), fishing, and being a Special Sergeant with Kent Police.

What one thing would your wife change about you?

Not looking properly if what I want is not immediately visible in the cupboard!

The love of my MR2!

What one thing would you change about our Club?

I am looking forward to working in more detail with the Club. My perspective at present is of a very social club providing a good magazine and plenty of regional events for members. I will provide whatever help and advice I can bring to maintain and attract new members.

Attendance at 'Japfest' at Silverstone and the 'Japanese Auto Extravaganza' at the East of England Showground with the International MR2 Owners Club ... we're a friendly bunch really! :-)

If Toyota made another MR2, what shape should they make: Mk1, Mk2, Mk3, or something new?

I am slightly biased to Mk2 as this was my first company car, however I fell in love with the Mk1 after driving it from our historic fleet. To answer the question though I think a completely new shape would be needed.

Mk2 ... retaining the classic pop-up headlights.

THE UK'S BIGGEST & BEST CLASSIC MOTOR SHOW

NEC BIRMINGHAM

10-12 NOVEMBER 2017



TICKETS NOW ON SALE!
BOOK NOW TO RECEIVE YOUR WEEKEND CLUB DISCOUNT*

SINGLE £21.50* QUOTE CODE: CSCMS17

FAMILY £48.00* QUOTE CODE: CFCMS17

NECCCLASSICMOTORSHOW.COM

CALL 0871 230 1088*

Over 2,500 stunning classic cars | 240 car clubs | Celebrity guests | Discovery Live Stage
The UK's biggest indoor autojumble & trader village | Classic cars for sale
Meguiar's Club Showcase | Silverstone Auctions | Lancaster Insurance Pride of Ownership
Restoration Theatre | Dream Rides | Arrive & Drive a classic car experience with Hero
Free entrance to the Classic Motorbike Show

Headline Sponsor



Official Partners



*Club ticket (adult 16 years+) offer only applies to Saturday and Sunday and only when booked in advance. Club single ticket offer is limited to four tickets per member and the club family ticket offer is limited to one family ticket per member. A family ticket admits 2 adults and up to 3 children (5-15 years). Hand in your ticket stub or print-at-home voucher to your club's stand and they will benefit from a commission. Calls cost 13ppm plus standard network charges. All bookings are subject to a single transaction fee of £1.60. Tickets include a show guide to the value of £7.50. Entry to the auction requires purchase of a catalogue. See website for all information. All information correct at time of publishing.

Welcome to our new members

The Chairman, Directors and Members of the MR2 Drivers' Club extend a warm welcome to the new members who have joined the since the last issue. We sincerely hope that your association with the Club will be a long, safe and happy one. Hope to see you at some local events soon!

Anglia

Phil Hart
Gavin Patmore
Guy Sanford
Nick Seaman
Garth Slater

North

Richard Bartle
Sarah Chalmers
Michial Partington
Ivor Rodgers
Damion Smith
Karen Wilson

Borders

Derek Jackson
Stuart Shearer

South West

Linda Avenell
Steve Simpson
Michael Turner
Philip Wood

Central South

Callum Dove
Roger Hirst
John Harvey
Peter Riches
Steve Dewhurst
Brian Oakley
Sasha Starr-Padidar

South Wales

Connor Hopes
Ryan Spillane

South East

Hugh Brackenbury
Duncan Cooke
Matthew Geering
Kevin Grant
Martin Orford
Rosemary Traylor
Gillian Unsworth
David Watmore
Matthew Wheadon
Thomas Young

North Midlands

Nigel Bambridge
Nabeel Bhatti
Martin Cizek
Ian Clifffen
Warren Knight
Anthony Leese
Tim Mason
Steve Parker
Sarah Robinson
Jonathan Slater
Paul France
Richard Weaving
Samantha Wood
Angela Wright

North Wales

Dave Bailey
Derek Harrison

Northern Ireland

Robert Atkinson
Dwayne Beattie

North West

Terry Atkinson
Chris Bailey
Dale Blackburn
Gareth Coombes
Paul Green
Mark Lawrence
Geraldine Lunt
Stuart Milner
Mark Morris
Mary Ryding
Kieran Taylor

South Midlands

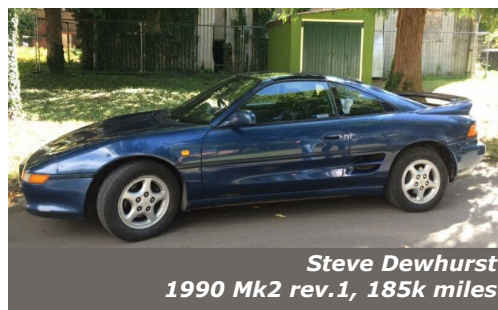
Patrick Carolan
Nick Harris
Frances Hatton
Mel Niland
Nick Statham

Scotland

Brian Mabon
Rashmi Shah



Welcome to our new members (continued)



Welcome to our new members (continued)



Welcome to our new members (continued)



National Day 2017

Steve Tudor, Chairman

After around 10 months of planning, the day arrived for the Club's National Day at Hatton Country World near Warwick and again we had a successful event. Unfortunately, unlike last year, the weather didn't play ball and we had a mixture of sunshine and showers, but that didn't deter over 120 cars – not only from our own Club, but also from the International MR2 Owners Club, MR2 Owners Club, Mk1 Register, Mk1 Club and the MR2 Roadster Owners Club.

Toyota GB again provided the Club with more great support for the event, providing a GT86 for us to use in the gymkhana and some Toyota / Gazoo Racing memorabilia to use for the NSPCC charity fundraising, along with a photographer for the day and pre- and post- event advertising.

We had the usual Concours and Show 'n' Shine show classes, along with a class specifically for Modified cars and a Daily Driver class for members who look after their cars but use them on a regular basis. All classes were well subscribed, which was great to see. We also had the usual Best in Show trophy. Judging was again carried out by David Crouch from Toyota GB, aided by Patrick Mortell from Rogue Motorsport.

Prizes for all of the above classes were sponsored once again by Auto Glym and presented by David Crouch. The winners are set out on the following pages.

Along with the above, we also decided that it would be a good opportunity to support another charity and give something back. This year we chose to support the NSPCC and raised £249 on the day with a raffle of the Toyota goodies and the gymkhana competition.

As it was also the 21st Birthday of the Mk2 10th Anniversary Special, we tried to get as many as possible to attend. In the end we had 6 cars in attendance – 5 in Caribbean Blue and 1 in Lucerne Silver.

We also had a couple of MR2 Championship race cars on display, kindly provided by Rogue Motorsport, and trade support from MR2 Ben.

So can I please take this opportunity to thank the following:

- Toyota GB, especially David Crouch
- Auto Glym
- Rogue Motorsport
- Hatton Country World
- MR2 Ben

Also can I thank the people who helped me organise this event, not only on the day but also on the run up to the event:

- Jackie Tudor
- Darren Letts
- Nik Milford & Pete Russell
- Dave & Shirley Hall
- Admin Ann

... and anyone else who I have failed to mention!

So are we planning to do it all again.....? YES WE ARE! We have provisionally booked Hatton again for 3 June 2018, so please watch this space for more details of the 2018 event.

National Day 2017 (continued)

Concours 1st & Best in Show Les Fletcher, South West Region



Concours 2nd Ian Howe, North West Region



Concours 3rd Steve Tudor, South Midlands Region



National Day 2017 (continued)

Show 'n' Shine 1st

Mark Kenworthy, South Midlands Region



Show 'n' Shine 2nd

Bernie Smith, South West Region



Show 'n' Shine 3rd

Simon McMurray, North Midlands Region



National Day 2017 (continued)

Modified 1st

Scott Barton, South East Region



Modified 2nd

Pete Russell, North West Region



Modified 3rd

Nicola Botwright, South East Region



National Day 2017 (continued)

Daily Driver 1st

Darren Letts, South Midlands Region



Daily Driver 2nd

David Blackburn, North West Region



Daily Driver 3rd

John Jackson, Anglia Region



Media coverage

The Club has been busy over the past few months raising our profile in the national automotive press. Here is a selection of our star appearances!

(Copies should be ordered from the publisher - not reproduced here for copyright reasons)



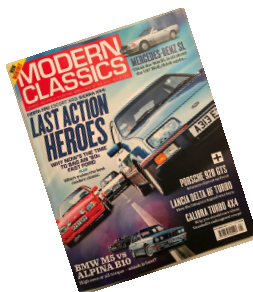
Classic Car Weekly
15 March 2017, issue no.1376
Mike Jackson, North West Region
1988 Mk1 Haselbeck



EVO
August 2017 issue
Jim Harrison, South East Region
1987 Mk1, owned from new



Classic Car Mart
August 2017, Vol.23, No.09
Simon McMurray, North Midlands Region
2002 Mk3



Modern Classics
September 2017
National Day coverage



Euro trip 2017

Nicola 'Gas Monkey' Botwright, South East Region



Only being a member of the MR2 Drivers' Club for around a year, I first found out about the Euro trip from the red Club events flyer, given to me by Richard Pells at my first ever meet with the South East Region at Toyota HQ. I looked at the trip, although we had missed the 2016 one as my MR2 wasn't even running at that point and had no engine in it! In fact, the shell was strapped on the back of a trailer in the car park during the Toyota HQ meet, on its way to our mechanic to fit the engine. I remember thinking "Will my car ever be reliable enough to get me there? Hmm, maybe one for the future."

