



# Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders MG CLUB



May 2024

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Photo:  
Karen Niven

A wet, enjoyable and eventful Drive It Day run to the Clyde Valley & Chatelherault

Credits: Helen, Tim, Steve, Donald, Peter, Tony H, Dave Mac, Fraser, Karen

## MEMBERS' CARS

Tim Prime's rather lovely MGA coupe



## INTERESTING CAR

Another from Haynes Motor Museum,  
spotted by Tony H





## Mrs Grumpy's Grumble

Since Peter had done such neat Tulip Diagrams on his Last Run of the Season, I decided I'd need to upgrade my rather scruffy/squint ones that I'd done way back when - on the old AppleWorks if memory serves me right..

I'd also been asked to find out the commercial source of Tulips that were on a BVAC run - which I duly did and passed onto the committee. Peter looked it up and found out the cost etc. and informed me it used Excel - which is even worse than Word in my league of least favourite software!

Peter kindly sent me his page of neat Tulips that he had done for the October run using Excel and Powerpoint. So, I was faced with either upgrading my tulips or wrestling with Excel - I suddenly felt myself losing the will to live!

However, there is superbly good news -

1. I could actually open Peter's Powerpoint - not always a given especially if the document is from Allan.
2. I could copy and paste a Tulip diagram onto the Pages software that I use.
3. I could then "ungroup" the Tulip and alter it to match whatever junction I needed.
4. So, I don't need to argue with Excel or Powerpoint - Life Is Good!! I seem to remember Powerpoint wasn't too bad to use, but since I haven't used it since 2005, I can't remember what to do!

Now, if I was asked what gender I thought I was (as apart from happily being a Biological woman) I might possibly say I self identify as male due to the fact I tend not to read instruction manuals. This was the case with the new Bosch induction hob and double oven. OK, I had to read up how to set the clock on the double oven - but an induction hob? How difficult can that be? Not at all, as I've been using it for over a year without the need to recourse to the instructions.

Until yesterday, when I went to put on my soup and couldn't. Just got a wee red light next to an obscure symbol. Eventually had to dig out the instruction manual and the wee red light is the childproof lock. Which of course, I have no idea how to put on - so how did it get switched on? Suspicion immediately lands on the cats, who take great delight in leaving greasy paw prints over the hob's gleaming black surface. So, one of them must have managed to press the right button for the requisite number of seconds to activate the child lock - they're obviously smarter than me!!

## INTERESTING CAR

1959 Gaz M13 Chaika with 5522cc V8 engine. A luxury car available only to Russian Government officials and KGB - but the proles could hire them for weddings!

## MEMBERSHIP

### WINDSCREEN STICKERS

Now available FOC - contact Steve or collect at the next event

## FOR SALE

1976 Midget 1500 unfinished project.

It was taken off the road a few years ago to deal with rust and so now has the following new panels:

- Both rear wings,
- inner & outer sills on LHS,
- outer sill on RHS
- Spring hangers
- Floor panels
- Rear panel

All of the major welding has been done, we believe it to be solid now.

While doing this it has now been fully de-bumpered. Plan was no bumper up front & chrome corner bumpers at the rear.

The car was originally red but is currently a mixture of reds and primer!

The engine starts & runs fine but the clutch hydraulics are dead. Master cylinder has since been refurbished but it needs a new slave. Brakes feel fine.

Although it was part stripped for the work everything is present to do the rebuild.

Also, if either of you are looking for any spare parts we've amassed a fair stock over the years and really need to get shot of it all!

Happy to answer any questions.

Contact Craig Robertson at

[ch.robertson@gmail.com](mailto:ch.robertson@gmail.com)

# DRIVE IT DAY RUN

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April, ELBMG Club 2024 Drive-It Day run through the Clyde Valley started from Newtongrange Mining Museum with the destination being Chatelherault Country Park near Hamilton.

