



# *Preston & District MG Enthusiasts Club*

Established 1980

March 2012

## **NEWSLETTER**



### **Kevin with his winning ball on Bowling Night**

Tuesday 28th February, and eleven club members turned up for a fun night at the Lakeside Bowling Club. Some of us hadn't bowled before, and didn't know how to pick a bowling ball up, never mind bowl it down an alley. But Kevin did, and in a closely fought contest with Andy, he finished ahead by one point to score 264 against Andy's 263. A great evening was had by all, and congratulations Kevin, on an excellent performance.

Well, the season kicks off with the club's first run on Sunday 25th March—more about the start and finish in the Chairman's Chat. Hope you've got the car up and running, polished and ready to go. The sun & warm weather is just around the corner.

*Godfrey....Ed.*

## CHAIRMANS CHAT MARCH 2012

I cannot remember breaking a mirror but it's not been a particularly good month, what with being pretty poorly and missing the bowling night, being unable to get a doctors appointment for two weeks by which time I will have forgotten what was wrong with me, having no central heating for a full week resorting to buying two fan heaters from B&Q, suffering three visits to the dentist (bye - bye pension) with another scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> and today the gas boiler has once again "died" on me and is diagnosed that a replacement is essential.

Still I suppose it's one up from being listed in the obituary column!

**SORRY ABOUT THAT** - just need a bit of sympathy and a win on the lottery.

There is, however good news in that KEVIN has succeeded in taking the bowling trophy from the professionals on what, I am told was rather a quiet night at Lakeside but nonetheless enjoyable. Congratulations Kevin.

### re June 3<sup>rd</sup> Jubilee Event Heskin Hall

It was decided at last committee that (as per your calendar) the Jacobs Join should not be held at Cholmondley but will take place at the Heskin Hall event on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. This venue is quite close to us and therefore will be easier to manage regarding –transport, tables, "igloos" etc.

I have free entrance tickets for all who will attend BUT we do need to know who will be coming and what they will be donating (foodwise) to the Jacobs Join Table.

Mick Bamber is keeping a list of "who" and "what" so hopefully we can enjoy a good and varied selection as we did at last years Northern National.- Please contact Mick and inform him of your contributions.

Thanks to all those who have forwarded deposit cheques for the NTBHWE – now in the safe hands of our treasurer. Any further requests for places on the weekend PLEASE before the 29<sup>th</sup> of this month at which time I will be meeting with the Beamish Hotel management to provide confirmation of final numbers and completing the routing for the Sunday run.

### Things to come:-

Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup>. SUNDAY RUN AND LUNCH

Meet - Ley Inn Clayton le Woods 10:30ish

Coffee available if required at the pub before we leave.

### **THIS MONTH'S CAPTION COMPETITION** *(caption on next page)*

I did "jump the gun" with this one but failed to realise that the "greasy" character would have in place a scheme to delay the inevitable court findings by hiring the "crooks" favourite legal team (as in Redknapp), but nevertheless thought it appropriate. We will need to wait until August then publish it again!



ANSWERS IN PLAIN ENVELOPES - NOT ENDORSED (and don't mention my name!)

TO

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr EDWARD DAVEY MP - DECC- HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT  
WESTMINSTER LONDON

**And finally:**

For those who are not doing the NTBHWE there is a Sunday event 17<sup>th</sup> June local to us. "Fathers Day - Preston Steam Railway" to which we consider worthy of our support.

This event is based in Preston close to the old docks and I gather we will be afforded free entry. Bear this in mind and Michael will supply more detail in next month's newsletter.

**BILL**

### *Secretary's Scribble*

I see the French are introducing another law which comes into force in July, that will affect motorists travelling through their country. All motorists will have to have a breathalyser kit in their cars so that they can test themselves to ensure they are under the drink drive limit of 50mg. (UK limit—80mg) Critics have cast doubt on the accuracy of the kits and see it simply as another attempt to make money out of foreign drivers.

Motorists are being urged to carry at least two of the single-use breathalysers so that if they have checked themselves with one, they can show police that they have a ready-to-use kit when stopped. Kits will cost between £1 & £2 and will be available at ferry and tunnel terminals, but motoring organisations expect many drivers will forget to pack them in their car.

Andrew Howard of the AA explained that it takes time for alcohol to be absorbed into the bloodstream so early readings could be misleading. He stated that after your last drink of alcohol, your reading will continue to rise for some 40 minutes or so, and motorists will just not be aware of this.

