



Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders MG CLUB

www.MG-Edinburgh.co.uk

NOVEMBER 2025

Photo:
Andrew
McGill

Last Run of the Season to St Abbs

Credits: Helen, Craig, Andrew, John, Dawn, Dave Mac, Emo

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Craig Fotheringham.

Occupation: Retired Orthotist, now West Lothian Estate owner (large garden) and part time farmer.

MGs and current state of repair:

1972 Blaze RWA Midget; currently residing in my parents' garage, awaiting as yet, an uncertain future.

1972 Aqua RWA Midget; being rebuilt with Rover K-series engine.

1972 Harvest Gold MGB Roadster; re-shelled 19 years ago and used as and when.

What is your normal car? June's Seat Leon.



How did you get into MGs? I was looking to change from my first car, the ubiquitous Mini, and went to look at a Fiat X/19 but didn't buy it. As a 'B was out my price range, I looked at MG Midgets and committed the cardinal sin of buying the first car I saw (in the dark!) and then joining the club. There followed a few years of happy motoring, including an engine re-build as it drank oil quicker than petrol. Then a front end re-build, after an argument with a telegraph pole at Doune classic, before the inevitable tin took its toll and I parked it in my parents' garage.

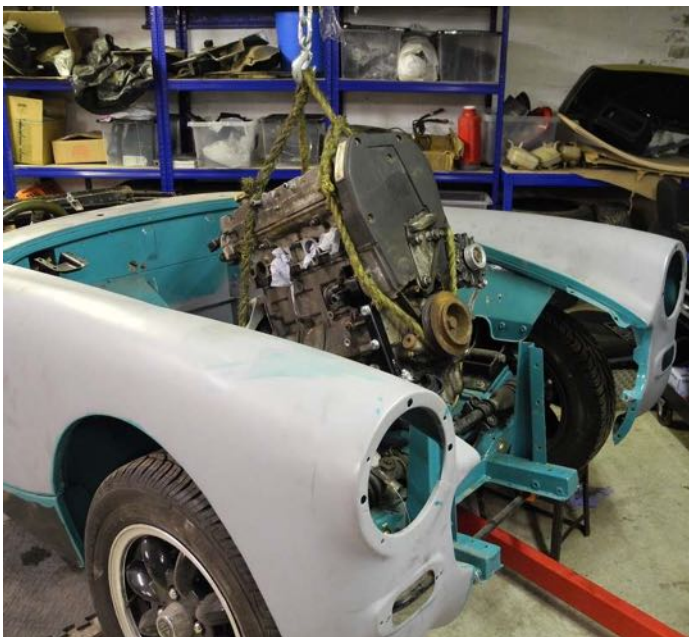
Over the next few years, I continued to come along to the club and eventually I was able to look for another car. This time I took along some club members and after looking at about 4 cars, I decided on MYH, which I bought from a farmer in Duns. Fortuitously, Helen kindly offered to rent one of her garages to me, so I was able to keep the car in a dry and secure location. However once again the dreaded tin worm took its toll and I had to put the car off the road.

Meanwhile, in the intervening years, I had moved out of Edinburgh to West Lothian and managed to get a house with a triple garage!! As I now had the space, the decision was taken to re-shell the 'B and so a new BMH shell was purchased, painted in its original colour of Harvest Gold and so began the re-shell. I hadn't set a deadline as I felt this would rush the project. However, after 13 or so years progress was slow and the 'B was still not finished. So, when the chance came to go to Italy in 2016, that proved to be the impetus I needed. Some of the improvements I made included electronic ignition, SS exhaust and K/N air filters and all finished off with a stunning set of 'M' sport alloy wheels. The car was finally completed approx. 2 weeks before we were due to set off. Thankfully, the trip went without a hitch, and we enjoyed a European tour which included the Stelvio Pass and Lake Como. (Photo below)

Now that the 'B was finished, and I was due for retirement, I started looking for my next project. With my first Midget still languishing at my parents' house I began to look for some inspiration. In 2017 Eddie and I went to the SPA Classic, and it was there I came across a K-series powered Midget and so the decision was made. A few months later, a suitable Midget appeared on a well-known auction site.



It came with a T9 5-speed box, Frontline front suspension and alloys - currently adorning Emo's Midget. It was my intention to use this as a donor, but it was too good, so I decided to use this for the conversion. I sold the engine and with the funds bought a scrap MGF and relieved it of its engine. I recouped some costs by selling the alloys, hardtop, wind deflector and fog lights before it went to the scrapyard.



