



**Preston & District MG
Enthusiasts club**

Established 1980

May 2015

NEWSLETTER



Start of the St. Georges day run and treasure hunt

PAUL HEYES

Chairman's Chat

Hi,

Events

Since the last Newsletter we have had a club quiz night and two Sunday runs, one of which included the treasure hunt.

Sunday 26th April was the Treasure Hunt and Run. First and most important is to thank Brian and Andrea Gouldthorpe for what I believe was an excellent day where everyone enjoyed the treasure hunt around Garstang, the run to Ferrari's, lunch and to top it all off great weather. Unfortunately I had to send my apologies as I had been struck by some sort of stomach bug putting me in bed for a couple of days.

The results for the treasure hunt were very close with first and second being decided on a tiebreaker and then three on equal third.

Results.

1st Steve & Trish Gaskell (new members)

2nd Godfrey & Ann Dennis

= 3rd John & Carolyn Durkin

Andy & Carole Schultz

Rick, Anna & Harry (new members)

Going back to 2001 Karen and I organised the first few of what has become the annual treasure hunt. After a few years we thought we should find a way of passing on the honour of organising the event and so decided that the winner should organise the following year's event. This process was followed for a while, then all manner of methods were applied and more recently it seems to have reverted back to the winners having the honour. So hopefully Steve & Trish are up for a challenge, but if they are feeling unsure I am sure there are lots within the club who will give support or encouragement if needed.

Tuesday 28th April was club night with a quiz (practice for the annual quiz in September) just to keep the minds working. Six teams took part with the results as follows.

Quiz Night

We Need Help 30

Creme de la Creme 25

Bill, Janet, Dot & Carolyn 24

The Chieftains 21

The Seven 16

The Lycra Lads 12

Sunday 3rd was the run from Mitton Hall. Unfortunately we couldn't make it for this run so are unable to report anything. Hopefully there will be more detail within the newsletter.

On the subject of articles or write ups on events, or any subject of interest it would be really good to see entries in the newsletter from club members rather than just the committee, all that is needed is to get the article to Paul Heyes (or a committee member) before the 15th of the month.

Shortly after you receive this newsletter it should be club night and another one of "Roger's Runs". I have just been looking back through road books that I have kept and found what I think would be the first (2005), second and third of the events organised by Roger and Elizabeth Schofield. Within the newsletter there should be more information on this year's run.

Well that's all for now, hopefully see you all at the start or by the sand dunes at Formby.

Tony



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Entries close on 30th June 2015

Secretary's Scribbles

At a talk given by the police last year it was revealed that in just 3 months, over 800 cars built before 1986 had been stolen and never recovered. I suppose all those cars could be called 'classic cars' as their age would be 25 years or more. Sadly the reality is that most of those cars will have been broken up and sold as parts, and very few victims of this type of vehicle theft will have been able to provide the police with ID for the items taken that would stand up in court. Thieves tend to target property that's not marked because this means the police will have difficulty obtaining a search warrant. Without an ID on suspected stolen goods there is no trace back to the crime.

Sadly, I've had a few cars stolen, during my 13 years living in Bootle, Liverpool, from 1961 to 1974. Of note was my Mark 3 Cortina, parked on the spacious drive outside my father's vicarage house, well off the road. I'd had the car serviced at the main Ford dealership in Bootle about 2 weeks before the theft, and I got up one morning to find it missing. I didn't have an alarm on the car, did anyone in those days? The police found the car locally two days later, completely unmarked with no sign of forced entry. But the radio/stereo had been taken. How can that be? Well, this was a top class unit of the period, a Radiomobile 108SR, which would have been attractive to any thief. The police found out how the car was stolen, and the thief was arrested. He was the mechanic at the Ford dealership who serviced the car! He had seen the radio unit whilst undertaking the service, and it was relatively easy for him to get a duplicate key for the car. He left it for a short while, he knew my address, and thought it was easy pickings. I don't suppose the police today would investigate a car theft like they did then. I had a Mini stolen, and that had a Krooklock on it. Useless gadget! I also had a Morris Minor convertible stolen, again from outside my house. And I lived in a good part of Bootle! So I thought. Ann & I had our wedding presents stolen from the vicarage whilst we were on honeymoon, but that's another story! Oh, the glorious 60s and 70s!

