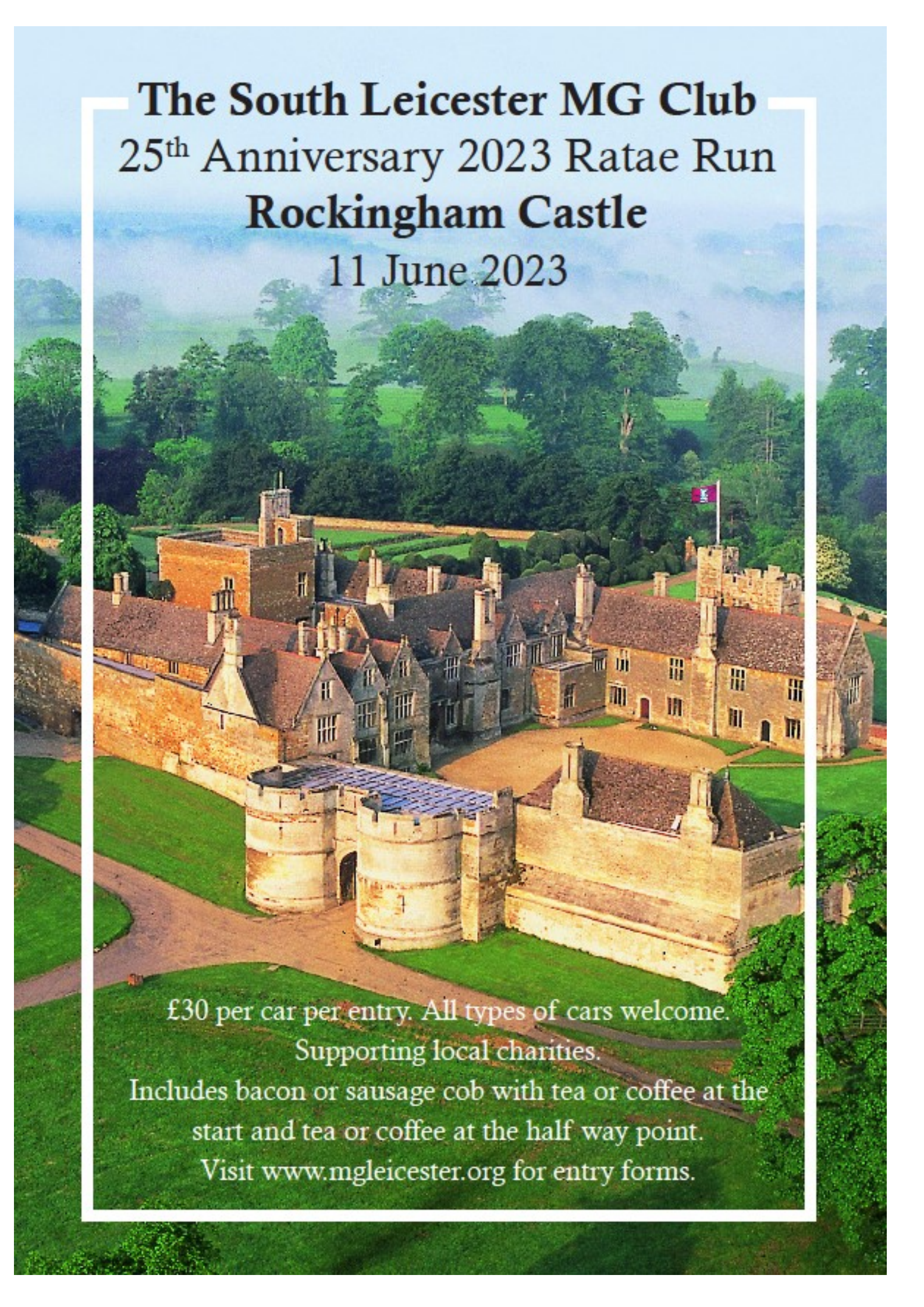


January 2023

Torque



Happy New
Year 2023



The South Leicester MG Club 25th Anniversary 2023 Ratae Run Rockingham Castle

11 June 2023

£30 per car per entry. All types of cars welcome.

Supporting local charities.

Includes bacon or sausage cob with tea or coffee at the
start and tea or coffee at the half way point.

Visit www.mgleicester.org for entry forms.

