

Southampton & New Forest MGOC

Newsletter



February 2021



Branch 1009

Issue No. 275

Website: www.1009mg.org.uk

Events Calendar 2021

Month	Date(s)	Event	1009
January	6	Club Night – Zoom	✓
	20	Mid Monthly Meeting/AGM - Zoom - TBC	✓
May	16	Solent MGOC – Mg's in the Park	
June	6	New Forest Run (Provisional – TBC)	✓
	27	MG Midget 60 th Anniversary Celebration, Macclesfield, Cheshire	

Please check the calendar on the Website for latest updates

Happy New Year to you all!

Editors Notes:



Despite the continuing issues resulting from Covid 19 I thought it might lift spirits by showing some daffodils the “*Harbingers of Spring*” on our front page.

I don't know about you, but daffodils to me signal the onset of Spring, which I am sure we all are looking forward to after we have literally battled our way through a third lockdown in the longest of all months – January.

I am grateful to Derek Baker for his interesting article relating to his racing experiences back in the 1980's along with a write up from MG Enthusiast Magazine April/May 1988.

This incorporates memories with photographs of driving in the past and includes a recent picture of Derek with his wife Gill in the Lake District last year.

It was super to see so many of our members who attended the AGM via Zoom on Wednesday 20th January, however, I was sad to hear that Linda will be relinquishing her role as club treasurer. She has undertaken this role for so many years and we thank her for her efforts on our behalf. Thank you Linda from all the members of MGOC1009. Anyone wishing to take up this role contact Fiona please.

Please, rummage through the loft and scan or take pics and forward any old photographs of yourselves with a description of when and where the photos were taken as these will help all of us, especially the newer members, to put names to faces.

The photos do not necessarily have to be of MG's although preferable, if you have pictures of you with your Reliant Robin in the 70's or Singer Gazelle in the 60's we would love to see them.

There is another crossword this month and I have decided to include the puzzle solution as I am sure that you don't need to wait a month for the answers, so this month the January and February solutions are on the back page.

I would like to thank Robin for his concise description of the location of the train carrying MG Midgets in Southampton (January's Newsletter). Most enlightening, I wish I could remember where my barber shop was!

Finally, let's hope that the Covid situation improves as the year progresses and that we get to meet again at Club Nights, Mid Monthly's and Drive Days. Fingers crossed!

Eric



Secretary's Scribbles

February – still in lockdown; getting fed up now however, the Zoom meetings have been a fantastic way in which to keep in touch with each other. The AGM via Zoom was a first and I thought went rather well. Thank you to all who attended. As Eric mentions, it was extremely sad for us all to learn that, for personal reasons, Linda Taylor is going to step down as Treasurer after 25 years. Her work for the club has been really appreciated and over the next few weeks Linda will be getting all documents and accounts ready to handover. That leads me nicely into saying that we are now looking out for a new Treasurer, so if you feel you can fill this role, please get in touch with myself secretary@1009mg.org.uk

Also another couple of key messages from the AGM were the Annual Membership Fee to be cut to 50% for this next year. Membership year is from 1st May 30th April. You will shortly receive details of the new club bank account to enable you to pay by BACS. Also there were some really good ideas for some lockdown events involving our cars – more details to follow.



Look Ahead

- ❖ Wednesday 3rd February Club Night via Zoom
- ❖ Wednesday 17th February Mid Monthly via Zoom – just an idea but would anyone like to do a short 20- or 30-minute talk on Zoom for the Mid Monthly. Subject: any topic you like, perhaps previous road trip or something like that. You could share your screen and show some photos too. Please let me know if you are interested in doing this.
- ❖ I will be looking at holding another New Forest Run Meeting – will put a date in the calendar for a catch up on progress and the way forward. At present we proposed to go ahead and advertise the event as normal for Sunday 6th June 2021. The entry system will be different as we will encourage interest by completing the normal entry form however, we will not take payment until we are certain what the Government Guidelines will be for an event of this size next year. Please take a look at www.1009mg.org.uk/new-forest-run-2021/ - this is the advert going into Enjoying MG and I will be updating the Webpage this week.



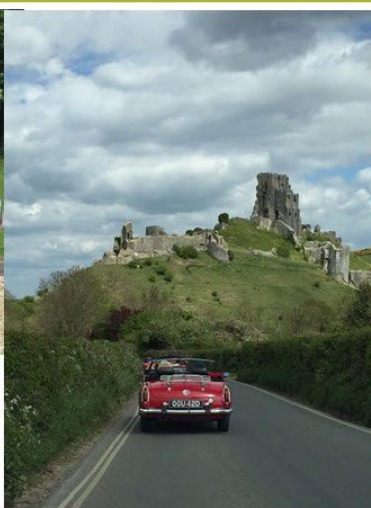
Please don't forget to keep in touch with each other and stay safe.

