



Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders MG CLUB

www.MG-Edinburgh.co.uk



JANUARY 2026

Festive Fun and Award Presentations at the Christmas Dinner

Credits: Helen, Clive, John H, Craig

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Clive Long

Occupation: Retired Pharmacologist (Pharmaceutical Companies)

MG and current state of repair: I currently have a 1965 MGB roadster, which is my second of the marque. I acquired my first MG when living near Philadelphia for a couple of years in the mid '80s. Unfortunately, I was remiss with the pre-purchase inspection and soon discovered, amongst other issues, that the odd pieces of plywood under the carpets were to disguise the absence of the floor pans which had rusted away. In addition, the conversion to meet US emissions standards rendered the car virtually unstartable in the typical -20°C



On retiring and wanting a proper car again, I bought my current MGB roadster in late 2023 from an elderly chap in Essex who was finding the lack of power steering too much for him. The car had been entirely rebuilt by the previous owner in 2008, and was essentially sound. I flew down to see it, and did a proper inspection, bought it and drove it up to Edinburgh that day.

conditions of Pennsylvanian winters - even after spraying ether into the carbs. In the warm summers however, it was the perfect car with the roof down for trips to Washington and the Chesapeake. Despite the mechanical issues, it was a great car and the local kids loved clambering over a 'real English sports car'.



One or two niggles became apparent on the drive home. The offside windscreen washer nozzle was loose, resulting in an increasingly wet leg whenever it rained. I also discovered - at speed and in the blackness of night on the Northumberland moors - that the foot switch for full beam didn't work, and simply turned off the dipped beam! These issues were easily resolved in the workshop. Since owning the car, I've also upgraded the heater core and the fan to a 2 speed version, replaced the front springs and the rear springs (to parabolics - highly recommended) and installing Koni dampers. I also replaced the front discs and calipers. The car is an absolute delight to drive. It always starts straightaway, is comfortable, reliable and (now) warm even with the roof down. It handles well on smaller roads but will keep up easily with the traffic on its occasional motorway trips. I've also installed USB charging ports discretely to the sides of the speaker casing - ideal for keeping the phone topped up.

What is your normal car? Citroen Aircross C3

How many miles did you do in your MG over the last 12 months? 800

Who are you insured with? Lancaster

Who does your repairs? I use Norman Stuart Auto in Balcarres St, Morningside. Jim has been great with the car; he has good advice and is very knowledgeable. I like to do what I can within my skills; but ask Jim to do whatever is beyond me, assess for the MOT and make sure it's safe.

Favourite run? The Borders runs are top of my list and I have a few general routes that I like. I then tend to make variations spontaneously along back roads that appear interesting.

One route is to take the A702 out to West Linton, then left onto the Boggsbank Road to the A701, then a right towards Moffat. The Wee Crook café ([w3w ///scoots.duet.winters](http://www.scootsduet.winters.co.uk)) does nice light lunches and coffee, and has a large car park.

There is a wonderful curving road - also popular with motorcyclists - after the Devil's Beef Tub into Moffat. Then it's through Moffat and a left just after the Buccleugh Arms onto the A708. After passing Tibby Shiels Inn, take a left at the Gordon Arms up to Traquair and Innerleithen, and then the B709 through Colquhar to then ultimately join the A7 back to Edinburgh. It's quite a long run, about 110 miles, with magnificent scenery.



CHRISTMAS DINNER

A good festive time was had at the Christmas Dinner held at the Hunters Tryst this year. We had 25 souls in a semi private area which was laid out with the usual crackers and Cadbury's selection box from Martin. The staff were cheerful and managed to serve us all fairly promptly - although there were some mix-ups with orders meaning some didn't get what they had chosen. However, the food was plentiful and tasty - the only exception being the Sea Bass choice which was on the skimpy side - one member reported having only 21 peas!



A reasonable selection of Xmas attire was on show and everyone had scrubbed up well - I even got my photo taken! However, the prize has to go to Craig with the 'Snowman carrying him' outfit - see the title page.