MG magazine write up in the November edition:

Most MGs are now tucked away in members garages for the winter months. The South Leicester MG club still runs indoor events at this time of year and in November a visit was made to Leicester's Indoor Crazy Golf Centre which was a really good afternoon out. We are all looking forward to our annual Christmas Dinner Dance which is being held at our usual venue, Ullesthorpe Court Hotel. Preparations are in hand for the 2023 RATAE run to be held on Sunday 11th June 2023 and which will end at the lovely Rockingham Castle, near Corby, Northamptonshire. Please keep an eye on our web site for more details and a registration form. I would like to wish everyone a very happy 2023.

Best Regards Jean



SLMGC Hits the Party Scene



2022 SLMG Club Christmas Party



We arrived to decorate the tables at 16.00, to find they were already setup by Ullesthorpe Court!! But not exactly how we wanted them. So Colin, myself and Ann took on the task of trying to discreetly adjust the tables to our liking.

Eventually one and a half hours later, we achieved what we wanted, so we all disappeared to get our glad rags on, in time to meet in the bar for 19.00 for pre dinner drinks.

The bar was very busy, so when I announced it was time for a photo shoot on the stairs, I realised it wasn't going to be easy (try getting 29 people on a staircase with only 13 steps!) but mission accomplished then into dinner we all went.

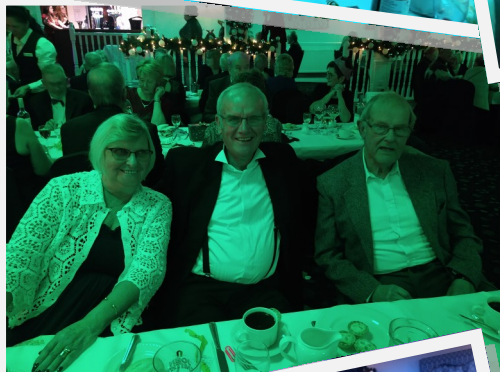
A delicious three course dinner with all the trimmings was served, followed by tea, coffee and mince pies.

Afterwards, was the disco, for those who could still stand, wobble and shake it all about until the early hours.

We hope everyone enjoyed the evening and the little gift from the MG Club. Any ideas for next year would be greatly appreciated thanks.

So here's wishing everyone a HAPPY NEW YEAR and a Great 2023!

Graham and Ann xx





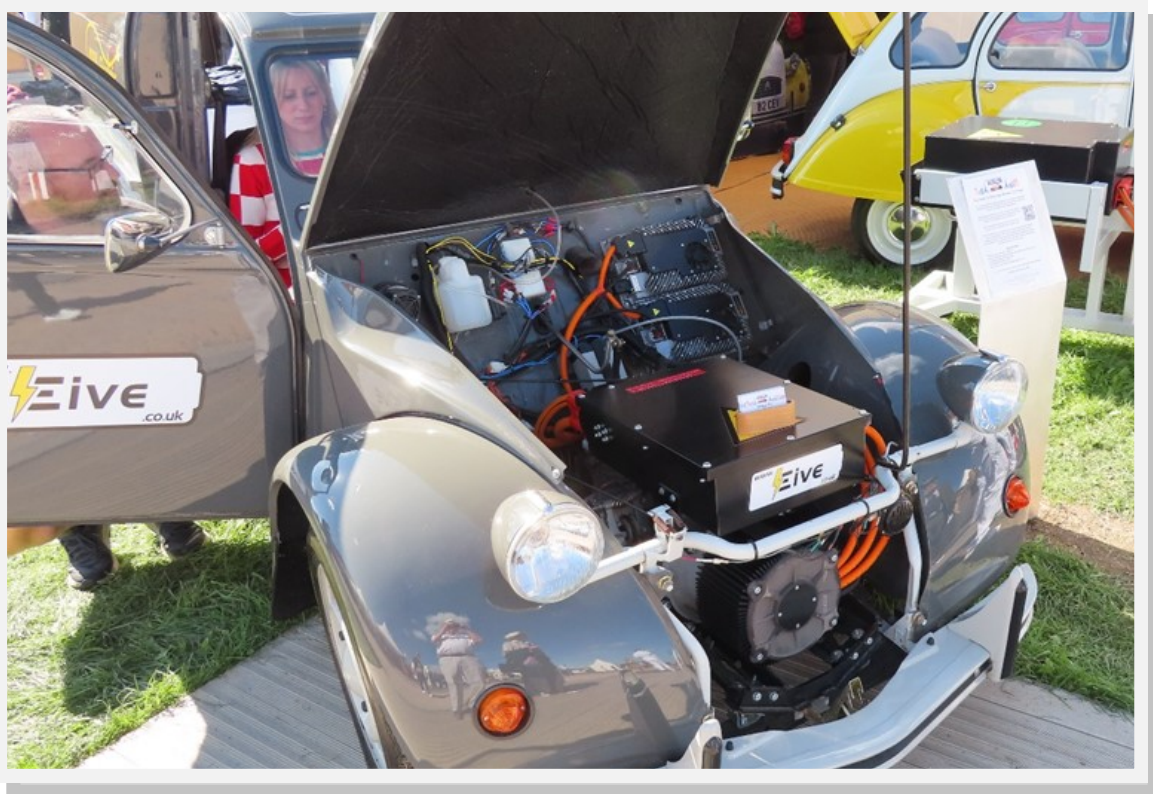
ELECTRIC.....it's the future?

