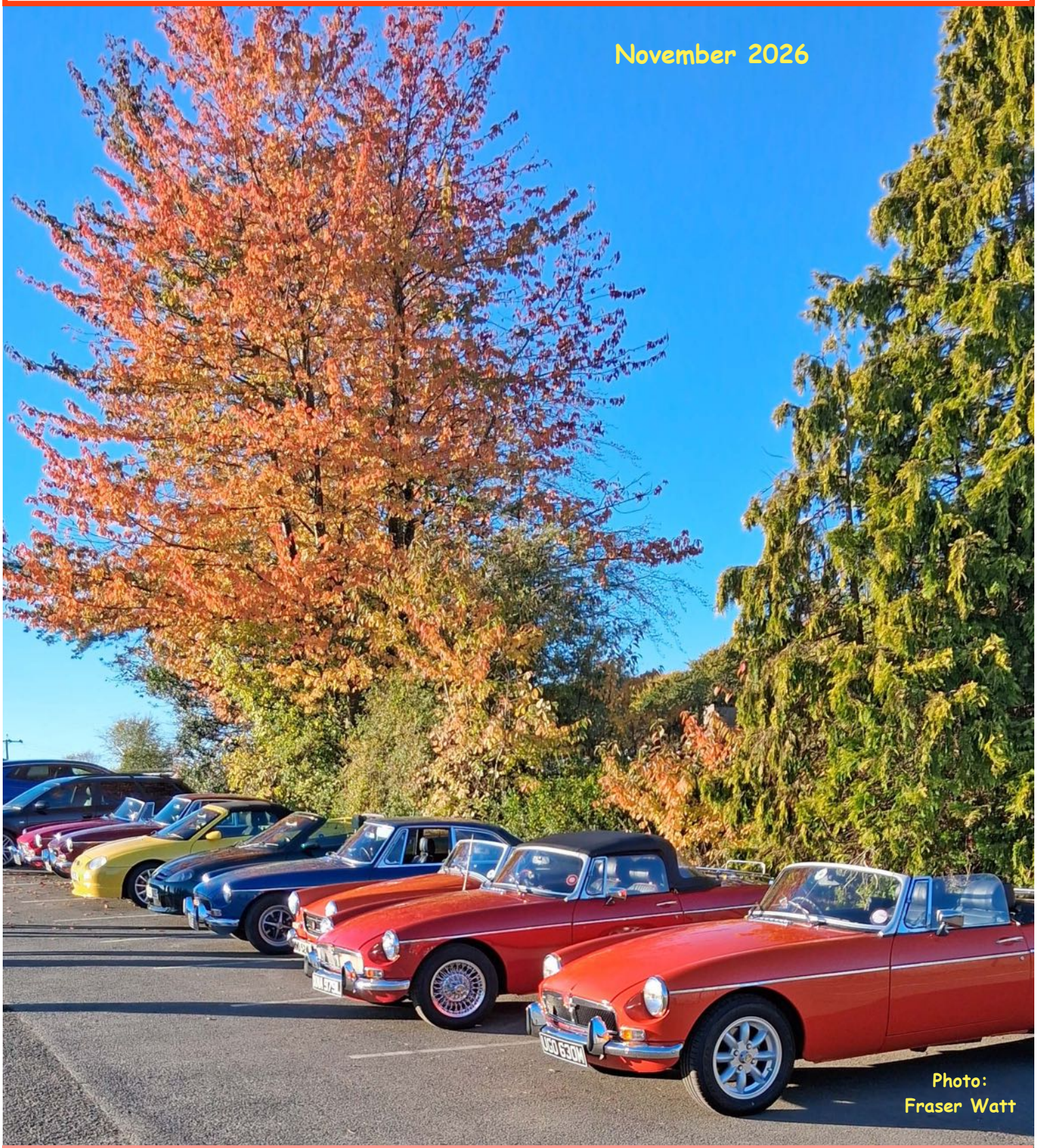
Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders MG CLUB

