

Southampton & New Forest MGOC May 2026 Newsletter

Main features this month:

- Exbury Club Donation Handover
- Drive it Day
- Pride of Longbridge
- VED Charge
- Insurance Questionnaire
- Christmas Dinner and Dance
- Robin Plumley Car Feature



Edition No. 348

Editors Notes:

Hello Everyone

Welcome to your May newsletter.

April started with club night followed by the AGM held at Exbury Club.

After a few April showers, the weather turned sunny and warm (unless you live in Milford where it is always breezy) it seemed a good time to get the cars out of their garages and onto the roads. 20 cars sauntered through the Forest for Drive-it-Day and a lunch at the Sir Walter Tyrel. Chris and Carolyn Guest went to the Pride of Longbridge event and preparations are in hand for the Cobweb Spin being organised by Robin.

As at today's date (30th April) Eric confirmed that the New Forst Run has had 110 applicants. Hopefully that number will increase during May.

The July Breakfast Run, organised by Ivor and Janet Binns, is now fully booked.

Thank you to everyone who sent in an article or photographs for newsletter.

If anyone goes to any events, please do send in your articles for other club members to read about. Also, if you hear of any events, please let Jane and Paul or myself know, What, Where and When, and we can send out details.

Take care everyone and have a fun month.

Yvonne

Secretary's Scribbles:

April came with a few downpours let alone showers – we did manage to get out and about however, the highlight for me was the Drive it Day. Beautiful weather at last, a superb route and being driven round the course due to a broken wrist was a first for me, I really enjoyed it. Thank you to Jon & Pauline Holt for arranging that for us all.

Albeit we don't have an Events Co-Ordinator, we are filling up our Events Calendar:

4th May – we have 6 cars heading to Liphook for the Winchester MGOC Cobweb Spin

7th May – Club Night at Walhampton Arms

10th May – 2 cars heading to Devon for the Exeter MGOC More to See Run

20th May – Mid Monthly at The Bear at Burton, Christchurch

More details to follow in the Newsletter and on the Website.

Following on from the AGM; at this moment in time, I am remaining in place as the Area Secretary for the Club. We have a new treasurer to welcome onto our committee – Karen Brown. Karen has been fully onboarded and can be contacted via: treasurer@1009mg.org.uk - and I would also like to thank Keith Parkins for his hard work as Treasurer for the Club over the last 5 years.

We are but a month away from the New Forest Run and if you have not already entered, please do as soon as possible. Don't forget we have the pre-run skittles match at the Huntsman on the evening of Saturday 6th June – first ball away at 7:30pm

Download the entry form from our website at https://www.1009mg.org.uk/new-forest-run-2026/

Finally, I will leave you with this conundrum –



Fiona

Solent MGOC



Hi MG Owners

This is a reminder to you and your members of our annual event at **Stansted House on Sunday 17th May starting at 10.00am**.

There is no need to book but a charge of £15 per car (cash only) is to be paid on entry, from 10.00am onwards. This includes a free raffle entry, a magnetic plaque, and half-price admission to Stansted House, as stated in *Enjoying MG* magazine.

The Mochatado coffee van will also be attending.

For those who have not attended this event before, there is access to the Stansted Garden Centre, Pavilion Tea Rooms and Farm Shop.

or those attending for the first time please use the postcode and information below

POSTCODE PO9 6DX
THE NORTH ENTRANCE
This is signposted Private Road to Offices & Stansted House

The gate into the Estate will automatically open when you drive towards it.

N.B. If you use the South Entrance, it will only get you to Stansted Garden Centre.

Hope the weather is kind to us and we see many of you there.

Kind Regards

Rosemary Evans
Committee Member

Exbury Club – Donation Handover

Saturday 25th April

By Fiona Sommerville

Following the AGM at the Exbury Club, it was agreed that we would make a donation to Sue and her team in recognition of the use of their function room.

On Saturday 25th April, Yvonne, Julie, Malc and I visited the Club during a Waterside Gateway Club event, intending to meet the team and formally hand over the donation — or so we thought!

After enjoying a lovely lunch and suffering a rather embarrassing defeat in the quiz, we eventually managed to present the donation to Sue, together with the Waterside Gateway Club team.

It was genuinely uplifting to see the wonderful work Waterside Gateway Club does for its members, many of whom have learning difficulties and additional needs. Everyone was clearly enjoying themselves, enthusiastically taking part in the quiz, and the friendly banter between the organisers and members was fantastic to witness.