Forgetting the negatives for a few moments, like.... slow charging rate, lack of charging points, and purchase costs. Driving a modern electric car is a joy! Easy to drive with stunning acceleration, a quiet ride and an overwhelming array of modern technology on board. But would you want your pride and joy MG converting to electric propulsion? After visiting the Goodwood Revival this year, I was amazed at how many Companies were offering classic car conversions or new builds in a classic body shell.

Why do you own a classic car? Most of us have a more modern vehicle that will cover distance comfortably, reliably and with modern braking and steering, but the enjoyment of listening to the beat of the engine, wondering if the car or you would fail on the way, remember the grueling 80 miles on the last Ratae run? ... a bit of an exaggeration I know but we were glad of a cup of tea halfway! Being able to check the oil/water level and tinker with the engine before setting off is part of the enjoyment for a good day out.

SO!..... Is an electric classic vehicle an attractive alternative? If you cannot make up your mind, one French company was offering to carefully remove your engine and ancillary parts and mount the electric motor complete with the clutch to the gearbox. They assured me that you drove the car in the normal way but with no engine sound. The conversion would be completed without drilling any extra holes in the shell so that the car could be converted back to petrol. Hence keeping the original value intact.

The 2CV-EV is offered as a new build with an electric motor directly connected to the transverse gear box. You select a gear you want use, usually third, (not sure if you can change gear on the move, clutch not connected). Turn the key and press the accelerator. Twenty-six horse power gives about double the original and approximately 70 MPH. However, the fifty-mile range would not get you to the end of the Ratae run.



Prices that start at £29,000 would make this a bit of an extravagant shopping trolley.

How about a 300 HP original body mini? This would scare the pants of anybody in the passenger seat. This is mainly for the track but supplied with a little less horse power in the road-going version. A couple of Companies are offering to restore and convert to electric this pint size runabout for about £60,000 pounds, remembering a good part of that cost will be the restoration.



One hundred plus miles range is good for a day out, for a picnic.....or a classic car meet? This would be too much money spent to use for shopping and trips into town.

We found a stand offering electric MGB's. The picture is of a road legal racing version. A new build electric convertible MGB was priced at £99,000.



So! Will electric classic cars catch on? They are not something the home restorer can build or repair himself at present. Turning up at a rally and being able to discuss with like-minded people the attributes of the shiny parts of your old engine is part of your day out. Staring at a box with wires plugged in is not very inspirational unless you are with other 'electric heads'. Will modern electric cars be saved and restored? Maybe in a few years there will be electric car rallies where boys will be impressed with the amount of Volts and Amps your box produces. For now, I will stick with my six cylinders with the smells and purring sounds they produces. But I am still impressed with electric power.....in a modern vehicle.

Peter Geisler



FEST JAZZ, BRITTANY, 2022



For about seven or eight years, one of the big events of the year for my wife and I was the annual visit to Brittany to the jazz festival, “Fest Jazz” at the small town of Chateauneuf du Faou in Finisterre.

First the lengthy journey to Plymouth, then on the Thursday night the long Brittany Ferries crossing to the port of Roscoff., with an overnight cabin. Arriving at Roscoff there was the choice of breakfast on the ferry before disembarking, or a visit to a sea-front cafe for the first genuine French breakfast, French bread, croissants, coffee. We always used to opt for the latter. In the earlier days we were accompanied by a group from the South Staffs MGOC. Following breakfast there was a thoroughly enjoyable drive to Chateauneuf.

On arrival there, there was the ritual gathering of the clans, one of the highlights of the whole event, as far as I was concerned, with people coming from places as far apart as Newcastle, Wales, Southend-on Sea and Jersey. We would all gather outside the small bar, and assuming good weather the barkeeper would move chairs outside and over a drink and snack we would catch up with the latest from all of the others. Along with the Jazz, there was participation from various car clubs, both British and French, with the cars on display during the event, plus a road run organised by the French.