We had 11 cars signed up but Ron, Neil S, Andrew and Andy had to call off - although Andy came to the start in his Magnette with his son and wife to see us off and take a video of the MGs leaving. So there were 7 cars (12 people plus 1 Scottie) in total taking the run:

Peter Woodham/Fraser Watt, MGB GT

Keith Chinnery, MGB Roadster

Bill and Karen Niven, MGB Roadster

Tony and Caroline Holmes plus Hector, MGB Roadster

Jim and Marjorie Tierney, MG ZS

Helen Kirkness/Dave McAnena, MG3 (Squeezing into the V8 wasn't good for Dave's new knee!)

Steve Hastwell, MGB Roadster



The weather was forecasting slight drizzle supposed to improving in the west, but that was not the case on the day. Despite this, 3 of the Roadsters were brave (foolish) enough to venture forth with hoods down. This worked out well for the first half of the run but got a little brutal by the time we arrived at Chatelherault - never mind that is the joy of open-top motoring in Scotland.

Helen had planned an interesting route through the Clyde valley with a pit stop at the Errington Barn (formerly the Big Red Barn on the A702). As this was just 20 miles away this made a perfect stop for coffee break. The route skirted Penicuik and passed through West Linton before arriving at the Errington Barn having avoided numerous potholes on the way. Some cars managed to run a few extra miles due to slight excursions off the planned route, but all arrived safely and looking forward to a well deserved coffee.

On arrival at Errington the main car park was occupied by the Pre '67 Ford Owners club so the late-comer MGs were relegated to the overflow car park, soon to be joined by the Rover Owners club and later a couple of Beetles turned up - so there were a lot of interesting cars to see.



Needless to say the café was a little overwhelmed by this influx of car clubs - however the staff battled through with a smile, so a big thank you to the staff (who were two down) for all their efforts. Everyone got fed and watered in due course and we adjourned to the wee howff, which was lovely and warm. Caroline was tempted to buy some bedding plants, not sure how the plants, herself, Tony & Hector all got into an MGB with the hood up!





Heading off towards the Clyde Valley took us through Elsrickle, Carnwath and Carstairs with some interesting corners and took us over the new metal bridge at Douglas Water. Definitely some roads that few of us had ventured on before and some spectacular views and scenery.

The weather had turned quite nasty on the final run into Chatelherault and unbeknown to the leading group Bill and Karen had suffered a puncture, but managed to nurse the car into the car park where the wheel change was effected once a suitable jack had been found.

Lunch in the Oak Café with sandwiches/baked potatoes and hot drinks were most welcome.

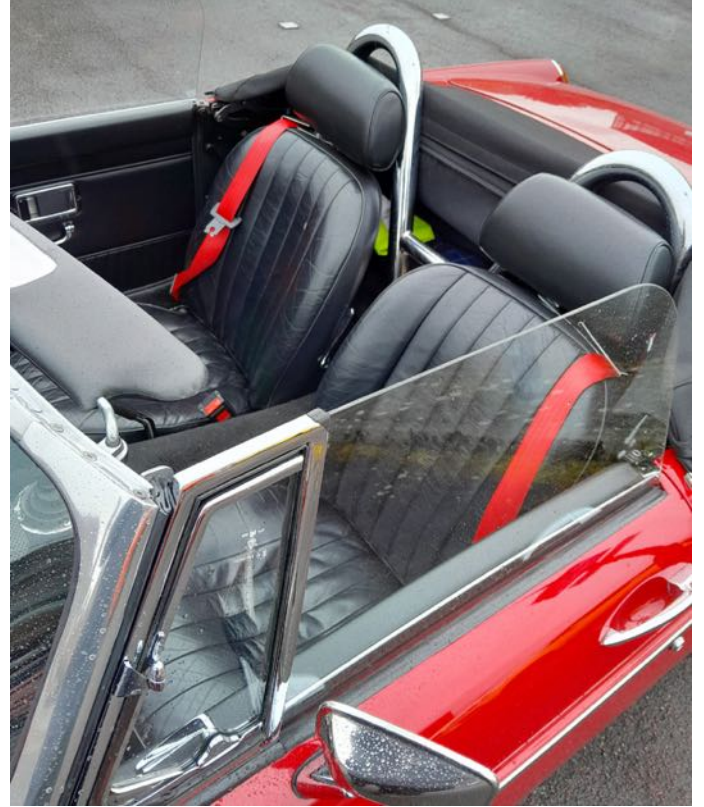
Afterward some of us had a quick wander around the on-site market stalls which were mostly getting ready to pack away as we arrived. Fraser managed to stock up on brownies at least.

