



# Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders MG CLUB

[www.MG-Edinburgh.co.uk](http://www.MG-Edinburgh.co.uk)



January  
2025



Festive Fun at the Christmas Dinner

Credits: Helen, Stuart K, Emo, Matthew, Tony H

## **MEMBERSHIP SUBS ARE DUE - PLEASE CONTACT ANDREW**

It is £15 per household including children up to 18. You can pay by cash, cheque or bank transfer. The details are: Edinburgh MG Club, 80-22-60, 14185469.

## **ELBMG CLUB AGM**

This will be held on February 13th at Boroughmuir Rugby Club at 7.30pm. If members have any suggestions or items they want discussed, then please submit them to Steve 14 days before the meeting.

## **AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS THEM**

Set of 4 Rostyle wheels, in good condition, with tyres and trim rings - please contact John Lawson at 07540 617745 or [johnlawson.scot@gmail.com](mailto:johnlawson.scot@gmail.com)



Bootlid for an MGB Roadster, reasonable condition  
- FREE! See Mrs Grumpy



## MEMBERS' CARS

New member Stuart Kerr's rb MGB GT which had spent 15 years off the road



## INTERESTING CAR

Another spotted by Tony H



INTERESTING CAR 1958 Ford Edsell Citation

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

An absolutely vile night (thanks to storm Darragh) saw ELBMG members assembling at the Steading for the Christmas Dinner, although Neil & Margaret Douglas couldn't make it due to having a tummy bug. Joan and myself hatched a plan that Dave Mac and myself would pick her up, with Dave Mac driving my car. This meant we could have a wee swally since Dave couldn't drink as he had to drive to Peebles. I was quite glad he was driving as the rain was bucketing doon, the roads were flooded and there were many dipsticks driving so close it was worrying. Anyway, we got there safely and got home OK - but it wasn't a night for the faint hearted and full marks to everyone who made it to the Steading.



As you can see from the photo, Martin had given everyone a festive selection box (many thanks Martin, I enjoyed mine!) and there were some seriously good raffle prizes, as you can see from the pics at the end.

As usual, you could have two or three courses - I'd opted for two as I knew the portions were generous and was quite glad I had. The young staff were attentive and got the food out quickly and without any muddles - Allan had been sensible and given everyone place names with what they had ordered written on them. Therefore it was a good reminder to the members about what they had ordered and the staff could spot what was going where.

There were several suitably Christmassy outfits with Craig stealing the show in his famous red suit and Xmas socks. Neil Mac gets an honourable mention with his Santa sweater!



After the grub, it was onto the raffle and thanks to Martin for getting the excellent prizes and to Fraser for collecting the money - it was a fiver a ticket and you could only buy one or two. New member Anna Kerr was the first ticket pulled and settled for a large box of Ferrero Rocher and then it was onto the serious booze prizes - see photos at the end. If your pic isn't there, it means it was a bad one - and I never print really bad photos.

I've added photos of the rest of the tables and thanks to Dave Mac for the photo with me in it. Finally, some of the lucky prize winners at the seriously good raffle. There were lots of excellent prizes, mostly chocs or booze!!

