

June 2026

The Tain Show on Midsummer's Day was blessed with fine weather which brought out an excellent number of participants and spectators. With 11 cars and 18 members on the Club Stand, it was a very enjoyable day so many thanks to Richard Jenner for the making all the arrangements. Further photographs are on the Facebook page.

Richard Penman organised the Club Run on 23rd June which was interesting if somewhat challenging for some! He has also kindly provided a report with some great photographs which I'll circulate separately.

I intended to take my B-GT V8 to the new Cars'n'Coffee venue at the Drumossie Hotel last month but it decided otherwise. It has two 12-volt batteries in parallel and there was barely enough power to operate the fuel pump, let alone the starter. They were in the car when I bought it nine years ago so they've done pretty well, really. If you are not familiar with Bs, the batteries (originally two six-volts) are under the back "seat" and are a real pain to reach and get in or out, especially on a GT.

I sought the assistance of the renowned Stevie Dougherty to source replacements which he kindly did. Exactly the same size as the existing pair – except that they would not drop down fully into the racks. Close examination showed that the new batteries had a slight lip protruding all round the base - just like the old ones had before they were sawn off to make them fit! Not a solution which found favour with Stevie or myself.

Since I was about to go off on holiday for a couple of weeks, I had to leave it in Stevie's capable hands to source appropriate alternatives which should, I hope, be installed this week.

Aren't old cars fun?

May 2026

May got off to a flying start with the Spring Saunter to the Isle of Bute when fourteen members enjoyed the 3-night trip in excellent weather. The highlight was a near full day visit to Mount Stuart where we were given a guided tour of this magnificent house before taking our own time to 'stop & stare' both in the house and grounds. We used both CalMac ferry routes and the ferries ran precisely on-time and were very accommodating for our older cars. For various unfortunate reasons, numbers were rather depleted but those taking part greatly enjoyed the event so many thanks to Richard Jenner and Stuart Brock for their respective parts in making the excellent arrangements.

For the Club Run on 21st May, Irene MacDonald devised a circular scenic route from the Black Isle eastwards into Nairnshire following some interesting and scenic roads. Nine members in six cars took part and were very appreciative of Irene's efforts in arranging this. Photographs are available on our Facebook page.

For the June Club Run, Richard Penman is preparing a "Brochs & Lochs" tour commencing in Brora which will involve stunning scenery, great driving roads and interesting visits. We shall also be taking a Club Stand at the Tain Show on 21st June, one of the largest and most popular events in the area.

April 2026

The sudden and unexpected death of our long-standing former secretary, Peter Poole, on 2nd April came as a shock to us all. Peter played a significant part in rejuvenating the Club after a period in the doldrums and was a keen participant in all our activities along with Jean. The respect and affection with which he was regarded across a range of interests was reflected in the attendance at his funeral. Peter will be sadly missed not least for his sense of humour and friendly nature.

This sad event rather over-shadowed the pre-season lunch organised by Richard in his usual efficient fashion at Tulloch Castle, Dingwall on 16th April. Members present observed a few moments' silence to remember Peter before enjoying an excellent lunch in good company. The fine weather encouraged six members to take their MGs as an encouraging precursor to the season.

We were also indebted to Richard for the interesting and enjoyable route he devised for Drive-it Day on 26th April which saw nine cars and fourteen members tour round Easter Ross. Having braved the steep hill to the North Sutor (and the private road through the farm at the top), we had a brief stop in Portmahomack in brilliant sunshine before proceeding to the 1864 Restaurant in Tain for a very pleasant late lunch. We also visited the rather quirky antiques shop in the former hotel at Hill of Fearn which is packed with all sorts of artefacts, books, toys etc. In fact, it's so crammed it was impossible for all of us to go in at the same time! Nevertheless, highly recommended if you are in the area.

Next on the programme is the Spring Saunter to the Isle of Bute in the first week in May. A long trip but one which promises much of interest with some great roads and fantastic scenery. Sadly, numbers are rather depleted for various reasons but it's sure to be a memorable trip.

Finally this month, we welcome new members Ian & Catriona Haskell-Ward from Dunvegan in Skye who have a 1971 MGB Roadster. We look forward to seeing them at our events.

March 2026

At our monthly get-together on Zoom in March, we had a presentation from Richard Penman, who has recently taken over as webmaster, on the new website which will be going live in April. Along with our FaceBook page, this is an important in keeping members informed and presenting the Club to non-members. We also heard an up-date from Events Co-Ordinator Richard Jenner on the plans for the season which will commence on 16th April with the pre-season lunch, followed by Drive-it Day and then the Spring Saunter to the Isle of Bute. After what seems to have been a long winter, it will be great to get out and about again with the MGs.

February 2026

With no club run, members got together on Zoom on 22nd February to hear an up-date from Events Co-ordinator Richard Jenner on the programme for the year which was coming together well. Another Zoom meeting is scheduled for March before the season gets under way with the pre-season Lunch on 16th April at Tulloch Castle, Dingwall followed by Drive-It Day and the Spring Saunter to the Isle of Bute. Richard then gave an account of his participation in the Monte Carlo Rally Classique as navigator for Tony Smith in his RV8. The event was a couple of notches down from the full WRC event or the Rally Historique with its regularity run, closed road sections etc. but was still challenging and strenuous. With some 3500 miles covered from the start at John O' Groats, completing the rally was a considerable achievement as well as a very enjoyable experience. Members thanked Richard for his presentation and congratulated Tony and him on their successful adventure.

January 2026

The AGM held on Zoom in January saw the existing team re-elected to run the Club for the coming year with Michael Fraser as Chairman, Chris Silver as Secretary, Stuart Brock as Treasurer and Richard Jenner as Events Co-ordinator. However, Richard Penman replaced Jim Mould as Webmaster. Grateful thanks were extended to Jim for all his hard work over the past ten years. With Stuart reporting a satisfactory financial situation, the subscription was pegged at £15 per household. Richard Jenner then gave a comprehensive report on 2025's activities and presented a draft programme for this year, noting that the Spring Saunter to Bute is nearly fully booked and there has already been a good response to the planned Autumn Amble to Pitlochry. After further Zoom get-togethers in February and March, we are looking forward to the pre-season lunch in April which will be closely followed by Drive-it Day and the Spring Saunter. Further details of the programme can be found on the website. At the time of writing, Tony Smith and Richard Jenner have just set off from John o'Groats on the Monte Carlo Rally Classique in Tony's RV-8 so best wishes to them and we look forward to hearing how they get on.

