

Southampton & New Forest MGOC
September 2026 Newsletter

Main features this month:

- One Thing Led to Another – Eric
- Club Night
- Heli and horsepower – Editor
- Thank You Letter – Jay Jones
- Mid Monthly – Eric
- Port at The Port – Valerie
- Torque with Reggie
- Motor Museum Update

SOUTHAMPTON & NEW FOREST
MG OWNERS CLUB
AREA 1009





Edition No. 352

Editors Notes:

Hello everyone

As you can see from the newsletter it was a quiet August for events and lots of people on holiday, catching up with friends and family and enjoying the sunny weather.

Regarding the sunny weather, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire Service for tackling the heathland blazes on the Isle of Wight and on the Ringwood Road. One of our club member's son is a fire fighter and attended the Ringwood heathland fire. Their dedication in attending these fires and putting their own lives at risk deserve our praise and thanks.



I would like to thank Eric for sending in his article regarding Nuggets bumper. These articles are always welcome and often help other members to tackle similar problems.

Also thank you to Fiona for her articles on installing a USB and problem fuel cap.

Club night and the mid monthly were well attended and these are always a good chance to catch up with friends. Below you will find details of the September and October mid monthly evenings.

As you will see later in this edition Torque with Reggie is back. Reggie is the MG Repair Bear, so please, if you "repair" anything on your cars, please send in an article.

Yvonne

Secretary's Scribbles:

Firstly, my apologies, everyone. I have been exceptionally busy over the last few weeks, not only with work but also preparing my MG for our road trip to the South of France at the beginning of September. As a result, I have taken a bit of a back seat recently.

August has been an eventful month, beginning with the presentation of the charity cheque to the team at Elsie's Rose, the charity we supported through the New Forest Run 2026. It was a pleasure to hand over the funds raised and see the difference our support will make.

We also had several members attend the Heli & Horsepower event in aid of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. Coincidentally, it was probably the first reasonably cool day we have had for quite some time, which made for a very pleasant event.

Once I return from France at the end of September, I will be looking to kick-start planning for next year's programme of events and runs, including the New Forest Run 2027. We will also be reviewing future club roles and looking at ways, members can become more involved. To help with this, you will shortly receive a questionnaire regarding volunteer opportunities and how you may be able to support the club.

For those attending the South Downs Run or the Dorset Dawdle, I hope you have a fantastic day and enjoy the event. I look forward to hearing all about it afterwards. Please don't forget to send your photos, stories and highlights to Yvonne for inclusion in the newsletter.

Fiona

One thing leads to another.

As a result of a wrong decision on the Dales Trail back in June I scraped the underside of Nuggets bumper whilst attempting a three point turn on a very narrow road. The sound made on my attempt to reverse caused me to assume that the bumper would no longer be affixed to the car.

It was my intention to get the bumper resprayed at some time due to fading and the inevitable road rash that we all experience on the F's & TF's. The damage caused prompted a phone call to my preferred bodywork repairer whilst in Yorkshire and the rapid removal of the bumper on my return back home.

With the bumper removed it seemed logical to remove the wheel arch liners and inspect the inner wings for any corrosion and the inevitable collection of road compost that builds up in the lower wheel arches. You may well remember, a few years ago whilst being the editor of the club's Newsletter an article "*Underneath the Arches",* this covered the same operation. I have always had an issue with the multi-sectioned welds that MG fudged in producing these cars as it is both unsightly and a dead cert rust area.

On inspection, the soil collections were not as onerous as expected but not ideal as it retains any moisture trapped behind the inner wing liners which cannot be seen.







With the brushed and vacuumed out the arch returns were cleaned out with methylated spirit and a small brush and allowed to dry. The areas that I did not want to spray were masked up and then given three coats of stone-chip protective coating, then two coats of grey primer, three coats of Calypso Gold (GDH) paint and finally 3 coats of clear lacquer finish.







Once this remedial work was completed I then washed both wheel arch liners and wheels (whilst they were off the car). Whilst waiting for the repairs to the bumper to carried out and with the garage looking like Steptoe's Yard I noticed that the bumper support bar had extensive staining.

Despite efforts to remove the offending discolouration I was not successful, I then decided to respray the section. Why, you are asking, I don't know really, it just offended me. It couldn't be seen once the bumper was back in place but I knew it was there so it had to be attended to.





With the bumper now back and fitted to the car the inner wing liners reinstalled Nugget was now off the axle stands and ready to go off for its annual service.





Niki calls me Mr. A Nal, as she thinks I faff around too much but I believe that these jobs go a long way to preserving the cars we like to drive and to keeping them looking their best for as long as possible.

Eric.

August Club Night at the Empress of Blandings

Wednesday August 5th saw us gathering back at the Empress of Blandings in Copythorne for our club night. We gathered in the garden on a very nice summer evening. We had a great turn-out and it was great to catch up and chat with everyone.