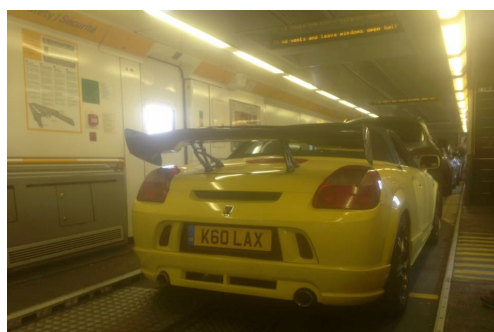
My second Club meet was a pub lunch near Brands Hatch race circuit and this time I was actually in my running and driving MR2 Roadster. I met Mark, Sandra, Roger and Marina, who by the end of the lunch I discovered to be Euro trip veterans, clocking up multiple visits over more than 12 years between them!

So as a newcomer to the Club, feeling totally out of my depth, I asked about it to the table... then BOOM, I received a full run-down about how much fun it was seeing beautiful castles, breweries, amazing scenery, great driving and MR2s everywhere! From that moment I was hooked and decided that I was going. That night I was emailing John Price to get booked in. The countdown began.

So the day to leave finally arrived. I was more excited then a 2 year old on Christmas Day!

We met everyone at Folkestone to get on an early Eurotunnel crossing, then met up with Jennie and Dave - two other newbies - at a services in Calais.

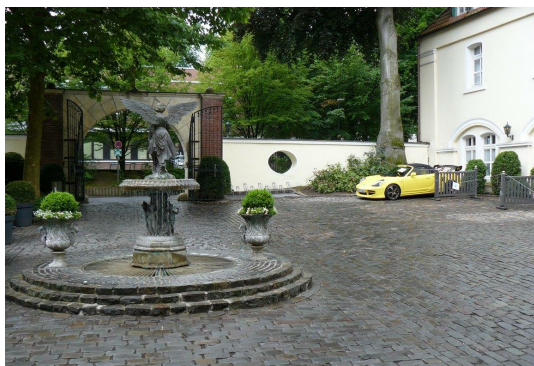
We all then headed to Recklinghausen, in Germany.



Euro trip 2017 (continued)

Recklinghausen is in northern Germany and is very much an old industrial region where back in the day their coal mine was the one of the largest in Germany and exported coke and coal all over the world.

So we arrived at the hotel called Parkhotel Englesburg, with parking just off to the front of it. We headed to the car park, to find that it was in fact a multi-storey car park with steep ramps. My Roadster is very low and I could see this going very wrong ... which it did. The car park ramps now have a nice yellow smear of paint on the down slopes - well at least I've left my mark to be remembered by!



The hotel was amazing. Our huge room overlooked the stunning cobbled walled courtyard, with metal gates and a water fountain.

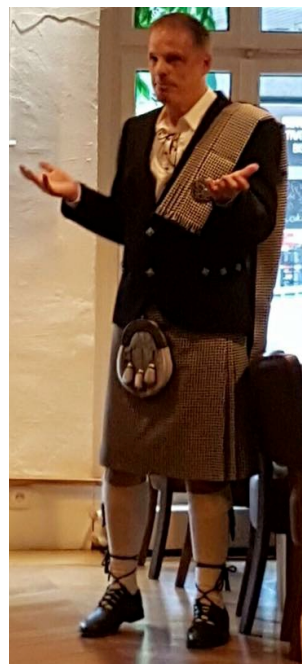
After settling in to our rooms, we were due to meet as a group for dinner at 7pm for a briefing and run-down of the next few days and to go through convoy rules etc. As I looked around the room, there were people everywhere! I just sat there, looking at my boyfriend Chris (my driver for this trip), not knowing what to say or do - we just didn't know what to expect.

Then everything that I thought in my head was going to happen got thrown out of the window! Gordon Shepherd, the German organiser, appeared in the doorway waving, then came bouncing in to Scottish bagpipe music in a kilt - yep, a kilt! I have still never worked out why, but he certainly made a first impression that will be with me forever.

Then he broke the news that there were going to be no castles, no breweries and no vineyards, as they had done that every year for years - this year was going to be different! Different how, I thought? I had been promised Disney castles and vineyards. Oh my ...

So, on Day 1 the trip included a tour of the coal mine, lunch in the coal mine restaurant and late afternoon was to be a visit to a ship lift.

The weather was appalling, but in high spirits everyone went to the meeting point to head in a convoy of around 35 cars to the disused coal mine. When we arrived, we worked out that we had somehow lost the middle section of the convoy and they had to meet us there. Apparently in all the years of Euro trips, this had never happened before - the rear half on several occasions, but never the middle! It's still yet to be explained just how we managed it.



Euro trip 2017 (continued)

The retired coal mine, now the Zollverein Unesco World Heritage Centre, is now a museum. We had a tour around the grounds, then luckily went inside the museum as we were starting to look like drowned rats. We went inside in the dry and had a tour of the closed mining process, from collecting raw material to sending it off in trucks for sale.

The second part of the visit was a ship lift. I didn't attend this part, due to being soaked through and having no coat, so a few of us headed back to the hotel to change and warm up. I did hear that the ship lift visit ended on a bus eating cakes and Champagne - somehow the group managed to blag some Champagne from a party, thanks to Bernard! So everyone sounded happy and had a great end to a soggy day.

Day 2 saw another six cars join us from the Netherlands, which brought the total to 42 cars I think.

We all headed off to a Roman ruin site called LVR - Archaeologischer Park Xanten, or 'APX'. We had a lovely tour guide who showed us around the site, but again the weather was against us and it poured down for at least an hour. After the tour she left us to our own devices, to wander round and closer inspect the things we had seen. The weather then took a U-turn and out came the sunglasses and sun cream! It took a while to walk round, as it was a huge site, with a stunning windmill and cathedral which some members went to see.



Lunch was served in the restaurant, with themed clothed waitresses really putting the effort in, so they got a massive thumbs-up for the effort and kindness they showed.

After lunch we had a whole section of the car park reserved for us for a massive photo shoot. We lined up all the cars in four long rows, which really brought into perspective just how many cars were on the tour - it was amazing to see. So many MR2s from four different countries, coming together as one Club. Great effort everyone ... even if we did have a token Porsche and Audi in there!



Euro trip 2017 (continued)

It was then sadly time to say goodbye to my new German and Dutch friends, who were heading back home.

I said goodbye to my favourite car of the trip, a yellow Mk1, and waved with a sad face as he drove off.



As we were leaving, we decided to go back the 'quick route' on the autobahn and asked Gordon about the quickest way. He pulled out all the stops yet again, pointing us at four cars and saying "Follow this car - it's very fast" about a lovely silver Mk3 owned by Carmen and driven by partner Jorg. Let's just say they didn't hang around on the unrestricted parts! We were very keen to follow, as the other three cars quickly vanished behind us and we only just managed to keep up! Well, we do have a huge spoiler on the back of ours - let me tell you, we'd have had him if we didn't have the extra drag of the spoiler. Next year we'll have him...

As we headed back slowly into Recklinghausen, my exhaust manifold decided it wasn't happy sounding like an MR2 and instead preferred the VW Beetle tone! So blending in became an issue - as if being bright yellow wasn't enough, my Roadster 'Jasper' really wanted to be noticed, but now for all the wrong reasons. Thanks Jasper! Mark and Sandra Barrett actually compared us to a beach buggy - thanks Mark, I know you love him really.

Monday was a beautiful day, with blue sky and not a cloud in sight. We were due to leave at midday, although others were staying another night which is definitely something I will do next year. I regret not taking up the offer, as we missed out on the tour of Recklinghausen. I'm really sad that we missed it, as the remaining members got to get their hands dirty and go into a miners' training camp. We were also very lucky to have a special visitor come to see us all at the hotel after breakfast - the second mayor of Recklinghausen came to give us a huge welcome and said a few words.

As we were heading to Amsterdam for early evening, we said our goodbyes to everyone and headed our separate ways ... only to bump into Lynn Gardner and several other members a couple of days later in a restaurant on a day trip to Bruges. What a small world!

I thoroughly enjoyed Euro 2017 and I'd like to say a massive thanks to: John Price and Gordon Shepherd for organising both ends; all the German guys and gals, especially Gordon for being lead man; Klaus for the convoy assistance; Nickolas for collecting the stragglers bringing up the rear of the convoy. Also a massive thanks to Bernard, as there were times I was so glad to see the sight of that stunning black Mk3 of his as we had lost sight of the convoy and he would come steaming past to lead the way, or be parked in random places to point the direction we needed to go. Last of all thank you to the UK group, including Sandra, Mark, Roger, Marina, Tracey and Patrick, who took us under their wings, along with Dave and Jennie who joined from France. I'm sure I've forgotten some people, so I apologise in advance if I have!

Thanks for an amazing trip that I will never forget - Jasper and I will see you all again next year. Oops, I forgot to thank my partner and driver Chris, for doing all the mileage so that I could sit, watch and take it all in. Thank you all.

UP TO 25% DISCOUNT
FOR MR2 DRIVERS CLUB MEMBERS

Headline sponsors



MR2



[/lancasterins](#) [@lancaster_ins](#)

LIS.MR2.ASP2016

01480 220 118
www.lancasterinsurance.co.uk



Policy benefits, features and discounts offered may vary between insurance schemes or cover selected and are subject to underwriting criteria. Lancaster Insurance Services is a trading name of Insurance Factory Limited who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (No. 306164). For mutual security, calls are recorded and may be monitored for training purposes.

Regalia

Club merchandise is available on the 'Marketplace - Shop' page of the new website. Prices listed on the site are for non-members - when checking out, please enter the password (currently **MR2DC1108**) in the 'Coupon Code' box to receive your 10% Member discount. You do not need a PayPal account to pay - any bank card can be used. Orders can also be placed by calling the Club Office and paying by card, or sending a cheque.