December 2025

No Club activities to report this month but the AGM is scheduled for 11th January when we can start planning the programme for 2026. Arrangements for the Spring Saunter to the Isle of Bute are already in place and it's fully subscribed. For the Autumn Amble, a re-run of our previous very successful trip to Orkney seemed a good idea but acquiring suitable accommodation at reasonable cost on the dates we wanted to go proved impossible, sadly. As a very acceptable substitute, Stuart has made a provisional booking for the Moulin Hotel in Pitlochry which was originally founded in 1695. With its own brewery and award-winning pub, it is sure to be a popular choice and there are many attractions and excellent driving roads in the area. Best wishes for 2026.

November 2025

To conclude the season, 23 members attended a very enjoyable and convivial lunch at the Tulloch Castle Hotel in Dingwall on 13th November. Many thanks to Richard for arranging the event in very pleasant surroundings with good food and great company. It was an excellent occasion for reminiscing about the activities and events of the 2025 season as well as looking forward to next year. Photographs are available on our Facebook page but are not recommended for those of a nervous disposition! There is no event scheduled for December but the date of 11th January has been set for the AGM on Zoom when we can start planning for 2026.

October 2025

In his usual fashion, Richard had prepared a comprehensive programme and routes for 18 members in 10 cars to enjoy. Stuart also excelled himself in finding the Caledonian Hotel in Leven which proved ideal for our purposes in all respects. The location allowed easy access to a number of attractions including “Scotland’s Secret Bunker”, Kellie Castle, Falkland Palace, the Fisheries Museum, as well as St Andrews and the other coastal villages, together with Culross, Dunfermline etc.

Unlike some other trips, individual members were free to plan their own itineraries following the detailed instructions which Richard had prepared. So we tended to meet up or overlap at various places without travelling as a group but congregating for convivial breakfasts and even more convivial dinners! It was a most enjoyable and interesting event with many happy memories. As you will see from the photograph (courtesy of Richard Penman) not all the cars were MGs!

Richard has also made a provisional arrangement for the end-of-season lunch on 13th November – further details to follow in due course.

September 2025

For the September Club Run, Richard arranged an informal get-together at Mount Gerald Farm Café followed by a circular route in Wester Ross and Sutherland *via* Ullapool, Ledmore Junction, Strathoykel and Bonar Bridge. It was a very pleasant opportunity to extend best wishes to former Secretary, Peter Poole, on his 83rd birthday. We were fortunate with the weather on a late Summer (early Autumn?) day which show-cased the wonderful scenery although, being part of the NC 500, the roads were still very busy with tourists. Many thanks to Richard for making the arrangements for a very enjoyable and sociable day. The Autumn Amble, based at Leven in Fife, beckons at the start of October and Richard has prepared a varied and interesting programme to look forward to.

August 2025

An unfortunate clash of dates saw the Gathering of the Clans coincide with the Historic Wheels Club celebrating their 50th Annual Rally at Brodie Castle. This long-running show attracted around 300 entries with 8 members in 5 cars attending from our Club along with several MGs from other areas. A fine day, albeit with a cool breeze, attracted a large turnout of the public to view the great turnout of vehicles on display and raise a substantial amount for local charities.

At the same time, 6 members in 4 MGs decided to make a long weekend out of the Gathering of the Clans event based in Killin. They toured for 2 days (showery) and then were joined by 2 more Highland members for the Gathering on what turned out to be a fine day. Attendance at Doune exceeded expectations with well over 100 MGs on the field. Many thanks to our hosts, Stirling MGOC.

July 2025

July is a busy month for shows so we decided to have an informal breakfast meeting rather than a day run. David and Elaine Hitchmough kindly arranged the get-together on an informal basis. Ten members in seven cars met at Logie Steading on the 30th in brilliant sunshine and enjoyed the delights of bacon, eggs and black pudding. It was a great opportunity to welcome new members Muriel & Douglas McDonald in their newly-acquired B-GT (see photo) to their first meeting. Speaking of the Hitchmoughs, it was gratifying to see father and son featuring in the "Classic and Sportscar" report on Drive-it Day : we are not so remote after all! August is also going to be a busy month with an unfortunate clash of dates between the popular Historic Wheels Club Rally at Brodie Castle and the Gathering of the Clans. Reports on both next month.

June 2025

One of the busiest months of the year kicked off with the Club being privileged to be invited to “Lossiefest 25” (a families & friends’ event) at RAF Lossiemouth. 12 MGs and 20 members were in attendance and were treated to flying displays by the Red Arrows, a solo Typhoon, a twin Typhoon and Poseidon flypast. We were also able to view the aircraft and had some great conversations about MGs with service families and their friends.

Chris & Gill organised the monthly Club run from Inverness *via* Strathnairn, Cawdor and Lochindorb to an excellent lunch at the Abbey Inn at Kinloss. 17 members in 10 cars took part on a warm summer’s day and some went on to enjoy refreshments at a coffee truck operated by member Craig Robertson’s daughter at Findhorn’s West Beach.

The Club also had a presence at the Tain Classic Rally, one of the biggest in the area, on 22 June; it’s one we always support as a Club with our own stand. This year we had 11 MGs on the stand with a good mix of Bs, Midgets, F/TFs and an MGA and MGC GT. The forecast was for sunshine and showers and fortunately it was much more of the former and our event shelter was only needed once for a particularly heavy but brief downpour. A good day out with much to see. Two new members, Nick Lawrence and Eddie Ritchie, signed up on the day and we look forward to them joining in our events.

