



Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders MG CLUB

www.MG-Edinburgh.co.uk



April 2024

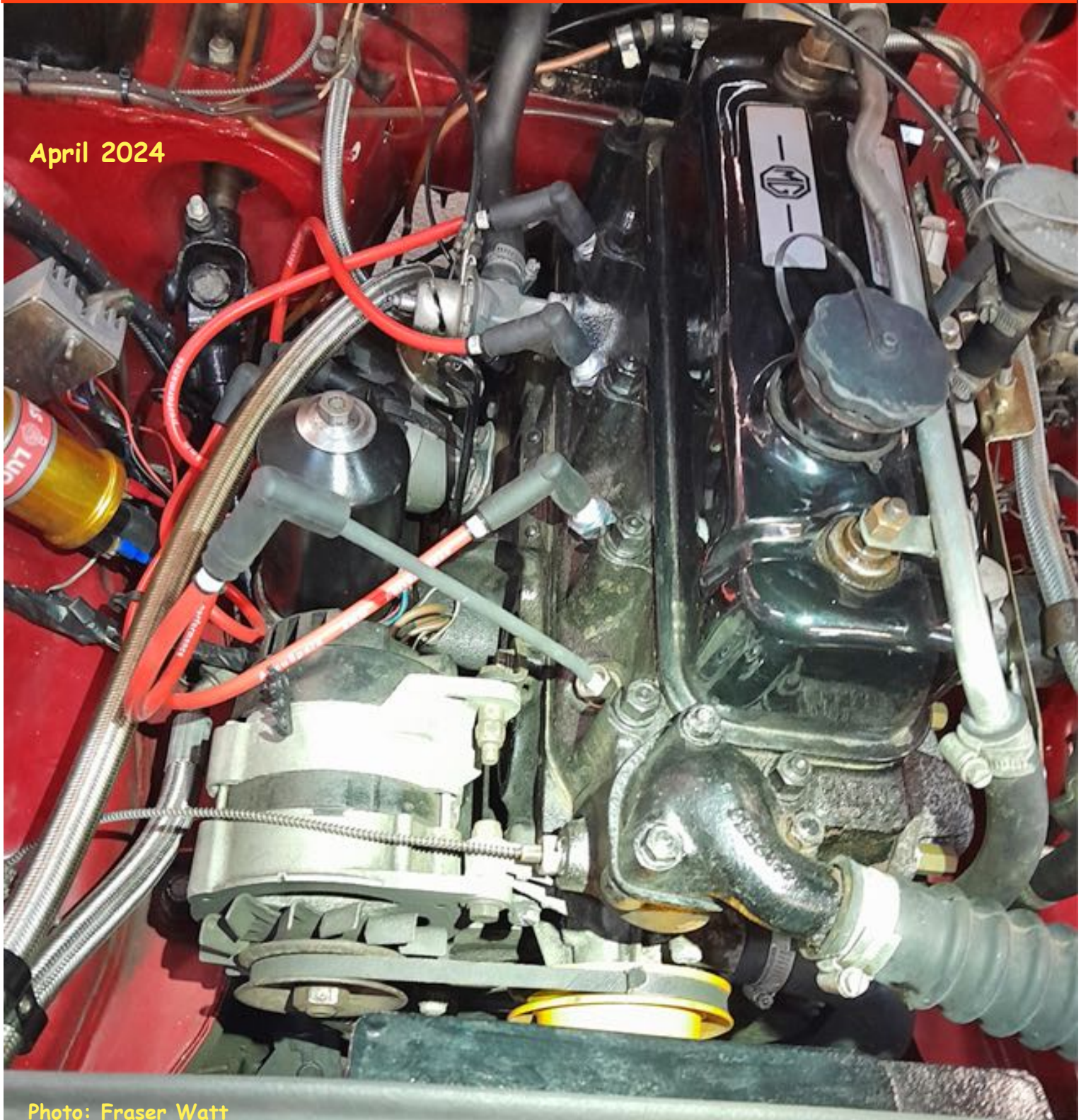


Photo: Fraser Watt

Technical Day - Steve's guide to basic MGB tuning

Credits: Helen, Clive, Emo, Andy, Fraser, Karen, Dave Mac

MEMBERS' CARS

New member Clive Long's very tidy MGB with mega amplifier in the boot!