After the food had been scoffed and the daft jokes read out, it was time for the raffle and auction. Steve auctioned off an MG T-shirt (snapped up by Fraser) and two nice pairs of MG cufflinks that had belonged to Brian (I don't think he ever wore them) which were bought bought by Maggie. A good selection of raffle prizes were next on the agenda - I did try to get a photo of everyone and if you're not in the newsletter or on the FB page then it was an 'orrible pic!



Steve then went on to name the award winners - no-one had completed a home resto, so the Brian Kirkness trophy wasn't awarded this year. The Harvey Cooke cup is presented to someone who has done a lot for the club and the vote was unanimous for Martin - see title page. The coveted Piston Broke is given to someone who has had the most mechanical misfortune in the previous year. The two contenders were the Gremlin infested V8s of Jim Fowlie and Chris Wheal. Chris Wheal just sneaked ahead - it was the 5 hour recovery time from the moors above Longformacus that netted him the award. Chris will be presented with the Piston Broke (appropriately a genuine broken V8 piston and the broken end of a camshaft) when he next dares to show his face at a club event!

Steve then told us that three long-standing members were given honorary memberships - Andy Baillie, Allan Digance and yours truly. Allan (being Area secretary after Brian) & myself (being on the committee for an embarrassing length of time) received an M&S voucher, chocs and flowers. I have to say I was completely taken aback by the ginormous bouquet that was presented to me - they look lovely in the lounge BTW. Linda snaffled Allan's chocs, leaving him with the flowers! Everyone had signed a Get Well card for Andy and Steve & myself will give it to him along with his M&S voucher and complementary club calendar.



As ever, I'll finish with photos of members enjoying themselves, thank Martin for organising it , Steve for doing the presentations and all the members for making it such an enjoyable evening.
Mrs Grumpy



VIDEO SHOW

Andrew showed us several videos he'd taken at ELBMG club events, plus an assortment of photos from the newsletter, showing members enjoying themselves. He'd also done a wee quiz to keep your attention focussed, but I was enjoying the videos so much I missed all the Santas!

Anyway, the top two equal scores were Jim Fowlie and Emo. So we had a draw using Craig's Santa Hat - Jim's name was the one pulled out and he received the prize of a rather nice box of chocs.

Many thanks to Andrew for putting it all together, with a great soundtrack - recommended by ChatGPT!



Finally, Chris was rash enough to come to an MG meeting and was presented with his well deserved Piston Broke Award. I believe his wife still refuses to go in the car!

Mrs Grumpy



NEW ORLEANS

Some photos of vehicles encountered on our trip to New Orleans. [Craig Fotheringham](#)





MEMBERSHIP SUBS ARE DUE - PLEASE CONTACT ANDREW

It is £15 per household including children up to 18. You can pay by cash, cheque or preferably by bank transfer. This is due by the end of February.

The club details are: Edinburgh MG Club, 80-22-60, 14185469.

MEMBERS' CARS

John Hyne's newly acquired red roadster - that is actually an LE and belonged to Guy Booth.
I have to say, he's got himself a good 'un!



MANY MOONS AGO 2

Spotted by Tony H in Cuba in 2019



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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

January 8 Meeting & Quiz Night

January 18 Carvery Lunch at Lauriston Castle Toby Carvery. 12 noon.

February 12 Meeting & AGM

February 22 Visit to Stewart Brewing, Loanhead. 16 places available 4.30-6.30pm. Please contact Allan

March 12 Monthly Meeting

March 14 Technical Day, visit to Classic Restorations, Alyth. 10am -12. Please contact Andrew

April 9 Monthly Meeting

April 26 Drive It Day

May 10 Stirling Classic Car Show

May 14 Monthly Meeting

May 16 Fisherrow Harbour Day

May 24 tbc Classics in the Park

June tbc Tayside Classic Car Show, Errol Airfield

June 11 Monthly Meeting

June tbc Joint Run with Glasgow MGOC

July 9 Monthly Meeting

July 11 Dunbar RNLI

July 12 Glamis Castle Show