May 2025

Nineteen Highland MG Owners in 12 MGs met at Melrose on 6th May for our Spring Saunter in the Borders. The weather was marvellous, and the driving routes took in Dawyck Gardens (Dawyck apparently rhymes with Hawick which of course rhymes with Oick), the Talla Linn 1-in-5 climb, the Samye Ling Monastery, the Heatherslaw Cornmill, the Chainbridge Honey Farm, the Union Chain Bridge and the Jim Clark Motorsport Museum. The George & Abbotsford Hotel proved to be a great base with friendly staff, excellent food and an enclosed courtyard beer garden which was well frequented after some long and hot drives.

On 13th May, the club had a day run to Attadale Gardens (near Lochcarron). The weather in the east was haar but by Garve it lifted into a really warm day hitting 24C in the afternoon which is excellent for the time of year. The photo shows the MGs lined up in front of Attadale House.

We welcome two new members this month, Irene MacDonald from Avoch on the Black Isle who has an MGB Roadster and Sonja Fiskén from Inverness who is former Secretary Peter Poole's daughter. We look forward to seeing both of them at our events.

April 2025

With 32 members attending the Pre-season Lunch and 21 taking part in Drive It Day, we can really feel that the season is well under way. Richard's usual excellent arrangements resulted in a very convivial and enjoyable lunch at Tulloch Castle, Dingwall on 8th April while Drive It Day took place in beautiful sunshine on the 27th. After a scenic tour of the Black Isle, during which we encountered several other groups taking part in the Day, we met back at The Ord Arms in Muir of Ord for soup and sandwiches with friends old and new. The only downside was that Chairman Michael's MGB GT threw a wobbly and refused to proceed half-way throughout despite his and others' best efforts. The Spring Saunter follows early in May with a trip to the Borders. The Club Run scheduled for the 13th is a return trip to the always-popular Attadale Gardens.

March 2025

For our March get-together on Zoom, there was a three-way tie in the quiz organised by Chris & Gill. Since it's traditional for the winner(s) to organise the next one, they'll have to draw straws to see who gets the honour! Richard J showed a fascinating video of a team of MGAs taking part in the 1956 Alpine Rally and also filled in more details in the Programme for the year. Sadly, the Forres Show is not happening this year. We also welcomed new members Peter & Jungmi Kwon Shuttleworth who live in Elgin and have a 1968 MGC roadster. We look forward to seeing them at our events. Sadly, long-standing member John Ducker announced that he has retired from driving so his turbo-charged MGB GT is for sale. There are 34 members booked for the Pre-season lunch at Tulloch Castle in Dingwall on 8th April which should ensure a convivial and enjoyable start to the programme with the "Wake-up Weekend" in Muir of Ord and Drive-it day following on later in the month.

February 2025

Another very quiet month but we did have a get-together on Zoom when Richard J up-dated the programme for the year and showed an interesting historic news film about driving a new TD straight off the production line to the Alps and back. With some dry but very cold weather persisting, and no salt in evidence, some members took the opportunity to attend the monthly Cars'n'Coffee mornings in Inverness and Cromarty. Another Zoom meeting is scheduled for March before we get back into the swing in April with the Start of Season Lunch, Drive-it Day etc.

January 2025

The AGM held on Zoom in January saw the existing team re-elected to run the Club for the coming year with Michael Fraser as Chairman, Chris Silver as Secretary, Stuart Brock as Treasurer, Richard Jenner as Events Co-ordinator and Jim Mould as Webmaster. With Stuart reporting a satisfactory financial situation, the subscription was pegged at £15 per household. Jim intimated that this would be his final year as Webmaster and Richard Penman agreed to consider taking over. Richard Jenner then gave a comprehensive report on 2024's activities and presented a draft programme for this year, noting that both the Spring Saunter and the Autumn Amble are nearly fully booked. After further Zoom get-togethers in February and March, we are looking forward to the pre-season lunch in April which will be closely followed by Drive-it Day and the Spring Saunter in May. Further details of the programme can be found on the website.

November 2024

Sadly, the sudden onset of winter resulted in no MGs being present in the car park of the Tulloch Castle Hotel in Dingwall for the end-of-season lunch on 19th November. Nevertheless, thanks to Richard's usual excellent arrangements, thirty members assembled for an enjoyable meal and a very convivial occasion. It was a fine way to round off a busy season and an opportunity to look ahead to next year. We are not planning a get-together in December so the next event will be the AGM in January, date to be confirmed. Best wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year.

October 2024

The Autumn Amble from 6th to 8th October saw 23 members in 13 cars take in some or all of the interesting and enjoyable programme laid on by Richard. Stuart had negotiated an excellent deal with the Gairloch Hotel which served our purposes very well and was a good base for exploring the area. The staff were pleasant and helpful and the service was fast and efficient.

While some went direct to Gairloch, others took the northern route *via* The Struie, Strath Oykel, Ledmore Junction and Braemore Junction to the first destination, Wester Ross Woodwork operated by Sandy Boyd, a bespoke furniture maker and former MG owner who remains a member of the MGOC and was looking to divest himself of “Enjoying MG” magazines dating back to the 1980s. While members were fascinated by his workshop and skills, there were sadly no takers for the magazines!

Othe visits included Inverewe Gardens and Pool House on the Sunday and the Arctic Convoy Museum on the Monday. Some members also found time to go to the Gairloch Heritage Museum as well as fitting in a run to Inverasdale and Cove to the Arctic Convoy Memorial. The visit to Pool House was particularly memorable for its fascinating history including being the HQ for the Loch Maree Naval base during World War II. The guides were excellent with many interesting anecdotes.

All in all, it was a thoroughly successful event so many thanks to Richard and Stuart for the excellent arrangements.

Richard has intimated a fitting end to the season with the lunch at Tulloch Castle in Dingwall on 19th November so please remember to let him know your selections (and pay Stuart as well!) Otherwise, we'll keep in touch by Zoom over the winter with the AGM to look forward to in January.

Finally, welcome to new member Craig Robertson from Findhorn who has a TF and an RV8 – we look forward to seeing him at our meetings.

September 2024

Richard Penman kindly organised the last one-day run of the season and reports that seven cars joined up for a fairly substantial 130-mile 'Whisky with a Drop of Water' Run through Caithness and Sutherland on 12th September.