Police are expected to carry out random checks on drivers crossing into France via Calais to ensure that they understand the latest drink-driving rules.

Anyone driving in France is already required to carry a warning triangle, and a fluorescent safety vest. (in the main section of the car) Additionally British motorists must display a GB plate and have their headlights adjusted to the right.

Drivers are not obliged to carry a spare set of bulbs, but if one goes out and they do not have a replacement, they can be fined.

A fire extinguisher and first aid kit could also be required in the case of an emergency so not to fall foul of a law about assisting in the event of an accident.

And—last month the French introduced a new law banning Sat Nav systems which reveal the location of speed cameras. Those caught can be fined 1500 euros even if the device is not in use!

Somehow I can't see all these French motoring laws could ever work in the UK!

As you know, the MGB has its 50th birthday this year, and there are many events taking place to celebrate this grand occasion. As part of the celebration, the *MGB50 Organising Committee* is collating an MGB Birthday Book, the format of which is based on specially printed A4 sheets which should be kept unfolded and in as good condition as possible. The sheets have 4 columns, and reading left to right say—Name, MG Model, Year & Comment. On a practical basis, and this has been discussed at the last committee meeting, any member who would like their details to be recorded in the birthday book should send to me, preferably by e-mail, although telephone is OK, their Name, MG Model, Year of Car, and a comment of no more than 4 words. I will ensure their details are included in the Birthday Book.

There is a cut off date of the 31st July 2012 for the forms to be returned to allow for proper collation and presentation at Blenheim Palace on the 23rd September, so there is of course plenty of time. I will place reminders in the next few months' newsletters.

Incidentally, I am planning on doing one of the first MGB 50th Birthday Runs on the 15th April, meeting up at Burton on Trent and finishing at the Motor Heritage Museum at Gaydon later on. I don't intend to do too many long distance runs, but I've never been to Gaydon and the Heritage Museum, and I'm looking forward to that.

I have received details recently relating to the Yorkshire Dales Classic Car Club's 2012 Dales Trail on Sunday 6th May. It may be of interest, and an application form is on the next page.

# Yorkshire Dales Classic Car Club

*(including Yorkshire Dales MGOC)*

## 2012 Dales Trail—Sunday 6th May

Annual Classic and Sports Car Rally

**This year the Dales Trail will be run from Romanby Golf Club**

The Dales Trail will start at 10.30am and will follow a circular route of around 100 miles through the spectacular scenery of the North Yorkshire Dales. On return to Romanby Golf Club, an award for the furthest travelled to the event will be presented and the raffle will be drawn.

The £12 entry fee includes free tea/coffee before & after the event for the driver and one passenger.

Name:

Address:

E-Mail:

Tel No:

Approx. distance travelled to the event:

Car Make:

Model:

Reg:

miles

**All vehicles must be fully insured, taxed and roadworthy.**

**Please ensure you have enclosed your:**

- **Entry Form**
- **Cheque for £12 payable to ‘Yorkshire Dales Classic Car Club’**
- **Stamped Addressed Envelope**

Send your **Entry Form, Cheque & SAE** to:

**Dales Trail, 89 Crosby Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 1AG**

(Event details, vehicle pass and directions to the event will be sent out in April 2012)

Yorkshire Dales Classic Car Club & MG Owners Club

**[www.ydccc.co.uk](http://www.ydccc.co.uk)**

Dave Simpson (Sec) 54 Normandy Road, Northallerton, DL7 8RW

Tel: 01609 775557 E-mail: [djkates@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:djkates@tiscali.co.uk)

And—have you lost your cap in the wind when you've had the roof down? Well, for £3.50 you might want to buy yourself a *Cap Retainer* which will stop you having this costly problem ever again. See the link below:

<http://www.watersportwarehouse.co.uk/shop/swim-beach/caps-hats-etc/clip-on-cap-retainer-684219.html>

And for those of you who have a few idle moments, take a look at this motor biker commuting into Moscow during the morning rush hour. I doubt if he is alive today:

[http://www.angelfire.com/ak2/intelligencerreport/high\\_speed.html](http://www.angelfire.com/ak2/intelligencerreport/high_speed.html)

And if you've often wondered how anyone can climb a tower or church steeple, look at this telecom engineer, often without any safety straps!

