Southampton and New Forest, MGOC

Newsletter
October 2025

What's 25 in 25?



Catherine Hartlehy and Fiona Thornewill
celebrate reaching the South Pole in 2000

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2000 - First British Women reach South Pole

The first British women to walk across Antarctica to the South Pole have arrived safely, more than two months after starting their record-breaking journey.

Catherine Hartley said she was "absolutely elated" to have completed the trek, which saw her nine-strong group cover 680 miles (1,094 km) while withstanding temperatures as low as -48C.

Fellow walkers Fiona Thornewill and her husband Mike won another record by becoming the first married couple to achieve the feat.

The expedition left London on 21 October 1999 for Punta Arenas in southern Chile, flying on to Patriot Hills near the Antarctic coast.

> “ There were times when I honestly didn't think I was going to make it
>
> **Catherine Hartley**

Ms Hartley admitted she found the trek very difficult and had been afraid she might be forced to drop out because of the harsh weather.

Speaking from the South Pole, the 34-year-old said: "I am absolutely elated because the journey was a real struggle for me."

"I had to fight every inch of the way to get here and there were times when I honestly didn't think I was going to make it."

"To be here is absolutely thrilling and quite unbelievable."

Ms Hartley said her motive for undertaking the expedition was a "driving force of adventure".

"Antarctica is one of the last unexplored wildernesses," she added.

Ms Hartley, a floor manager at the BBC, and Mrs Thornewill, a 33-year-old recruitment consultant, underwent a rigorous training programme in the months preceding the trek. This included running while dragging tyres behind them, in preparation for the 200lb (90.7kg) sledges used to carry their supplies.

The group had originally hoped to reach the South Pole before the New Year, but bad weather delayed the start of the trek by a few days.

Editor's Notes



Hello Everyone

Welcome to our October newsletter. What a change in the weather. Autumn has certainly arrived, but it did not seem to affect outings and runs.

It's great to know that club members are still out and about in their cars.

Once again, thank you to everyone for sending your articles and photos to me.

Yvonne

My thanks to Eric Moore for this fabulous picture.





Secretary's Scribbles

September was busy for a few of us – some Members headed to Devon and Tamar for their People & Places Run, others headed East to the West Sussex South Downs Run. Both successful events as you will see from the write ups in this Newsletter.

October Club Night I will be handing over a cheque to The Waterside Gateway Club who are the charity supported by Exbury Club. This donation is in recognition for the use of Exbury Club for our New Forest Run this year.

We didn't manage to get a NFR re-run done this year however, without the volunteers to assist, it sometimes isn't possible to get these events off the ground. It is important, if we want to have a full calendar, to have Members step up and volunteer. Food for thought.

Fiona

Future Events

From Martin Charles

Hi Everyone,

As I sit writing this, I have just got back from another enjoyable breakfast run organised by Jane and Paul Holdaway from Steff's Kitchen at Fairweathers Garden Centre Beaulieu. Following a hearty breakfast, we then enjoyed a roughly 20 mile run along Forest backroads to Shallowmead Garden Centre just outside Lymington for coffee and cake, well for some who like me are just plain greedy that is!

As you should be aware the future of this club is hanging very much in the balance right now, it has therefore been decided we cannot publish an events calendar beyond the dates that are certain at this moment in time.

Wednesday 1st Oct. Club Night at the Wallhampton Arms, Lymington from 7:30p.m., the club will be handing over another charity cheque to The Waterside Gateway Club, the charity that Exbury Club is supporting. This is as thanks to Exbury Club for being such superb hosts for this year's New Forest Run. It would be nice to see as many of you that can attend to support this.

Saturday 11th Oct. Breakfast Meet with Vintage Tyres in Car Park 2, The National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, SO42 7ZN. This is free event, held from 08:30 to 11:30, just turn up and you will be directed into the car park. Park up, enjoy wandering around a diverse selection of all things with wheels and engines, on site catering available for drinks and breakfast roles.

Wednesday 15th Oct. Mid-Monthly Night at The New Forest (pub), Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst, SO40 7AA, from 7:30PM – Coordinated by Malcolm and Julie Rumsey.

Wednesday 22nd Oct. Extraordinary Special Meeting at the Wallhampton Arms, Lymington **6:30PM for a prompt start at 7:00PM** – A meeting to discuss the options open for the club to continue to exist going forward into the future.