Starting from Clynelish Distillery in Brora we took the short run along the coastal A9 to Helmsdale. We then followed the River Helmsdale for the first stop at RSPB Forsinard - the area has recently been designated UNESCO World Heritage status and a trip to the viewing tower provided a vast panorama of this important peatland landscape. We didn't quite manage to retreat to the cars before getting caught in the heavy (and cold) band of rain that passed over.

Continuing on alongside the Halladale River we joined the NC500 route from Melvich to an excellent lunch stop at The Store Bistro in Bettyhill. From there, we crossed the soon-to-be-replaced bridge at Skelpick and took the road south through Strathnaver to Lairg *via* Altnaharra.

Unfortunately, the anticipated coffee stop at The Pier in Lairg was abandoned as they close early out of season so we continued on to the Falls of Shin - where we witnessed some intrepid kayakers descending the falls, which were in full spate after the recent rain.

On to Ardgay for a brief coffee stop where most cars dispersed on their long journeys home - with a quick photo stop at Glenmorangie Distillery in Tain. A thoroughly enjoyable drive through stunning landscapes.

We welcome another two new members this month : mother and son Alison & Steven Dougherty from Inverness who have an eclectic collection of cars (not just MGs), including the intriguing ZTT converted by the factory to run on LPG.

October sees our three-night "Autumn Amble" to Gairloch for which Richard has prepared an interesting and varied programme.

August 2024

For the afternoon run on 14th August, Richard devised an interesting and challenging route, commencing at ASDA in Inverness, going *via* Strathnairn to Farr and then over the famous (or infamous!) road to Garbole. The Garbole-Farr road gives lie to the belief that public roads on mainland UK could not be closed for motor sport purposes, being used on several occasions for the RAC and Scottish Rallies thanks to a pragmatic and practical approach by the former Inverness County Council.

Six cars and eleven members took part on a lovely summer day with blue skies and warm sunshine which emphasised the fine views and majestic scenery. Having traversed Glen Kyllachy following the River Findhorn as far as Coignafearn, we then retraced our steps to the café at the Tomatin Community Hub for refreshments where we were joined by Chairman Michael who had been delayed at a funeral. Formerly the Three Bridges Café but now under community ownership, the café is well worth a visit for the cakes (made in-house) alone!

(Thanks to Richard and David for the photographs.)

After a very pleasant break, most headed home while Richard and David went off to the Classic Cars & Coffee meeting at Boath House, Auldearn.

We welcome another new member this month : Colin Clark from Portsoy who has a 1980 MGB roadster. We look forward to seeing him at our meetings.

For the last day run in September, Richard Penman has put together a substantial drive with a very interesting route in Sutherland commencing at Clynelish Distillery at Brora with a lunch stop at Bettyhill and ending at Glenmorangie Distillery at Tain.

July 2024

This month we welcomed new members David & Janet Russell from Inverness. David has just bought a 1980 MGB Roadster which is in fine condition but requires some minor TLC having stood for a couple of years following the death of the previous owner. Despite that, it safely made the journey from Helensburgh to Inverness without mishap.

The main Club Run is on 31st July to Glenelg to commemorate a similar event organised by the late Tim Moore on the same date in 2021. Sadly, Tim died last November after a brave battle with Motor Neurone Disease and it was felt that a re-staging of this trip was fitting tribute to him. Traversing the Ratagan Pass from Shiel Bridge to Glenelg is quite challenging but the results are well worth it in scenic terms. 23 members have signed up which is an excellent turn-out and should make for a very enjoyable and convivial day. A fuller report next month.

June 2024

The club run on 11th June, kindly organized by Patsy Thompson, was a select affair of only four cars probably because of the distances involved and the competition from other car activities in the month. Having met at the Ralia Café just off the A9 near Newtonmore, the route went via Dalwhinnie and the A9 to Trinafour and Tummel Bridge. Then it was on to Aberfeldy and a bit of the Rob Roy Road to the Highland Chocolatier at Grandtully where much chocolate was consumed! It was a reminder of the beautiful scenery and quiet roads just off the A9.

16th June, the day of the Tain Rally, started off VERY wet which obviously had an effect on the overall turnout. However, MG owners are made of sterner stuff so there was an excellent number of cars on the stand. The shelter made its value felt again. Erecting it in the pouring rain was not very pleasant but worth it even though it was quite cosy for the numbers seeking shelter! The rain did ease off later in the morning but it left the park quite waterlogged in places and curtailed a lot of activities. It was a great pity for the organisers who put such a lot of effort into the arrangements but they were quite philosophical about their first really bad day in fifteen years.

Nine cars from Highland (ten, including a pleasant but unexpected appearance by John Ducker) attended the Gathering of the Clans at the Grampian Transport Museum at Alford. All the arrangements by the Aberdeen Club were meticulous, the venue was excellent and the weather reminded us what summer is supposed to be like. Altogether it was a very enjoyable and successful event with the opportunity to meet members from other areas.

May 2024

At the end of April, following Drive-it Day, 18 MGs (including “day-trippers”) embarked on the 3-day Spring Saunter based in Grantown-on-Spey and organised by Richard in his usual efficient fashion. Highlights included visits to the Moray Motor Museum in Elgin and Kildrummy Castle. The weather was very kind (dry, bright but cool) until the departure day when there was some snow!

On 14th May, 9 MGs and an everyday car gathered at the Highland Farm Café near Dingwall for a coffee (and perhaps a cake) before a minor-road drive to Dunrobin Castle for a group visit. There was a bit of haar but this soon cleared to give a bright and sunny day until the trip home although the breeze was chilly. From Bonar Bridge we took a very little-travelled road past Loch Buidhe and down Strath Carnaig to the Mound and the A9. Road works in Bonar Bridge diverted us into a housing estate at which point signage stopped! There was a bit of reversing and '3-point' turning until we found our way out. It was a very scenic route with a lengthy section of grass strip down the centre of the single track which had some corrugated sections too, although surprisingly few potholes. All cars survived although there were concerns for the grass given the amount of oil that must have been wiped off! Dunrobin was very busy - apparently 500 tickets had been sold just that morning - but was big enough not to feel crowded. As well as the Castle and grounds, most of us visited the eerie museum and watched the falconry display with a Harris's hawk and Peregrine falcon demonstrating their skills. In June we are going to a chocolate factory! (Many thanks to Richard for the organisation and the report.)

