



December 2023 Torque Magazine

Merry Christmas to everyone in the
South Leicester MG Club.



Inside this months edition,



Next meeting 5th Dec

Next Ratae meeting 11th Dec

Car parts to sell.

Messages from around the club.

What went on in November
2023 Dates for your diary.

Who's who.



Any parts or bits you might have lying around and would like to sell.

Cars, spares, etc.



Rules.

Its between the seller and buyer only. The club holds no responsibility for anything sold through the Torque magazine.

| Item | Description | Cost | Contact |
|-------------|--|----------------|------------------------------|
| Discs | MGTF rear discs set. Still boxed | Sold | Graham Poole 07763084294 |
| Rear lights | MGTF rear lights, left and right complete. | £10 | Graham Poole. 07763084294 |
| MGF | MGF Red, 85,000 miles and FSH | £3,250 ono | M. Tomkinson 07802449822 |
| Classic | Classic Car wing mirrors £15 the pair. Please contact Derek on 97831390270 | Sold | Derek 097831390270 |
| MGTF | 4 Alloy wheels with tyres all good, including spare | Sold. | David Pay. 07539772650 |
| Workshop | Bench Pedestal Drill | Awaiting price | Glenise Boyer |
| Club Caps | Latest style club caps for sale | £15 each | Graham Dorman. |
| MGF/TF | Burgundy Hood / Tonneau cover | £50 | Mike Beck 07514771570 |
| MGF/TF | Electric boot release kit | £15 | Mike Beck 07514771570 |
| MGF | Right hand clear indicator light (new) | £20 | Mike Beck 07514771570 |
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WANTED

Raffle Prizes

We know its early but have you any gifts,
pledges or donations for our
2024 Ratae Charity Raffle Stall?

*Please bring along to any meeting or hand
over to any committee member .*

Thanks.

MGF Buyer`s guide continued from last months Torque magazine.

Look at the condition of the coolant and oil for the usual signs of contamination, although beware that cars not run for a while, or recently used for short trips especially in the winter months, can display some milky oil on the dipstick. If unsure, it's best to inspect the oil cap on top of the engine, accessed beneath a bolted-on panel – bring your 10mm socket and ratchet.



Another thing to watch is the running temperature when on a test drive, both oil and water should warm up steadily and then sit at their optimum, with oil temperature subject to change if driven hard.

Listen out for running smoothness, especially once warm, as the K-series should generally be a quiet unit, only making the right noises when pressed. Any rattling could be a sign of

loose cam bolts, which can break and become a nightmare to fix. VVC models can emit a rattling from the right side of the engine signifying wear in the variable valve control camshaft: another expensive fix.

Power increases from the Rover K-series are best achieved by improving its ability to breathe. Full induction kits are popular and sound great, but are quite expensive and not as effective as imagined, especially compared with the simple panel filters from Pipercross or K&N. Opening up the exhaust can be hugely beneficial, especially with a 4-2-1 manifold to replace the relatively weedy standard item. When combined with a Daytona or Trevor Taylor exhaust, it can unlock a good 10-15bhp from a VVC unit. If getting this serious, you might also consider a 52mm throttle body, as fitted to the Trophy and later MG TF models, to replace the standard 48mm unit.

The PG1 5-speed manual gearbox used across the MGF range is well proven and generally solid. The same gearset is used across all models, with a shorter final ratio used for VVC-equipped cars to keep the higher-revving engine on the boil.

The change should be positive and precise, albeit with a long throw. Any signs of sloppiness could indicate worn linkages or, at worst, wear in the gearbox from wanting an oil change. Also note that both clutch and handbrake cables are sensitive to adjustment.

Suspension, steering and brakes

Along with the head gasket issues, one of the biggest things to watch for when buying an MGF is the suspension, namely the Hydragas system. Any system that hasn't had attention for over a decade is likely to be operating at sub-optimal levels. The nitrogen gas inside the system leaks out of the porous rubber seals and eventually the suspension units' ability to provide a supple ride is dramatically reduced. Cars that ride stiffly and sit low (the distance between the wheel centre cap



and the wheel arch should be around 35cm) will probably need a re-gas.

Very few cars will have been upgraded with aftermarket units that can be re-gassed, so the options are usually like-for-like Hydragas sphere replacement or a coilover conversion both considerably expensive.

Elsewhere, look for worn suspension bushes and upper ball joints, as well as signs of excessive corrosion on the lower wishbones. Rear shock absorber mounts are also known weak spots, sometimes even to the point where they split. It's worth noting that stiff-riding cars with worn-out Hydragas spheres can apply serious stress onto suspension mounting points.

MGFs are known to be particularly sensitive to tyre choice, as might be expected for a mid-engined car. The general wisdom is that a directional pattern and strong sidewall are essential. The Goodyear tyres originally fitted to early MGF models are no longer in production but there are plenty of options available today and even high-end tyres don't cost the earth.