There were several options for the return journey via the M8 or the A71 or by following the route back to the A702. I took the M8 to open up the engine and clear the plugs which got me back home in good time. Jim & Marjorie took the scenic run back to the A702 and Helen/Dave Mac opted for the A71, with a cuppa and admire-the-Midget stop at Craig & June's.

Overall this was an excellent run with some interesting and challenging roads which most of us were unfamiliar with. I'd certainly like to revisit this route with the hood down on a warm summer day for sure. Still very much a great day out and a welcome opportunity to stretch the legs on the cars as well as meet up with everyone and chat over coffees.

Look forward to the next one. [Steve Hastwell](#)

*Ed: Some photos to finish and thanks to Dave & Fraser for supplying some of the pics.*



## MY GARAGE

*Ed: This should keep the bikers amongst you happy!*



A couple of pictures from my garage, they were all basket cases that I have restored - a '69 Barracuda, a '63 Triumph Bonneville and a '54 BSA C11G.

I sold those bikes and a Moto Guzzi 250 and a Honda 175 - both restored by me. I sold them all to buy my MGA. My better half wanted me off motorbikes and suggested I do a car instead.



But I cannot find the will power to sell my Harley. The 1944 Matchless in the background is an original army dispatch bike. I got it running, but the brakes of that era were terrible - so I sold it.





But I missed the sound of a Brit single. so I bought a more modern one, a 1960 Matchless 350 with a bigger front brake. I can now go down the Hawes Brae and be able to stop at the bottom - with some shoe leather left!!



On the last club run my MGA broke a front spring - it turns out they were MGB springs and the rear were MGB GT springs. So, a busy winter in the garage replacing all the springs back to factory spec. The car is back running now, roll on the summer.

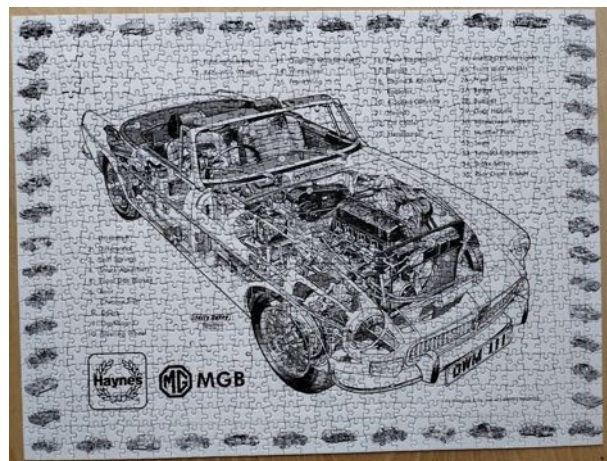
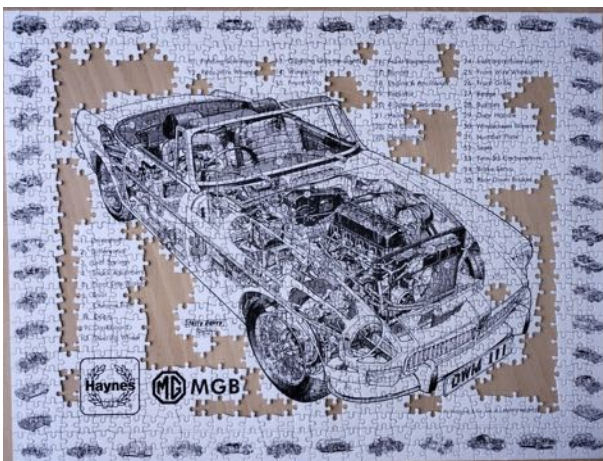
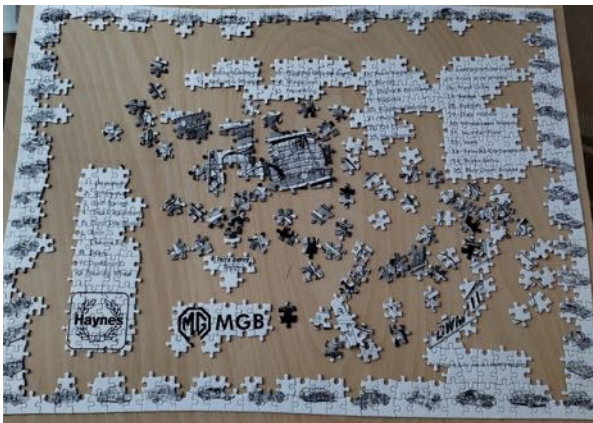
[Donald Rosie](#)