On Saturday morning there was a greeting ceremony with short welcoming speeches in the small town square, and a lunch accompanied by a jazz band. Sunday was always a very long day, because the road run, followed by a lunch again accompanied by a jazz band, and then the jazz proper until about midnight. A nicely-produced programme gave brief details of the performers, and a timetable of who was playing, and where. There were four stages, the main one in a large marquee, and others in smaller marquees, all within walking distance.

Then came the dreaded Covid, and a couple of barren years without Le Jazz. This year, the event was back on the agenda thank goodness. I had already booked the ferry from the previous year, and also bought the tickets for the Jazz. Both Brittany Ferries and the Jazz organisers had said that they would honour the bookings, and so I decided to go ahead with Fest Jazz 2022.

There was however a snag, in that for a variety of different reasons, only one of my previous companions had decided to go this year. Also, the quite large hotel where I had previously stayed, had gone out of business. I had kept in touch with my friend the barkeeper mentioned above, Christian and his wife Huguette, during the Covid period, and he and his wife, who had retired a year ago, very kindly offered that I could stay with them.

I asked if they could locate a suitable B&B nearby, as I intended to make the most of the quite expensive journey there by staying a week. After asking a couple of times, all I got was the cryptic reply “Don't worry, you won't have to sleep in the car”



The start of the adventure (I still get excited)



Awful traffic on the Paris-Finisterre main route



By the river at Chateauneuf-du-Faou



So I set off for Plymouth on my own,⁹ seriously wondering whether the whole thing was a good idea. No companions, uncertain accommodation, and the accommodation for the main days with a couple I didn't know too well, who spoke little English.

My journey down to Plymouth was good, and while waiting in the queue for the ferry, I immediately found three couples that I knew, and that made for a pleasant crossing. The arrival at

Roscoff was just as described above, with a great breakfast at the cafe, looking out to sea. The drive down to Chateauneuf was delightful; as ever, beautiful roads with hardly any traffic. Arriving there, I was greeted by Christian, and introduced to my accommodation, which was excellent.

The greeting at the town square was very good, as was the greeting on Sunday morning by the group of French car enthusiasts. There was a great variety of cars of all shapes and sizes, and we set off for the short road run.

Some way into this, we were disconcerted by the appearance of a couple of Gendarmes, who stopped our procession, and there were lengthy exchanges between them and our leader. It turned out that some people had organised a rave in a little village, and they had had to break it up, and so we had to divert from our planned route (with some grumbling that we ought to be able to join in the rave!).