[http://edge.liveleak.com/80281E/u/u/ll2\\_player\\_files/mp55/player.swf?config=http://www.liveleak.com/player?a=config%26item\\_token=07b\\_1284580365%26embed=1](http://edge.liveleak.com/80281E/u/u/ll2_player_files/mp55/player.swf?config=http://www.liveleak.com/player?a=config%26item_token=07b_1284580365%26embed=1)

**Godfrey**

## **Drive it day and Treasure Hunt 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2012**

Often confused with St Georges Day but that's because Drive it Day is usually the nearest Sunday to the 23<sup>rd</sup> April except when Easter gets in the way. This was the date in 1900 of the first Thousand Mile Trial starting from London. 65 cars started and 35 finished and the Hon.C.S.Rolls in a Panhard won the gold medal for best overall in the tests. (Hill climbs, speed trials etc.). In the one mile speed trial over two runs he averaged 37.63 mph his nearest rival was a Napier on 29.6mph.

Anyway, enough of the history lesson. Our Run will be somewhat less arduous at just under 40 miles using mostly country roads (no wooden bridges, sorry) to finish in the old market town of Garstang (Cherestane in the Doomesday Book). There's a large car park with toilets but unfortunately the down-side is it's pay and display (£1.40 for two hours) even on Sunday. Here we will have a walking Treasure Hunt in the old parts of the town. The Treasure Hunt can be done at your own pace as tables will be reserved for us at the Crofters Hotel. Times are flexible but they don't expect us 'till about quarter to two onward. Order your food when you get there, anything from light bites to more substantial fare.

If you want to do the run but can't stay for lunch you can drop your answers in at the Crofters on your way home. If you want to do the run but not the Treasure Hunt, that's OK too. So there's no excuse not to be there. Get those dust sheets off, get it road taxed, (post '72 cars only, sorry I couldn't resist) do the annual check and get yourselves and your car to the start which is at the Asda car park at Clayton Green. (PR6 7JY for sat-nav users). We decided on the Asda car park so you would have the use of their toilets and café but now we realise supermarkets only open at 11-o'clock on Sundays and anyway the Clayton Green branch doesn't have a café, so you have been warned. There is a petrol station if you need any but that doesn't have a shop either.

We reckon between 1 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> to 2 hours for the run then an hour for the treasure hunt so we suggest you get away no later than 10.45 but we will be there from 10.15.

Hope to see you there.

**Alan & Dot** (whose decision is final!)

## Speaker on Club Night, 27<sup>th</sup> March – Preston Tram System

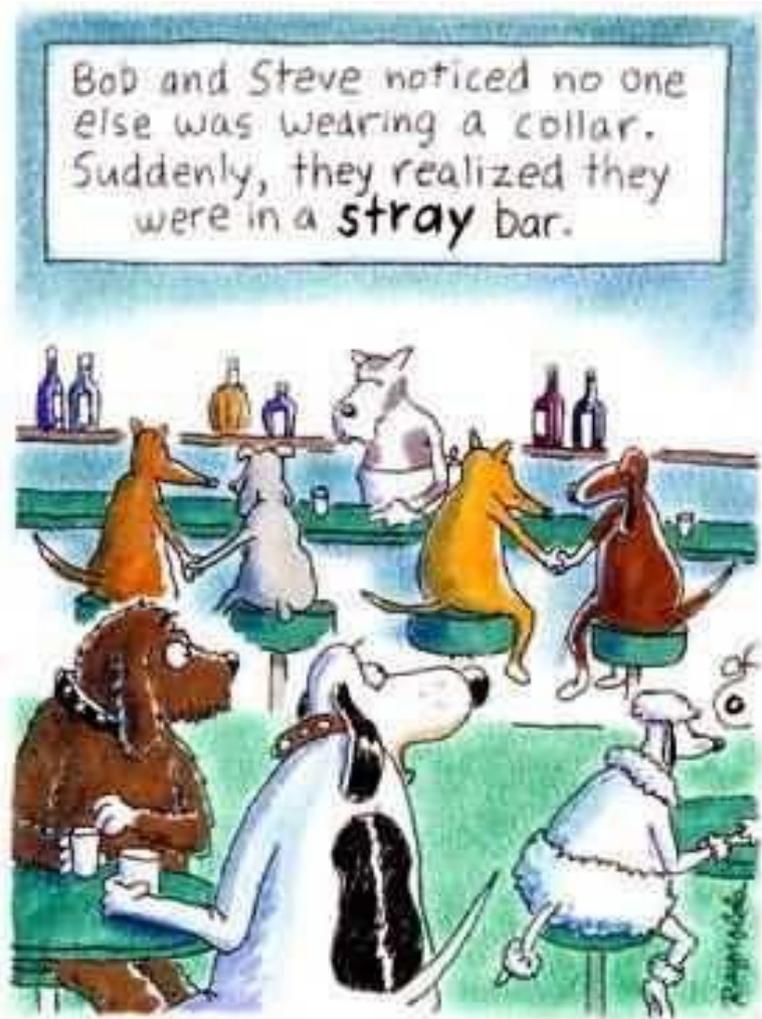
We have been very fortunate to have arranged a speaker from Preston Tram Power.

