

SYNCHRO!

Dear Club Member

I hope everyone had a lovely Easter, the year is literally flying by again.

On this note, our Summer season is soon upon us and we have a fun packed calendar to look forward to.

As you are all aware, there has been a lot happening over the last 3 months, starting off with the re-election of the Club Committee.

Welcome to Steve Gwilt, our new Chairman and Geoff and Joy Edwards who have kindly agreed to share the Membership Secretary position.

Our Club Event will soon be upon us, which everyone is looking forward to. It will be great to put South Staffs & North Birmingham SSMGOC on the map and show other Clubs that we are situated in an equally beautiful part of the country.

Don't forget, visit our website on www.ssmgoc.co.uk for more details or even e-mail me on brookesmg.mark@btinternet.com.

Mark Brookes
Area Secretary



Happy 30th Birthday

South Staffs & North Birmingham

MGOC

1977—2007

As you can see the Club is 30 years old this year, and to celebrate we are planning a Party some time in August. If anyone has any ideas of what we can do to commemorate our 30th year, then please let me know.
Mark Brookes

Club members, please support our Area Event



Editor: Karen Brookes

Issue 3

April - June 2007

Special points of interest:

- [AGM 2007](#)
Sunday 4th February
- [Area Event](#)
Sunday 17th June

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AGM 2007 results

Dear Member

As you are all aware, our AGM was held on Sunday 4th February 2007.

Thank you to everyone who attended, it was the best turnout by Club members since the Committee has been formed.

Many thanks to everyone who voted myself and the rest of the Committee back on, With the arrival of some newly elected members, I am sure it will grow to be a strong and well maintained Club.

On this note, I would like to take this opportunity of welcoming to the Committee our new members, Steve Gwilt as Chairman and Geoff & Joy Edwards who have agreed to share the Membership Secretary position.

A copy of the minutes will be readily available on Club nights if you would like to view it..

Mark Brookes
Area Secretary

South Staffs & North Birmingham Committee

Area Secretary	Mark Brookes
Committee Chairman	Steve Gwilt
Asst Area Secretary	Pete Walker
Treasurer	Dave Barton
Membership Secretary	Geoff & Joy Edwards
Regalia & Fund Raiser	June Rodgers
Events Co-Ordinator	Mark Brookes & Pete Walker



MEMBERS COMPETITION



CAPTION COMPETITION

Introducing South Staffs very own 'Caption Competition'.

Send your best caption (not a selection) to Mark Brookes, 11 Whinyates Rise, Rumer Hill, Cannock, WS11 8HT or e-mail brookesmg.mark@btinternet.co.uk no later than Sunday 1st July 2007 where the best caption will be judged by the Committee.

The winner of the best 'Caption' will receive a bottle of wine to be presented on our Wednesday 11th July Club night.

If anyone has any funny photo's that can for future 'Caption' competitions, then please send them to Mark Brookes.

EASTER 2007 - Torquay, Devon

It was a very early start when many of us met at Frankley Services at 6.00am on Good Friday. However, we kept on telling ourselves that we would avoid all the usual Bank Holiday traffic - and we were right.

Arriving at Torquay, Devon at 11.00am after a couple of stops we headed to The Cary Court Hotel and were met by Paul and Linda, the owners. After quickly unpacking, we headed off into the town for a quick walk and a spot of sightseeing. We had certainly booked the weather - it was scorching. That evening, a couple of us headed off towards the harbour front for a fish and chip supper, whilst the remainder dined at 'The Hole in the Wall' pub.

In previous years we have always done a Run out on the Saturday day time, but thought we could have this as a 'chill' day instead. Some went walking, some went driving, some went shopping. A few of us visited Cockington village - a must see village if you have never been, full of thatched cottages and quaint tea rooms. The evening meal was held at the Red Snapper again this year, which is a local restaurant specialising in Caribbean food.

The Run options for Easter Sunday was either coastal or Dartmoor? The majority of the Group wanted to do the coastal run, so we decided to do a re-run of last years via Dartmouth and on to Burgh Island, as we arrived here too late last time. The hotel on the island is where Agatha Christie spent a lot of time writing, it was also used in a Poirot film. We were joined on the Run by Paul and Linda who have an MG Roadster—this was good, because they also knew the way!!

Another gloriously hot day, everyone headed off through Paignton and towards the Dartmouth ferry. We only had to wait approx 3/4 hour before we had boarded the ferry and were able to carry on with the journey towards Blackpool and Slapton sands and straight on to Burgh Island. After climbing to the top, the view was breathtaking - as you can see in the pictures below.