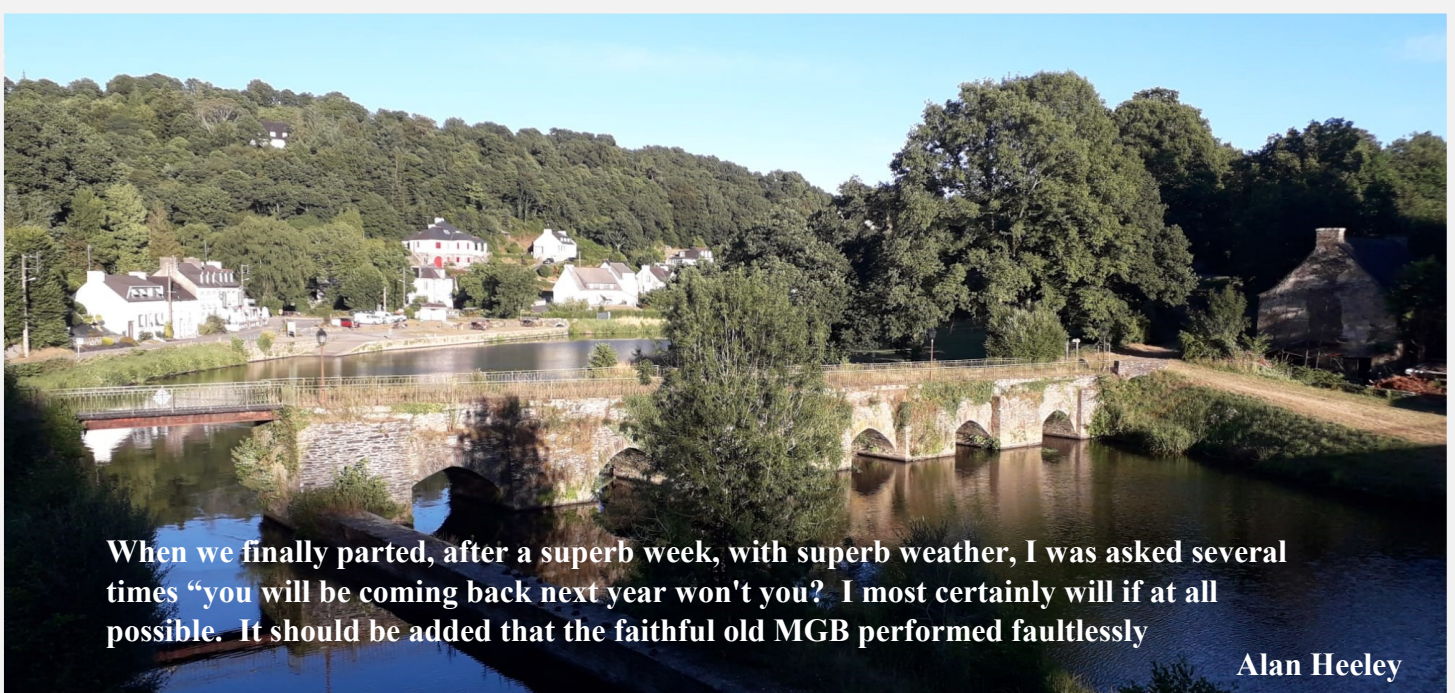


On our return to the town we were greeted by trestle tables with drinks and nibbles provided by the French car club. All very convivial. This was followed by lunch, and then on to the jazz itself. The variety was great, from traditional jazz to just about everything imaginable, some hardly classifiable as jazz, such as a band playing some lesser-known Beatles numbers, a small group of Russian musicians, one with an enormous triangular guitar-like instrument. All proceeded as per the timetable until about midnight, with a very good assortment of food and drink on offer as required. The whole event was a great success, with hundreds of satisfied customers. We were just about the last people to leave the site at about 01.00h.



Following the jazz, my stay there settled into a sort of routine. After breakfast, Christian would accompany me in the MG to various local places of interest, for example a very remote place where a man is single-handedly restoring a water mill with all its buildings. We would return for lunch, and then the MG would be garaged, Christian would get his car out, and the three of us would go for rides to various local places of interest, some on the very attractive coast, such as Concarneau. Passing through a little local village called LAZ, someone had written underneath “Vegas” which gave as a laugh.

Throughout all of the week, it was a usual so noticeable that there was an almost complete absence of traffic. Beautiful, easy driving in scenic surroundings.



When we finally parted, after a superb week, with superb weather, I was asked several times “you will be coming back next year won’t you? I most certainly will if at all possible. It should be added that the faithful old MGB performed faultlessly

Alan Heeley



THE
GREYHOUND
 MAIN STREET BOTCHESTON LE9 9FF



@greyhoundBotcheston

WHY NOT ENJOY A FUN NIGHT
 OUT WITH A GAME OF

Saturday
 18th Feb 23

Skittles

£14.50
 PER HEAD

& a home-cooked supper

Locally made Faggots & Mushy peas
 Chicken Curry & Rice

Cottage pie, Chips & Seasonal Vegetables

Starts at 7pm. This is a very Popular event not to be missed so don't wait before you add your name, You can leave it in the comment section of Facebook or contact the events team. Closing soon...



THE
GREYHOUND
 MAIN STREET BOTCHESTON LE9 9FF



@greyhoundBotcheston

Our Victorian Christmas



To get into the Christmas spirit and to celebrate a milestone Birthday for my Brother Michael. We booked the Victorian Christmas at Rockingham Castle. It was on our wish list and for the past few years had not managed to buy tickets so we were really pleased.



The scene is Christmas Eve 1849 and the preparations for Christmas by the staff of the Watson family. We greeted by the Governess who rang her bell to get our attention and to take us to meet our guide Mrs Simpson the Housekeeper in the servants hall, with a roaring fire and a decorated tree. A superb character who bought you into the period with her numerous tales and twinkling of her eyes and when she asked “*are your horses resting in the stables before your homeward trip*” we all gleefully agreed. She then led us through to the kitchen which was a magnificent display of traditional foods and the story continued as to how long the preparation took and the young boy who would turn the meat spit by hand.



The dining room was laid for a feast, with a candle lit tree and presents underneath. Into to the hall and the family lounge, where after Church on Christmas Day the family and their guests would open the Christmas cards and the children their “stockings”. Mrs Simpson asked “*do you know Charles Dickens*” as he was often a house guest at the Castle and she was looking forward to the new novel based on Rockingham “Bleak House”.