So what do you do to safeguard your MG when you take it out and leave it parked for a short while. They can be hot wired easily, and must be considered easy pickings for a car thief. We read in the Enjoying MG magazine of the many thefts of classic MGs up and down the country, and the thought of my own car getting pinched would bring nothing but misery to me.

I suppose most of the time, we are out on runs collectively, and parking en masse together does provide some security. I have a cut off switch on my car which isolates the battery, and that has to be quite a good deterrent. The car also has the original space alarm system on it, which works, but I don't use it as often as I should. Of course the other thing to do is always park the car sensibly. On the front at Lytham St Anne's is much better than up a dingy side street, where trouble may be lurking. Paul Heyes has a proper set of handcuffs fastened to his steering wheel, with a stout chain secured to a floor bracket. No one's going to pinch his B Roadster, that's for sure!

But the fact is we do get complacent, and we need to keep security of our vehicles in mind.

I was up at Andy & Carole Schultz's 'Drop In Centre' the other day for a minor matter, and Gordon was fiddling and fettling his white MGC Roadster, hopefully to get it fit and ready for the NTBHWE. He was telling me that so and so had been in during the day, and I think its

about time that Andy installed a coffee making station in that middle island on his driveway, with a few seats for customers to have a quiet natter and noggin! What do you think?

What's coming up?

Well, as already mentioned, we have Roger's run on Tuesday the 26th May instead of our monthly club night.

The Not The Bank Holiday Weekend trip takes place on Friday the 5th June until Monday the 8th. As an alternative, there is a classic car show on Sunday the 7th June in Cleveleys, around Victoria Road.

Then we have the 32nd Classic car show at Hoghton Tower on Sunday the 14th June. I have some passes for this at £4 each. Just e-mail me if you want any. We will meet for this show at 10.00am in B&Q's car park Bamber Bridge.

Then towards the back end of June, we have the Towneley Park, Burnley show on Sunday the 28th June – pay £5 on the gate to enter. Again meet at B&Q Bamber Bridge at 10.00 am.

And lastly – on Tuesday the 30th June, the club will hold its Auto test night at the Schultz Palace, starting at 7.30pm.

And – I have some tickets for Leighton Hall on Sunday the 5th July - £3.50 each.

Finally - don't forget to get your Lancashire Lanes Run entry form off to Michael. YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!

GODFREY

*****Reminder*****

Evening run to Formby – Tuesday 26 May

For those members who missed the article in the March Newsletter, the Formby run (sometimes referred to as the “Fish ‘n’ Chip” run) will be on the evening of 26 May. This is a club night event, so there will be no meeting at the Railway Tavern in May. If you are not planning to do the run, don't show up at the Railway Tavern; there won't be anyone there.

If you are a seasoned campaigner who has taken part in Formby Runs before, or you caught the article in the March Newsletter, you know the form and you need only skim-read the rest of this reminder. For new members, those who haven't taken part in one of these runs before and those who missed the earlier article, the idea revolves around a run of about 30 miles concluding with a take-away picnic (fish & chips, pizza, bring your own etc.) at the end. For that reason, it is advantageous to start the run in good time so that there is decent time and enough daylight at the end of the run to eat your picnic, have a bit of a natter and, if the weather is kind, have a bit of a ‘mooch’ as well! Therefore, you might want to bring (a) the obligatory folding chairs; (b) something to drink (wine, juice, a flask of coffee etc.); and (c) a pair of walking shoes – in case you want bit of a wander through the pinewoods / on the beach to walk off your picnic. The run will start from the car park adjacent to Lang's of Longton (formerly the Little Chef) on the A59 on the Southport side of the Much Hoole round-a-bout (sat nav - PR4 5BF). I will be there from about 18.30 – in case anyone wants to get on the road in good time to optimise their time at the end. (Enter the car park and turn left to park, so as not to inconvenience Lang's customers.) **Please make sure you arrive at the start before 19.30: I will be leaving at 19.30 to get to the finish for 20.00(ish).**

The route has been proofed and I have visited the suggested food outlets to confirm that they will be open. The run itself is 31 miles and takes approximately 1¼ hours to complete as it meanders cross-country via Rufford and Scarisbrick to finish at Formby Point. As you approach Formby, the route goes past a 24hr Tesco (for loos & petrol) and as you drive through Formby, the route goes past 2 good fish & chip shops and a good pizza take-away, or for those who are *really* hungry, there is a Domino's pizza take-away about 20 yards off the route; (Tuesday is buy one, get one free at Domino's!). The route plan shows where all these places are.