April 2024

With a record turnout for pre-season lunch on 10th April at Tulloch Castle in Dingwall, the year has certainly begun with a bang. This was a new venue for us but Richard's meticulous planning resulted in a very enjoyable and convivial occasion. For Drive It Day on 21st April, we had our own club run with 17 cars turning out for an interesting route devised by Richard, starting at Invergordon and following some "roads-less-travelled" to a soup-and-sandwich lunch at Coul House at Contin. A rather wet start to the day soon cleared to bright sunshine though still with a cool breeze. After lunch, we took a circuitous route via Meig Dam in Strathconon to end up at author Neil Gunn's Memorial Garden at the Heights of Achterneed. Views as far as the Cairngorms on a fine day made the steep climb well worthwhile although the even the more precipitous descent was a severe test for elderly brakes. We are very lucky to have Richard's enthusiasm and skills in organising these events as well as the Spring Saunter based at Grantown-On-Spey. Since this is ongoing at the time of writing, it will have to be part of next month's report.

March 2024

Our last get-together on Zoom for the winter on 19th March saw Christine Moore come out on top in an enjoyable quiz kindly organised by Helen Jenner. Some members did attend Cars'n'Coffee events during the month at one of which a non-member appeared with an unusual ZT-T with an interesting history. Allegedly given an LPG conversion by the factory when new, it was apparently stored in the factory until liberated after closure and not registered until 2007. Thereafter, it apparently came into the ownership of the MGOC and was used for towing their display trailer to events before passing into private hands. The current owner is well-known locally for his eclectic collection of interesting vehicles. April will be a busy month with a large turnout expected for the pre-season lunch, the arrangements well in hand for Drive-it Day, followed closely by the Spring Saunter so it's great to be getting back into the swing.

February 2024

Not surprisingly there is not much to report this month. A small and select group gathered on Zoom to “enjoy” a quiz organised by Chris & Gill which was won by Richard to his amazement. Richard then showed a short video of how to adopt the proper racing line in a race-prepared MGB and highlighted some developments in the proposed programme for the year. In a sign that Spring is just around the corner, three MGs did attend the Cars’n’Coffee in Cromarty although Richard’s Midget pulled a sickie. Another get-together on Zoom is planned for March before the season kicks off properly in April after what feels to have been a long, dreich winter.

January 2024

The AGM held on Zoom in January saw the existing team elected to run the Club for the coming year with Michael as Chairman, Chris as Secretary, Stuart as Treasurer, Richard as Events Co-ordinator and Jim as Webmaster. Due to the satisfactory financial situation, the subscription was pegged at £15 per household. Richard gave a comprehensive report on 2023's activities and presented a draft programme for this year, noting that both the Spring Saunter and the Autumn Amble are nearly fully booked. After further Zoom get-togethers in February and March, we are looking forward to the pre-season lunch in April which will be closely followed by Drive-it Day and the Spring Saunter. After the business, Richard showed a short but fascinating video on a road run in France for pre-1914 racing cars. Chris & Gill were then successful in a close-fought duel to win the excellent quiz organised by Helen Jenner. Later in the month we welcomed new member Dave Lyons who runs Highland Classic Car Hire Ltd as well supplying classic oils – details on the website.

December 2023

While there were no formal Club activities in December, some members did get together at Cars'n'Coffee events at Inverness and Cromarty – some even taking their MGs when there was no risk of salt! While preparations for the Spring Saunter are well in hand and dates & a venue selected for the Autumn Amble, the forthcoming AGM in January will allow us to fill out the programme for the rest of the year.

November 2023

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Club stalwart, Tim Moore, who had been diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease earlier in the year. Despite a brave battle with this terrible affliction, Tim succumbed on 16th November. After a high-flying career in the motor industry, Tim moved to the Isle of Skye with wife Christine where they established successful businesses and became heavily involved in the local community. Tim was a perfectionist and deeply knowledgeable on many subjects, cars and motoring being only part of his range of interests. He was an excellent engineer and gave much valuable advice and assistance to other members of the Club of which he was such a strong and enthusiastic supporter. The Rover P2 owned for over 35 years was more recently joined in his garage by the well-known MGC GT which was always kept in pristine condition. Tim was always good company with his good humour and fund of stories and he will be sadly missed. We extend sincere condolences to Chris and the rest of the family.

The End-of-Season lunch on 15th November signalled the end of the Club's activities for the year. Impeccably arranged once again by Richard, there was a super turn-out of 27 members who enjoyed an excellent and convivial lunch at the Conon Hotel. It was especially pleasing to see Ray and Sarah back in attendance after his spell in hospital and they were grateful to the fellow members who assisted with Ray's wheelchair.

The next event will be the AGM in January when we can look back over the year and start putting together the programme for 2024. Best wishes to all for Christmas & the New Year.

October 2023

This year's Autumn Amble took place between 2nd & 5th October based at the Panmure Arms Hotel in Edzell, Angus – another venue well chosen by Stuart both for its location and standard of food and service. As usual, Richard had arranged an interesting and well-planned itinerary with a detailed road-book to prevent us getting lost. Eleven cars and eighteen people took part with some meeting up at Ballindalloch on the Monday morning to go *via* the Lecht and Cairn o'Mount while others went direct to Edzell in beautiful weather. The weather remained fine for the Tuesday when we travelled to Montrose Air Station Heritage Centre. This was our second visit and very interesting as before with some new exhibits. It was nice to meet several local MG owners before proceeding to an excellent lunch at the Charleton Fruit Farm, after which we went our separate ways to explore the locality. The weather was decidedly damp on the Wednesday which was fine for us since the planned activity was a visit to the National Trust for Scotland's House of Dun, a magnificent 18th Century mansion retaining much of its original decoration, furniture etc. After another excellent lunch of sandwiches, cakes and coffee, some took part in a run up Glen Clova and back while others again stayed closer at hand. Thursday morning came round all too soon so it was time to set off home with many happy memories and with thanks Richard and Stuart for all their efforts which made for such an enjoyable event. That concludes our programme of runs for this year but there is to be the usual end-of-season lunch in November and we shall, of course, be looking at getting together every so often over the winter on Zoom.