Those with early cars with 15" wheels will want to look at the Yokohama Advan series, such as the Fleva V701, available in 195/50mm and 205/50mm profiles. This series of tyre was developed with Toyota's MR-2 in mind, and in fact the Japanese company's vested interest was the only thing in the way of these being fitted to the MGF when new.

Later cars tend to have 16" wheels, particularly the VVC models. For these, the Toyo Proxes range has long been popular, although some will recommend BF Goodrich as better all-rounders. The larger 16" wheels were fitted with 215/40mm tyres from new, except the MGF Trophy 160 which went to 195/45mm tyres on the front. Today, most enthusiasts extoll the benefits of the same size tyre front and rear, as it reduces the understeer inherent in the chassis' original balance, making the most of the MGF's sporty character.



A recent development is that mid-range tyre manufacturers are offering options that have had good reports, such as the Avon ZV5 and Nexen N2000 or N3000, making it even less excusable for a well-cared for MGF to not be wearing good rubber. However, you often do have to go through lesser-known channels to source the exact tyre you want, rather than popping down to your local chain depot.

A popular upgrade is to retrofit the four-pot calipers from the MG TF 160, although some specialists now offer a two-piston setup which is just as effective, if not more so.

Suspension upgrades range from the newly available fully re-gassable Hydragas units to a complete coilover conversion. There are also comprehensive polyurethane bushing kits that cost a few hundred pounds but can work wonders with the car's dynamic behaviour. Replacing the rubber bushes in the suspension arms and along the anti-roll bars can dramatically sharpen the MGF's responses.

Interior and trim

Plenty of the MGF's interior switchgear has the blessing of Honda's detailed component engineering and development, so it generally holds up well. One issue is with the standard stereo system, which only has two speakers and so is pretty susceptible to abuse when compensating for roof-down wind noise. Cars with speakers behind the seats should have fared better.



Make sure that the wipers work too; the linkages are known to fail and can be tricky to replace. Also check that the headlights are producing strong beams of light, as headlight casings and reflectors often become opaque with age.

If an MGF has failed power steering then you might not need to run too far, because it can be a simple fix. Usually it can be traced to a 40-amp fuse found under the front bonnet or, if the issue is temperamental, a faulty ECU found behind the glovebox. Neither will break the bank. If the mechanism is at fault then this will be more of a problem as it's part of the steering column and more difficult to access.

MGF: our verdict

For now, buying an MGF is still an affordable way to get into a mid-engined sports car behind a badge of serious heritage, with all the benefits to be gained from plenty of cars being parted-out, as well as an extensive and devoted enthusiast community. However, values are already on the rise for the MGF, and while it's still possible to buy one for peanuts, you're likely buying into much more work than you would have done even five years ago.

Still, the MGF stands as a fine alternative to those rivals whose values have exploded – see the [Mazda MX-5](#), for example – offering mid-engined thrills for very little outlay. If you're in the market for a small, cheap sports car, it's a good idea to jump on the wagon while 'F prices are still sensible



Christmas wishes from our club members

John & Glen send their Best Wishes to Everyone for Christmas and the New year.



Val & Derek would like to wish everyone at the South Leicester MG Club a merry Christmas and a happy 2024. Happy motoring.



Happy Christmas to all our friends at the SLMG Club.
Bob and Marian.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our friends at the SLMG Club.
Best Wishes Graham and Ann.

“Wishing members a Happy and convivial Christmas and a Peaceful New Year with the anticipation of many MG smiles of motoring!”
Pip Clements

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Looking forward to seeing you all in 2024
Best Wishes Gillian and Michael.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas, Love from Maria, Mike & Dennis!xx

To all club members, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Merry New year.
Hopefully we can enjoy many more MG events together in 2024
Graham and Nicky

Colin & Carol would like to wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our members.

Happy Xmas and a prosperous New Year to all our friends in the South Leicester MG Club
Stuart & Linda

Merry Christmas and Happy new Year to all MG owners, look forward to next years runs.
Pete and Su



Buyer Beware! - part 2

After much work and sourcing new and second-hand parts the MGB finally moved under its own steam! (Or petrol).



Proud owner Keith apprehensively preparing to start the car and move it out of the workshop.

Keith managed to get the MGB home ready for its next phase of restoration – interior carpets, fixing seats, adding chrome side strips, front and rear bumpers. Still parts missing which need to be sourced.

Lessons to be learned – always check what parts come with a part restoration, and take into account extra costs involved.

Images below show TSX42K out of the workshop for the first time since it was pushed in.



Our visit to Hook Norton Brewery

October 8th.



I decided at the last club meeting to mention the classic car shows available each month through the year.