INTERESTING CAR

Spotted by Fraser





Mrs Grumpy's Grumble

A wee grumble to encourage you to put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard! The newsletter is for you and about you, the members, and it would be lovely to have input from more of you. We do have regular contributors and I really do appreciate their efforts, but it would be even better to have more people involved - not only because it saves me writing the bulk of the newsletter, but also because it is always good to get a different slant on things.

We had the 'My First Car' running from before the pandemic and got amusing articles from Tony H, Hamish & Joan - plus photos from Andy and myself. It would be great if we got First Car/MG stories (either is acceptable) from other members.

Craig kicked off the idea of 'My Garage' during the pandemic with his article and we got three more from Allan, myself and Neil Mac. So, if you've got any stories or pics of your garage, please send them in - especially if you're the sort of person, like myself, who has event/rally plates stuck onto the wall!!

There are other regular pieces in the newsletter and it would be nice if you, the members, could send in some interesting photos. I know some of you are already good at doing that - but how about the rest of you??

So, pluck up your courage and send in some copy. It is also great when someone offers to write up an event - so again, please be brave and offer or say yes if I 'volunteer' you!! Also, feel free to suggest other things you might like to see in the newsletter.

INTERESTING CAR

Lotus Exige

STILL FOR SALE

See Website

1980 MGB Roadster Limited Edition:-
One of the last manufactured. Now Red, was originally Bronze Metallic. No expense spared on maintenance since purchase by me in 2006. MOT/Tax Free. Total Mileage 95,812. Ivor Searle recon engine fitted in 2008 at 80000 miles - only 15,000 miles since. Adapted to unleaded fuel. All bills since 2006 dated and items meticulously recorded. Various classic specialist garages used - Chic Doig/Euan Rutherford. £20000+ spent over the years.

Overdrive/Alloy wheels. Car totally in original spec. except stainless steel exhaust and paint colour. Bodywork and all panels renewed, so rust free. All MOTs/SORNs available. Any inspection of car is welcome. This is a well running car and in excellent condition.
£8,000 Contact Guy Booth at 0131 667 2340



ANDY'S RACING TALK

Andy gave us a fascinating talk on his racing career, the cars he drove and the prizes he won. If you weren't there you missed a good evening! Obviously I can't reproduce his talk but I've included some of his action pictures for your delectation. **Mrs Grumpy**





TECHNICAL DAY



So once again it is that time of year when a number of members of the ELBMG club gather to exchange knowledge on how to keep our cars running. The topic for this year was how to check your tuning was set correctly. Steve had kindly offered his car and to lead the day on doing the set up.

We all met up at Mrs Grumpy's (AKA Helen's) and having taken a modern tin box I opted to park round the corner and in front of one of Helen's lock ups. *(Ed: And he's such a good driver, I could open the lock-up without asking him to move the car)* The first order of the day was coffee while waiting on other people to arrive - young Matthew had come along with me and caused a problem by asking for a cup of tea! Dave Mac who was on tea duty *(Helen was on coffee duty)* had a problem finding the tea bags. So with hot drinks issued and other members having arrived we headed out to the garage. Helen pointed out that the club had bought the wraps and sweet treats - I could see Young Matthew thinking if they don't get eaten, they could be my lunch next week! *(Ed: They all got eaten!)*