September 2023

Thanks to David & Elaine for arranging the September run and providing the following report : we chose to visit Lairg, one of our favourite haunts, but meeting at the Highland Farm Cafe above Dingwall. Five intrepid MGs set off in glorious sunshine (for a change!) and it was so nice to see Tim & Christine there to see us off. The route takes in some breathtaking scenery – we really are blessed with stunning scenery and roads in the Highlands! We interrupted our drive with a short stop at Falls of Shin where, at this time of year, salmon can often be seen leaping but they were not in evidence that day. Perhaps they were on strike just like the rest of the country it seems! It was worth the stop as it meant Nick and Jean could catch up (we weren't going that fast – honest, Officer!). Richard also re-joined after stopping to retrieve his cap, blown off by a passing truck. Lunch at The Pier in Lairg was as tasty as ever and, after our usual blether, we went our separate ways. Separately, Richard reports that nine Highland MGs attended the MG 100 Ecosse event at Doune. While the day turned wet in the afternoon, it was very well attended and much enjoyed. At least it proved the wise investment in the new gazebo which withstood the elements very well. Five of our MGs did the run up the famous hill-climb (a 'parade' not a race!) Those who stayed to the end were rewarded with a look at the new MG Cyberster. Our last main event of the season is the “Autumn Amble” in October based at Edzell in Angus where Richard and Stuart have arranged an excellent hotel and a full programme.

August 2023

Sixteen members in nine cars took part in the August run organised by Gill & Chris taking in some hidden corners and roads less travelled on the Black Isle. For those not familiar with the area, the Black Isle is a peninsula, not an island, lying just to the North of Inverness. There are also various theories about why it's called "black", one being that seen from a distance its heavily-wooded aspect made it seem black. At approximately 100 square miles in size, it reputedly contains nearly 1,000 miles of roads so there is plenty to explore. The former Burghs of Cromarty and Fortrose & Rosemarkie have much of interest to visit while Chanonry Point is one of the best vantage points in the UK at which to observe dolphins. After coffee and cakes at Canon Bridge, the group made their way along quiet minor roads to the lunch stop at Cromarty. The glorious summer weather afforded some fantastic views over the Cromarty Firth to the hills beyond. After lunch, the group split up to explore the various attractions in the town, including Hugh Miller's House, the Courthouse and the ancient East Church (as well as indulging in some retail therapy) before heading off home. David and Elaine Hitchmough are planning the September run to the West Coast.

July 2023

July being the height of the summer events season when many members were involved other commitments (including holidays, Le Mans Classic etc), it was decided to postpone the month's run which is now scheduled for 17th August. It was gratifying to see Richard's excellent report on our Spring Saunter featured in the July issue but, not resting on their laurels, Richard and Stuart have already made provisional bookings for the Spring Saunter 2024 based in Grantown-on-Spey! However, we still have plenty to look forward to this season, not least our involvement in the MG 100 event at Doune and our Autumn Amble in October.

June 2023

For the June run, Patsy organised a route commencing at Grantown-on-Spey and travelling over the Lecht (the A939 Cockbridge-Tomintoul road which intrigued Terry Wogan) to Royal Deeside for lunch. Afterwards, the group paid a visit to the Wild Horse Welfare Centre at Belwade Farm near Aboyne. The Centre works across the full spectrum of the horse world, both in the UK and abroad, to improve welfare and the horse-human partnership through care, research, education and influence.

After a very interesting and informative visit, the group made their separate ways home.

The Tain Rally was held on 18th June and retains its place as one of the largest and best-attended events in the area with almost 500 entries across all classes. There was a good turnout of MGs with fifteen on the Club stand and others, both members and non-members, scattered around the field. It was the first opportunity to put up the Club's new shelter/gazebo which proved a welcome sanctuary on a very warm and sunny day.

Chris & Gill are arranging the July run which will comprise some "roads less travelled" to discover a few hidden corners of the Black Isle.

May 2023

For the May run, Richard had concocted a route in Easter Ross taking in both the ancient and modern : from some of the Pictish carved stone slabs dating from around 800 A D to the wind-turbine assembly facility at Nigg on the Cromarty Firth. Starting from the Highland Farm Café, the route took in the steep private road to the North Sutor overlooking the Cromarty Firth then *via* the Pictish stones at Nigg Church, Balintore and Hilton of Cadboll. On the way to the lunch stop at the Inver Inn, Richard pointed out the remains of the WW2 airfields still quite prominent in the area. The weather was pleasant enough to have lunch outside before heading off to the final stop at the lighthouse at Tarbatness. Sadly, however, the haar (mist) had come in off the sea blanking out the views so, after a bracing walk to the lighthouse, members made a hasty retreat to disperse for home. The June run is being organised by Patsy and will involve a trip over the Lecht (the Cockbridge to Tomintoul road which caught Terry Wogan's fancy) to Royal Deeside.

April 2023

Thanks to Richard's meticulous arrangements, 23 members enjoyed a convivial pre-season lunch at the Canon Bridge Hotel on 4th April and 20 members took part in the Club's own Drive-it Day run on the 23rd. The lunch was an excellent occasion to meet up and learn about purchases, sales and tinkerings over the winter while the run to Gairloch provided the first opportunity to get together with the cars. 11 MGs (and an Audi TT pretender) took part on a fairly dreich day when only Jon & Julie were hardy (foolhardy?) enough to put the hood down on the TF. Through Jon & Julie's good offices, a soup-and-sandwich lunch was arranged at the Shieldaig Lodge Hotel at Badachro near Gairloch in a spectacular location on the sea-shore. After lunch, some returned home direct while others completed the loop to Braemore Junction and visited the impressive new National Trust for Scotland Visitor Centre at Corrieshalloch Gorge. The month will conclude with the Spring Saunter to Garvaul (the subject of a separate report in due course) and the Forres Rally which returns after a pandemic-enforced hiatus. Finally a warm welcome to new member, Gary Bridge from North Ballachulish who has a 1971 MGB roadster – we look forward to seeing him and his car at our meetings.