Malc also had the opportunity to show off his MG — though this took place after apple pie and cream had been served, which resulted in many sticky fingers admiring his beautifully polished car!



















Some of the Waterside Gateway Club

May Mid Monthly – 20th May 2026

I am writing to you with further details of our May mid-monthly meeting, kindly arranged by Chris and Carolyn Guest.

We will meet at The Bear of Burton.

If you would like to have a meal, please choose from the attached menu and email your menu choices directly to Carolyn by Friday 8th May. The meal will be at 6.30 pm.

Carolyn's email is:

carolyn.guest54@gmail.com

Bear_of_Burton_Menu_p1.pdf

Bear_of_Burton_Menu_p2.pdf



https://www.thebearofburton.co.uk/

National Drive-it-Day

Sunday 26th April 2026



It was a beautiful sunny Sunday to drive to Beaulieu to meet Jon and Pauline who had organised this years National Drive it Day. About 20 cars arrived and we all had a quick chat before getting our route for the drive. We had about a 60 miles route which took us down to Lepe beach, and back out to Holbury. The onto the Hythe bypass for a short while before turning off the towards Beaulieu Road station and Lyndhurst. From Lyndhurst into the forest via Anderwood and then towards Burley. We then headed towards Ringwood and the A338 onto Downton before heading back onto the forest and arriving in Brook and the Sir Walter Tyrell for a well-earned lunch.

Many thanks to Jon and Pauline for organising a fantastic run.



















Southampton & New Forest MGOC
visit to Milestones Museum

When: Thursday 9th July 2026

Where: Basingstoke Leisure Park Churchill Way West, Basingstoke, RG22 6PG

Cost: £12.50 per head (for a group of 15 or more)



A fascinating museum where you feel you are stepping back into history.
Find out more: https://www.milestonesmuseum.org.uk/

Interested? Book in by sending Stephen Dennison an email: dasecretary@1009mg.org.uk deadline for booking 17/06/26

Pride of Longbridge

Saturday 18th April 2026

By Chris and Carolynn Guest

We'd heard about this annual event started in 2006 and thought, "why not go and make a long weekend of it"?

When heading to Cofton Park - a stone's throw from the old Longbridge Rover factory and a ginormous green space - from our nearby Airbnb, we soon joined enormous traffic queues. It transpired that there were around 1500 vehicles attending – so no wonder!





Afficionados of the MGF would have been at home

The Longridge car factory was established at a derelict printing works in 1905 by Herbert Austin, the first car being produced in 1906. Production was focussed on munitions, armoured cars and aircraft in the two world wars. Austin was part of BMC in 1961 when employment peaked at 25,000. Not unlike Cofton Park, those green hills of success had a downward slope leading to closure and massive job losses in 2005. MG Motor (SAIC) continued small-scale production until 2016.





Irresistible!

Minis, Maestros, Rovers of all types, Princesses, Allegros, MG Zeds – you name it! The display and visitor attendance was evidence of continuing pride and enthusiasm for these iconic British vehicles. Visitors came from far and wide: Christchurch(!), Southampton (DMGRS of course) and all over this country. We also saw vehicles from France, Netherlands, Belgium and Germany.






We were ever so pleased to source a replacement Pektron clock for our ZR with the kind assistance of the Rover Coupe Club – lovely chaps!



It was a pleasure to be complimented on the condition of our ZR (this picture courtesy of MG Enthusiast Magazine).

In the Birmingham area we were spoilt for choice as to historic houses to visit and a city-centre guided-walk was just ‘fab’.



Rachel Reeves confirms rising £445 charge for drivers

Sent in by Eric Moore

Rachel Reeves has overseen new Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) car tax rises with bills up this April.

Some drivers are paying £445 to get behind the wheel of their vehicles under new car tax charges introduced by Rachel Reeves. The Chancellor is in charge of Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) fees, with new increases hitting drivers from earlier this month.

Among those affected by new tax fees are cars registered between 2001 and 2017, with owners placed into one of 13 tax bands based on their vehicle emissions. Vehicles falling into Band K, emitting between 201 and 225g/km of CO2, are impacted by price hikes, with bills rising to £445 per annum.

This is a £15 increase on charges applied to road users before April 1, where annual VED costs for Band K drivers stood at just £430. Between the 2024/25 tax year, owners in this category were charged just £415, meaning costs have jumped £30 in just over a year.