Fiona thanked everyone for coming and ran through the up-and-coming events.

September 16th Mid Monthly



The deadline has been extended for booking into the fish and chip supper at Sir Walter Tyrrell in Brook on Wednesday September 16th. Please contact Ray Lock ASAP to book your place at this popular event. Last year we enjoyed a delicious supper and had a great evening in this friendly New Forest pub. The meet time is 6pm for a 6.30pm meal. Ray's email is **rayelock43@gmail.com** and Ray can now take bookings up to September 1st, so don't delay!

Brook SO43 7HD



Heli and horsepower

Sunday 16th August





On an overcast but cooler Sunday, 5 Club cars met at Stoneham for the Heli and Horsepower event. Although we were at the back of the car park, I have to admit, we were out of harm's way. There were some tight parking issues. There were various Clubs present including a huge number of Porches, some Maseratis, TVR's, MX5's and other classic cars. The car park soon became very full. Stoneham football club opened their club house and did exceptionally well serving breakfast rolls and coffee as they did not know how many people were turning up.

After catching up for a chat, bacon rolls and coffee, we all decided to have a look around the cars. The Air Ambulance helicopter circled over the event several times, much to the delight of the children that were present. At about 11.30 many of the cars started to leave. It was an interesting morning and with the temperature being cooler was more enjoyable to walk around.






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NWR 677A


EHJ 153H


DAYTONA





The Editor had car envy for this one

A thank you from Jay Jones Daily Driven Events

Hi Jon,

A proper thank you for getting Southampton and New Forest MGOC to Heli & Horsepower on Sunday.

I know you were disappointed with five cars and had hoped for more, and I know you could not be there yourself.

But I want to push back gently on the five cars, because from where I was standing it was not a small thing at all.

Classic MGs also do a particular job at a show like this. Sitting among modern supercars and modified builds, they are frequently the cars people stop longest at — because they are the ones visitors remember from their own family. That contrast is genuinely valuable to us.

Please pass my thanks on to the five owners who came. And when we run the next one, I would love to have you there in person, with as many cars as you fancy bringing.

Wishing you well.

Best,
Jay

Jay Jones
Daily Driven Events



August Mid-Monthly

By Eric

The August Mid-Monthly was held at the Cuckoo Inn at Hamptworth in the New Forest.

I chose this pub for three reasons, firstly, it is a delightful country pub with a large garden, secondly, it is perfect for a group meet-up on a lovely summer's evening and thirdly, it is located in an area of beautiful countryside which allows members to enjoy a scenic drive to and from the venue.

To the nineteen people who managed to negotiate the intricacies of the New Forest roads due to the recent fire and subsequent road closures, I would say a big thank you. To the people that chose to eat, I apologise. I expected a completely different experience from the one that I drove away with which was disappointment.

About two years ago we came here as a group and enjoyed a wonderful evening in the garden and a super drive home through in the late evening with (if possible) the roofs down. I was hoping to replicate that when suggesting The Cuckoo for the August venue.

Unfortunately, things change. Sometimes for the worse. The pub had not changed physically and remains delightful as ever, the decision to eat there was the wrong one. We were placed to the rear of the pub in a Covid like enclosure based upon the expectation that we were a group of 24 diners, however, on my reckoning there were 13 that chose to eat. The pub laughingly called it their conservatory, but it had no windows!

Our food was disappointing and offered nothing that one would expect of such a bespoke country eatery. No evidence of the use of local produce was on display, just wholesale fodder of the cheapest standard available.

I am putting on record for the benefit of members that, if like me, you propose a venue it needs to be based upon recent and prior knowledge and experience. I am sorry to say that I did not carry out my due diligence in this regard and apologise to those who turned out.

These events, especially in the heady summer months are superb reasons to get out in your cars to enjoy the local countryside and socialise with fellow members. August's mid-monthly was not as memorable as our previous visit and it goes to prove that things, places and people change. Nothing much stays the same anymore – Shame really!

Editor's Note – It's the club members that show up and make the best of the evening that counts.

At The mid monthly Valerie Laurant invited us to the

Port at The Port event on3rd October 2026 aboard the SS Shieldhall

This event is raising funds for the Southampton Sea Cadets

Scan the QR code to get your tickets







I’m Reggie the MG Repair Bear

Torque with Reggie

USB’s

By Fiona

One thing I discovered during long-distance trips was that the cigarette lighter socket behind the gear lever on the TF isn't in the most convenient location for charging devices such as a GPS or mobile phone. The USB cables would often get knocked loose, causing the GPS to switch off at the worst possible moment. One memorable example was approaching an eight-exit roundabout in Strasbourg!

Over the years I tried several alternatives, including fitting a separate USB charging point on the passenger side. Eventually, I decided to replace the original cigarette lighter socket with a flush-mounted USB-A/USB-C charger.