If you have specific requests for new merchandise lines, please do not hesitate to let us know your suggestions. Also if you wish to purchase items not listed here which were previously available, please contact us as we may be able to source these for you.



**Tee shirt
(black/blue/red)**

Member price £14.40



**Pullover hoodie
(black/blue/red)**

Member price £21.60



**Baseball cap
(black/blue/red)**

Member price £11.70



**Beanie hat
(black/blue/red)**

Member price £9.00



**Toyota MR2 book,
Brian Long**

Member price £9.00



Club key fob

Member price £4.50



**Soft shell jacket
(red only)**

Member price £31.50



**Polo shirt
(black/blue/red)**

Member price £18.00



**Zip hoodie
(black/blue/red)**

Member price £24.75



**Rugby shirt
(black/blue/red)**

Member price £27.00



Club travel mug

Member price £12.50



**Club magazine
binder**

Member price £4.50



**Club air fresheners
(pack of 6)**

Member price £4.50

Coast2Coast 20, 2017

Keith Singleton, North Region

So here it was, the 20th anniversary of this epic Coast2Coast run, created by myself back in 1998! We have been back to this route approximately once every three years.



This was slightly different from the original, when we used to stay in St. Bees on the Friday night, drive half way across the country on Saturday to stay in Richmond overnight, then over the North York Moors to Robin Hood's Bay on the Sunday. Now we stay at the Fat Lamb Pub in Ravenstonedale on Friday and Saturday, do a circular drive to the west coast, then on Sunday drive to the east coast.

On Friday evening we all got together at the pub for an evening meal. It was great to see some new faces, Mark and Sandra Barrett, joining us for their first Coast2Coast experience. The Fat Lamb is 286 metres above sea level and can be subject to a lot of cloud, so despite the weather forecast for the weekend being amazing, the Friday night was a little bit cloudy.

On Saturday morning the sun was out, so after breakfast it was tops down ready for the off. We headed west to Tebay, then north to Penrith. Instead of driving up the M6, a mix of the B6260 and B6261 through the village of Shap, then on to the A6 to Penrith, proved to be a more entertaining route. It had been suggested by Paul, the owner of the Fat Lamb. On the way, we passed a group of old Ford Anglias travelling in the opposite direction. On reaching Penrith, we then headed west on the A66 into the Lake District National Park and across to Keswick.



Coast2Coast 20, 2017 (continued)



Sunday morning before departure - Steve Anderson

As the weather that weekend was glorious, the Lake District was buzzing with people. Having taken in the spectacular Lakeland scenery, we eventually made it across to the lunch stop in Nethertown - a garden centre cafe, owned by none other than my namesake, Keith Singleton! After lunch we took a coastal road to the official start point of Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk.

Paddling in the sea was a 'must do' for some and, after a quick group photograph, we set off back east and headed up the fantastically steep passes of Hardknott and Wrynose, then over to mega busy Ambleside, Windermere and Kendal, before heading north up the Lune Valley to Tebay. We then headed back to the Fat Lamb for a drink in the beer garden, before partaking in our evening meal.

After breakfast on Sunday, we rearranged the cars for a group picture before setting off across the picturesque Yorkshire Dales for a stop on the green in Reeth, then on to Grosmont where we met Sarah Chalmers with her car 'Marty' and onward over the North York Moors to Robin Hood's Bay where we had our traditional fish and chips and a paddle in the sea! The only problem was that in Robin Hood's Bay it was heaving with traffic and people. Car parking spaces were hard to find, so a few people decided to call it a day and head off home.

For the lucky few who did manage to get parked up, we ventured down the hill and bought fish and chips, had a seat by the sea and then the customary paddle! C2C 20 - done!

Car numbers were: 2 Mk1s, 6 Mk2s & 5 Roadsters.
See the poster opposite for details of next year's C2C 21 in Wales.

Coast2Coast



MR2 Drivers' Club

COAST2COAST

21

WALES

Drives out to the coast

**Friday 18th, Saturday 19th,
Sunday 20th May 2018**

**Staying at The Metropole Hotel
Temple Street, Llandrindod Wells,
Powys LD1 5DY - 4 star**

**We will be touring the Welsh countryside to
the coast Saturday and a different route on
Sunday hopefully finishing in Tywyn or
Aberdyfi for fish & chips**

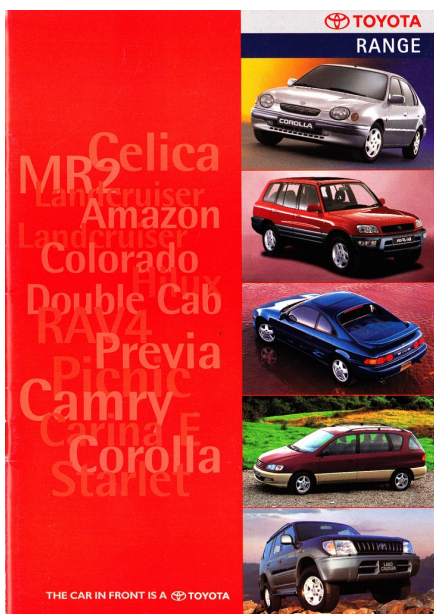
**Please call either
Steve Anderson 07885140196 or
Keith Singleton 07786985552 before you book
£75pppn - Dinner, Bed & Breakfast
Tel: 01597 823700 quote MR2 Drivers' Club
£20 deposit a room**

BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

Rambling reminiscences of the 1990s

David Blackburn, North West Region

My Mk2 MR2 was manufactured in 1995. That's 22 years ago now. It's regarded as a classic of its era and rightly commands respect from those who know about cars. It may not be in the Ferrari or Lamborghini 'supercar' class, but it's a dream to drive and a fast appreciating car. You mark my words: in a few more years you'll see prices soaring.



Nowadays we are encouraged to think of electric, hydrogen or even hybrid powered cars, so-called 'green' and cheap (although very expensive initial outlay) energy! Diesel was once regarded as bad, then it was championed in the late 1990s with tax incentives driving up sales, but is now seen as bad once again. Diesel drivers are thought of as polluters and tax incentives are to be abolished, or at least pared back. Diesel drivers will soon be forced out of their cars, flogged with a cat o' nine tails and made to sign up on the Diesel Drivers Offenders Register ... OK, I made that last bit up, but you get the picture.

In the mid 1990s you must surely remember the television advert 'The car in front is a Toyota'? Brilliant! Remember how pimply teenagers were encouraged to 'Get rid of those spots with Biactol and Mums washed with Radion, which sounds like it was made at Sellafield? You could only get Tango in orange flavour and you had the additional worry of trying to drink it without being slapped in the face by a bald orange man in shorts. Ahh, those were the days!

Eddie Murphy (yes, he of Hollywood fame) advertised the Toyota Sell icar, which you may better know as the See Leeka (Celica) - search for the advert on YouTube and have a laugh!

In a 1990 Top Gear episode, Tiff Needell said of the MR2 GT T-Bar: "It encourages you to drive with enthusiasm" and "For most drivers, it offers Ferrari-like responsiveness and excitement, at an affordable price" (£16,650).



Rambling reminiscences of the 1990s (continued)

In the latter half of the second decade of the 21st century, it seems as though drivers in general are going through turbulent times - but were the 1990s any better? Let's get back to the year my MR2 was made and see what was actually going on in 1995. Here are a few things to shake up your memory cells:

January – Opening statements in the O J Simpson murder trial. (Does anyone still think he didn't do it? It was reported last month that he's getting out soon!) In music, Stay Another Day by East 17 was number one in the UK charts.



February – The UK's oldest investment banking firm, Barings Bank, collapses after securities broker Nick Leeson loses \$1.4 billion and is put in prison. In music, Think Twice by Celine Dion was number one in the charts.

March – The first Yahoo search interface is launched. In music, Think Twice by Celine Dion is still there at number one!



April – The Oklahoma City bombing kills 168 people in the US. In music, Back for Good by Take That was now number one in the charts.

May – In football, Blackburn Rovers win the Premier League and Ajax beat AC Milan 1-0 to win the UEFA Champions League. Dreamer, by Livin' Joy, was at number one in the charts.

June – In rugby, South Africa win the Rugby World Cup. Unchained Melody by Robson & Jerome was number one in the charts ... does anyone remember Jimmy Young singing this?

July – President Bill Clinton announces the restoration of US-Vietnam relations, twenty years after the Vietnam war. Boom Boom Boom by The Outthere Brothers was at number one.



August – Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian head of state, survives an assassination attempt in Tbilisi. Never Forget by Take That was number one.

September – The DVD optical disc computer storage media is announced! Country House by Blur was number one in the charts. Does anyone remember cassettes, or even 8-tracks...?

October – O J Simpson is found not guilty of double murder for the deaths of his former wife Nicole Simpson and Ronald Goldman. Fairground by Simply Red was at number one.

November – Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated at a peace rally in Tel Aviv. I Believe by Robson & Jerome was number one - anyone remember the Bachelors singing this?

December – The lowest ever UK temperature of -27.2 °C (-17.0 °F) is recorded at Altnaharra in the Scottish Highlands. Earth Song by Michael Jackson was number one.



And remember – the car in front may be a Toyota, but with nearly 37 million cars on UK roads and only 3,621 MR2s registered with the DVLA in the first quarter of 2017, sadly it's unlikely to be an MR2.

Hope you've enjoyed my rambling reminiscences of the 1990s!

10% discount to MR2 Drivers' Club members on servicing and selected parts - quote "MR2DCLB" when you call.

