



**HIGHLAND MG OWNERS' CLUB
SPRING SAUNTER 2025
6 – 9 MAY INCLUSIVE**

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Highland MG Owners' Spring Saunter 2025. I hope you have an enjoyable time. If you need to contact me, I am on 07777 641436 (not hands free though!).

Richard Jenner
Highland MGOC Events Coordinator

GENERAL:

SOME GENERAL POINTERS:

First, a big convoy is unlikely to be able to keep together and can be a nuisance to others on single track roads, so please be prepared to navigate independently using the information in this booklet and hopefully a decent map. Secondly, please feel free to depart whenever you are ready in the morning – I anticipate that most will want to be on the road between 09:00 and 09:30 am. You will need small change for some of the parking and some of the toilets. If you are a member of Historic Environment Scotland or the National Trust Scotland or the Historic House Association, bring your cards with you.

WHO IS GOING?

Stuart & Margaret Brock
Michael Fraser
David & Elaine Hitchmough
Richard Jenner
Hughie & Katherine MacKenzie
Jim & Moira Mould
Lorraine Noble-Thompson (arriving late on Tuesday, not on the Thursday run, might be late for Thursday dinner)
Richard Penman (checking out on Thursday)
Nick & Viv Ricketts
Nick & Jean Simpson
Tony Smith
Dave & Dawn Tennant

(12 cars, 19 people)

WHERE ARE WE STAYING?

The George & Abbotsford Hotel, High St, Melrose TD6 9PD (Tel 01896 822308), Stuart is the point of contact for the hotel. The parking area is

behind the hotel. NB there is a one-way system in front of the hotel which is on the left if you are following the one-way system. The carpark entrance is immediately after the building. Please see the sketch map for more details. Stuart has booked dinner for 7:30 pm each evening and has passed on the orders for Tuesday evening; you will be asked to pre-order for the following evenings, and the menus are attached to this document.

FUEL:

The nearest garage to the hotel (2.4 miles) with E5/97 RON is Esso in Galashiels (28 Melrose Rd, Galashiels TD1 2BZ). There is also a BP garage in St Boswells (TD6 0EW on the A68 on the right heading south) with E5 which is 4.5 miles from the hotel. Please see the sketch maps for details. I recommend you fill-up after each run.

PROGRAMME

TUESDAY

I expect most will make their own way to the hotel. Using Inverness as a notional starting point the direct route is around 200 miles and is just under 4 hours (without stops) using the A9 to Perth then the M90 to the Queensferry Crossing then the M90 to the M8 (direction Edinburgh) to the A720 east (Edinburgh Bypass) to the A68 to the junction with the A6091 then into Melrose.

I plan to use the A9 as far as Dunkeld then to take the A822 through Strathbraan and on to Crieff. I will depart Crieff on the A822 through Muthill and the left turn on to the A823 which goes past the Gleneagles Hotel then over the A9 on the A823 through Glen Eagles and Glen Devon. The A823 briefly merges with the A977 before continuing past the Knock Hill course where I will turn off left on to the B914 which goes to Kelty and J4 on the M90. I will follow the M90/M8 to the A720, but I intend to turn off on to the A7 to run through Galashiels to Melrose. This is around 215 miles from Inverness and around 5 hours without stops. I plan to be leaving Inverness around 09:00 am so might see you enroute.

THE RUNS

Below are suggested runs for Wednesday & Thursday together with places you may want to visit. I have not booked anything, so you are free to proceed at your own pace and to stop, or not, wherever you choose. There are a lot of attractions in the Borders so places **not** on our itinerary you may wish to visit are Abbotsford House TD6 9BQ, just west of Melrose (10am – 5pm, HHA, gardens free entry) and any or all of the abbeys – Melrose, Jedburgh, Dryburgh (Kelso is currently closed) – these are all Historic Environment Scotland. We also pass numerous castles, some of

which are open to the public. I am grateful to Tony Smith for his suggestions for routes and visits.