This is a private company that has been set-up to create a much needed tramway system in Preston. As some of you will remember, Preston had an extensive tram system up to the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. One of the major employers in Preston, Dick Kerr (which became English Electric) from Strand Road was a manufacturer of trams for the UK and many export markets

The new system is hoping to re-use some of the old tramway beds and also parts of the old rail network that ran from Maudland sidings to the Red Scar works through various tunnels. They are also hoping to use local manufacturers where possible.

They have an interesting website that is accessible via Google by typing 'Preston Tram Power'. So come along to the Welcome Inn at 8.00 pm for what will be a very interesting and informative talk.

## *Mike's Crazy Cartoon*



## *Preston & District MG Enthusiasts Club Calendar 2012*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Note</b>
25 Mar	Sunday	Run & Lunch	10.30	Ley Inn, Clayton le Woods	
27 Mar	Tuesday	Club Night	20.00	Welcome Tavern	Guest Speaker
22 Apr	Sunday	Drive it Day, inc. Treasure Hunt	10.30	Asda Car Park, Clayton Green	
13 May	Sunday	Cholmondeley Castle	9.30	M6 south—Charnock Richard Services	Advise Secretary if club pass required
29 May	Tuesday	Club Night - evening run	20.00	TBA	
3 Jun	Sunday	Heskin Steam Rally—Heskin Hall	10.00	TBA	Free Ticket from Secretary
10 Jun	Sunday	Garstang Auto Jumble	9.30	Burlingtons Broughton A6	Tickets £3 from Secretary
15 Jun	Friday	NTBHW - Beamish weekend	9.30	TBA	Still room available. Contact Bill
26 Jun	Tuesday	Club Night—SYCO	20.00	Welcome Tavern	
1 Jul	Sunday	Classic Car Show—Townley Park, Burnley	9.30	TBA	
8 Jul	Sunday	Leighton Hall	9.30	Burlingtons Broughton A6	Advise if club pass required
15 Jul	Sunday	Fleetwood Tram Show/Display	9.30	TBA	
22 Jul	Sunday	Run & Lunch	10.00	TBA	
31 Jul	Tuesday	Club Night Auto Test	19.30	Schultz Estate	
5 Aug	Sunday	Northern National	9.30	TBA	Also on Sat 4 Aug
5 Aug	Sunday	Yorkshire Classic Car & Bike show, Ripley Castle, Harrogate		(As a possible alternative)	
11 Aug	Saturday	Oulton Park MG race meeting	TBA	TBA	
19 Aug	Sunday	Club Run (Pendle Witch anniversary)	10.00	TBA	
28 Aug	Tuesday	Club Night—evening run	20.00	TBA	
9 Sep	Sunday	Run & Lunch—Fairhaven	10.00	Ribble Pilot car park	
16 Sep	Sunday	Lancashire Lanes Run	TBA	TBA	
25 Sep	Tuesday	Club Night—Guest Speaker	20.00	Ian Podgson (MG) - hopefully	
7 Oct	Sunday	St Annes Pleasureland Event	TBA	TBA	
14 Oct	Sunday	Run & Lunch	TBA	TBA	
30 Oct	Tuesday	Club Night - Annual Quiz	20.00	Welcome Tavern	
3 Nov	Saturday	Bonfire Night & hotpot	20.00	Schultz Estate	
27 Nov	Tuesday	Club Night	20.00	Welcome Tavern	
1 Dec	Saturday	Annual Dinner & awards	19.30	Ley Inn, Clayton le Woods	
27 Dec	Thursday	Cold Turkey Run	TBA	TBA	

# Committee, Contacts and Useful Information



## Honorary President - Jeff Reid

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Club Website: <http://www.prestonmg.co.uk>