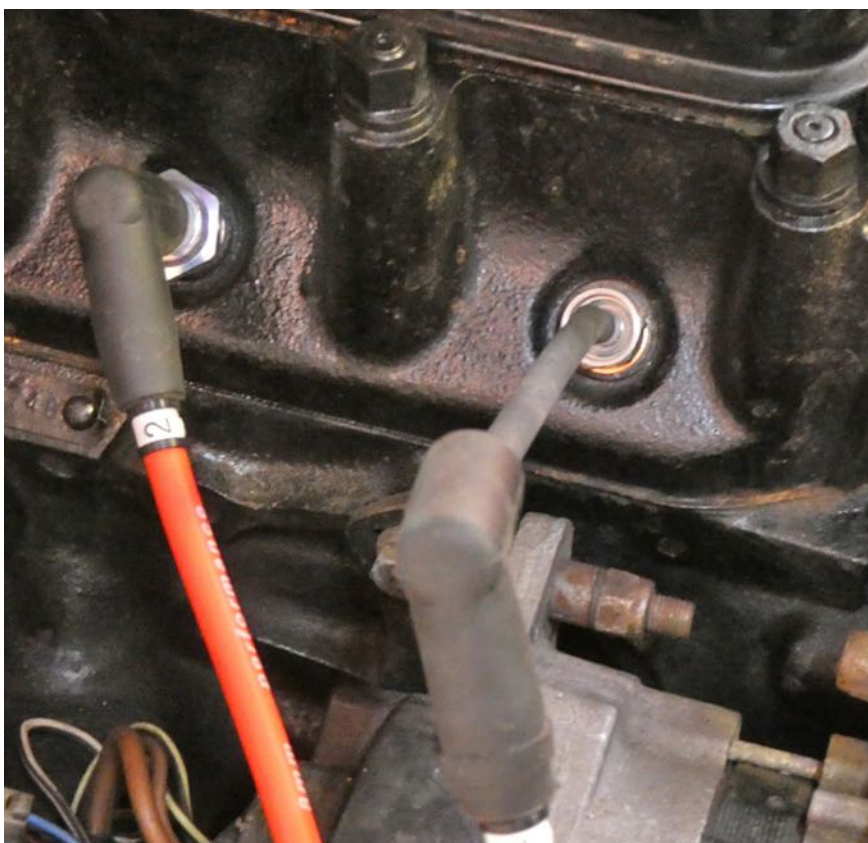
Steve's car was all ready and first off was to remove the spark plugs and while the plugs were out, he turned the engine to allow No. 1 piston to be at top dead centre and ensure the marks could be clearly seen to check the timing. Then new plugs were checked for gaps and fitted.

Fraser arrived at this point and when he tried to blame the bus I have to say I stopped him and said he should have got the bus before! (being an ex bus driver I know how hard their job is, so sorry Fraser - you have a choice as to which bus to get, however the driver can't do anything about traffic)

Steve then checked the timing using a strobe gun and adjusted the dwell angle by making adjustments to the distributor until he got a setting he and the car were happy with.

After the timing had been checked, he moved to adjusting the mixture on the carburettors and checking that they balance with each other by using a flow gauge - this can take a bit of fiddling to get everything just right. Then he checked it with a colortune plug.

Dave Mac noticed that Steve was missing a carb. return spring and Helen donated one from her 'spares' shelf.



I have to say I found the day very interesting as I had been starting to look at getting the carbs set up on my Midget as it comes out of a very long resto project. While driving in Abbey Hill, I was shocked to see the 'Car Turning Clinic' had shut down. Having never done setting carburettors before, I had no idea where to start. I have to say now I think I can manage this, so will be having a go myself to see how I get on.

Ed: I believe that the son who was remapping and chipping cars was getting undercut and with the LEZ coming into force, they decided to cut their losses - a bit of a shame as they've been tuning my cars since 1983.



So to finish, thanks to Helen for letting us hold the event in her garage and supplying coffee. *(Ed: It's a pleasure to have you all, but making the space can be interesting - see next article.*

Thanks to Steve for doing the demo on his car.

Thanks to the ELBMG club for the food which was all finished - so no luck Matthew, you will just have to buy stuff for your lunch.

Thank you to the other members who turned up to support the event because with you this won't happen. [Emo aka James Wilson](#)



Ed: And to finish, some photos - including new member Neil Sharpe's smart MGB taking pride of place in front of the Min.



THE TRIALS & TRIBULATIONS OF ARRANGING A TECH DAY

Organising an event isn't just the ability to herd cats - it's dealing with the curve balls that these things can throw at you. We had planned to have the Tech Day visiting Investor Classics at Pathhead and Allan was tasked with contacting the guy at Investor Classics - not for the faint hearted! When Allan did get hold of him, the chap wanted us to come as part of the open days for Rosemains Steading - which were April, June or September. June clashed with the Gathering, can't remember what was wrong with April, but we settled on September - so we will be visiting Investor Classics later on in the year.