Obviously, this last item is of some importance, I'm not being pessimistic when I say there is a real chance that unless a way forward in running the club can now be found it will cease to exist after November the 5th 2025. I would urge all members to please make an effort to be there, full details of this meeting will be sent to all members in due course by Fiona.

In closing I have to say a huge thank you to Fiona who has put countless **days** into liaising with the MG Owners Club about what the options are for the club to have a future. It will now be up to us, the members, to discuss those options and decide which option we want. None of us should have any illusions about the number of hours she has devoted to this and stress she has suffered.

MG Cricket St. Thomas Event
23-26th May 2025

By Linda Taylor

The Southern Regional Secretaries of the MGOC, Tim Hipwell, Nigel Knowles & Sue Fenton used to host a bi-annual event at Cricket St Thomas Hotel, near Chard in Somerset, which was always great fun, & used to take the whole hotel over with MG'ers for a 3 day weekend, & has been 10 years since the last one, so was back by popular demand for a final reunion of like-minded people to get together.

Belinda & David, Maureen & Terry, Nick & I decided to go, & a great shame Jenny & Dudley could not attend because of illness. Over the weekend there was the hotel programme of activities & entertainment, & an MG programme of events of road runs, treasure hunt, quizzes, & activities of Archery, Air Rifles, Lazer Pistols & Axe Throwing, plus the Spa area & leisure facilities with a pool & gym, so always something to do. We had a fancy dress evening, & a gala evening -'dress to impress', & our dining table name was 'Spirit of the New Forest'. As the world prepared to commemorate the 80th Anniversary since the end of WW11, the theme for the weekend had to be in keeping with that, so opted for a bit of British humour in the shape of the 'Home Guard', Dads Army, which then tied in nicely with the chosen military charity of Helping Homeless Veterans UK, a very good charity, & £2627.28 was raised over the weekend, the charity were hugely touched by all the comments & generosity they received, & the money would provide housing for 2 veterans. A good time was had by all, with good food, entertainment, fun & laughter













Discount MG Rover Spares Show

Saturday 30th August

By Martin Charles

This year's show was the third annual event organised by Discount MG Rover Spares and the second held at Gang Warily Recreation Centre at Fawley. There was an open invitation to all MG/Rover owners of both classic and modern variants of both marques. It was well supported by S&NFMGOC members be it with their cars or in person, Scott and Max were delighted to see those who attended and asked me to pass on their personal thanks to you all. There will be another show in 2026 and they look forward to seeing us back again.



The line-up of Rover 25 and MG ZR cars. Club members Carolyn and Chris Guest's ZR third from the left.



Line-up of MG ZT and MG ZS models.

Part of the line-up of Rover 75 and MG ZT cars. It was surprising that these models had the biggest presence at the show. The biggest number of MG Z'd models sold was the MG ZR, credited with turning the fortunes around of the MG/Rover Group at the launch of the Z'd range cars in 2001.



Front row a line-up of modern and classic MG's, several of which belong to club members.









The couple above had come down from Longbridge in Birmingham and their pair of MG ZR's probably caused the most interest for show goers, the lead car was towing the second, a camping trailer. The trailer is a work in progress, the engine had been removed and housed a generator unit, and the interior included a double bed with storage underneath.





On the left a family had brought their two big Ted's for a day out, they had a car each in the MG ZT and Rover 75. Finally, one of the lads next to the Toyota MR2 had crashed the show and I believe it was Fiona and Yvonne who persuaded them to rebadge it as an MG TF-2.

It was an enjoyable day and although numbers attending was slightly down on last year, in part due to the weather forecast it was felt, Scott and Max deemed it another success.



The Editor would like to bring to your attention that the above car appears to be "abandoned" rather than parked.

Taymar Valley MGOC
People and Places Run

5 cars from the club met at Ringwood on Saturday 6th September, in lovely sunshine to start our journey to Plymouth for the Taymar Valley Run.





We had a good run down to the Greymound Country Inn at Fenny Bridges for our lunch stop. We continued our journey entering the Dartmoor National Park through Doccome and Moretonhampstead. We decided to stop at a car park with an ice cream van and to enjoy the views.









We then continued our journey down to the Future Inn in Pymouth. We met in the bar for an aperitif before dinner.

Sunday 7th September did not start well, drizzle unfortunatley. We put waterproof jackets into cars and made out way to Boringdon Park Golf Club to collect our goody bags and route booklet. At the start we each had a photo taken of the cars. The first part of the journey went well, with one missed turning, but lots of narrow roads and even narrower bridges to navigate. Then it started to rain. We stopped at Strawberry Fields Farm Shop for a welle earned coffee and cake.