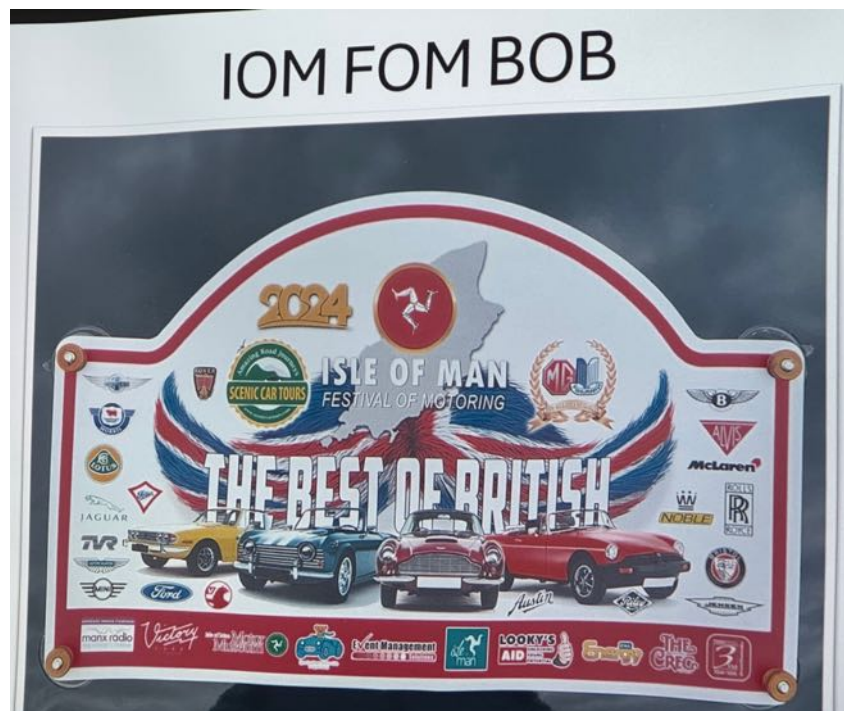




## CRAIG'S TALK ON IOM FESTIVAL of MOTORING

Craig, with IT back-up from June, gave a superb talk on the Isle of Man 'Best of British' Festival of Motoring. James 'Emo' Wilson & Eddie in Emo's Midget Smevil (that was finally running!) Lindsay in his TD and Craig & June in their MGB were numbers 1, 2 & 3 in the event!

It was quite an event with runs up the Sloc and over the TT course, plus Gala Dinners, rides on electric trams to the Victory Cafe and all the cars (350) parked up on the promenade. All of that plus glorious weather, made me want to do it next year. However, the theme is 'Convertibles' - which means the Wee Madam, so perhaps not! **Mrs Grumpy**



## GRIN & BEARING IT!

So, the stories from Smevil just have to keep coming. After working on the front wheels and then getting the tyre changed, I took the car for a run round the block to start getting some miles under the belt before the big Isle of Man Trip. Started well and off I went - got to the first corner and got an awful noise when I turned left. I should state for the record I had only gone about 150 yards. During the trip round the block I decided it could be a wheel bearing as although I had fitted new ones, car has stood still for a while. Last time I bought the tapered bearings, but wasn't happy with how it all went together. Back to the house, put the car away and go and order some parts. With the Isle of Man trip coming up fast, I decided to order all that I may need so bearings, pins, nuts, the lot times 2 - I even paid for fast delivery.

The order was sent out on the Wednesday on a 24 Hr delivery, so rushed home from work on the Thursday and nothing, no delivery from TNT. Friday morning and I find a quiet 5 minutes at work to call the supplier and give them what for while asking for my delivery charge back. During the call they said the package had just been delivered to the house. So once again on the Friday, get a flyer away from work and get home to find the box on the drive way. Took the box in and as no Mrs Wilson in the house (she was at work!) I checked the contents of the delivery. I had ordered for both sides of the car and the first bearing box only had 1 Bearing in it - on checking the second box I find 2 bearings. It was a good thing I was on my own as the air went very blue very quickly and for a few minutes.

Onto the phone, call the supplier again and this time give them what for. The poor bloke on the other end found out which bearing I need, then found his part number, then said "Oh all the deliveries have left for the day!" That was the wrong thing to say to me. I think my answer was "Well get down to the Sodding Post Office and stick stamps on the package!"

As if by magic TNT hadn't been in and it would be sent out via them, just remember paragraph 2 of this. So, on Saturday morning I changed the bearings on the passenger side of the car and cleaned Mrs Wilson's shoes up after she walked through the garage to get something from the freezer when I said not to and stood on a bit of grease.

During the day on Monday, Mrs Wilson texted me to say a package had arrived from MOSS so it must be the missing bearing. After dinner I headed out to the garage and started taking the driver's side apart to replace the bearing. Now the bearing on the passenger's side looked alright but I had changed it as I don't want to take any risks. The driver's side was a different story - I did use a puller on the hub, but think I could have pulled it off just with my hands. Once the hub was off, the bearing went all over the garage floor. So I think it was this side making the noise.



New bearings fitted, hub re-assembled on the car and tightened up - job done. Go back inside and award myself with a beer.

So what is next??? Who knows but it is Smevil after all.