The final room was the long gallery with its grand piano with the pianist playing carols. This room has spectacular Italian chandeliers, which has to be taken down piece by piece for cleaning. Thoughts of Del and Rodney came to mind! We all stood around the piano and sang Hark the Herald Angels Sing, it was a lovely end to an amazing tour. Mrs Simpson led us to the back of the house and out into the Gift Shop and she wished us a Happy Christmas and a safe journey home.

A little purchase for the our tree and we went back to the tearooms for hot chocolate. We had eaten lunch in the marquee which the two Michaels’s had enjoyed Turkey and Ham pie. Thank you Mrs Simpson for a lovely afternoon full on nostalgia, history and merriment. Maybe one for your wish list in 2023, it is on ours.



facebook

MG : SOUTH LEICS. MG CLUB

Event Information Page

Meeting place ~ departure times

Member event programme

All you need to know about up & coming events.

Booking available in the comment section

Club car of the month

A look at members & their cars within the club

Your photos

Been taking photos of events & shows you have attended, Then send them into the clubs facebook page and we will show the best.

CLUB INFORMATION



Chairman
Graham Dorman
01455 289383



Secretary
Jean Dalby
07730 051368

jeandalby.slmg@gmail.com



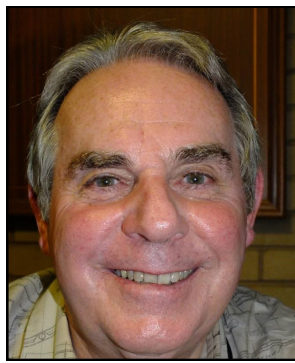
Treasurer
Stuart Armston
01455 271064.



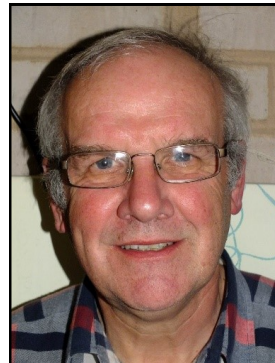
Editor and Committee Member
Gillian Ricketts
01455 553868
mgricketts@btinternet.com



Committee Member
Michael Ricketts
01455 553868



Membership Secretary
Colin Kingsbeer
01455 273161



Events Co-ordinator
Bob Driver
0116 3481587
robert.driver@sky.com



Events Co-ordinator
Derek Everitt
07831390270
derek.everitt@me.com



Web Editor
Graham Poole
Tel:07763 084294
Email; graham.poole@homecall.co.uk

South Leicester Monthly Meetings

Membership open to all, so why not come along and meet like-minded people and enjoy the magic of the marque.

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at the White Horse Inn, Station Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire. Family membership is £10.00 p/a, payable in January. For further details contact the Secretary.

Meetings are held from 7.30pm with members forum 8pm.

Club Events, Car meets & shows

Events Programme & Information

Event No	Date	Information	Cost
	January		
1	Tuesday 3rd	Club meeting at the White Horse, Broughton Astley. Starts 8pm or come early for a chat and food.	
	Monday 9th	Ratae meeting starts at 7.30pm at the White Horse, Broughton Astley. Our Ratae Charity Road Run this year being held on the 11th June 2023, its our 25th Anniversary this year so we need all the help we can get. If you can spare any time on the day, ie; as a Marshall in the car park or directing people or helping to put the marquee up, please try and turn up at one of our meetings. Thank you.	
	February		
2	Tuesday 7th	Club meeting at the White Horse, Broughton Astley. Starts 8pm or come early for a chat and food.	
3	Sunday 12th	MG & Triumph Spare day. Held at Stoneleigh Park. Warwickshire. CV8 2LG. Great day out to buy your spare parts, come and say hello on the clubs show stand. Make your own way there please. 10-4pm. Let me know if you need advanced tickets.	Advanced £10pp. On the day £15
4	Saturday 18th	Skittle Night at the Greyhound Inn, Main Street. Botcheston. LE9 9FF. A great social night out including home cooked supper of Locally made Faggots & Mushy peas. Chicken Curry & Rice. Cottage pie, Chips & Seasonal Vegetable. Starts 7pm. Closed.	£14.50 pp
	MARCH		
5	Tuesday 7th	Club meeting at the White Horse, Broughton Astley. Starts 8pm or come early for a chat and food.	

Deadline for next Torque is 27th. January 2023

Send your articles to Gillian - mgricketts@btinternet.com