Plan B was to have a Tech Day in my double garage and Steve stepped up to the mark and offered to do a tutorial in basic MGB tuning. This of course meant clearing out my double garage for Steve's MGB and all you keen participants. I normally put the Boris the black 'B in the Charterhall lock-up, the Wee Besom into the now vacated Roslin lock-up (so I don't have to drive her to Charterhall Grove in the rain) and the Min can sit in my driveway (and get wet or not depending on the weather) as it's Sorned and not going anywhere.

First snag was Boris had failed to start for the Coffee & Classics and was dead in the Roslin lock-up. Duly traipsed out to the lock-up after C&C to find the problem - all four plugs soaking in petrol, so I had comprehensively flooded them. Dried & cleaned the plugs and got him going and put him into the double garage and moved the Wee Madam into the Roslin lock-up. (What she's called depends on how difficult she's been - starting and running happily gets her elevated to 'Madam') The plan was to move Boris on the Thursday when Dave Mac could follow in the MG3 with a bumper I wanted out of the way and bring me home. Of course it was one of those very wet days, but we did the move anyway.

On Sunday, I bussed it into Cameron Toll and walked to the Charterhall lock-up, carrying a plug spanner and a light - I was taking no chances. Tried to start Boris and failed. Thinking it would be damp I picked up the can of WD40 - but Dave had emptied it onto the lock-up hinges!! However, the distributor cap etc. looked dry (I wiped it with a tissue just to be sure) so I removed the plugs - first two bone dry, last two sopping with petrol. Hmmm. Give the front carb a couple of dunts and try again - same result. Feeling a tad cheesed off, I get a 24 to Cameron Toll (didn't fancy hoofing it both ways) and get on a packed 37 for Roslin. Bah Humbug.

Having checked how long the plugs have been in the car (2016 - although in my defence, they've only done 9000 miles) I decided that fitting the new plugs that were sitting on my shelf would be a smart move. However, there was still the problem of two dry plugs and two wet, which suggested carburation. So, I arranged for Dave Mac to come with me in the MG3 in case he was needed - and I could bring the battery pack in case I'd flattened the battery.

I duly fitted the new plugs get into the car and he starts first go!! Running a bit rough, so there may still be a carburation problem - but Dave tweaked the carbs a bit and old Boris got home nae bother at a'.

So, that's the delights of Might Go Bangers - they sulk when exiled to the Charterhall lock-up! But, perhaps the threat of Dave Mac stripping down his carbs scared him into starting after his new plugs. Either that or he just likes a fuss being made of him - I've always said Boris slow, but kind and forgiving and loves attention. Unlike the V8 - she's fast, hates to be touched and would kill you in an instant!!

Mrs Grumpy



Gathering of the Clans

June 22nd / 23rd 2024



The Aberdeen MG Owners' Club are delighted to host the 2024 Gathering of the Clans which will be held over the weekend of June 22nd and 23rd 2024

Open to all Scottish and visiting MG Owners, the main Gathering will be held on Saturday 22nd at the Grampian Transport Museum, Montgarrie Rd, Alford AB33 8AE.

Attractions include parade laps on the purpose built circuit, trade stands, catering and free entry to the Museum for entrants.



Dinner in a local Hotel is planned for Saturday evening and on Sunday morning, there will be a leisurely road run to the fabulous Balmoral Castle where entrants will be able to drive through the main gates and park in front of the Castle for a once in a lifetime photo opportunity.

Whilst at the Castle, they can visit the café, gift shop and undertake the audio tour of the grounds and the parts of the Castle which are open to the Public.

Further details can be found on the Aberdeen MGOC website – www.aberdeenmgoc.co.uk



Arrangements for the 2024 Gathering of the Clans are now well advanced and so I thought I should send you all an update to outline what is planned; sorry it's a bit long! The main thing to note is that there are a number of entry fee combinations depending on what you want to do over the weekend (see below)

Details of the event:

The dates of the 2024 Gathering of the Clans have been agreed as the weekend of Saturday June 22nd and Sunday June 23rd, hosted by the Aberdeen MG Owners' Club.