On October 8th six members, Stuart, Linda, Melvyn, David, myself and Nicky met at the chip shop in Brinklow and followed the sat nav to our destination.

We only got lost once due to following a classic car ahead of us!!!



On arrival we were allocated where to park by friendly marshals. We were lucky to be parked together on hard ground as the venue was absolutely packed.

Late arrivals were parked in an adjacent field.

This wasn't a problem as we had a surprisingly very warm day.

We all found this was a really interesting venue with an excellent free museum, a good restaurant with beer aplenty. Including a shop in which many varieties of beer etc were for sale.

Melvyn and David set off for home while ourselves with Stuart and Linda decided with the weather being so good to stop off at Stow in the Wold for a walk round, finishing (as you do) in a cafe.

A very enjoyable day out, definitely go again.

Next year this event will be held every 2nd Sunday of the month from January to October 2024.

Graham
Chairman



Celebrating 44 years of the South Leicester MG Club

November 12 th

GATES
GARDEN CENTRE



Seven cars of all makes including 3 MGs set off on a mystery tour ending up at Gates Garden Centre to celebrate 44 years of our club forming back in 1979.

It was raining, it was muddy but we had a great time browsing the many shops.

Graham had booked a private suite for us all, to enjoy an excellent lunch followed by a free members raffle !!.

Our thanks go to Graham and Nicky for organizing a great 44th Anniversary.

P.S. I wonder what we all looked like 44 years ago in the same picture ?

Regards Graham P.





PRICING

Advanced

Adult **£12**

Under 12s **Free of charge**

On the day

Adult **£15**

Under 12s **Free of Charge**

Welcome to the exhilarating world of MG and Triumph Spares Day – your ultimate destination for all things classic motoring! Immerse yourself in the timeless elegance and power of these iconic British marques as you step into a realm where passion for automotive history meets cutting-edge restoration and innovation. Our event is a celebration of the past and future, where vintage enthusiasts and modern motorheads come together to share their love for MG and Triumph.

For tickets go to www.mgandtriumphsparesday.co.uk

South Leicester MG Club will be there displaying our MG's

Events Programme & Information

| Event No | Date | Information | Cost |
|----------|------------------|---|------|
| | December | | |
| | Tuesday 5th | Club meeting at the White Horse, Broughton Astley. Starts 8pm or come early for a chat and food. Ratae Presentation night to this year Charity Sue Young Cancer support. Would be nice to see a full house. | |
| 36 | Saturday 16th | Christmas Party Night at Ullesthorpe Court & Golf Club 4 course dinner starts at 7.30pm Dancing till 12.30am | Full |

Local Classic Car shows & Events



Harborough Sports Classic & Vintage Vehicle Meet

Entrance **£3.00** per vehicle

We're Back

EVERY 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

For more information **01858 469903**

Harborough Sports, Classic & Vintage

Cars Lorries Bikes Trikes **ALL VEHICLES WELCOME**

AT THE HARBOROUGH INNOVATION CTR

One of the BIGGEST Autojumbles in the UK...



NEWARK CAR & MOTORCYCLE AUTOJUMBLES

A great day out for any car or motorcycle enthusiast, the 'Normous Newark Autojumble offers a vast array of parts, restoration services and related products for a variety of vehicles on ten separate Sundays throughout the year.

Each 'Normous Newark Autojumble sees Newark Showground filled with hundreds of inside and outside trade plots, as well as a classic car and bike display area. On site catering units are available as well as an inside cafeteria.

Run by a friendly and experienced team of event staff from Mortons Media, each 'Normous Newark Autojumble attracts a large number of visitors from across the UK in search of the great finds and bargains on offer.

If you're after a certain part, piece or tool for a motoring project, then the 'Normous Newark Autojumble is where you'll find it.

Easy access from Newark, Lincoln and Nottingham, just off the A1/A46/A17 junction, certainly the best regular Autojumble in the UK for Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Leicestershire and beyond.

UPCOMING DATES

Earlybird gate opens at 8am
General admission from 10am

Sunday 10 Dec 2023
Sunday 28 Jan 2024
Sunday 18 Feb 2024
Sunday 14 April 2024
Sunday 9 June 2024
Sunday 11 Aug 2024
Sunday 15 September 2024
Sunday 20 Oct 2024
Sunday 24 Nov 2024
Sunday 8 Dec 2024



Vintage Stony

New Year's Day Vintage Car and Motorcycle Gathering.



News Years Day Sunday 1st January 2024

9:30am - 2:00pm

MARKET SQUARE, STONY STRATFORD, MILTON KEYNES MK11 1BE

The event is FREE for spectators and drivers but donations to Willen Hospice would be appreciated

Kilby Classic Car Meet



December 13th 6pm-9pm.
The Dog & Gun. Kilby. Wigston. Leicester. LE18 3TD.
Tel; No; 07885951276

Join us 2nd Wednesday of the Month for a get together for car Talk good beer and food.