WEDNESDAY

This is an anti-clockwise circular tour and takes in the Dawyck Botanic Gardens and the Samye Ling Tibetan Buddhist Monastery as well as passing near Thomas Telford's birthplace (near Langholm – also the birthplace of 'Hugh Macdiarmid' and visited by Neil Armstrong!). The total length is 135 miles. There is an option to shorten the route at St Mary's Loch to give an 80-mile run which will miss out the monastery and Langholm.

Dawyck Gardens (EH45 9JU) open at 10 am. Admission (concessionary rate with Gift Aid is £8.70). There should be some colour in the Azalea Terrace as well as some very big trees. There is a café on site. After Tweedsmuir we have a very scenic road to St Mary's Loch passing the Talla and Megget reservoirs. Talla was started in 1897 and completed in 1904 to provide water to Edinburgh; over 30 workmen died during its construction. Megget covers 640 acres and has the largest earth dam in Scotland; it was completed in 1983. It is an 'impounding' reservoir and supplies the holding Gladhouse and Glencourse reservoirs; it can hold 61,400 000 cubic metres of water (that's a lot!). The long and short routes split after St Mary's Loch.

The Samye Ling (on the long route - DG13 0QL) is a monastery and international centre of Buddhist training, known for the authenticity of its teachings and tradition. It is also a centre for the preservation of Tibetan religion, culture, medicine, art, architecture and handicrafts. Founded in 1967 by two spiritual masters, Samye Ling was the first Tibetan Buddhist Centre to be established in the West and was named after Samye, the very first monastery to be established in Tibet. Samye Ling grounds and main temple are open for day visitors all year round and entry is free of charge. Please refer to the sketch map for more route details.

THURSDAY – VE DAY!

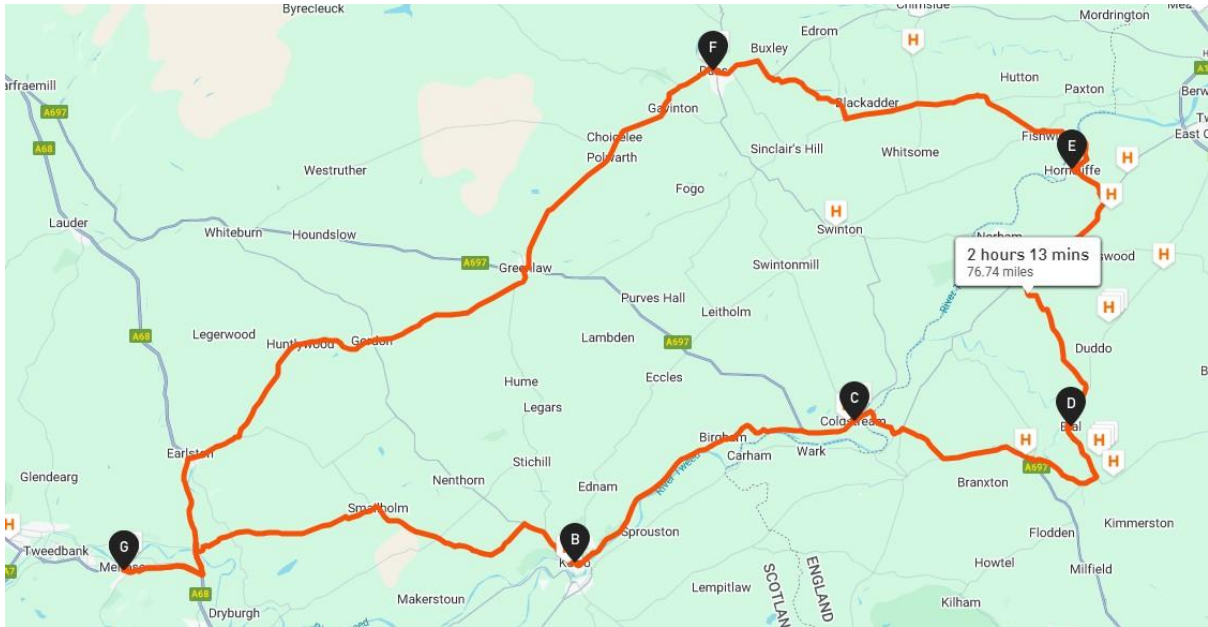
This is also an anti-clockwise circular tour that includes a border crossing (twice!) and takes in a working water cornmill, the Chain Bridge Honey Farm, the Union Chain Bridge and Duns where you can visit the Jim Clark Museum. The total length is 77 miles.