*Ed: Donald has added a modern MG to keep his MGA company - an HS Excite, 62 years younger!*



# CAN YOU TELL WHAT IT IS YET?

Peter was given a fiendish jigsaw Christmas present by his son-in-law and it seems to have kept him occupied for some time. Anyway, he's documented his progress and I've bagged it next!



## INTERESTING SNIPPET

Emo was sent pic from the Classic & Restoration show last month. Zooming in revealed an ELBMG club member and friend.



## CAPTION COMPETITION

How about a suitable caption for this Happy Chappy after the raffle?  
(They weren't both his!)  
Answers as ever to Mrs Grumpy.

# EDINBURGH MG CLUB

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

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

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All provisional

- |                   |  |                      |  |
|-------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| <b>May 9</b>      | <b><i>SGM re constitution.</i></b>   | <b>July 11</b>       | <b><i>Monthly meeting</i></b>  |
| <b>May 12</b>     | <b><i>Stirling Show, Bridge of Allan. Passes will be handed out at May's meeting. Please be on site by 9am. If you can't make the meeting, Steve will meet you at Stirling Services at 8.45am.</i></b> | <b>July 14</b>       | <b><i>SVVC Glamis Castle Show with Tayside MGOC.</i></b>                       |
|                   |  | <b>July 20</b>       | <b><i>RNLI Day at Dunbar. Please contact Martin</i></b>                        |
|                   |  | <b>July 21</b>       | <b><i>BBQ &amp; raffle at Digance Towers</i></b>                               |
| <b>May 26</b>     | <b><i>Scenic Run to East Neuk of Fife. Please contact Allan. Start 10am at Dunfermline Dobbies.</i></b>  | <b>August tbc</b>    | <b><i>Scenic Run</i></b>   |
|                   |  | <b>August 8</b>      | <b><i>Monthly Meeting</i></b>  |
|                   |  | <b>August 25</b>     | <b><i>Ladybank Show</i></b>  |
| <b>June 2</b>     | <b><i>Thirlestane Castle Show</i></b>  | <b>September 12</b>  | <b><i>Monthly Meeting</i></b>  |
| <b>June 13</b>    | <b><i>Monthly Meeting</i></b>  | <b>September 14</b>  | <b><i>Investor Classics visit and Rosemain Steading open day, Pathhead</i></b> |
| <b>June 22/23</b> | <b><i>Weekend Away to the Gathering of the Clans, Grampian Motor Museum, Alford. Allan will keep you updated.</i></b>  | <b>September tbc</b> | <b><i>Gymkhana</i></b>   |