Fiona

www.1009mg.org.uk



New banner photo and front page this month – one of our Drive It Days, when we could get out and about. Please continue to send in your lockdown photos and I will make sure they are posted on the front page next month.



MEMBERS MEMORIES

Derek Baker has been a member of The Southampton and New Forest MG Owners Club for over 30 years and I am sure that he and Gill are familiar to most of you. He has kindly sent the following article from the April/May 1988 MG Enthusiast Magazine for us to enjoy.

Derek got involved with racing MGA's in the 1980's and was known as the "A Team". The article in MG Enthusiast includes photographs of the track testing undertaken by the magazine with following text.

Derek drove the MGA down to Sarthe in France for the 24 hour Le Mans races 3 years running, with camping gear on board. He states that it was "Great fun in those days with no weather equipment, just sheepskin jacket, leather helmet and goggles - plus no speeding fines!"





The Racing Years.

Article from the MG Enthusiast Magazine April/May 1988.

“1982 MGA racing champion Derek Baker who, with partner Richard Hutton, runs the very much MG-orientated BHB Engineering sports car servicing, maintaining and race preparation business - started racing after his friend, Ian Work, suggested he raced his completely standard road going MGA 1600 Roadster back in 1981.

Third in class at Donnington, first in class at the Goodwood sprint and a second place at the MGCC Silverstone Weekend led to his 1981 Best Novice presentation by the Car Club's MGA Register.

Seeing how much Derek had enjoyed himself, not surprisingly, his friend decided to obtain his own competition licence for the coming season, leaving Derek without a car - which is where the featured MGA comes in.

Bought for spares during the summer of 1981 the 1957 MGA 1500 Coupe was eaten away with rust, having stood unused for several years. It needed a complete ground up restoration and this was begun during the following winter. The objective was to prepare the car, as cheaply as possible, for the early - April season start.

After a running-in drive to the Lake District, Derek drove his brush painted- orange 'A' to second in class at Donnington. The original drum brakes needed a little sorting but the car that was driven to work and back every day, got quicker and quicker with a new lap record and second in class at Castle Coombe, and then a first place at Brands Hatch. Eight more first's followed and with two second and three new lap records, Derek was overall 1982 MGA Champion.

During the following seasons the car was gradually modified and is now one of the quickest racing MGA's around, boasting a top speed of around 130 mph - not bad for a 30 year old MG!"



Derek's car after finishing racing – with the “slicks” removed.



Derek's Garage with his car in centre.