The venue for the main Gathering on the Saturday is the Grampian Transport Museum (GTM), Montgarrie Rd, Alford AB33 8AE. <https://www.gtm.org.uk/>

Saturday 22nd

We will lay out the infield by Club on the Friday so if any of you are here on the Friday, you are welcome to pop in and say hello (and help!). I am not sure what time we will be there yet, but I'll let you know.

There is a purpose-built oval circuit at GTM and if there is sufficient interest, we can run some slow speed parade laps around the circuit so that people can see the cars in motion. Anyone wishing to take part in the parade laps must contact their insurers to confirm that their insurance covers them for this activity.

There will be trade stands and catering on site, there are also a couple of places to eat in Alford village which is a very short walk from the Museum.

GTM are charging their blanket charitable donation fee for entry to the Gathering which is **£10 per car**; this is the same charge for every event they hold but **does not** include entry to the Museum - this is aimed at GTM members or people who have already visited the Museum. However, we have also negotiated a rate of **£20 per car** for entry to the grounds for the event and this also includes entry to the Transport Museum and Traveller's Rest café for 2 people.

Even if you have been before, a large percentage of the exhibits are changed every year so there will plenty of new things to see. The standard Museum entry fee for 2024 is £13, so this represents a significant saving. People electing to go for the Museum entry option will be given a wrist band for entry.

Note that cars can be left in the secure Museum grounds overnight Friday and Saturday if required - some of our members will be staying on site in their Motor Homes for added security. Please let me know if you wish to do this so we know many cars will be on site.

Saturday evening

On Saturday evening we have booked the restaurant at the Forbes Arms Hotel for dinner. The restaurant will seat around 65 / 70 people and we will probably have a set menu, but this, and the cost, is still to be decided depending on numbers. <https://www.theforbesarmshotel.com/>

Please advise as soon as possible if you would like to join the dinner as places are limited and are filling fast!

Sunday 23rd

On Sunday morning, we will re-convene at GTM at around 10:00 / 10:30 for a short scenic road run through the Aberdeenshire countryside to Balmoral Castle.

Two routes have been devised - Route 1 is around 30 miles and is predominantly on main roads for the older / slower cars, whereas Route 2 is around 40 miles and, being more uphill / down dale, is aimed at the more modern MGs. Note also that some roads on Route 2 are single track with passing places. I will circulate both routes in advance so that people can decide which one they want to do.

On arrival at Balmoral, cars will drive through the main gates and will be marshalled to park in front of the Castle - note that this facility is not normally available to the public. The entry fee to Balmoral will include an audio tour of the parts of the Castle which are open to the public as well as the gardens, exhibitions etc. People can also visit the café, gift shop etc.

Unfortunately, the costs at Balmoral have gone up significantly since I last investigated this. Initially, they wanted to charge £50 per car. Ouch! We said that this would probably be prohibitive as many people would just want to park in front of the Castle for a photo opportunity, possibly visit the café and then head off - I suspect that some will not wish to do the audio tour? In the end, they have agreed to charge their standard tour fee of **£17.50 per person** which includes the audio tour - despite trying, there is no further leeway on the price.

If people don't wish to pay this, they can do the road run and then head straight home or go into Ballater for lunch; alternatively, they can park in the public car park in Crathie (if there's space in June!) and walk into the Castle grounds free of charge - they will be able to visit the café etc., but not park in front of the castle. Last time I checked, the public car park in Crathie was £5. Again, we will issue wrist bands for those wishing to drive into the Castle and undertake the tour.

There are some conditions at Balmoral, most notably the requirement for a drip mat / tray. This was the original e-mail I received from them (disregard the £50!).

“For a charge of £50 per car we can arrange for your cars to come through the main gates to park in front of the Castle where you can get the all-important photographs. This would also include admission to the grounds, gardens and exhibitions for all the guests in the car and saves on the parking charge applied in the general admission car parks. If this would be of interest to your group, please let us know as soon as possible so we can make arrangements.

The visit would not be private as we are open to the public at this time. If you decide to go ahead we have certain rules for car groups:-

- 5 mph when travelling in the grounds.
- Cars must carry drip mats
- A fire extinguisher to be available
- Cars must be insured for any damage they may cause while on Balmoral land.

