

MORE MG GRAFFITI



February 2013



Thanks for 2 great years!

**The writing on the wall for the
MG enthusiasts of Northamptonshire**



NORTHANTS MG OWNERS' CLUB REGALIA



Shirts, Jackets etc. With Northants MGOC Logo

<i>Sizes:</i>	S, M, L, XL, XXL
<i>Colours:</i>	See Catalogue for colour choices
Northants MGOC Umbrellas	£ 12.00

Fleece Jackets

<i>Full Fleece</i>	£ 27.00
<i>Gillett Fleece</i>	£ 26.00
<i>Gillett Sport</i>	£ 30.00
Short Sleeve Shirts	£ 24.00

Other items

Clothing

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Polo shirts ...	£ 18.00
Polo Shirts—100% Cotton	£ 20.00
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Rugby shirts ...	£ 26.00

Baseball Caps	£9.00
Beanie Hat (Woolly Hat)	£7.50
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Key Fobs ... (<i>while stocks lasts</i>)	As below
Rose of the Shires 2009 (trolley disc key ring)	£ 2.00
WNAA	£ 1.50
Northants MGOC (leather)	£ 1.00
Clocks.. (<i>while stocks last</i>)	£ 4.50

Colour photographs of the range can be found on our website,
www.mgnorthants.org

To purchase or order any items or for any other enquiries regarding our exclusive regalia, please see **Ed Scott** at the next meeting or call him on 01604 882472 (Email: regalia@mgnorthants.org)

MORE MG RAFFITI



Northants MG Owners' Club

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Committee contacts:

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NOTICE: The Club hereby gives formal notice that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13th February at 8pm in The Green Restaurant, Collingtree Golf Club, Northampton. NN4 0XN. The accounts have been sent via an all-member mailing for their perusal prior to the AGM.

Deadline for the next issue:

All submissions for the next issue should reach Steve Trafford (Email as above) by **15th of each month**.

Whilst every effort will be made to include all articles received in *More Graffiti*, they may not appear straight away or, if space is limited, may only be published in the online version of *More Graffiti*.

We are always pleased to accept members' photographs for publication.

Any Page with RED Headers is exclusive to the online version of *More Graffiti*

All online submissions should be sent to newsletter@mgnorthants.org

What's on?

Here's a list of what's happening this and next month that may be of interest to Northants MGOC members.

Please don't forget to check the 'Blue Book' at club meetings for details and if you're interested in an upcoming event or wish to propose your own, please get in touch with Steve Trafford. Please read 'Newslink' for up to date details such as convoy starts, etc. if not given below.

February 2013 onwards

10th February	Coach trip to MG Museum, Abingdon	Contact Steve Trafford for details
13th February	CLUB AGM	19th Hole Clubhouse Collingtree Golf Club, 8.00pm
22nd February	Snowdrop Run Wimpole Hall, Cambs.	Cambs MGOC www.cambsmgoc.co.uk
24th February	Sunday Club Meeting	Aviator, Sywell 12 noon onwards
	Event Details in "The Blue Book"	Please let us know of any upcoming events.

WANTED
£17.50

**A TIMELY
REMINDER
THAT YOUR
SUBSCRIPTIONS
ARE NOW DUE**

Thank you



LOTTERY

No lottery held at the January club meeting.

Newslink - January



Hello Everyone!

Well doesn't time fly and unbelievably this is my last update for *More Graffiti*. The last two years have just sped by proving that it is true that time flies when your having fun.

It really has been a pleasure helping to run Northants MG Club and I will take away many happy memories of my time as secretary.

I sure with the existing committee in place including a bit of new blood to keep the enthusiasm going the club will go from strength to strength.

Over the last couple of years we have seen the electronic magazine being accepted by the members helping to reduce costs and keep the bank balance healthy. The latest accounts show the club in a strong position to move forward.

The introduction by Barbara of the now famous fishy lottery has also helped raise funds, and not forgetting the many winners who have benefited from the cash prizes.

Looking back we have raised some considerable amounts for our chosen charities including the re-introduction of The Rose of the Shires Run which raised a magnificent £1500 for Air Ambulance.

We also did a couple of runs to Barnsdale Gardens for the East Anglia Ataxia group and The Bristol Children's hospital.