March 2023

Another quiet month enlivened by the quiz on Zoom organised by Chris & Gill in which Tim & Christine came out on top. Richard also showed a video from the USA comparing the merits of the various models of Sprite/Midget and concluding that a rubber-bumper is still viable transport for long journeys on American freeways...that's brave considering the size of most other vehicles over there! So, roll on April when the season really gets under way with the pre-season lunch, Spring Saunter and Drive-it Day to look forward to. All the details are on the website as usual.

May 2022 :

There was a good turnout of 21 members at the pre-season lunch at North Kessock. It was great to meet up in person again and to greet new member Tony Gill who adds another BGT V8 to the ranks. Richard Penman (TF) has also joined us so welcome to him too.

Eight cars and 14 Highland MG Owners' Club members finally got to enjoy the Spring Saunter in late April that had originally been scheduled for 2020. Most of us met at the Highland Café near Dingwall before heading off to Achnasheen where 2 more MGs joined before meeting the last couple with their MG TF in Gairloch. Away from the east coast, the weather was stunning for the first day although a bit chilly at times. The Gairloch Heritage Centre was admired by around half of us before we found lunch then set off in small groups for the drive to our accommodation for 2 nights, the excellent Highland Hotel in Lairg. The following day started grey as we drove northwards to a very minor (grass growing in the middle) road towards Hope (aptly named as we all hoped to get there in one piece). We stopped at the Iron Age Dun Dornaigil broch and tried to imagine life around 260 BC. Further on was the visit to Smoo Cave before bursting into brilliant sunlight on the road to Laxford Bridge. We then turned left to run back to Lairg on a most stunning road. The last day saw 2 MGs dash to Inverness to join the local Drive-it Day together with 3 other members and over 30 classic cars in a single-track route to Logie Steading. The damp (haar) weather didn't spoil a very convivial occasion. (Many thanks to Richard & Stuart for the arrangements and to Richard for the report)

We are looking forward to the drive on 10th May which David & Elaine Hitchmough are arranging heading to the Grantown area with lunch planned at the Glenfiddich Distillery while Chris and Gill Silver are preparing the June event – information and contact details on the website as usual.

June 2022 :

Ten cars (including one modern VW Tiguan interloper) took part in the June Run arranged by Chris and Gill along the East Coast *via* Nairn and Forres to Lossiemouth. On the way, we stopped at the ruins of the 11th Century Kinloss Abbey where the modern cemetery is still in use and also contains a Commonwealth War Graves section reflecting the long history of the former RAF Kinloss base nearby, now an Army Barracks. There is also the grave of a naval officer killed in the Battle of Jutland in 1916. After lunch at the Twenty Nineteen Café near Lossiemouth we continued the military theme by visiting the adjacent Covesea Lighthouse and the RAF/Fleet Air Arm Heritage Centre. Now decommissioned, the Lighthouse is owned by a Community Company and provides panoramic coastal views as well as overlooking RAF Lossiemouth.

It was also great to be back at the Tain Rally after a break of two years. It is one of the biggest in the area and 12 cars were displayed on the Club stand which Richard organised. A cold breeze made warm jackets mandatory but at least it stayed dry. We also welcomed two new members : John Farquhar from Elgin with his TC and Graham Watson from North Kessock who runs several MGs as part of his classic hire business.

In July, we'll be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Club with a nostalgic drive round Loch Ness to replicate the very first Club run in 2002.

July 2022 :

Thirteen cars took part in the run on 5th July to mark the 20th anniversary of the setting up of the Club, Chris and Gill being the only founder members of the Club remaining. Following the same route circumnavigating Loch Ness as the first Club Run in 2002, Richard's meticulous planning saw us departing Inverness on a bright, sunny morning but with a brisk breeze. After a coffee stop at Invermoriston, we carried on through Fort Augustus and up the East side of the Loch to the lunch stop at Foyers where lunch was arranged at the Craigdarroch Hotel – as on the first occasion twenty years ago! While not normally open for lunch for non-residents, the hotel opened specially and provided a very warm welcome and a spectacular lunch. Happily, John Ducker was able to join us in his Honda Jazz whilst his MGB is still under repair although Mary was sadly unable to accompany him due to ill-health. Nick & Patsy Thomson were also prevented from coming due to a “mechanical malfunction” en route. It was a very pleasant occasion to reminisce about the early days of the Club but also to appreciate its current strength after various ups and downs.

There was a good turnout of members at the Historic Wheels Rally on 24th July which returned to its traditional venue at Brodie Castle after a two-year break due to the pandemic, though without the usual road run or lunch. There was a good attendance by the public and a short, sharp shower just before the prize-giving did little to take the shine off an enjoyable day.

This month we welcome new members Alistair and Alexander Todd from Avoch who have two ZTTs, an MG TF and an MGF which is being converted to electric power. That will be an interesting addition to the Club!

Our August run, organised by Tim & Christine, is centred on Attadale Gardens near Lochcarron.

August 2022 :

The destination for our August run, organised in their usual efficient fashion by Tim and Christine, was Attadale Gardens situated on the shore of Loch Carron near Kyle of Lochalsh where the relatively mild climate engendered by the Gulf Stream means that a wide variety of exotic species can flourish. As on previous visits, we were privileged to be allowed to park in front of the House, the original part of which dates from 1755, where we were welcomed enthusiastically by three generations of the owning family. Eight cars took part, plus a modern BMW since David and Elaine had suffered a clutch malfunction on the Midget on the Moray Miglia the previous weekend which could not be fixed in time. The first part of the run to Achnasheen for a coffee stop was in glorious sunshine but, by the time we reached Attadale, hoods had to be raised and umbrellas unfurled to explore the Gardens as a period of showery rain set in. Fortunately, this soon passed and we were able to enjoy our picnic lunch in warm sunshine enjoying the vista from the House. The Gardens contain woodland walks, many different species of trees and plants, a Japanese garden, viewpoints and intriguing sculptures and statues which make for a most interesting and enjoyable visit. After lunch, Tim guided us back round the Loch through Lochcarron Village and down the single-track road to North Strone and Ardaneaskan. It is hard to imagine that this was once the main road to Kyle *via* the ferry. Altogether a most enjoyable and interesting day.