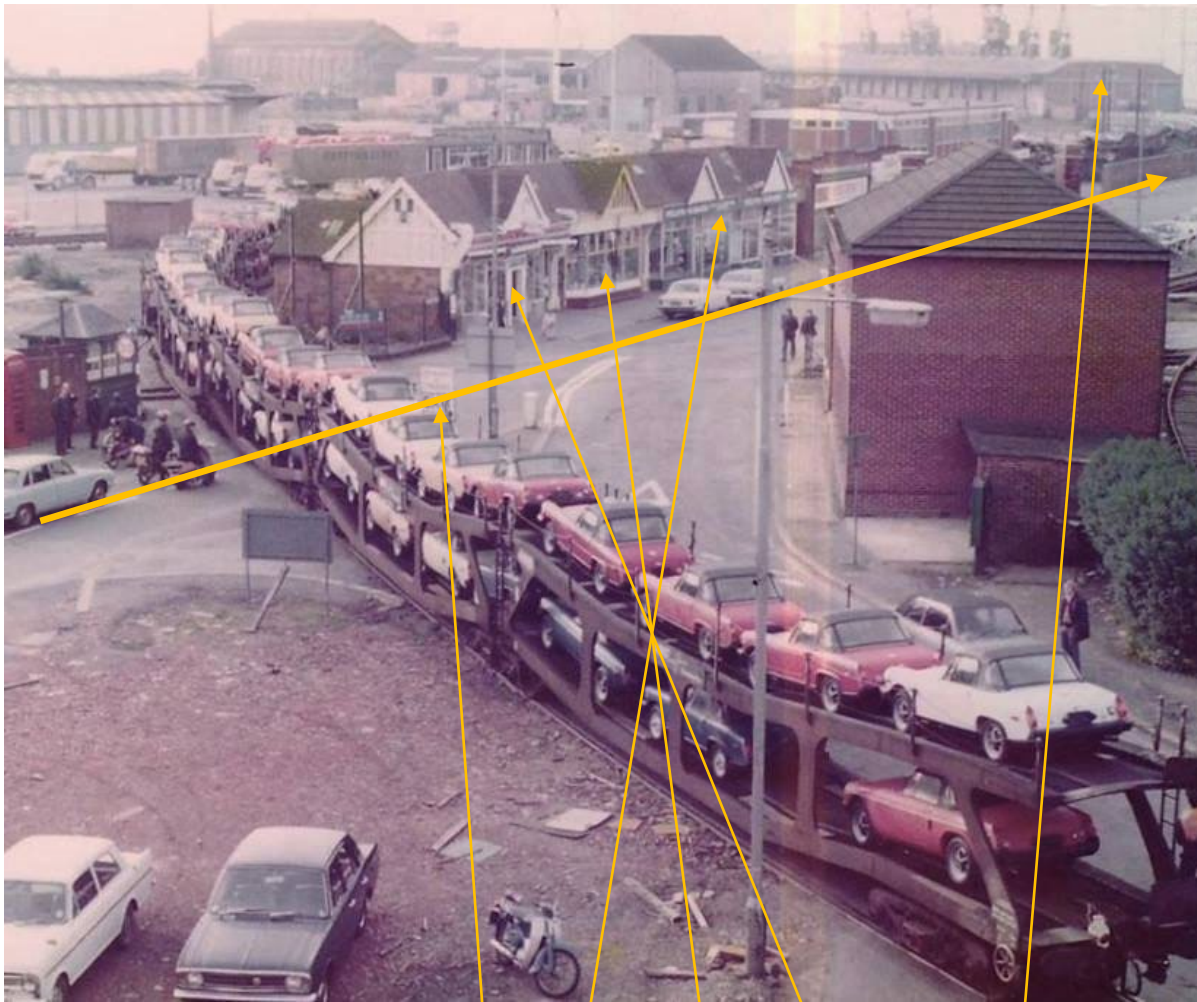


"Cool Boy Racer"



Derek and Gill on holiday in the Lake District.

Robin helps clarify the location of this photograph from last month's newsletter. Many thanks.

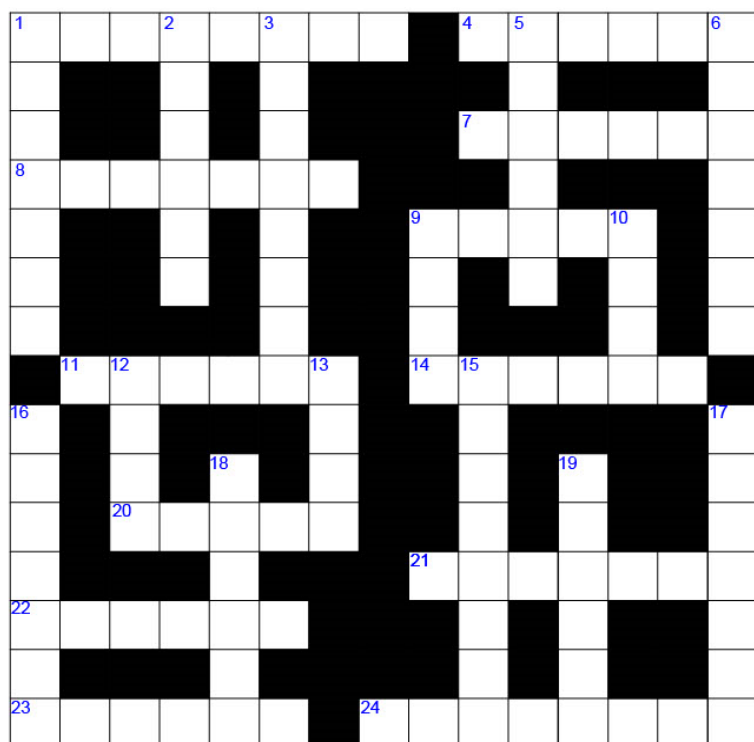


Dock Gate 4 Entrance to the left Central Road Kelvin Hughes Charts and Nautical Instruments Newsagent Barber Empress Dock Sheds

The railway line the car train is on, from the right, used to go round and across the entrance to Town Quay and into Dock Gate 8 and Herbert Walker Avenue.