Because the charger sits flush with the centre console, the cables stay lower down and are far less likely to be knocked or pulled out accidentally. The unit I chose has a permanent live feed and is fused so that it will fail before any damage can occur to the vehicle's electrical system. It also includes an on/off switch, allowing it to be isolated when not in use.

Was it worth doing? In my opinion, absolutely. It's a simple upgrade that makes charging devices much more convenient and eliminates the frustration of losing power to your GPS at a critical moment.







Fuel Cap Problems

By Fiona

It's never a great feeling to notice the smell of fuel around your car, but it's even more frustrating when neither you nor the garage can pinpoint the source of the problem. My car spent a full day in the garage, and everyone who walked past it commented on the strong fuel smell.

When I got home, I started looking through some owners' forums and found that the fuel cap is often the culprit. I removed mine and couldn't see anything obviously wrong with it, apart from the centre section feeling a little loose. I decided to order a replacement from eBay. It had to be a TF fuel cap rather than an F one, as they are apparently not compatible. You certainly learn a lot while trying to track down a fuel smell!

When I compared the new cap with the original, the problem became clear. The black plastic lugs that rotate when the cap locks had broken on one side of my old cap, which explained the movement when it was fitted. The replacement cap had both lugs intact and once installed, felt much more secure and provided a better seal. Best of all, the fuel smell disappeared completely.

If you're experiencing a fuel smell, it's worth checking your fuel cap carefully. Make sure all the locking components are intact, as a damaged cap may not seal correctly and could be the cause of the problem.



New cap



Old cap - broken



Just checking

October Mid Monthly





October 21st mid monthly is being organised by Julie and Malc Rumsey

This is the public house in the grounds of Ashurst Station
Address – the New Forest, Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst, SO40 7AA
Telephone – 0238 292721

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. 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 half of the conservatory restaurant for us which takes around 30 people, and can move tables around if necessary. The conservatory is through the pub opposite the second bar area.

The menu is on their website (www.newforestashurst.co.uk)

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



National Motor Museum begins search for a transformational new home

11 August 2026

Trustee Statement

The National Motor Museum Trust has today announced that it has begun the process of identifying a transformational new home for the National Motor Museum as its current lease at Beaulieu approaches the end of its 60-year term.

This marks the next stage in the Trust's long-term strategy to secure the future of the National Motor Museum. This strategy is focussed on reimagining and reinvigorating the Museum, engaging with new generations of motoring enthusiasts and diverse communities, while developing and preserving the Designated collection for generations to come. It also sees the Museum greatly expand its work in learning and community engagement, including a vision for the development of a training centre for heritage engineering apprenticeships, and by better fulfilling the Museum's national remit by finding a suitable new home to reflect that and new ways to share the stories of motoring heritage more widely than ever before.

Over the last two years the Trust and the Montagu family have explored ways to achieve these ambitions in the Museum at Beaulieu through major donor investment and potential redevelopment but have now concluded that the next stage of the National Motor Museum's ambitious plans and charitable purpose as

the national repository of British motoring heritage can best be achieved through a move to a new home.

Robert MacGregor, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Motor Museum Trust said: "We are sad that the National Motor Museum will be leaving Beaulieu but are at the same time very excited about this once in a generation opportunity to transform the Museum for the future. We want to thank the Montagu family for founding the Trust in 1970 and for their continued support as the Museum finds a new home and embarks on the next stage of its journey. A new home can refresh our whole approach, enable us to make the collection more accessible, expand our educational and community impact, and ensure Britain's motoring story remains relevant."

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu said: "My father's underlying ambition was to record and celebrate the story of motoring for the benefit of the nation. He founded the National Motor Museum Trust to do that, but its collections and activities have expanded beyond what anyone at the time envisaged. The charity's long-term aims will now stand the best chance of being achieved if it can be based in a new home. I remain committed to honouring my father's legacy by continuing to do all I can to support the trust. Wherever the National Motor Museum and its collections may be located in the future, Beaulieu will continue to develop as a leading south coast attraction, offering a comparable range of experiences to what people enjoy today, with cars remaining very much a part of our identity."

The Trust will now begin exploring potential locations capable of supporting its long-term ambitions while safeguarding its internationally important collection and continuing public access. During this period, visitors to Beaulieu will see no change.

Further updates will be provided as the process progresses.

NATIONAL MOTOR MUSEUM TRUST

The National Motor Museum Trust Limited is a charitable organisation founded in 1972, which is responsible for the heritage collections the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu in the New Forest. The Trust has a world-famous collection of over 200 vehicles and associated motoring items on display at the National Motor Museum. An Accredited Museum, all its collections have been designated by Arts Council England as being of national and international importance. Its internationally acclaimed collection of more than 1.9 million items is cared for by the National Motor Museum Trust and includes historically significant motoring artifacts, film footage, images, documents and books. The nearby Collections

Centre houses and cares for a vast array of motoring artifacts, photographic images, a specialist reference library, and a film and video library. For more information about its collection and services,
see: www.nationalmotormuseum.org.uk