Since then, I have divided my time between events and rebuilding the Midget. As to the one in my parents' garage? Only time will tell.....

How many miles did you do in your MG over the last 12 months? Not sure as the speedo drive in the overdrive is worn and the mileometer is to say the least - erratic!

Who are you insured with? Lancaster but always open to change.

Who does your repairs? Generally anything mechanical I do myself as I'm self-taught but having access to the interweb and the club has proved invaluable.

Favourite run? Anytime I can drive the car with the roof down is good, whether that was commuting to work, going shopping or just out for the day. One of my favourites, is driving the car at night, even on motorways.

LAST RUN OF THE SEASON TO ST ABBS

Many thanks to Peter for organising this, producing a professional route book and for including lots of comfort breaks! We had 12 cars on the day, which was amazing considering the rather unkind weather at the start. John posted on FB that there 'won't be many taps off the day' - but there was Paul in his MGA who did the whole run with no hood and Clive & Penny dropped their hood at St Abbs after the weather improved.



At the dreich start we had Peter & Fraser GT, Ian & Chris ZS180, Stuart & Anna GT, Keith MGB, Andrew & Susan Midget, John TF, Paul MGA, Steve MGB, Clive & Penny MGB, Richard & Dawn MGB, myself & Dave Mac MG3 and last bit not least Tony, Caroline & Hector MGB



We set off through Musselburgh in the rain, but there were some areas where the cloud was breaking up and the rain eased off for our run through East Lothian to the Drift Cafe just past North Berwick.

However, the rain came back on with a vengeance as we parked up at a very busy Drift Cafe - it seemed most of East Lothian was there for Brunch!! BTW their carrot cake was delicious. There was a spectacular view of the Bass rock and it would be gorgeous on a sunny day as there was seating outside. However, on this day, we all tried to squeeze inside to avoid the wet and get some heat, while others retired to the warmth of their car for their caffeine hit.

As we set off for our scenic route through Innerwick, Oldhamstock and Reston, the rain stopped and we had a dry run to St Abbs. These were good driving roads (perfect for MGBs) with beautiful autumnal scenery and we were on roads I've never been on - which is incredible after 40 years of doing MG outings!



At St Abbs, we queued for a parking ticket and then could discuss which engines were correct for each car, walk along the sea wall, have another coffee and scone at the Ebbcarrs Cafe or have a snooze in your car - the one I opted for as I'd had an upset tum the day before and was a bit peaky.

St Abbs was lovely, but Boy Was It Baltic - although thankfully dry. Some did brave a walk while others took shelter in their car after the obligatory photos had been taken.

I've included various shots taken during our visit to St Abbs and thanks to Andrew, Dave and Dawn for some of the photos.





The plan was for us to leave together and head for the Pine Marten cafe in Dunbar for a late lunch. We lost John and Keith at this point as they had other commitments and the rest of us tried to line up to leave together - but we couldn't wait in the car park without getting in the way of other visitors trying to park, so I set off with a convoy behind me.

Again it was a scenic run with lovely views towards Torness and Pease Bay - going over the very narrow Pease Bridge which was the tallest in the world when it was built. A short blast on the A1 and we were at our late lunch stop where there was ample parking. We had two tables to ourselves and the service was quick & friendly. The food was 'Pub Grub' with the added bonus of a Sunday Roast option and was good and plentiful.

As ever, I finish with members enjoying themselves - well, choosing their lunch in anticipation of enjoying themselves!

Thanks again to Peter for an excellent run, all the members for their good company and to those who contributed photos. **Mrs Grumpy**



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

November 12

Coffee & Classics at
Mortonhall Garden
Centre

November 13

Film & Curry Night
Film starts at 7pm,
Curry at 8.30. It's
£11 a head - if
possible, please pay
the club by bank
transfer before
November 6th - bank
details on previous
page. If you don't do
internet banking,
please e-mail Steve to
confirm that you're
coming.

December 5

Christmas Dinner &
Raffle at the Hunters
Tryst. £23.99 for 3
courses, 6.30 for 7pm
£5 deposit required
and please give
Martin your menu
choices ASAP - Xmas
menu on Hunters Tryst
website.

December 11

Monthly Meeting &
slide show

January 8

Meeting & Quiz Night

January 18

Carvery Lunch at
Laureston Castle
Carvery. 12 noon.
Please let Martin know
if you'd like to come