We are hoping to organise another run in July or August to once again raise funds to help pay for a Christmas meal for local sufferers of 'Ataxia'.

Hopefully you will all support us in this?

Barbara and I attended their Christmas meal last December and it was a pleasure to see

all the wheelchair users and fellow sufferers enjoying a great day out.

When I took over as Secretary I promised that all I wanted to ensure was that the club was FUN for everyone whatever their taste and hopefully that's what we achieved.

So all that's left is to say a big thanks you to all the membership and everyone on the committee who has made the last couple of years a success.

Rest assured we are not leaving the club and you will continue to see us at most meetings.

Thanks again!

Steve

This is the last magazine that I will have put together, (albeit very short to accommodate the agenda and accounts prior to the forthcoming AGM) and would like to thank everyone who has helped me by submitting articles and photographs.

With so many events and characters within the club, it has been relatively easy to find things to fill the pages.

I hope that members have been satisfied with my efforts and although I will no longer be responsible for the magazine, whoever takes this little job on can always ask me for any help – I will be pleased to assist someone in showing them the ropes.

Thank you all again.

Barbara



The Teddy Bears' Picnic

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS THREE LITTLE BEARS.... THEN IT WAS FOUR!

Member Mike Anthony suggested at the AGM 2012, that the club adopt a mascot for members to take with them on holidays and tours. Coincidentally, at the same AGM, Mike & Trish Harley brought along some genuine MG Teddy bears for the club to 'do with as they pleased'.

So the committee decided to use the 50th anniversary of the MGB as a guide and using these initials, named the three bears Morris (spelt as in the garage) Gertrude and Beatrice.

Immediately, these little bears became very much in demand. Adrian Higman then asked if he could take Morris on holiday, which was an amazing tour of Europe, but Morris couldn't be found, so we substituted him for a smaller MG bear, which had yet remained un-named. As Adrian had wanted Morris in particular, we said the smaller bear would be called Morris (replacement). However, we then discovered Morris sitting in the back of a cupboard, so quick thinking was used and the smaller Morris became Morris Minor!

The committee have been pleasantly surprised that the club members have taken so warmly to our little 'family' and the magazine has seen many articles and photos of the bears holidays and adventures.

In particular, Adrian Higman's European trip, when we were presented with Adrian and son Mark's 'Holiday Snaps' at a Wednesday meeting. The presentation, to a wide ranging selection of various music and artists was nothing short of brilliant, especially the short video's included amongst the photos.

Morris minor was seen from every angle on mountainside roads, that resembled 'ledges', all sorts of venues and places of interest, with so many humorous positions. For members that misses this, you missed a highly entertaining evening, which we may show again at the AGM, time permitting.

So now that our family has been so welcomed and accepted by so many members, we are all looking forward to seeing what the little bears get up to this year.

On the back cover, a reminder of where our bears have been, with the all important mileage covered—you will be surprised!



BTCC NEWS

JASON PLATO PROMISES MUCH IMPROVED MG FOR 2013 BTCC



Autosport's Matt Beer is reporting that Jason Plato believes the Triple 8 MG will be significantly stronger in the 2013 British Touring Car Championship, even though it was already quick enough to challenge for the title in its debut season.

Plato took the MG to victory in only its third start, and pushed Honda duo Gordon Shedden and Matt Neal for the championship.

Speaking on the AUTOSPORT Stage with KX at AUTOSPORT International, Plato said that despite the MG's strong 2012 pace, it had a lot of room for improvement.

"We've got a lot to do on the car," he said.

"We know where we went wrong last year.

"It wasn't very good in the wet, but actually although it was quick in the dry, it was too hard to drive and not very consistent.

"We're pretty confident we understand what that is. I think we can cure two problems in one."

Having finished just 32 points behind champion Shedden last season, Plato is confident he can put the Hondas under greater pressure in 2013.

"I think we can take the fight to Honda much more aggressively this year," he said.

BTCC NEWS

SAM TORDOFF JOINS JASON PLATO IN MG KX MOMENTUM TEAM

Britain's brightest young racing driver has joined the MG KX Momentum Racing team -and has already achieved one of his lifelong ambitions.