The Ratae Charity Road Run 2024

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Driver | Navigator |
| Address | |
| Email | |
| Tel | |
| Make | Model |
| Year of Manufacture | Car Reg Number |

£35.00 per car *(based on 1 driver and 1 navigator)*

Additional Passengers *(please tick. This extra charge incl. breakfast, entry to Statford, free train ride)*

| Additional Passengers | Extra Charge | Please Tick |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 0 | 0 | |
| 1 | £10 | |
| 2 | £20 | |
| 3 | £30 | |
| 4 | £40 | |

Breakfast *(please tick per person e.g. 2 ticks for 2 people) - you will get a ticket when arriving to correspond with your choice*

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Bacon Cob | |
| Sausage Cob | |
| Croissant | |

Payment Method *(please tick one)*

| | |
|--|--|
| Electronic Bank Payment (preferred method and used by many) Sort Code 30-98-97 . Account 87393860 | |
| Or Cheque (payable to South Leicester MG Club) | |

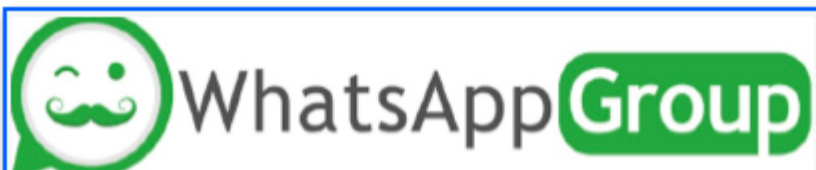
| | |
|--|--|
| Terms and Conditions <i>(please tick)</i> We/I have fully read and understood the rules and regulations above and jointly and severally agree to be bound by them. | |
| GDPR Agreement <i>(please tick)</i> I consent to having this website store my submitted information so they can respond to my inquiry. | |

Once your payment has cleared we will email you confirmation

Email: ratae.slmgc@gmail.com

Post: Ratae Run, South Leicester MG Club, 3 Netherfield Close, Broughton Astley, LE9 6XZ

MG: SOUTH LEICESTER MG CLUB.



WhatsApp chat room for members only.
Apply to Derek & Colin to join.



mg:southleics.mg club
Members only
Your photos of events,
Times & meeting place for all
Events



Web Site
[www. mgleicester.org](http://www.mgleicester.org)
All the information you need.
Events, Torque Newsletter, Photos &
Contact details.

Ratae Charity Run 2024

Please could you all put your heads together and think of a local charity that would benefit from our next years 2024 Ratae Run.

It could be a charity close to your heart, or a charity you think needs our help.

Any ideas you may have, please pass onto any committee member so that we can discuss it at our next meeting.

Regards.

Graham D.

Chairman of the South Leicester MG Club.

Lost.

At the last meeting Mike left his new MG hat behind, he went back to the White Horse and asked if anyone had handed it. The answer was no. So does anyone know where Mikes hat might be. ? If found please give to Mike Tomkinson or any committee member .

Thanks.

Regards Graham P .

Editor for South Leicester MG Club.

Found and returned to owner.

Christmas Message from the Editor.

I would like to thank all our club members for their contributions to the 2023 SLMG Club Torque magazine. With your input of events, stories and articles I have had a great time putting it all together, and I'm looking forward to delivering you an action packed Torque magazine for 2024.

December is a quiet month for our club with the only event being the Clubs Christmas party. So with that in mind, the next edition of the Torque magazine, will be on January 27th 2024, as we will be away over Christmas and New Year. Please send me any pictures, articles of what you have been up to over the festive period for me to build up an exciting February 2024 edition.

So all that is left is for me to say is

Have a fantastic Christmas and jolly good New Year
Graham and Ann.



P.S. Please don't forget any unwanted presents for the Ratae raffle. Thanks!

CLUB INFORMATION



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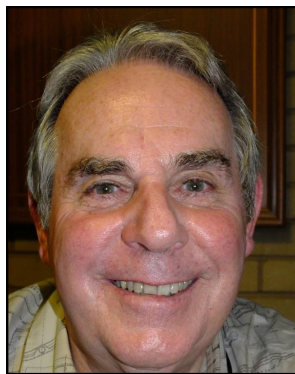
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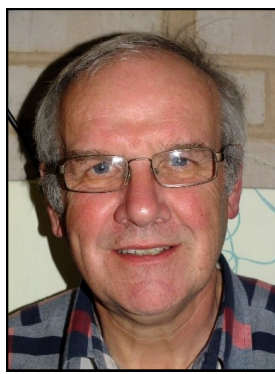
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Kieron Hall
Committee Member.
www.mgleicester.org

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.