February Crossword.

This month's crossword has a theme of places in the UK – good luck!



Across

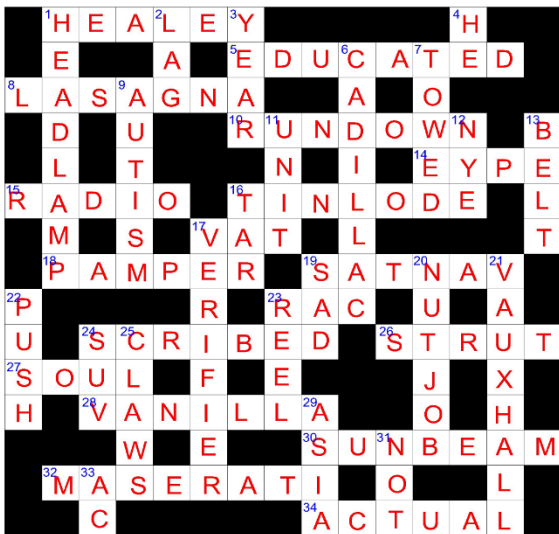
- 1) A small town on the north end of Chichester Harbour. (8)
- 4) South Somerset town famous for its glove making. (6).
- 7) Location of motorway services on the M4 nearing London. (6)
- 8) Town on the western side of the Royal Albert Bridge. (7).
- 9) West Yorkshire town home of the National Armouries Museum. (5).
- 11) North coastal town in the county of Norfolk, birthplace of Sir James Dyson. (6).
- 14) Southern county of England that has no motorways running through it. (6).
- 20) House and Estate in Kent, formerly the home of the Sackville-West family. (5).
- 21) Town in Essex, now included in the London borough that once was home to the country's largest fishing port (7).
- 22) Town in North Yorkshire famous for its railway which runs to its destination on the England/Scotland border. (6).
- 23) Town in Cornwall situated on a river of the same name. (6)
- 24) Coastal town in Kent which is unique as having the only Royal Harbour in the United Kingdom (8).

Down

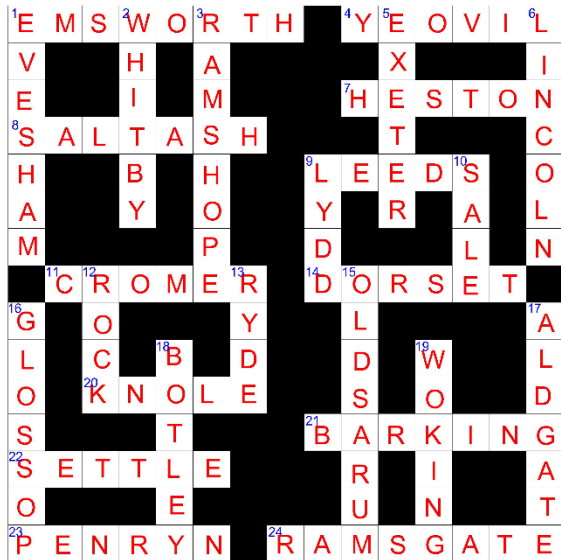
- 1) Cotswold town famous for its battle in 1265. (7).
- 2) Seaside town in Yorkshire home of Captain Cook and whose abbey was the inspiration of Bram Stokers Dracula story. (6).
- 3) Small village in the Northumberland National Park (8).
- 4) County town of Devon famous for its university. (6).
- 6) East Midland city whose castle holds one of the four original Magna Carta documents. (7).
- 9) Town in Kent famous for its airport which was once called Ferryfield. (4).
- 10) Large town in Greater Manchester on the south bank of the River Mersey. (4).
- 12) Village in North Cornwall famous for its brewery (4).
- 13) Seaside town on the Isle of Wight. (4).
- 15) Location of the original Salisbury Cathedral. (3 & 5).
- 16) Market town in the High Peak, Derbyshire. (7).
- 17) Area of East London named after its access in the city wall. (7).
- 18) Village in Hampshire once the home of the radical politician William Cobbett. (6).
- 19) Commuter town in Surrey famous for its Martian statues. (6).

Rather than wait a month for the answers I will attach the completed crossword on the following page. This month there will be two completed crosswords.

January's Crossword Solution.



February's Crossword Solution.



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Please remember we volunteer to fill these posts, so if you wish to speak to one of us, PLEASE ring before 9pm or at weekends, thank you. Further information can be found on our Website www.1009mg.org.uk