In 2024 the grounds, gardens, exhibitions, gift shop and coffee shop will be open to the Public daily from 23rd March until early August (dates to be confirmed). Opening times are from 10.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m., however, please note that the last recommended admission is at 4.00 p.m.

We recommend that you set aside at least one and a half hours for your visit to Balmoral, this will give you time to visit the grounds, gardens, exhibitions, gift shop and the coffee shop. There are entrances to the exhibitions which do not involve steps and if required we can also provide Battricars and wheelchairs - these are available from the Mews Gift Shop where the audio handsets can be collected.

You can also enjoy the audio handset tour of the grounds, gardens and exhibitions - this tour lasts approximately one hour and is available in English with Dutch, French, German, Italian and Spanish as additional options. The handset can be collected at the admissions desk on arrival and should then be handed in to the Mews Gift Shop at the end of your visit.”

After Balmoral, people with long journeys ahead of them can depart whenever they like, or just down the road from Balmoral is the Royal Lochnagar Distillery which you can visit if you have time, they charge £25 per person for a tour. Let me know if there is any interest in this as we may need to pre-book?

Note that the entry fees listed on the entry form are those imposed by the 2 venues, Aberdeen MGOC is not charging anything for organising the event and will not be making any money from it.

Rally Plate

Finally (for now!), I am planning to produce a souvenir rally plate of the event - the 1st draft is attached - but following the recent (and rapid!) change of the MG Franchise from Gillanders (with whom we had an event sponsorship deal) to Peter Vardy and then to Arnold Clark, we are trying to negotiate a new sponsorship arrangement to pay for these. The cost of each plate will be in the region of £5, so if we don't manage to secure a sponsor, please can you indicate whether people would like one (or two!) and are willing to pay £5 each so that we can decide whether to go ahead and determine how many we will need. They will be printed on durable plastic so would be nice to hang in the garage!

If you want to go to the GOTC, let Allan know and he will send you an entry form.

2024



Gathering of the Clans

MY GARAGE pt 2

Hopefully to encourage the rest of you!



Area Secretary

Steve Hastwell
07770 161675
steve.hastwell@blueyonder.co.uk

Membership Secretary

Andrew McGill
0131 445 2025
andrewmcgill@blueyonder.co.uk

Treasurer

Allan Digance
0131 667 8587
allan.digance@blueyonder.co.uk

Newsletter Editor

Helen Kirkness
0131 440 2462
mrsgrumpy@icloud.com

Webmaster

David Turner
0131 441 1468
dm.turner270@gmail.com

Martin Fraser

07774 857058
martinfraser51@icloud.com

Peter Woodham

prwoodham@gmail.com

Fraser Watt

07980 614940
frasergbwatt@gmail.com

Please feel free to contact the committee if you have any queries.

Monthly meetings have resumed at the rugby club, second Thursday 7.30 for 8pm

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All provisional

<i>April 11</i>	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	<i>June 22/23</i>	<i>Weekend Away to the Gathering of the Clans, Grampian Motor Museum, Alford. Please make your own way there and book your own accommodation depending on how many nights you wish to stay</i>
<i>April 21</i>	<i>Drive It Day Run to Chatelherault Country Park. Start 10am at the National Mining Museum, Lady Victoria Colliery, Newtongrange, EH22 4QN Please contact Helen</i>	<i>July 11</i>	<i>Monthly meeting</i>
<i>May 9</i>	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	<i>July 14</i>	<i>SVVC Glamis Castle Show with Tayside MGOC.</i>
<i>May 12</i>	<i>Stirling Show, Bridge of Allan. Please contact Steve before April 5th</i>	<i>July 20</i>	<i>RNLI Day at Dunbar. Please contact Martin</i>
<i>May tbc</i>	<i>Scenic Run to East Neuk of Fife. Please contact Allan</i>	<i>July 21</i>	<i>BBQ at Digance Towers</i>
<i>June 2</i>	<i>Thirlestane Castle Show Please contact Steve before April 14th</i>	<i>August tbc</i>	<i>Scenic Run</i>
<i>June 13</i>	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	<i>August 8</i>	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>
		<i>August 25</i>	<i>Ladybank Show</i>