www.MG-Edinburgh.co.uk



The Last Run of the Season

Credits: Helen, Paul, Steve, Emo, Fraser, John,

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Paul and Jeanne Dean

Occupation: Retired University IT Director and Law Lecturer

MG and current state of repair: My MGA ownership started with EJM 130, a 1958 1500 mineral blue and red oxide coupe, which I bought for £100 in 1969. I bought it on finishing my Chemical Engineering degree at Birmingham which (I mention as this is the same degree that Peter Woodham of the club studied some years later, and also the recently deceased Scottish MGA owner Peter Long had studied several years earlier). This MGA was fairly rusty but we did drive it to Paris, the Alps and South of France in Summer 1970. For the next 3 years I drove around 30k miles a year in it for my work (on expenses!) and pleasure. In 1972 I scrapped it. Rust won!



We immediately bought our current MGA, WFD 316, that was then a Coupe, for £250. In the scorching Summer of 1976 on a camping weekend in Skye, Jeanne said to me 'Now you don't use the MGA for your work it would be nicer if it was a roadster'. Come winter I started to cut the roof off - but luckily I found an A roadster in the Sports Car Scrapyard at Newbridge. I bought it and carried the complete rear body home on the roof of Jeanne's Maxi!

A few weeks later I met a guy who had bought the front end of the same car although he only wanted the very front due to accident damage, so I bought the rest. Then started the major rebuild all done by myself, including vast amounts of welding. In 1979 it passed an MOT although it was well from finished. It was now driveable, although the rest of rebuild spanned many years but we had many evening drives. Interestingly a few years ago I saw an MGA at Chic Doig's Garage that he had actually cut the roof off for a customer.

After many years of the car being 'can sprayed' as I did various improvements the big change came in 2006 when our younger daughter, Alison, wanted me to drive her to her wedding. For this I decided to have it professionally sprayed which was the first job I hadn't done myself. Around 2012 I replaced the 1500cc engine with an 1800cc MGB 3 bearing engine which Cameron Gilmour rebuilt.

Now our daughters were grown up we did many longer and overnight runs including a Caledonian Centre's week to the Orkneys in 2017. Unfortunately, in Fort William on our way back from Orkney a Korean driving a hire car turned suddenly across my line resulting in £10k of damage. I was wholly exonerated from any blame by both my insurers and the police. This is when I met Keiran Boyle who did the superb front end rebuild and an excellent respray.

Since then, MGA Register weekends have taken us to Northern England, North Wales, and last summer to Derry in NI for MGA Seventieth 70 birthday weekend. The first photo on the next page shows the sandy coloured MGB had been driven from Australia (well Bangkok) all the way to John O'Groats on way to Orkney in 2016. Interestingly it was also in Derry last summer. The couple have also driven the length of Africa plus many other challenging runs. Next, is one is of me on front row for 2025 Knockhill circuit - the car on left of me is 1924 Deutz. Thirdly, a recent one of our MGA on the drive at home.





I also organise the annual Scottish MGA Day Run for the Register.

What is your normal car? Skoda Scala and VW Golf

How many miles did you do in your MG over last 12 months? In last year around 3000 miles although overall I have probably done over 200,000 mile in my MGAs over nearly 57 years.

Who are you insured with? I was insured for many years with Footman James, but last year I changed to the MGCC sponsored Peter James Insurance for a dramatically lower premium.

Who does your repairs? As above historically for my first 40 years or so I had done everything myself but now any major work is done by Keiran Boyle of Hillend Fife (07952 454972) for most work and Cameron Gilmour of Errol (01821 642618) for engine work. I still do all less complex work.

Favourite run? Locally a circuit up the hill road going north from Burntisland then round Loch Leven and back over Knockhill. For longer runs, there are several in the West - but a favourite in the East is over Cairn o' Mount from Fettercairn, and then West along Deeside and back south over Glenshee.



LAST RUN OF THE SEASON - FIFE & PERTHSHIRE TOUR

Well, the last run of the season didn't disappoint with a turnout of 12 MGs under a crisp and sunny October morning.