**Everything you need
for your MR2...**

**BODY STYLING • BRAKES • COOLING
ELECTRICAL • ENGINE • EXHAUST
EXTERIOR TRIM • IGNITION
INDUCTION KITS • INTERIOR • LIGHTS**

MR2-BEN

Toyota MR2 Mk2 Parts Specialist

As an MR2 specialist, MR2-Ben is here to help you keep your MR2 on the road. Selling thousands of new and used parts from UK and Japanese imported MR2's. MR2-Ben delivers worldwide and collection is always welcome. Buy direct online with secure payments from PayPal or get in touch for further queries.



WANTED - Toyota MR2 mk2's, UK and Import Spares or Repair - Cash Paid

Used Parts available for - mk2 MR2

New Parts now available for MR2 mk1, mk2 & mk3's

MR2-ben Unit 22, Engineer Park
Babbage Road, Sandycroft,
North Wales, CH5 2QD

Email: sales@mr2-ben.co.uk



**POLYURETHANE BUSHES • TOOLS
SERVICE ITEMS • TRANSMISSION
SUSPENSION & STEERING • WHEELS**



TOYOTA



GOODRIDGE

**EBC
BRAKES**

TEINI
High Performance Suspension

PAGID



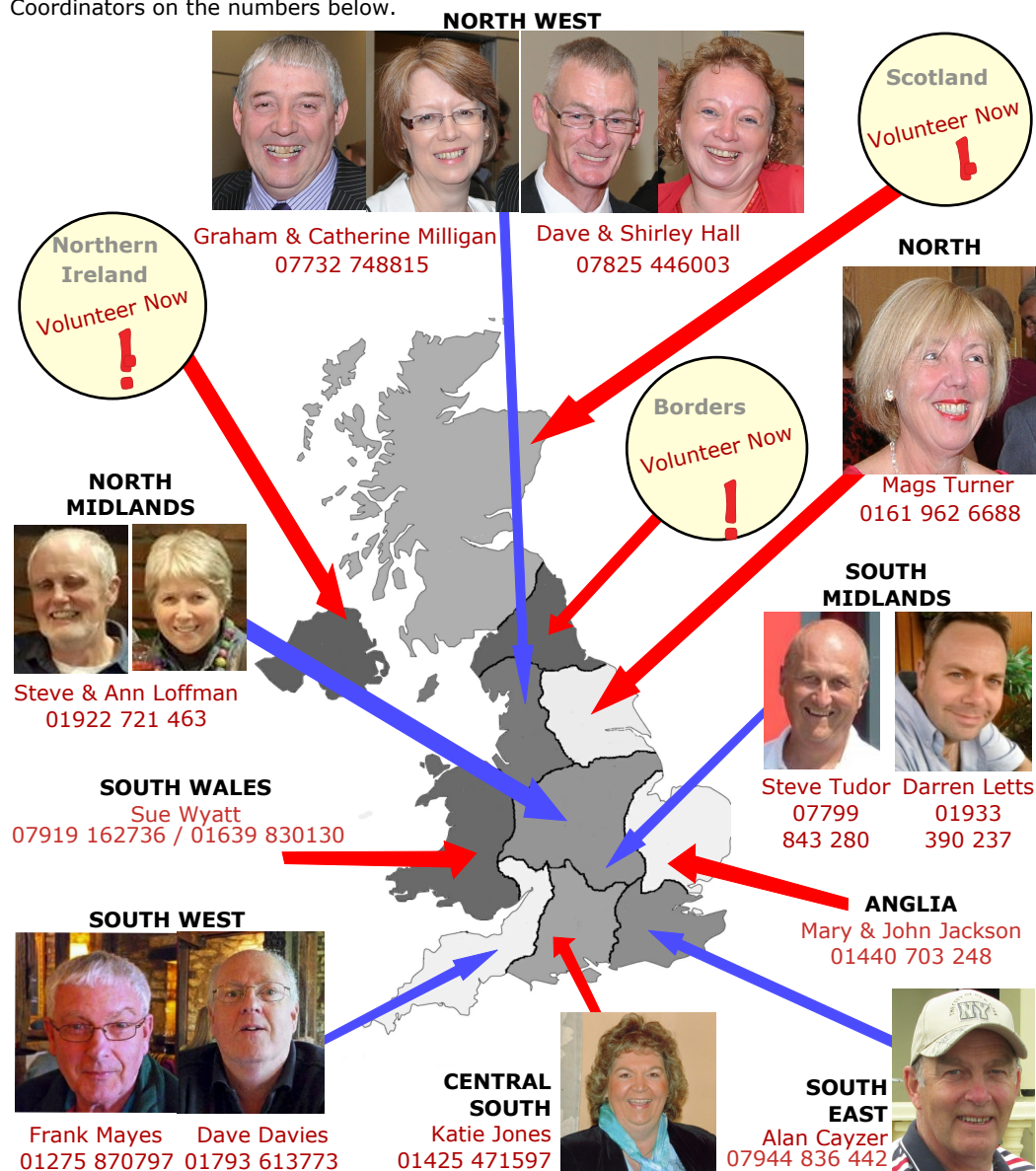
Phone & SMS Text:
07940 572209

www.mr2-ben.co.uk

Regions

No monthly meeting in your Region?
Interested in becoming a Regional Coordinator?
Contact Steve, Chairman - steve.tudor@mr2dc.com !

We usually meet on the first Sunday of every month. To find out about your next regional meeting, please check the events page at www.mr2dc.com or contact your Regional Coordinators on the numbers below.



ANGLIA

To book your place on any
Anglia event, please contact:
Mary & John Jackson
01440 703 248

Upcoming events

1 October 2017 - Museum of the Broads, Wroxham
14/15 October 2017 - AGM weekend, Wyboston Lakes & Duxford
5 November 2017 - Sunday lunch, venue TBC
25 November 2017 - End of the Pier Show, Cromer
10-12 November 2017 - Classic Car Show, NEC, Birmingham
3 December 2017 - Christmas lunch, Angel Inn, Larling



Recent events

Sunday lunch - March 2017

Today members met at The Manor House in Wortham for lunch, kindly organised by Ivan and Janet. It was a really nice venue – the staff were very friendly, the food was sumptuous and the company was as always delightful and entertaining. It was so good to catch up with everyone and to see Barrie and Joy's new wheels!



Nene Valley Railway - April 2017



Today we visited Nene Valley Railway, kindly organised by Joy and Barrie Cowland. This was also a special day as Barrie was celebrating a milestone birthday! We had a lovely time on the train, bringing back many memories for some of our more senior members. To top off this special day we were all invited back to Joy and Barrie's for a buffet, which turned out to be a feast for us all.

Thank you so much from all our members for such a special day and for being given the opportunity to share in Barrie's birthday celebrations. We hope Barrie enjoys the ciders!

East Anglia Game & Country Fair - April 2017

Well what a lovely day we had today! Thanks to Jonathan for suggesting Game and Country Fair at Euston Park, although getting in was a bit of a nightmare.

We all met today at the Dog and Duck beer tent, most of us were on time for the noon meet, but John, our 2 new members Nick and Sharon (who travelled with us) and myself were all 20 minutes late. It took us 1 hour 10 minutes to get to the venue from the A134 at Barnham ... at least that was our excuse!



ANGLIA (continued)

We introduced Barrie & Joy, Tom & Sharon, Sheila and Jonathan to our new members Nick and Sharon. After a short break for refreshment, we split up to take in the various demonstrations, and the shopping, with the intention of meeting back at the Dog and Duck at 3pm.

However, the shopping got the better of me and John and we were yet again late for the 3pm rendezvous! Jonathan had left us a little after 1pm as he had seen everything earlier, Tom and Sharon gave up on us (I don't blame them we were useless at timekeeping) when we failed to materialise by 3.15 - sorry guys, we will try to behave better in the future ... but the SHOPPING got the better of me!

Shiela generously offered afternoon tea, so 6 of us reconvened at Drinkstone for a lovely time with tea and cake. Thank you Shiela for rounding off our day at your lovely home.

National Day - June 2017

Several of our Anglia Region members made the trip to Hatton Park on Sunday for the annual Club meet. Lots of very special cars were there to be judged, or just to be admired.

Jonathan brought his 10th anniversary addition Mk2, so we could all take a look. We think you have a very nice original car, in original paint. It is definitely a lovely car and it's so good to have another member back behind the wheel of an MR2.



Fun was had at the car gymkhana, Nick and Sharon were going great guns until navigator Sharon - holding the route map upside down - gave the wrong instruction at the last obstacle and Nick couldn't make up the time, or he was sure he would have won!

Barrie with navigator Joy took on the course with determination ... and perhaps a little too much right foot. Unfortunately one of the obstacle cones got caught up in the bodywork, and stewards had to extract the cone - with some of the GT86's bodywork - before they could continue! Thank you Toyota for supplying the car.

Barrie did not show his wonderful MR2 this year, as he thought it was about time to let someone else have a chance, but the car as usual pulled quite an audience.

John had a third place in a strong Daily Driver section with his N reg blue Mk2, which pleased him no end.

Jonathan was lucky with the raffle, winning 2 prizes, and John won a new Toyota baseball cap to match the car!

Although the day started bright but breezy, it went downhill as the day wore on. Some stoic individuals (which included us Anglia region hardened campaigners) stayed in the increasing rain to the end.

ANGLIA (continued)

Holiday - June 2017

10 Anglia Region members and 2 guest members journeyed to Weymouth to the Moonfleet Hotel for our annual summer break. Although the weather was not kind, we all enjoyed the panoramic scenery of the Jurassic coast. The hotel was in a beautiful setting overlooking Chesil Beach, central to many beauty spots and quaint villages. Thank you to Ali Neaves for finding this for us all.