The finish (where you can eat your picnic) is the National Trust Red Squirrel Reserve at Formby Point. The National Trust has provided several picnic tables and benches (not solely for our use!), so you might want to pop a couple of folding chairs in the boot of the car – just in case it turns out to be a sunny evening and other people have a similar idea! Car parking is within sight of the picnic benches

Formby beach is about 5 minutes' walk from the picnic benches and there is also a short 'squirrel walk' in amongst the pine trees – again, only a couple of minutes away from the picnic benches. Now you know why I mentioned walking shoes. The red squirrel population is pretty strong at the moment, but they tend to be less active towards dusk, so you'll need to keep your eyes peeled. Ordinarily, entry to the reserve is £5.50 per car, but after 17.30, when the National Trust staff 'clock off', entry is free. Unfortunately, they lock the loos when they clock off, hence the importance of Tesco!

The quickest route back to Preston is via the Southport Coastal Road and the A565/A59. I have prepared a 2nd route to get you out of Formby and onto the A565 north of Southport in the shortest possible time. At that point, you pick up the Preston signs and find your own way home – hopefully full of dinner.

As a final point, there may be one or two people who fancy joining the picnic at the end without doing the run. That's fine. The Red Squirrel Reserve postcode for your sat nav is L37 1LJ.

All we need is a decent evening. If someone can arrange some good weather, I'd be very grateful!

Roger Schofield

Date	Club Event	Time	Start / Meet
Tue 24 Feb	Tenpin Bowling	20.30	Lakeside Preston
Sun 22 Mar	Club Run & Lunch	10.30	New hall tavern PR5 OXA
Tue 31 Mar	Club Night (Speaker)	20.00	Railway at Leyland
Sun 12 Apr	Club Run & Lunch	10.30	The Mill cafe
Sun 26 Apr	Drive It Day (inc. Treasure Hunt)	10.00	Booths car park Garstang
Tue 28 Apr	Club Night (inc. Quiz)	20.00	Railway at Leyland
Sun 3 May	Club run and lunch	10 00	Start at Mitton Hall
Tue 26 May	Club Night - Evening Run	18 30	Lang's of Longton PR45BF
5/8 June	NTBHWE - Derbyshire	09.30	TBA
Sun 14 Jun	Classic Car Show - Hoghton Tower	10.00	B&Q Bamber Bridge
Tue 30 Jun	Autotest	19.30	Schultz Palace
Sun 28 Jun	Classic Car Show Townley Park	10.00	B&Q Bamber Bridge
Sat 4 Jul	Lostock Hall Carnival (5 cars)	10.30	Gas Works Rd. Lostock H
Sun 5 Jul	Leighton Hall Classic Car Show	09.30	Phantom Winger
Sun 12 Jul	Club Run & Lunch	10.30	TBA
Sun 19 Jul	Fleetwood Tram Day	09.30	Ribble Pilot Car Park
Tue 28 Jul	Club Night - SYCO	20.00	Railway at Leyland
Sun 9 Aug	Northern National Pateley Bridge	09.30	TBA
Sun 16 Aug	Club Run & Lunch	10.30	TBA
Sun 23 Aug	Lancashire Lanes Run	09.30	Dobbies. Blackpool Road
Tue 25 Aug	Club Night - Evening Run?	19.00	TBA
Sat 12 Sep	Oulton Park MG Race Meeting	09.00	Charnock Richard Services
Sun 13 Sep	Fairhaven Classic Car Show/Lunch	10.30	Ribble Pilot Car Park
Sun 28 Sep	Canberra Club Classic Car Show	11.00	BAE premises, Samlesbury
Tue 29 Sep	Club Night	20.00	Railway at Leyland
Sun 11 Oct	Club Run & Lunch	10.30	Phantom Winger
Tue 27 Oct	Club Night	20.00	Railway at Leyland
Sat 7 Nov	Bonfire Night + Hotpot	19.00	Schultz Palace
Tue 24 Nov	Club Night, Elizabeths xmas quiz	20.00	Railway at Leyland
Sat 5 Dec	Annual Dinner & Awards	19.30	Ashton & Lea Golf Club
Sun 27 Dec	Cold Turkey Run	10.30	TBA

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