These club members gathered at Craigies Farm shop & deli:
Keith (MGB), Jim (MGB V8), Andrew G & Simon (Midget), Robin & Agnes (MGB), Ronnie & Caroline (MGF), Andrew M (Midget), John (MG TF), Donald (MGA), George (MGB), Chris (MGB GT V8), Peter & Fraser (MGB GT) and Steve (MGB).



At 10 a.m. a first group departed, others following at intervals to avoid bunching. With such glorious weather the roadsters opted to run with hoods down. Unfortunately, that decision looked a bit dubious, as once we crossed Queensferry Crossing we met a bank of freezing fog. Thankfully that was short-lived and turned to brilliant sunshine by the time we passed Knockhill Racing Circuit. Onwards motoring through Glen Devon was fabulous with tremendous views and great driving roads with little traffic, apart from an odd tractor.

After 47 miles we passed Gleneagles and drove into Crieff, where coffee and rolls beckoned. Stories of the run were shared, including alleged sightings of red deer and an abandoned Ferrari. It was soon time to embark on stage 2 of the run.



Sadly, we had the first (and only) casualty of the day, Chris's GT V8 developed gearbox problems. He was unable to select reverse or first gear. *(Ed: Possibly clutch?)* With only second gear working we pushed his car out of its parking spot, and he headed home. (Thankfully he made it back safely, hopefully not in second gear all the way)

The rest of the group continued, driving along General Wade's Old Military Road through the Sma' Glen. We were treated to tremendous views as we cruised between the Glen's towering hills. Later we got held up at a junction to cross a busy section of A9 dual carriageway. Fortunately, northbound traffic was almost stationary, while a helpful van driver travelling southbound spotted the conga line of MGs and thoughtfully stopped to let us cross.

Safely over the A9, we crossed Thomas Telford's bridge into Dunkeld. The route then turned east onto a road running alongside the River Tay. Finally, we rolled into Perth city centre to find suitable parking spaces. Soon after we re-grouped for lunch at two reserved tables in Perth's Salutation Hotel. The menu was full of good bar meal fare and service was excellent. Everyone enjoyed the lunch while chatting in a relaxed atmosphere.





Overall, it was an excellent day out with terrific driving roads, spectacular scenery and perfect weather. Congratulations to Peter for organising it all (also to Brian & Helen for allowing us to revive part of their 2016 route) and to John and Fraser for some of the photos.

Don't worry if you missed this run. There's going to be plenty more club runs & other events for you to enjoy in 2027. **Steve Hastwell**

FAMOUS ON FACEBOOK

A certain wee Midget was spotted twice by John Welsh and posted on Edinburgh Past and Present FB page.





2027 ELBMG CLUB CALENDAR IS NOW AVAILABLE

Get your order into Helen ASAP as we ran out last year! £10 to club funds.

FROM THE ARCHIVES 1990

EMO AND THE LAW

After reading about Helen's efforts with Boris, I thought I would hit the keyboard and let you know about my Brush With The Law.

Early one morning, while trying to get to work, I was driving down Lothian Road when I had to stop for a red light. Being a law abiding person, I stopped and waited for the lights to change. When they finally did, I set off slowly and just when I was going to change into second, there was a big bang from the car. My first thought was along the lines of 'Oh S***, my B**** clutch has gone!' After freewheeling to the kerb and trying every gear, the car wouldn't go anywhere.

I knew I needed help, so after locking the car, I ran round to my Dad's office. A short time later we were heading home to get a tow rope - I was holding up a meeting, but my car comes before business!

In the space of half an hour, I GOT A PARKING TICKET. I mean, who in their right mind would park a car on Lothian Road at 8 in the morning and leave it?

Once we were home, my Dad set off to resume his day and I copped an earful from She Who Must Be Obeyed (Mum) who thought I must have done something wrong.

That night I wrote a polite letter to Head Traffic Warden saying that I had broken down and not parked may car. The fool that I am, I sent in my parking ticket as well and this is where the fun starts.