Jonathan took his newly acquired MR2, which purred along without a missed beat but found the ever present steep descents a bit overwhelming for his hardened brake pads that decided to squeal when negotiating some of the more extreme downward zigzags. This was quickly and efficiently replaced by a specialist garage and Jonathan was soon mobile again after a coffee or two.



On Friday we remembered our dear friend Henry whose birthday it would have been. It was great to again be joined by Bob, Maureen and the lovely Lola from the Midlands group and to say happy birthday to Den whose birthday is this weekend.

BBQ - August 2017

On Sunday we met at Ali and Dave Neaves' home in Shipdham for our annual BBQ.



The weather was kind and the sun came out and stayed out for us all day. Ali and Dave provided everyone with fruit punch or Pimms and a host of salads and side dishes, as well as setting up their garden with tables, chairs, a marquee and BBQs for us to cook our individual meals.

We were all pleased to see that Tom & Sharon were able to join us. Thanks also to everyone who brought things to share – everyone enjoyed the special breads, puddings and chocolate!

Our thanks to Ali & Dave for making us all so welcome, and looking after us all so well.

ANGLIA (continued)

Sunday lunch - September 2017

Today 13 Anglia members met at the Angel Inn at Larling for lunch. The food was exceptional, arrived quickly, was piping hot and was as much as any of us could eat. Service was very good and everyone enjoyed themselves.

As the group all agreed that this venue was one of the best we have visited, we have booked the Angel for our Christmas lunch. Due to holidays etc, it was also agreed to move the lunch date in December to Sunday 17th.

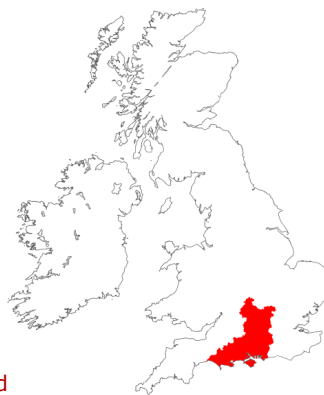


We also discussed a January break and the consensus was Harrogate. We are looking at suitable packages and will post details as soon as we have prices confirmed.

Finally thank you to Shiela for inviting the members back to her home for tea. Those of us who attended were spoilt with delicious scones and cake!

CENTRAL SOUTH

To book your place on any Central South event, please contact:
Katie Jones
01425 477 636



Upcoming events

1 October 2017 - Twyford Water Works & Classic Car Show
14/15 October 2017 - AGM weekend, Wyboston Lakes & Duxford
5 November 2017 - Sunday lunch & 2018 events planning, venue TBC
10-12 November 2017 - Classic Car Show, NEC, Birmingham
3 December 2017 - Christmas lunch, venue TBC

Recent events

No event reports provided.

SOUTH WEST

To book your place on any South West event, please contact:
Frank Mayes, 01275 870 797
Dave Davis, 01793 613 773



Upcoming events

1 October 2017 - Montacute TV, radio & toy museum, Yeovil
14/15 October 2017 - AGM weekend, Wyboston Lakes & Duxford
5 November 2017 - Sunday lunch, venue TBC
10-12 November 2017 - Classic Car Show, NEC, Birmingham
3 December 2017 - Christmas lunch, venue TBC

Recent events

Forest of Dean Heritage Centre - March 2017

This month we paid a visit to The Dean Heritage Centre in the The Forest of Dean. Set across a five acre site, the centre protects and preserves the unique history of the Forest of Dean.

With around 20,000 artefacts, five onsite galleries, outdoor displays, research library and guided tours on offer, the museum tells the story of the forest from the Ice Age to the present day. The centre also offers a range of fun and interactive workshops for schools and groups throughout the year.



We enjoyed the lunch so much we returned the cafe later on for tea and cakes! Altogether a very interesting and enjoyable day.

Avon Valley Railway - April 2017

Our April meeting was a trip on the Avon Valley Railway. We met in the car park of the beautifully restored Victorian station in Bitton, between Bristol and Bath. The plan was to catch the 12.15 steam train for a 1 hour ride to return at 1.15 for lunch.



The Avon Valley railway was opened in 1869 by the Midland Railway as a through-route between Birmingham and the south coast. The line was later linked to the iconic Somerset and Dorset Railway. Closed under the Beeching Act of the 1960's, the Avon Valley Railway was then preserved by an enthusiastic group of volunteers. Today, 40 yrs on, 3 miles of track has been re-laid, locomotives and carriages restored, and the sound of steam can once again be heard along the Avon Valley.

SOUTH WEST (continued)

Mendip Meander - May 2017

Geoff Sutton, one of our members who is also a member of Bath Motor Club, organized a 'Mendip Meander' treasure hunt on Sunday 21 May and both Clubs were invited to participate.



We met at The Rose and Crown at Hinton Charterhouse, where Geoff gave us our packs containing the route, which was described by tulip signs at road junctions, together with clues we had to interpret throughout the drive. The paperwork he gave us was very well set out and organised. One thing that threw us was the spot heights towards the end of the drive, so unfortunately we skipped this which didn't do our final score much good!

It was a 20-25 mile drive through delightful countryside, taking in many interesting places. Most of the roads were very narrow, so caution was taken.

The drive ended at The Barge at Seend Cleeve, a very pretty pub by the canal where we had supper, discussed the drive and debated some of the answers to the treasure hunt. A very enjoyable afternoon was spent by all who attended and we hope to see Steve and Cathy (new MR2 members from Kilve) at future meetings.

Thanks must go to Geoff and his wife Pat for organizing such a great event.

National Day - June 2017

This month 8 members from the South West attended the National Day at Hatton Country World.

It proved to be a good meeting for Les Fletcher, as he took 1st place in the in the concours and also won Best in Show.

It was also nice to meet up with Mike and Sharon Gooding again, after their move to Anglia.



SOUTH WEST (continued)

Kilver Court - July 2017

Our meeting this month was a visit to Kilver Court, near Shepton Mallet, the site of a former textile mill which still retains many of the original industrial buildings.



After coffee in the morning there was an opportunity for some retail therapy in the Designer Outlet. We then had lunch at Sharpham Pantry, before going round the attractive gardens on the site, which are set against the backdrop of the impressive Charlton Viaduct.

Most of us stayed on for an ice-cream afterwards to enjoy the sunshine before going our separate ways. Many thanks to all those who attended.

Gloucestershire Vintage & Country Extravaganza - August 2017

This month we visited the Gloucestershire Vintage and Country Extravaganza, held at South Cerney Airfield.

The show has been running for over 40 years and was originally conceived for steam enthusiasts, but now includes a huge array of exhibits.



This year included nearly 700 classic cars from pre and post war, including over 70 classic American, plus 230 motorbikes and scooters, 70 bicycles from 1903-1980, 90 stationary engines, 70 full size steam engines, 200 tractors, 80 buses and coaches, 120 military vehicles plus commercial and industrial vehicles.

NORTH MIDLANDS

To book your place on any
North Midlands event, please contact:
Ann & Steve Loffman
01922 721 463



Upcoming events

1 October 2017 - Drive-out, route TBC
14/15 October 2017 - AGM weekend, Wyboston Lakes & Duxford
5 November 2017 - Sunday lunch, venue TBC
10-12 November 2017 - Classic Car Show, NEC, Birmingham
November 2017 - Holiday to Nethybridge Hotel, Scotland
3 December 2017 - Christmas lunch, The Hedgehog, Lichfield

Recent events

National Memorial Arboretum - March 2017

We had begun our year as we finished last year, enjoying a meal at The Hedgehog in Lichfield. We had lots of ideas for events during 2017 and it was quite a difficult decision to select the final venues, choosing some old favourites to return to and trying out some new ones. Steve and I were very aware that we had a hard task following Lynn and Tony Gardner's brilliant Regional Coordinators' role.

Our first visit on 3 March was to the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas. We went as a group: Bryan & Grace Elliott, Ken Morgan & Dorothy Harris, Lynn & Tony Gardner, Joy Stephens & Alan Marshall, Jan & Duncan Evans and Steve Loffman. All took advantage of a welcome tea or coffee and cakes to begin with. This was followed by a tour with commentary around the site on a land train and a delicious two course lunch with time to wander around afterwards. Everyone agreed it was a truly moving experience, seeing the many memorials and testimonials and realising how many young and old people gave their lives for us. It was quite difficult to fit it all into the day. The only downside was that it rained all the day – sorry folks, we haven't mastered sorting out the weather yet!



NORTH MIDLANDS (continued)

Catton Hall Show - April 2017

This was Steve and my first show as new Regional Coordinators. It was brilliant to have 17 cars turn up from different Regions – it was great to see you there!



We had a good selection of cars, which were duly recognised by the organisers who awarded us the Best Car Club stand, which we are very proud of.

Catton Hall is a wonderful setting and the good weather added to the success of the day. Thank you to everyone who turned up to make it a really enjoyable day.

Drive-out - April 2017

On 2 April, Richard Davies organised a brilliant drive-out of about 50 miles for us and we had great weather.

We started at Halfpenny Green Vineyard (DY7 5EP), enjoying a breakfast sandwich and coffee (we weren't allowed to start on the wine!) before our run.

We then drove via Bridgenorth, following the A5 through Great Chatwell, Abbots Bromley, Yoxall to Barton Under Needwood, to enjoy lunch at the Waterfront pub at the marina.



The proposed stop on Cannock Chase had to be abandoned, as it had been invaded by push bikes!

We had a convoy of 6 cars: Ken & Dorothy Morgan, Steve & Ann Loffman, Bryan & Grace Elliot, Chris & Gerri Moore, Richard & Sue Davies and Ryan & Jen Shorter. For some the day was improved by taking part in some retail therapy after lunch!

Photo courtesy of Ken Morgan on our arrival at the marina.