The heavens then opened and it poured with rain. We continued through villages and more narrow bridges. We stopped at Widemouth Bay in rain and strong winds.



Windy summers day



This is a sunny summer day

We started the last leg of the run, still in the rain. Approachin the moors the sun came out. We passed Dartmoor prison, Princetown, Yelverton and Cadover Bridge.









Cadover Bridge

We continued the journey back to the golf club for a cream tea and presentation.

We returned to the hotel to dry out and change for dinner. We all met in the bar and gave Lorraine and Ray their anniversary card.







We had a great time, and lots of laughs. We met for breakfast on Monday and it was sunny again. Jenny and Dudley were gong to see a friend in Mary Tavy and Lorraine and Ray were stayihg in the area for a few days longer to visit some National Trust houses.

That left Niki and Eric, Linda and Nick and Fiona and Yvonne to travel home together. We decided to stop in Lyme Regis, but the car parks were full so we travelled to Charmouth. We parked the cars and walked down to the seafont. We braved the wind and sat outside a beach café with hot drinks, Eric had a pastie and Linda had an ice cream.



We then continued our jurneys home. Our thanks to Eric and Niki for organising the hotel and the route down to Pymouth.

October Mid-Monthly Pub Meeting

15th October 2025

The New Forest, Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst SO40 7AA

From Julie Rumsey

October's mid-month meeting will be at The New Forest pub in Ashurst. As you approach Ashurst on the A35 from Lyndhurst it is the first building on the right-hand side of the road, and the last on the left if coming from Southampton.

There is free parking around the pub and in the station yard. Should this be full there is additional parking belonging to the pub on the left-hand side of the pub as you drive round it. This is a large, paved parking area on the left before you reach the station yard, with electric charging points facing you as you turn in. To park please turn left at the charging points - there is a sign as you enter this area which says, "The New Forest Customer Parking only". **If you do park in this area, please remember to enter your car registration number on the screen at the end of the bar**. The car park is controlled by a parking company who will issue a £100 fine if your car registration has not been entered.

They are setting aside an area for us which is at the end of the bar which looks towards the conservatory, down a few steps and immediately on the left.

The menu currently on their website (www.newforestashurst.co.uk) is likely to change before 15th October so I will check nearer the time.

The area is booked from 6.30 pm. If you do wish to eat, they have asked if you could please pre-book.

September Mid Monthly
Sir Walter Tyrell

By Ray and Linda Lock

The September mid monthly venue was the Sir Walter Tyrrell public house and restaurant, near Brook in the New Forest.

In total, 24 members attended and enjoyed the prearranged fish, chips and peas supper, plus desserts and drinks. Our thanks go to the members who attended, keeping the mid monthly tour of New Forest hostelries alive.

We were well looked after by our hosts, Richard, Emma and Neal, and congratulations to them for their swift and cordial service.

Did you know that in it's former life the current site was occupied by an inn named The Stump. Apparently, this was a reference to the landlady at the time who had a wooden leg.

Photographs of the event were kindly taken by Jane Wallaker. Thank you, Jane.

From your hosts for the evening, many thanks.







South Downs Run

By Ivor Binns

This year we were the only car from 1009 to take part in the 35th South Downs Run. It is one of our favourite runs as it takes place in lovely countryside following the South Downs and ending on the lawns on the seafront at Eastbourne.

For the second year the start was from the Southdown Gliding Club, Cootham, near Storrington. There and back in a day is a long run so we decided to stay the night before in a hotel in Pulborough, which is only a 5-minute drive to the start.











Fairweather Breakfast and Run

26th September

Organised by Jane and Paul

A number of club members descended upon Fairweather Garden Centre in Beaulieu, for breakfast at Steffs Kitchen. Unfortunately, Jane was not very well and could not make it, but Paul stepped up and ran the show, bravely on his own.

We were just shown to our table when the fire alarm went off. Promise it wasn't any of us who set it off! We were sent off in two different directions to muster points.



Returning to our table, various breakfast choices were delivered along with drinks and large plates of toast and marmalade.





After finishing our substantial breakfast, we assembled in the car park to enjoy a run, led by Ruth and Stephen, through the lanes around Beaulieu, across the Forest and back to Shallowmead Nurseries and Mabels Cafe for further coffee and cakes.





Martin being very naughty!!!



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Please note that all these roles are volunteers and we are happy to help and offer advice but please contact us before 9pm – *thank you.*