Ten days later, I was still waiting for a reply from the law about the parking ticket. If you think about this, I now had two days left to pay the thing. So a kind phone call to the nice Traffic Warden people. The result of this was, it you send back a ticket, they freeze it and give you ten days to pay it from when they post it back to you. The ticket did come back with a letter saying 'We do not believe you son, so you still have to pay.'

Not standing for this, I wrote another letter and this time enclosed a photocopy of the receipt for a new half shaft. This time the letter said the ticket had been cancelled.

The next day, another letter arrived saying if I didn't pay my parking fine, court action would begin. *(Ed: Things haven't changed in 35 years!)*

So, another phone call to the Head Honcho of Traffic Wardens to explain the problem. I was told to forget about it - and I haven't heard anything for 6 months! **James (Emo) Wilson**

RAFFLE REQUEST

Raffle prizes are always needed - please pass on any wine, chocs, unwanted gifts or car stuff that would be suitable for the raffle. Pass onto Martin or bring into the meeting.
Many thanks to those who've donated already.

FOR SALE

1951 MG TD; Good solid car which has had a lot of money spent on it in the last year. Selling because buying new car. For more details please contact Ian Shaw at 07802 884764 or shaw475@btinternet.com





MWS WIRE WHEELS FOR MGB FOR SALE

MWS wheels are I understand a very good quality brand and we have the following in size 14inch x 4.5J

3 wheels are brand new, never been fitted, original grease in splines etc in perfect order, even have protective wax, original labels, stickers etc
nb 2 of there are fitted with brand new Firestone F560 radial tyres 165 R 14 which have never done any mileage, still have stickers, in perfect condition, but I am not certain of age, but look very good.

the 4th wheel has been used, but is in excellent order, with a small degree of corrosion showing on the inner face of a couple of nipples / spokes etc
nb there is a part used Bridgestone SF381 tyre fitted on this wheel, but I would only use this as a spare as a spare.

the 5th wheel is again used and has some corrosion inner face but perfectly useable as the spare - no tyre fitted

The MWS brand are currently retailing at over £350 per wheel and we would consider an offer of say £650 for the lot - and i would deliver personally FOC to say a radius of 100 miles of Edinburgh

Anybody interested could also view at our house in Crook of Devon about 25 minutes from the Forth Crossing

Do not hesitate to call with any queries

JOHN HOUGHTON
Mobile 0759 421 8257



INTERESTING CAR

Spotted in Canada by Steve.



CHRISTMAS DINNER

This year we are trying a new venue - the Bruntsfield Hotel where we can enjoy a three course dinner for £30 - which includes a glass of Prosecco to start and a mince pie/coffee to finish. Before October 31st, please let Keith or Steve know if you'd like to come. We need to pre-order and Steve has sent out the menu and can you please pay the £30 ASAP. It's 7 for 7.30.



EDINBURGH MG CLUB

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
07931 263024
mrsgrrumpy@icloud.com

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

www.mg-edinburgh.co.uk

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

Martin Fraser
07774 857058
martinfraser51@icloud.com

Peter Woodham
07784220253
prwoodham@gmail.com

Fraser Watt
07980 614940
frasergbwatt@gmail.com

Keith Chinnery
07359 226830
keithrchinnery@gmail.com

Monthly meetings at the rugby cub, second Thursday of the month, 7.30 for 8pm

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All provisional

November 11	*Coffee & Classics, Mortonhall*
November 12	*Film & Curry night. Starts at 7pm to give you time to eat your curry and watch the film! £10 a head.*
December 4	*Christmas Dinner & Raffle at the Bruntsfield Hotel 7 for 7.30 - contact Keith or Steve*
December 10	*Monthly Meeting*
January 14	Monthly Meeting & Quiz
January 31	Carvery Lunch at Lauriston Farm, 12pm
February 11	Meeting & AGM

INTERESTING CAR

According to Google it's a Ford Thunderbird, but no idea where the Swordfish comes from as Google gets stuck on the TVR Tuscan that's been in some film of the same name!