NORTH MIDLANDS (continued)

Ragley Hall Show - May 2017

We welcomed Graeme and Sam from Wales and two new members, Anthony and his lovely lady, to join us on this day in the sunshine at another picturesque setting. The gardens and Hall were a definite must to look round.



Lymm Historic Transport Day - June 2017

See report in North West Region.

Chateau Impney Hill Climb - July 2017

July saw a new venue for the North Midlands Region, as we visited the Château Impney Hill Climb. Château Impney was built in 1873 by John Corbett in the style of a Louis XIII château, as a present for his wife who was of French/Irish descent. The first hill climb was held in September 1957 and continued for the next ten years. It was revived again with a twisting 550 yard course in 2016 as a two day event.

The North Midlands Region attended the 2017 event on the Sunday in good weather. We were pleased to welcome Marion Cook and Alan Bromwich with their immaculate Mk1 and new member Tim Mason and his son Ben with their 'Red' Roadster. There was also a father and son combination from South Wales in the shape of Graeme Notley and son Sam in Sam's Mk2 turbo. Graeme is still refurbishing his supercharged Mk1. Also in attendance were Bryan Elliott with his Mk1, Ryan and Jen Shorter in their Audi (their 'Red' Roadster had suffered serious engine maladies), Chris and Gerrie Moore in their Mk2 and Steve and I in our 'Red' Roadster.

The hill climb event was very exciting, with lots of exotic machinery both old and modern. Older enthusiasts in the Club will remember some of the classic vehicles taking part, which included two Maserati 250Fs of the 1950s Formula 1 scene, an early Chaparral which took part in the CAN-AM series and a rare Birdcage Maserati. There were also a number of 'D' Type Jaguars.



Also taking part was a BRM F1 car originally driven by Jo Bonnier and Graham Hill in the early 60s. We were able to wander around the paddock and inspect all the vehicles up close.

The surprise of the afternoon was a visit by the Lancaster bomber of the RAF's Memorial Flight, which did a few circuits over the course. It was a very enjoyable day and will certainly figure in the North Midlands calendar for next year.

NORTH MIDLANDS (continued)

Brecon Beacons Show - August 2017

On Sunday 6 August, Ken & Dorothy, Chris & Gerrie and Steve & I braved the Welsh weather to join Graeme and Sam Notely at the Brecon Car Show. This was at a different venue from our last visit, but we had a beautiful backdrop of the black mountains which would appear and then disappear under mist clouds.



It was not a large show, but there were some interesting vehicles to be seen. Despite there only being 4 cars on our stand, we received a lot of interest. We are proud to say that Sam won the 'Best Japanese Car of the Show' award! The drive there and back took us through some beautiful Welsh countryside. Worth another visit, if only for the views.

Tewkesbury Show - August 2017



This was the first time we had visited this show and we were very impressed with it! We will certainly add it to our list of venues for next year. We had a fabulous turn-out, meeting old friends and some new ones.

There were over 700 cars and 200 motorcycles for us to enjoy looking at, auto jumble stalls for the enthusiasts to mooch through, craft and food stalls for anyone who loved shopping, and live period music from the Haywood Sisters. Proceeds were going to the Air Ambulance charity.

We were very fortunate with our spot and managed to secure a large area for all our cars. We hadn't realised it when we got there, but we were next to the allocated spot for the air ambulance! This did take off during the day, obviously needed by someone, which proves that it is a very worthwhile service to support. It did, however, put us in line for lots of interest from passers-by with the possibility of some new members.

As this was the last show organised for our Region, although we are joining the South West in September for their visit to Tetbury, we decided we should go out in style by celebrating the 50th wedding anniversary of Grace and Bryan Elliott, Grace's 80th birthday and Colin Male's 70th birthday! Thank you to everyone who brought food for us to share for lunch – it was delicious. As usual at these sort of events, we had far too much food and delighted and amused some other drivers when we handed out plates of sandwiches as they drove past us on their way out! The musical candle was still singing happy birthday when Eileen and Colin left.

Alongside members Ken & Dorothy, Ryan & Jen, Lynn & Tony, Joy & Alan, Richard & Sue, Tim & Ben, Alan & Marion, Amy, Steve & I and of course Grace & Bryan from our Region, we also met with members from the South West Region: Eileen & Colin, Frank, Jill & John, Hazel & Les, Rita & Jeremy, Jill & Alan and last but not least Graeme and Sam from Wales. Apologies if I have left anyone out!

SOUTH MIDLANDS

To book your place on any South Midlands event, please contact:
Steve Tudor, 07799 843 280
Darren Letts, 01933 390 237



Upcoming events

14/15 October 2017 - AGM weekend, Wyboston Lakes & Duxford

10-12 November 2017 - Classic Car Show, NEC, Birmingham

Recent events

NEC Restoration Show - March 2017

This is the first time the Club has attended this show. Although not as big as the Classic in November, there was still a lot going on and some great cars to look at. As the show's title suggests, it's more focused on being hands-on than just a static display, but as this was our first visit we did just basic polishing and detailing.

The organisers provided us with a stand big enough for 4 cars: Simon McMurray's highly detailed red Roadster, Darren Letts' Mk2 Rev 5, my 10th Anniversary and Leon Howells' Mk2 Turbo. Leon's car was featured in the last issue of Log Book but has changed beyond recognition since then. His car was only completed the day before the show and more than one person commented on the smell of fresh paint! We would have loved to have had a Mk1 on the stand but unfortunately it was not to be, although this will be remedied going forward.

As usual the format was set-up on Thursday, with the show open to the public on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We arrived around 10:30 and began the set-up.

Unfortunately on the way to the NEC the heavens opened, so we all had to clean the cars again once the stand was completed. We all got away for around 6pm.



SOUTH MIDLANDS (continued)

Friday started with a full English breakfast. Unfortunately Darren couldn't join us, as he had to do an 80 mile detour when he realised he had left his MR2 keys at home. Obviously this wasn't mentioned or brought up at all for the rest of the show....!

Initially the stand was busy, but by mid-afternoon the crowds in general started to dwindle and by the time the show closed at 5 there were not many visitors left. We still managed to get a new member and had a visit from Les Fletcher from the South West Region.

Saturday dawned with the now traditional pre-show full English breakfast to set us all up for the day ahead – and what a day it was! We had Graham Milligan, Dave Hall, Nik Milford, Pete Russell, Mike Jackson and Admin Ann visiting us from the North West Region, along with Keith and Elaine Greenwood who 'popped down' from Scotland.

It was a totally different story from the Friday, with people actually queuing up to come and talk to us – something I've not seen before, which was great. We had 3 new members join and a couple of renewals as well – 2 of the 3 new members have 10th Anniversary editions also in Caribbean Blue, so that was good. By 6pm we were all very tired and losing our voices due to all the talking, but we had had a great day.



Sunday arrived and we were expecting more of the same. We were joined on the stand by our wives and partners, which was great. We also had a celebrity visitor to the stand ... a certain Mr Fuzz Townshend of Car SOS fame. He was being ushered to the MX5 stand at the time, but he saw the light and decided to come on to a proper Japanese sports car stand first for a photo shoot with us!

As with all of this type of show, the crowds started to dwindle by mid afternoon, which gave us the opportunity to start to strip down the stand earlier than expected. We were all packed by the time the tannoy announced that we could start our engines in preparation for leaving the hall and we all managed to exit in convoy.

Overall the show was a good one for the Club and we would look to do it again next year. Obviously it was a learning curve for us and there are things we would do differently.

Finally I'd like to thank Simon, Darren and Leon for bringing their cars to the show and for their company over the four days. I'd also like to thank all the members who visited us over the four days, as it was great to catch up with you all.

SOUTH MIDLANDS (continued)

Stratford Motor Festival - April 2017



This is the first time the South Midlands Region has attended this show and it was our Region's first event of the 2017 season. Eleven cars attended: six Mk2s and five Roadsters. We arranged to meet in a layby on the A46, just outside Stratford, and once all the passes and rally plaques were handed out we all set off in convoy into Stratford.

Upon arrival we lined up the cars in marque order and settled back to enjoy the day. The organisers had given us our own street, so we had plenty of interest in the cars and it seemed we were the only Car Club displaying, which again helped to draw the crowds.

We even had William Shakespeare himself (well, a wax dummy anyway) make an appearance and sit in Simon McMurray's Roadster, resplendent with a copy of Log Book obviously a classic read!

The event itself is based in closed off roads right in the middle of Stratford so there was loads to see and do, with around 300 classic vehicles ranging from a circa 1940's fire engine up to brand new Audi R8's. There were also many local car dealers exhibiting their new cars for those wishing to have a look.

Also being right in the middle of Stratford there were all the usual Shakespeare places to visit, such as the Shakespeare Trust, and the River Avon and the RSC were only a short walk away. Being in the centre there was also plenty of retail therapy on hand for those who wanted a distraction away from the cars!

It was great to meet up with friends old and new, finally being able to put a face to some of the new members' names. So a big thank you to all that attended and I hope we continue with the same level of success the rest of the year.

SOUTH MIDLANDS (continued)

Princethorpe Festival - June 2017

We had 6 cars support this event this year which is an increase on last year. This is a free to enter event and is set in the old walled orchard in the grounds of Princethorpe College near Coventry.

The event has a run of circa 30 miles around the Warwickshire countryside, which a couple of members completed, followed by a static display in the afternoon. The event is supported by around 180 classic cars and has a very relaxed atmosphere.



Kimbolton Fayre - July 2017



Now in its 26th year, this is a major event that has around 800 classic and sports cars in attendance. It is held in the grounds of Kimbolton School, near Huntingdon. We had 6 cars support this event last year and 2017 saw this grow to 13 cars, which is a fantastic turnout for a Region only in its second year.