The Heatherslaw Cornmill (TD12 4TJ) is a restored 19th century water driven (River Till) cornmill on the Ford & Etal Estate (Northumberland). There has been a mill on this site for over 700 years. It should be possible to visit, and a concessionary ticket is £4. There is also a light railway running to Etal (return journey 1 hour, concession rate is £11).

The Chain Bridge Honey Farm (TD15 2XT) has a café bus onsite (Bristol Lodekka) plus a Visitors' Centre (collection of old commercial vehicles) and shop.

The Union Chain Bridge (TD15 1XQ) was designed by Captain (later Sir) Samuel Brown RN, who held patents for the design of the chains, although Brown altered the tower and abutments on the suggestion of John Rennie. When it opened in 1820 it was the longest wrought iron suspension bridge in the world with a span of 137 metres (449 ft), and the first vehicular bridge of its type in the United Kingdom.

The Jim Clark Motorsport Museum (44 Newtown Street, Duns, TD11 3AU) is open to 4:30pm and a concessionary ticket is £8. Jim Clark is widely regarded as one of the greatest racing drivers of all time, admired for his remarkable achievements and famous for his humility. He dominated world motor racing like no one before or since in all genres of motorsport, winning the Formula 1 World Championship in 1963 & 1965 and the Indianapolis 500. The Jim Clark Café Bistro is nearby in the town square. Please refer to the sketch map for more route details.



Richard
07777 641436

Menus below
Sketch Maps separately

MENUS:

Tuesday

Starters: Haggis Bon Bons served with sweet chilli sauce & salad, **Lentil Soup** served with crusty bread, **Bruschetta** tomato & garlic topping on crusty ciabatta with balsamic dressing.

Mains: Balmoral Chicken chicken breast stuffed with haggis wrapped in bacon served with seasonal vegetables peppercorn sauce & mashed potatoes, **Steak Pie** Served with honey glazed vegetables & chips, **Macaroni Cheese** macaroni cheese served with side salad & garlic bread.

Dessert: Sticky toffee pudding served with ice cream, **Vanilla Cheesecake** served with ice cream, **Mint Chocolate Mousse** served with ice cream.

Wednesday

Starters: Brie Bites served with chilli cranberry sauce & salad, **Chicken Wings** served with BBQ & Buffalo sauce, **Garlic Mushrooms** in a cream sauce, served on crusty ciabatta.

Mains: Battered Fish & Chips served with tartare sauce & peas, **Haggis Neeps & Tatties** served with whisky sauce, **Vegetable Fajitas** served with tortilla wraps, guacamole, salsa & sour cream.

Dessert: Sticky toffee pudding served with ice cream, **Apple Crumble** served with custard, **Ice Cream Sundae** assortment of ice cream with sauce.

Thursday

Starters: Tomato & Basil Soup served with crusty bread, **Black Pudding Bon Bons** breaded black pudding served with peppercorn sauce, **Brie & Bacon Crostini** with a cranberry vinaigrette.

Mains: Chicken G&A diced chicken & bacon with mushrooms & onions in a creamy white wine sauce served with rice, **Steak Pie** served with honey glazed vegetables & chips, **Stuffed Peppers** stuffed bell peppers with mediterranean rice & feta cheese with a side salad.

Dessert: Apple Crumble served with custard, **Vanilla Cheesecake** served with ice cream, **Ice Cream Sundae** assortment of ice cream with sauce.