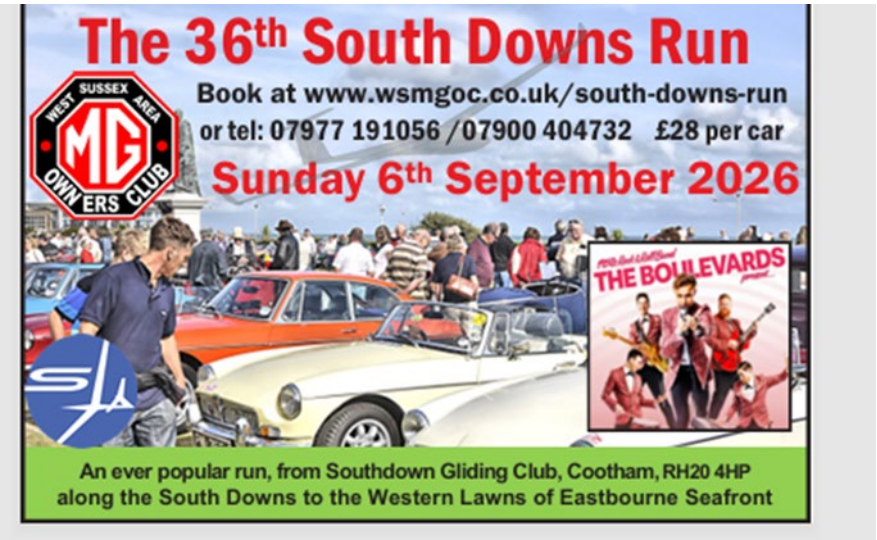
However, these owners are not paying the most expensive rates, with more polluting models slapped with higher costs. Vehicles in car tax Band L, emitting between 226 and 25g/km of CO2 will cost £760 per year to use the roads in 2026. Meanwhile, those in car tax Band M for cars emitting over 255g/km if Co2 will pay £790 per annum under the updates.

VED rates increase every spring in line with the Retail Price Index (RPI) inflation figures to make sure tax revenues maintain their real-term value. VED is now applied to almost all vehicles, with petrol, diesel, and now electric cars all paying the rates.

However, high-emission vehicles are usually targeted more than cleaner models, with electric vehicles offered the most affordable rates.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) confirmed the new VED rates towards the end of last year after Rachel Reeves' Autumn Budget statement. Motorists must pay VED to stay on the roads, with road users able to settle their charge annually, every six months or monthly via Direct Debit.

The RAC explained: "Chancellor Rachel Reeves announced important changes to the car tax system in the UK as part of the Autumn Budget. These changes will affect how much road tax you will pay in 2026 and beyond."



Members Classic Car Insurance Survey

Some committee members have been asked by new/existing members, about which insurance company to use for their MG. Perhaps you would take a moment of your time to answer the following:

Make of Car

Model

Insurance Company used

Number of years you have used this company

Policy type – 3rd Party/Fully Comprehensive

Annual premium

Number of years No Claims Discount

Annual Insured Mileage

Guaranteed Value

Special Requirements

Overall Satisfaction

Please reply to the editor email
Thank you
Yvonne

Christmas dinner dance and presentation evening

We invite you to book for our Christmas party at the Marsham Court Hotel on Saturday December 5th. We enjoyed a great evening there last year!



The cost per member will be around £50 per person which will cover the meal (4 or 5 choices for each of 3 courses) and the disco. We anticipate that the format will be similar to last year, using the same room, known as the 'Room under the Stairs'.



Members wishing to stay at the hotel will benefit from a reduced room rate which includes breakfast:

Double for 2 people £94

Double for 1 person £79

PLEASE EMAIL JANE (as below) TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE BY SUNDAY 10TH MAY

jane_holdaway@hotmail.com

No deposit is required at this stage and further information will follow soon.

From Robin Plumley

I found my car had been featured in the latest edition of Enjoying MG related to the MGOC Club Calendar for 2026. in response to a request form the EMG Editor in August last year, I sent three images of my car as attached. The image of the car at the entrance to the L'Auberge Lenno on Lake Como has been used as a supplementary to the calendar. Well pleased and didn't know anything about it.
Images submitted are attached. Lenno Lake Como, Miradouro Imaginario, Douro River Portugal and on a Ratae Run at Rockingham Castle.





Ratae Run at Rockingham Castle



Douro river



Lenno – Lake Como