Four of us met near Junction 1 of the M6 and travelled down the A14 together to meet the other cars at Thrapston Services. Eleven cars then travelled the last 10 miles in convoy, with 2 more meeting us at the venue. As last year, we then had fun actually trying to find our plot!

The pitch itself was again a little disappointing, with us being squashed into a small area around a rather large tree which was nowhere near ideal for us to display the cars properly. We had originally asked for an area big enough to take 15 cars. A complaint on behalf of the Club has gone to the organisers, so we shall see what comes of that. That issue aside though the show is well worth a visit. It's a great day out, especially if the weather is as kind as it was this year!

We also had a visit from The 'Not So Grand' Top Gear Tour crew, to look at Simon McMurray's Roadster that featured recently in Classic Car Mart. It appeared that the crew was not impressed with the car following all his hype on Facebook! Unfortunately, as with the NEC Show when Simon missed the visit of Fuzz Townshend to the stand, he also missed this! Much to his relief we think, or it may have been to do with Carol taking him shopping!

There was also a fly past by the BBMF, which this year was a sole Spitfire, and the Sporting Bears offering rides in various sports cars in return for a fee to children's charities. There is also a craft market, for those seeking retail therapy.



SOUTH MIDLANDS (continued)

Cotswolds drive-out - August 2017

5 cars met in sunny weather outside the Bell Inn at Moreton-in-Marsh for this, the first run organised by the South Midlands Region.

The first part of the 75 mile route (for those who know the Cotswolds) took the cars up Broadway Hill, then out through the Slaughters, down the High Street in Bourton-on-the Water, out through Great Rissington and Burford to the lunch stop for a carvery at The Dovecote near Minster Lovell.

Once fed and watered, we continued through Lower Minster Lovell, Charlbury, Chipping Norton and then back to the finish in Moreton-in-Marsh.



It was great to see a couple of new members joining us as well for the first time.



NORTH

To book your place on any North event, please contact:
Mags Turner
0161 962 6688



Upcoming events

1 October 2017 - Sunday lunch, The Manor Golf Club, Bradford
14/15 October 2017 - AGM weekend, Wyboston Lakes & Duxford
5 November 2017 - Sunday lunch, The Manor Golf Club, Bradford
10-12 November 2017 - Classic Car Show, NEC, Birmingham
3 December 2017 - Christmas lunch, The Manor Golf Club, Bradford

Recent events

Sunday Lunch - March 2017

Five people met on Sunday at the Manor Golf Club near Bradford. Mags sent her apologies, as she is quite ill with some nasty bug.

Roy produced an entertaining quiz for us to do, based on elderly TV programmes.

There were discussions on various topics, including the AGM weekend in October. Everyone went away to decide what to do and contact the Club Office to book their places.



Sunday Lunch - April 2017

This month, I decided to leave home 30 minutes earlier because of The Manchester Marathon. However, I still found myself in a traffic jam a few hundred yards from home and thought I would never leave Sale! I eventually arrived at The Manor Golf Club late, to find our members standing in the car park. John and Denise had arrived in their new family car, so we discussed all the new features on it before going inside for lunch. Terry and June then arrived, so we had five cars this month.

We had an enjoyable lunch, with plenty of chatting about a wide variety of subjects. Roy and Ann produced an amusing article featuring a conversation between a young and old man. I will ask them for a copy and attach it to another report – it will make us all smile! We talked about Club matters, in particular the AGM weekend in October.



My MR2 still has a flat battery. I now have a new 'Juno' charger, which will start the engine. I must admit I am a bit of wimp when it comes to cars – I only know how to do the tyres, oil, water and petrol and of course how to wash it! I wish I had taken a car mechanics course, instead of domestic science. I have been advised to charge the Juno before I can use it and also, because the car battery has been flat for so long, to leave the battery charging for a while instead of using the new Juno – thanks to Graham from the North West Region for his advice. Hopefully I will be at the AGM in the MR2 ... if I ever get it going!

NORTH (continued)

Sunday Lunch - May 2017

The meet was once again at the Manor Golf Club with the usual attendees, except for Mags who is recovering from an operation. We all wish her a speedy and full recovery. Discussions took place on a number of topics with a decision to cancel the June meet due to people attending the National Day.

National Day - June 2017

See report earlier in this issue.

BBQ - July 2017

This month's meeting was held in Beswick, at the home of Tony Cooke for his annual BBQ. Nine of us spent a sunny and relaxed afternoon in Tony's lovely garden, putting the world to rights and eating too much good food! Ann and Roy told us about their trip to Canada and we all chatted about various holidays.



We all missed Mags, who was unable to attend due to family commitments.

Many thanks to Tony for his hospitality.

Sunday Lunch - August 2017

The meeting took place at the usual venue. the Manor Golf Club at Drighlington near Bradford. Having arrived a little late, courtesy of the M62, we found ourselves parking my MR2 next to an unfamiliar Mk3 Roadster. We discovered that it belongs to Ian, who lives locally and had come along to find out what the Club has to offer as he is interested in joining.

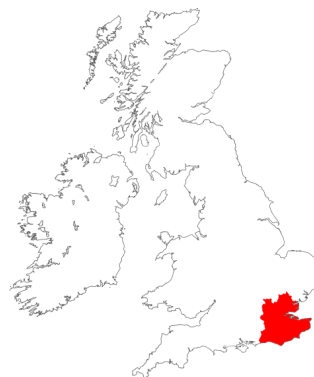
We went inside to join the rest of the group for lunch. We discussed what the Club does and also the North members attending the forthcoming AGM weekend away in October and other events.

Ian explained that he had only owned the Roadster for a short time and that a new sub-frame had been fitted. He is generally happy with the car, but is having a problem with the clips on the offside air vent, two of which have seized preventing removal of the cover. Water is also getting into the boot. After lunch, we all went outside to give Ian's car the once over! Tony, who also has a Roadster, tried to help with removing the cover but to no avail – any suggestions would be appreciated!

I would like to thank Tony Cook and Denise & John Elgar for holding the North Region meetings, and Tony for writing the monthly reports, in my absence due to me recovering after an operation and also the passing of my Mum – the North Region would have finished without their support. Thank you very much.

SOUTH EAST

To book your place on any
South East event, please contact:
Alan Cayzer
01689 824 543



Upcoming events

14/15 October 2017 - AGM weekend, Wyboston Lakes & Duxford
10-12 November 2017 - Classic Car Show, NEC, Birmingham

Recent events

The White Cliffs Experience - April 2017

The White Cliffs Experience is a new Kent Run, organised by Pete Mason from the Mk1 MR2 Club. This was the Sunday when the sun shone all day long and the temperature reached 23°C. With a new route to try out, Pete was slightly apprehensive at first but really pleased that 19 cars turned up: 14 MR2s and five others.



We all met at the Hythe Services on the M20, near Folkestone, where we had plenty of parking space – so much so that we decided to line them all up and take a few photos. At 11.30am we set off on our country run, but guess what? Someone missed the first turn and those behind him all followed. Typical! They soon realised their error and turned back to join the rest of us, who stopped to wait for them. That was the only time we got separated.

It was a leisurely hour's drive through the Kent Downs heading towards Canterbury, but once we were about to join the main road we turned and headed back along the A2 towards the White Cliffs of Dover. Shortly after passing the Lydden Hill race circuit we turned off the main road once again onto the country lanes.

Our first stop was for an hour at the Battle of Britain memorial on top of the White Cliffs, a tribute to the pilots who fought the Germans in the sky over the English Channel during World War 2. There was only a chance to glimpse at the memorial, but what we saw was very humbling and made many of us promise ourselves to return on our own some day to pay our proper respects.

The second part of the run was a bit hazy for me, the author of this report, as I was late getting ready and I missed the boat. By the time I was ready everyone had gone! I knew the route they were heading and thought I could take a short cut to catch them up, but I got caught behind an old lady driver in her granny-wagon on a county road and lost all hope, so I went straight to the last stopping place just outside Dover, called Samphire Hoe. I had never been there before, but I learnt that Samphire Hoe is a new piece of land at the base of the White Cliffs, created by the excavation material from the Eurotunnel during the construction of the Channel Tunnel and is now a wildlife nature reserve.



SOUTH EAST (continued)

Chatham Dockyard Festival of Steam & Transport - April 2017

The dockyard at Chatham is a historic naval dockyard on the banks of the river Medway and has been building war ships since the seventeenth century. The naval dockyard closed in the 1980s and is now one huge wartime museum.

There is so much to do and see at the dockyard. They have 3 ships in docks that you can board and explore, including a submarine. There are the grand sheds that still exist, where the ships were built and launched. The sheds house an array of naval and military craft, plus a display of RNLI historic lifeboats. There are also various buildings on the site that were factories for making ropes, sails, ironmongery etc that went into building the ships, and these buildings have been converted into museums so you can see how they made the ships. It was an absolutely amazing experience.



There were all sorts of cars on display in various areas around the dockyard. The MR2s were located in the helipad area. 'Jacko' from our Club was there in his Ferrari Dino kit car, which is based on a Mk2 MR2. At the end of the day, we felt we had a good day and went home exhausted from exploring the dockyard. Perhaps we'll see more there next year.



National Day - June 2017

See report earlier in this issue.