Sam Tordoff, aged 23 has been racing since he was 10 years old and is acclaimed as Britain's brightest racing talent. Last year he was officially recognised as the British Racing Drivers' Club 'Rising Star.'

He joins Jason Plato, the most successful driver in BTCC history, to contest the 2013 Dunlop MSA British Touring Car Championship.

They will both be driving racing versions of the award-winning MG6 GT prepared by Triple 888 Race Engineering, one of the most respected constructors in touring car racing.

Last year Plato was third in the championship in what was supposed to be the team's 'learning year' as MG returned to the track.

Tordoff, who hails from Leeds, began racing karts as a boy and worked his way up the motorsport ladder via the Renault Clio Cup and the Porsche Carrera Cup with many wins and podiums under his belt. He also competed in one round of BTCC racing in 2010 on the Brands Hatch Indy circuit.

Last year Tordoff, who has a B.Eng in Mechanical Engineering and works as a trainee accountant with the JCT600 motor group, won a place at the KX Akademy for the 2013 season. The bursary programme was set up by KX Energy Drink where Jason Plato is the scheme's mentor.

He said: "I'm thrilled to be joining Jason, Ian and the rest of the team and I'm determined to do well - even if it means beating Jason!"

Jason said: "Sam's a great young talent and brings a lot to our team. He's a fast learner and it will be great to see him alongside me on the podium - but I'm planning to be on the top step."

Ian Harrison has the task of managing the MG KX Momentum team. He added: "We've got a great team for the 2013 season in Jason and Sam.

"Jason's obviously got the experience, including a fabulous year with the MG6 GT last year, and Sam's out to prove himself now he's won a seat in a top team. It's going to be a great year of racing."

MG's Sales & marketing Director, Guy Jones, said: "It was brilliant for us to get MG back on the track last year and the cars were seen by millions of fans. Motor sport is in the DNA of the MG brand and we can't wait for the 2013 BTCC to get under way."



Industry News

MG6 ON LIFE-SAVING DUTY



A specially equipped MG6 GT is on front line life-saving duties answering emergency calls.

MG's Sales Centre is helping FastAid volunteers in the West Midlands to respond to life-threatening incidents. FastAid is a group of highly trained Community First Responders who support West Midlands Ambulance Service by attending 999 calls in their area.

The MG6 GT has a distinctive diamond grade livery so that it can be clearly seen, even at night, travelling to the scene of an accident. Inside the car is fitted with an ambulance service radio and carries a vital automated external defibrillator which is critical to saving patients who have suffered a cardiac arrest.

Bulky equipment needed by the Community First Responders is carried in the huge boot of the MG6 GT fastback. Richard Jay, Vice Chairman of FastAid, said: "The cargo space in the MG6 is enormous and allows us to carry all of our specialist equipment with ease."

Ashley Almquest, a FastAid volunteer, highlighted another standard feature of the MG6 GT SE which had proved extremely valuable to answering emergency calls - the built-in satellite navigation system.

He said: "The screen is so clear, the maps are really good and it's easy to use. It can save us vital minutes when we are responding to an urgent call when someone's life could depend on us getting to the scene quickly."

The FastAid MG6 will mainly operate in the greater Birmingham and Solihull areas of the West Midlands where the charity was set up eight years ago. It costs up to £2,000 to train and equip each FastAid responder.

Andy Jeynes, the West Midlands Ambulance Service Community Response Manager, said: "We are extremely grateful to the MG Sales Centre for supplying the MG6. It's already proved its worth on several call outs when the speed of response, and being able to arrive on scene with the right kit, is crucial.

"Without the support of local companies and organisations, such as the MG Sales Centre, we wouldn't be able to keep doing what we do in our local communities."

Simon Bennett, a Sales Executive at the MG Sales Centre in Lowhill Lane, Longbridge, said: "We're very proud that our local community first responders are saving lives in one of our cars. It's about giving something back to the community we live in and we hope that our support helps FastAid to continue the excellent work it does."

Industry News



MG DEALER SELLS AHEAD OF OPENING

Hartwell, the newest MG dealer in the UK has sold cars even before it opens!

The dealership in Corporation Road, Grimsby, hosted a festival of events on Friday (January 25) to mark its official opening - but two MG6 Magnettes have already been sold and the proud new owners will join in the celebrations.