**Emo (aka James Wilson)**





## **BUCKET LISTS - CHANCES OF A LIFETIME**

'Drive the Nürburgring. European road trip in a Porsche 911 GT 3RS. Go to Goodwood.' Just to name a few things on my bucket list. When doing what my generation does best, and Googling 'a bucket list' the results stated: 'A bucket list is a list of the experiences or achievements that a person hopes to have or accomplish during their lifetime'. When I read this, I thought about some experiences and achievements. I've been lucky enough to do - drive/fight Boris the black 'B in a gymkhana or two, pass my car driving test in exactly 4 months (family record), or get my HGV class 2 licence. But one that I never really thought about much 'til recently, was building a car with my Dad. Getting the opportunity to help put what he called his 3D jigsaw back together was interesting shall we say. I learnt so much more than I can explain with Dad's project car.

When he/we started this wild project in 2018, I remember looking at all the parts saying 'what's this?' and 'what's that?' Dad would explain - 'that's the kingpin' or 'that's the window mechanism'. When we went to CBC Autobody, Chris and his team would show us the car as it was being prepared to get sprayed. Chris would answer our questions and explain the preparation process. Collecting the body shell that shimmered in the light and taking it home a week before the first of many lockdowns was just the beginning.

Understanding the mechanics of a car while putting it back together, piece by piece, was eye opening. Learning how suspension works as we assemble it into the car - occasionally remembering to make Mum a coffee mid-afternoon as she'd be working from home as we worked on the car (sorry Mum, I know we only made about 1 out of 20). Having the car sit on its own 4 wheels and putting the engine in as I wriggled under the car to attach the gearbox plate to the car, were two great achievements. As well as trying to get the car started, into gear, and ready for The Isle of Man.

That nerve-wracking morning, just waiting for the text saying they had made it, and scrolling through all the social media channels involved in the trip to see if I could see them. Then the text came in. They were at the port. The feeling of relief that came over me as I knew Dad worked hard to get the car ready so he could go away with it, then the pride set in as I remembered I'd help build that car and it was all worth it. When I think about bucket lists and dreams, building a car with my Dad wasn't something I'd thought of. However, looking back at the experience, I loved doing it and would say it should have been top of the list.

The memories of having a beer with Dad discussing the car, the postman being so interested in it to the point that he would get Dad into trouble, the cheer from the neighbours as he took me round the block, and the smile on my face as it drove off down the street one Sunday when he and Mum came to visit. To go back to the meaning of this whole thing, 'A bucket list is a list of the experiences or achievements that a person hopes to have or accomplish during their lifetime'. Well we definitely had some experiences and we definitely achieved something Dad.

If I'm lucky enough to have a child/children in future (not that any are planned or due any time soon), then building a car with them would definitely be on my bucket list. Some people will hear the stories of Smevil and her challenges and say why didn't you just buy a new car or pay someone to do it, but in the words of Frank Sinatra; 'I did it my way'. You certainly did Dad, thank you for taking me on this mad journey with you. Go and put the kettle on, think it's your turn to make Mum a coffee.

**Young Matthew (Emo's son)**

Photos on next page:

From top left to right:

1. Wriggling under the car.
2. Being caught working on the car when mum was due a coffee.
3. Building the front suspension
4. Mum and Dad driving off from the flat.



# FOR SALE

## 1974 MGB Roadster WSX728M

Owned since 1981. The MGB was run daily until 1991 when it was taken off the road as the clutch had begun to slip. It was turned over for a few years subsequently but for many years since the engine has not been turned over. The car has been stored in a dry garage integral to our house and on axle stands .

### Bodywork

- The car had been resprayed at some stage but will need repainting.
- The front steel offside wing was replaced at some stage by a fibreglass wing.
- Nearside front wing is original and in reasonably condition with some evidence of rust.
- Rear wings are sound, but there is a little rust around part of the wheel arch and the lower rear wing close to the chrome bumper.
- The outer sills were replaced.
- The remaining bodywork is sound.

### Suspension .

The rear lever type shock absorbers have been replaced with the standard telescopic units . The front suspension is original - ( there are new coil spring units as part of a box of spares )

### Other components

- a rollover bar is fitted.
- soft top was replaced and is in good condition
- petrol tank was replaced with a new steel Unit .
- Exhaust unit was partially replaced by a stainless steel box

### Misc

- the car comes with a box of assorted spares including the original steering wheel
- The removable hard top has been little used and will be priced separately

Price £1750. Contact Jim Galbreath Linlithgow at 07799 627626 or [jim@everypicture.scot](mailto:jim@everypicture.scot)