We welcome another new member this month, Richard MacLennan from Inverness who has a 1969 MGB GT.

The September run is being organised by David and Elaine on a route round the Strathnairn area.

September 2022:

For our September Club drive, David devised a demanding route for the ten intrepid MG-ers that would start at Daviot Church, south of Inverness, and see us traverse Strathnairn several times before heading over to Strathdearn.

The roads were new to most of our members and comprised mainly narrow, very twisty single-track roads typical of the rural Highlands. The views were stunning and the many lochs we passed were majestic. A monstrous morning coffee and cake stop was arranged at Dores on the banks of Loch Ness. I'm sure Nessie waved at us as we continued on our winding way.

After traversing Strathnairn, we ventured over to neighbouring Strathdearn *via* the infamous Garbole-Farr road. This is the ninth highest pass in Scotland and was used on the 1960 RAC International Rally and other events as a closed stage (thanks to some lateral thinking by the local authority!) This proved a little too much for some as one member lost the clutch in their "B" and the twisty undulating nature of the road triggered nausea in a passenger. The weather did not help either as thunderstorms were forecast. Fortunately, we made it to the lunch stop at the Three Bridges Café at Tomatin before the heavens opened. Nevertheless, it was a greatly enjoyed drive which was slightly different to our normal route types.

Also during the month, several members met up at Beaulieu with a group of French owners on their way to do the NC 500 and two Richards (Jenner & Penman) made their way to Doune for the "Gathering of the Clans". This was a very enjoyable day and thanks are due to Nigel Macmillan and his team for the excellent arrangements.

October 2022

We had a *very* wet Autumn Amble based around three nights in Stirling at the Highland Gate Hotel. A total of 10 Highland MGs (an MGA, several 'modern' TFs, a B-GT, a C-GT, 2 Midgets and an MG3) were joined by a guest B-GT V8 all the way from Moreton-in-Marsh. The first full day involved a visit to the Kelpies then the Falkirk Wheel (some issues with water levels despite all the rain so we just did the rotation ride rather than the full ride through the tunnel) and then on to the fascinating Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life in Coatbridge. The second day was a 125-mile circular drive over several named passes and with a lot of single-track roads. We were joined by 5 members of Stirling MGOC (3 MGs: a B-GT, TF and an RV8) giving a total of 14 MGs for what was a challenging drive at times over roads resembling rivers and including a drive-up Dollar Glen to Castle Campbell. However, from the feedback and despite the weather, it was a very enjoyable and sociable event. Thanks as usual to Richard & Stuart for the excellent arrangements.

We also welcome this month new members Dr Nick & Mrs Jean Simpson who live near Beaully and have a 1954 TF.

After the end of season lunch on 22nd November, we intend to revert to Zoom meetings over the winter, including the AGM, to keep in touch with members in such a widespread area.

For 2023, the Spring Saunter to Sutherland is already booked up and provisional arrangements are in hand for the Autumn Amble based in Angus so we're looking forward to the New Year already!

November 2022

With many cars now tucked away for the winter, we are entering a period of reduced activity but 24 members did enjoy the end-of-season lunch at the Canon Bridge Hotel on 22nd November.

Organised by Richard to his usual high standards, the venue and the meal were both excellent and a great way to round off the year in company with friends old and new. With the advent of a cold spell presaging the dreaded salt, there may have been no MGs in the car park but there was plenty of discussion and banter. In anticipation of Tim & Christine's flitting from Skye, Tim had been having a clear out of and produced some esoteric items to give away, including a pair of N.O.S. MGB bumper over-riders & a tachometer. Dave Tennant was happy to take away some Haynes Manuals and some Parts Catalogues for 1950s/1960s BMC models to add to his archive.

We may be in hibernation but some activities will continue on Zoom over the winter, starting with a Quiz on 8th December set by Tim and Christine which is sure to stimulate much trawling of the memory banks as well as some guesswork!

Finally, advance notice of the AGM which is scheduled for Tuesday 17th January at 7.00 pm on Zoom. The Agenda will be issued nearer the time.

December 2022

The December quiz on Zoom was organised in their inimitable style by Tim and Christine and was as challenging as it was thought-provoking (and some of the thoughts were unprintable!) For example, how many Formula 1 drivers can you name who started racing at any level in the 1950s and were still competing in Formula 1 in the 1970s? And that was just the first question! Anyway, it was good fun and much enjoyed so many thanks to Tim and Christine for arranging it. The winners were Chris & Gill whose prize consisted of having to arrange the next quiz in January after the AGM – serves them right for being such smarty-pants! Best wishes for the New Year.

January 2023

The AGM held on Zoom in January saw the existing team elected to run the Club for the coming year with Michael as Chairman, Chris as Secretary, Stuart as Treasurer, Richard as Events Co-ordinator and Jim as Webmaster. Due to the satisfactory financial situation, the subscription was pegged at £15 per household. Richard gave a comprehensive report on 2022's activities and presented a draft programme for this year, noting that both the Spring Saunter and the Autumn Amble are already fully booked. After further Zoom get-togethers in February and March, we are looking forward to the pre-season lunch in April which will be closely followed by the Spring Saunter and Drive-it Day. After the business, Tim & Christine gained the highest score in the quiz organised by Chris & Gill but were saved from having to set the next one by Margaret Brock who volunteered to do so.

February 2023

A quiet month so nothing very much to report. Many thanks to Margaret Brock for organising an interesting and challenging quiz based on the theme of “February” which was much enjoyed. Richard showed a video of a 1935 supercharged MG KN Special tackling the Klausen Pass in the Alps on a miserably cold, wet day. Fun in a masochistic sort of way! The programme for the year is filling up well with most of the monthly runs spoken for and invitations to attend events throughout the summer coming in. After another meeting and quiz on Zoom in March, we are looking forward to events proper getting under way in April with our pre-season lunch and our own Drive-it Day Run to Gairloch on 23rd April. The Spring Saunter follows on immediately afterwards, the destination being the Garvault House Hotel in Sutherland which featured in a recent TV programme as the “most-isolated hotel on the mainland”!