Dave Robertson, General Manager of Hartwell, Grimsby, said: "We opened a few weeks ago ahead of the official opening and the response has been tremendous.

"There has been a lot of genuine interest. We've already sold two MG6 Magnettes and one of the owners will collect their keys on Friday. It's interesting to see just where the MG enquiries are coming from because it's not just from MG fans; we're getting lots of interest from people who tell us they hadn't even considered MG before.

"The value-for-money message seems to be going down well in our area. When people realise just how well equipped the car is, suddenly they start getting serious."

The Hartwell group is 30th on the AM100 list of Britain's biggest retail motor businesses and the Grimsby dealership was one of eight new MG dealerships announced last year.

The MG showrooms in Corporation Road, just off the A180, has two of the recently announced MG6 GT BTTC Edition models and a new MG6 DTi-TECH diesel model alongside petrol MG6 GT and MG6 Magnette models on display.

MG TF MODEL YEAR 2008 ONWARDS SUBJECT OF PRODUCT RECALL

All MG Motor built TFs from 2008 are from 28th January 2013 subject to a precautionary recall (reference RC 0030) following a single incident of an upper rear suspension arm failing. MG Motor has voluntarily entered into this recall to remove what is a very remote chance of any further failures and to ensure owners of these cars can retain full confidence in them.

All owners who are the registered keeper with the DVLA will be receiving letters direct from MG Motor, which advises them to contact their nearest MG Dealer/Repairer to arrange for the replacement of the affected parts free of charge and which should be completed on a while you wait basis and take a little over an hour. ALL cars will receive replacement rear upper suspension arms free of any cost, irrespective of whether the car is within warranty or not, and irrespective of the Service History.

In the meantime MG advises that owners can still continue to use their cars as normal until such time that the replacement part is fitted. They have also indicated that a previous recall from 2011 (reference RC 002) related to another suspension part (damper spring) shows that seventy cars have not apparently had the rectification work associated with that recall completed. When cars are undergoing the work in respect of the current recall Dealers will confirm that the previous recall work has been done and if not automatically complete it. This will add to the time that the work will take to complete.

Owners may wish to contact their MG dealer directly to arrange for this work to be carried out and owners who do not know the location of their nearest dealer should visit www.mg.co.uk and use the dealer locator facility linked from the home page. Owners who do not have internet access can contact Keith Harris at MG on 07850 145796.

BIG Reminder...

It's February, that means it's time for the...

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Northants MG Owners' Club will take place on WEDNESDAY, 13th FEBRUARY commencing at 8.00pm prompt at The Greens Restaurant, Collingtree Golf Club, Northampton NN4 0XN.

Following the AGM, we shall have our usual club night downstairs in the 19th Hole Clubhouse.

and your...

SUBS ARE DUE

Yes, it's time to pay up!

Once again, the cost has been held at £17.50 for the full 12 months. See Michael Port at the meeting with your cheque or cash (sorry, credit or debit cards are not accepted, nor are Groats, French Francs, Deutch Marks or Pesetas and definitely not the Greek Drachma!)

Thanks to everyone for your various contributions towards keeping the club vibrant and active.

If your wish to be on the Committee, please let Steve Trafford know before the AGM starts.



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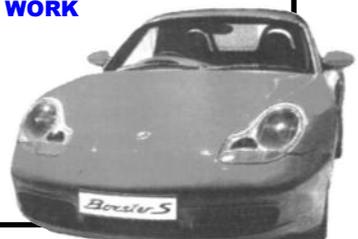


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THE BEARS MILEAGE

MORRIS:

Cricket St Thomas	468
Canterbury/Bexley	320
Brittany	510
Weedon Village Fete	10
Blenheim Palace	83
Camping / Bedford	131
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>1512</u>



GERTRUDE:

Scotland	650
Hollowell	30
Outer Hebrides	1533
Jersey	437
<u>Total</u>	<u>2650</u>



BEATRICE:

Kilsby	124
London to Brighton	323
Jersey	520
Germany	937
Rauceby	78
Cosby	61
MK, Mallory & Isle of Wight	474
<u>Total</u>	<u>2517</u>



MORRIS MINOR:

'Around Europe'	2969
Duxford	136
Belgium	2 563
<u>Total</u>	<u>5668</u>