NORTH WEST

To book your place on any North West event, please contact:

Graham & Catherine Milligan
01457 836063
Dave & Shirley Hall
0161 303 9239



Upcoming events

1 October 2017 - Sunday lunch, Hoghton Arms, Chorley
14/15 October 2017 - AGM weekend, Wyboston Lakes & Duxford
5 November 2017 - Sunday lunch, Hartshead Inn, Ashton-Under-Lyne
10-12 November 2017 - Classic Car Show, NEC, Birmingham
3 December 2017 - Christmas lunch, Dantes, Chorley

Recent events

Sunday lunch - March 2017

We had a great response from our members for this month's Sunday Lunch at The Moorings in Boothstown, near Manchester - so much so that the space provided for us for the meeting wasn't big enough and we spilled out from our designated area into the main restaurant. This meant that things were a little disjointed, but none the less we all mingled between the many tables.

The motorway was very busy so we all arrived at varying times: David and Linda, Ian and Viv, Jean and Sky, Glenys and Bob, Brian, Moe and Les, Nik, Pete and Cody and Sean and his son, Mike and Ann, Dave and Shirley, Rob and Janet and finally Catherine and myself.

We seem to have a trend of Roadsters for this year so we should be able to display some good examples of the Mk3. Sean was telling us all about the restoration work he has done on his Roadster - he has spent a lot time and effort on it and it is ready to go in for a full re-spray in time for the season ahead. I have spent the winter months improving and detailing our Roadster for the coming season too.



Sunday lunch - April 2017

It was a lovely spring day, so the perfect place to have our Sunday lunch was the Riverside at Acton Bridge with its stunning views of the river Weaver with the boats, narrow boats and the ducks for company. We booked the large conservatory for all of us, as this is a little separate from the restaurant and so we didn't disturb other people whilst having their lunch - we can be quite noisy when we all get together! Plenty of discussions took place, mostly but not exclusively about cars.

NORTH WEST (continued)

We had good display of cars in the car park: Ian and Viv's stunning white and silver Mk1, David and Linda's white Mk2, a new red VW Golf (I'm sure that used to be a Viper Green Scirocco...), Dave and Shirley's green Mk2, Bob and Glenys's silver Roadster, Brian's Mercedes SLK, Jean and Sky's blue Mk2 and Mike and Ann's Vauxhall Ampera ... all parked with the precision of an event field, practising for later in the month! As the Manchester Marathon was being run, a couple of us were delayed but joined shortly later, Sean and Dominic, whose Roadster is still being re-sprayed, and Rob and Janet in their Kia Sportage.



After we had eaten, as the weather was so fine and sunny, we left the conservatory and took up the tables in the beer garden for another drink – within driving limits of course.

Catton Hall - May 2017 - See report in North Midlands Region.

Capesthorpe Hall - May 2017

The forecast wasn't very promising for the day ahead, with heavy rain and possible thunder storms predicted, but as ever we didn't let that dampen our spirits.

We had 13 cars booked to attend and everyone arrived in good time to arrange an excellent display of all three marques, which included 3 cars on display with new owners: Rob Beevers' silver Mk3, Bob and Glenys's black Mk3 and mine and Catherine's silver sonic Mk2.

Entering the arena over the afternoon we won 3 awards: 1st place 1980 class for Ian Howe, runner-up modified and custom for Dave Hall and 1st place Sports and Convertibles for me, so a fantastic result for our first outing.



Jean looked after us as always, cooking sausage and bacon baps to keep us warm as it was a little chilly. We packed up slightly earlier than usual, just before the rain arrived. We said our goodbyes whilst looking forward to the National Event next weekend.



NORTH WEST (continued)

National Day - June 2017

See report earlier in this issue.

Clumber Park - June 2017

This was the first time that a Classic Car Show has been held at Clumber Park. It was at the request of the National Trust to run the show, which was in the spectacular surroundings of the parkland. We had a good spot at the entrance to one of the huge fields, where a total of 750 cars were allocated.

We had 6 cars on display: David Blackburn's white Mk2, Brian Flanagan's red Mk1, Mike & Phyl Lovegrove's yellow Mk2, Andy Brown's blue Mk2, Dave & Shirley Hall's green Mk2 and our silver Mk2.



It was a scorching hot day and we took refuge under the event shelter from the blazing hot sun. Well that does make a change from sheltering from the rain I suppose! As it was Fathers' Day, there was plenty to see and it was a lovely way to spend a family day together, Grandfathers, Mothers and Grandmothers alike, not to mention the children. There were arena events during the day, which were very well supported by all the car and bike clubs, and the public enjoyed the spectacle too under the shade of the trees and parasols.



Lymm Historic Transport Day - June 2017



Come rain or shine, we never fail to put on a great display! It was pouring with rain as Dave, Shirley, Catherine and myself arrived at the May Queen Field to set up our pitch. As we had a good central position, we could display the cars to their best advantage.

NORTH WEST (continued)

It was good to welcome members from the North Midlands, Bryan and Grace Elliot, Steve and Anne Loffman and Leon Howell who joined us for the day. We also welcomed new member Chris Bailey and his partner Tracy. Rob Beevers and Janet Nield arrived next in their respective cars, then Jean Murray, Nik Milford, Mike Jackson and Brian Flanagan and we had a good mix of colours and Mk1s, Mk2s and Mk3s.



It was a busy day, as all the village had come out to see the many different side shows and interesting features all around the streets and also on the canal – despite the weather!

At the end of the day the sun shone and it was very rewarding to be presented with 1st place Best Car Club Display at the Lymm Historic Transport Day.



Leighton Hall - July 2017

We were all eagerly looking forward to the show at Leighton Hall, as it is a beautiful setting for the 18th Lakeland Classic Car Rally.

We had arranged to meet at Lancaster Services on the M6 to set off in convoy at 08.30 for the final 16 miles drive to the Hall. It was a great spectacle to see the MR2s arriving at the event. I led the way, followed by Ian Howe's Mk1, David Blackburn's Mk2, Chris Bailey's Mk2, Janet Neild's Mk2, Rob Beevers' Mk3, Pete Russell's Mk1, Danos Damianou's Mk2 and Dave Hall's Mk2. We were joined at the Hall by Brian Flanagan's Mk1, Stuart Shearer's Mk2 and a new member joining us at the show, Mark Ryding's Mk3 – welcome Mark.

Everyone pitched in to set up our stand and soon Jean had the cooker going as always and plenty of sausage and bacon baps were enjoyed. There were a few stall holders and of course the arena competitions were held throughout the day, which were very well supported by all the cars.

We left after enjoying good company, to meet again for our North Wales event on 31 July.



NORTH WEST (continued)

Bodelwyddan Castle - July 2017

Once again several of us made a weekend of the show at Bodelwyddan, by driving to North Wales on Friday or Saturday and spending time in the sunshine around the area. In the evening we all came together for our meal at Harvey's American Diner in Llandudno. Since the first year we went there, we have increased from one table to three tables this year, with 20 of us all together enjoying the varied menu. Derek and Jennie Harrison joined us for the first time as new members.



We made a small convoy of 5 cars leaving Llandudno at 8.15 Sunday morning and picked up 2 more cars on the way. We were directed to a popular position in the wonderful grounds of the castle. The remaining 8 cars joined us as we set up our display stand, making 15 in total which is the largest number of cars we have displayed at Bodelwyddan to date.

The weather was good to us throughout the day, although quite windy at times. Several cars joined in the arena events and good banter was exchanged with the commentator as we all supported each other. Another great day enjoyed by all!

Tatton Classic Motor Show - August 2017

The 30th Anniversary bash at Tatton Park will certainly be one to remember, with 2,000 classic cars there appeared to be only a few that were put off by the inclement weather, with 90 classic car clubs in attendance and a massive array of different cars on show.

Once again the Dream Cars Pavilion, dedicated to modern performance cars, was a super attraction and also included a 1964 Ferrari 250 GT, a 1964 Aston Martin DB5, which was one of the cars used in the filming of 'Skyfall', and a 1992 Jaguar XJ220 for the classic fans to enjoy.

If there is one thing you can rely on, it is that our Club members will still turn up as promised even though the weather forecast was atrocious for the weekend. Catherine, Dave, Shirley and I arrived on Friday to set up the stand. We spent 3 hours on the stand, setting up the shelter and bunting and cleaning up the cars as the drive into the grounds was flooded! We then made our way to the Swan Hotel to book in for the weekend. Our evening with Dale and Scarlett, Mike and Phyl and the four of us was very enjoyable.

Saturday dawned and it was again a very wet morning. We arrived on the plot in plenty of time to manoeuvre our cars for the best display, totalling 13. It poured with rain and we spent most of the day sheltering from the weather! In between the heaviest downpours all the members rallied and dried the cars off (many times!) and we were well rewarded by being chosen as 3rd place in Best Club Stand, just being pipped at the post by Mercedes and Rolls Royce.

NORTH WEST (continued)



Ian Howe was also awarded 2nd place in Best Japanese Classic, with his stunning Mk1, only to be beaten by a 1978 Datsun 120Y which took 1st place.

Dripping wet but not discouraged, we all left hoping that Sunday would be a drier and busier day. We were joined in the evening by an extra two, Jean and Sky, and we had an enjoyable meal and discussion about the day amongst other things. Dale, Scarlett, Jean and Sky all left to find their way back to the camping area in the pitch blackness of the evening!



When we arrived on Sunday the parkland was so churned up that the driveways were taped off and there were only a limited number of ways in use. We managed to keep our stand together, as I helped with the marshalling of the incoming cars, but others were not as fortunate and were directed to park their cars on different stands and areas. We had a change to the layout with 3 additional cars today, but the day was brighter and a lot more general public ventured out to the event, with a lot of interest shown in our cars.

A big thank you to you all for once again making this a very successful event, for the 6th year in a row.





RIP Mik Parslow, well loved MR2 enthusiast, who tragically died in August doing what he loved most - driving his MR2.
The Club's sincere condolences and thoughts are with his family and friends.