After heading back to the Hotel for a quick drink, we got ready to out for our final meal as a Group. The Yum Sing, a Cantonese restaurant, was only a 10 minute walk away from the hotel - no hills and no steps - great!! Loads of food though! Everyone made their own way back home on the Bank Holiday Monday. We even made the local newspapers!! I hope you all had a great weekend.



South Staffs making news in the Herald Express newspaper

MGs set sail from Kingswear

NO this is not an article about the Chinese owners of Rover/MG making the new cars amphibious.

It was a chance encounter in the ferry queue on Sunday at the Lower Ferry when I happened upon the south Staffordshire MG owners' Club out for a jaunt.

The summery feel of the day was enhanced by seeing 10 glistening MG roadsters lined up, all with their hoods firmly down. Quite right too.

The models ranged from an extremely handsome, bright red MG A, through a welter of

'Bs' and fronting them was a fairly rare V8 MG C. All the cars were in utterly pristine condition, great credit to their owners, and they were certainly turning a few heads in Kingswear and Dartmouth.

The group was staying over in Torquay where they have a member who has a hotel and an MG. Don't know how he finds time for both.

They looked like they were seriously enjoying their visit and thought that it's always sunny here because this is their third visit when they've had marvellous weather. How we laughed.

SAILING: The South Staffordshire MG Owners' Club on the Lower Ferry
PHOTO: Mike Trivornov HE110407_5UB09_01



CLUB EVENTS

Allan Jones Memorial Run Sunday 11th February 2007

Our first outing of the year had been planned, and on the Friday, we had had the worst snowfall that I can remember for quite a while.

After a few phone calls on Saturday morning, it was decided that we should postpone the Run just in case the snow - which was now melting - had flooded the route.

However, in true South Staffs style, we were not dependent, and went for the meal instead. The Royal Oak in Kings Bromley basically didn't now what had hit them when 30 of us turned up to dine. A lovely meal was had by all.

Thanks to Mike Watkins who organised the event, on what turned out to be a lovely sunny day—never mind eh!!

This Run will be re-scheduled during the summer



MG International Day—Stoneleigh Sunday 25th February 2007

Thank you to everyone who helped promote our Area Event at the MG International Day at Stoneleigh. We managed to hand out all of the promotional leaflets for the Event, and also sign up another 6 new members for the Club.

As usual, this is always a popular Event, with lots to see and do. Probably not so many stands this year, but we did see our friends from the Coventry & Warwick Club who had managed to secure a stand next to ours this year.

On our stand for the first time was my Midget.



Club Stand at Stoneleigh

Skittles Night—Brewood Saturday 24th February 2007

The Skittles night at the Swan Hotel, Brewood was again very popular this year.

Well done to Graham Cherry who was the overall winner, and Alan Heeley who won the 'push the £1' competition, winning a bottle of whisky.

I hope to organise another skittles night later on in the year.



Sue taking aim at Skittles



LOCAL HISTORY

CLUB EVENT:

Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton

Saturday 16th June 2007



On Saturday 16th June, the Club will be part of a static display at Moseley Old Hall as organised by Fran Davis.

A National Trust property, the Hall has one of the most romantic and daring stories in English history, as this is where Charles II hid from Cromwell's soldiers after his defeat at the Battle of Worcester in 1651.

For those who are unfamiliar with the story, Moseley Old Hall was the home of the Whitgreaves family, who were descended from lawyers and MP's. Mostly Catholics and Royalists—as were so many of the influential families during the period - the most noted Whitgreave was Thomas 'The Preserver'. It was with his help that Charles was able to continue his journey, which eventually led to his exile in France for eight years. Following a long trek from Boscobel House, Thomas was greeted by Charles who was tired and hungry. He was offered dry clothes and food and stayed at the Hall for 2 days in a bedroom with a secret panel concealing a priest hole while he planned his escape to France.

CLUB EVENT:

MGs In The Trees - RAF Hednesford

Sunday 17th June

In 1938, the building of a training school began on Brindley Heath (just south of the visitor centre), and in 1939 the Secretary of State for Air, Sir Kingsley Wood opened it. Its official title was No 6 School of Technical Training, but it was better known as RAF Hednesford.

During the war, thousands of men and a number of women received their basic training at the camp before being posted to other parts of the country. The training focused on the maintenance of the air frames and engines of the RAF planes.

At its height, the camp was the size of a small town with its own facilities which included a cinema, NAAFI, YMCA and churches.

A railway halt was built at Moors Gorse and the recruits had to trudge, with their heavy bags, up the long climb of Marquis Drive. This soon became known as Kit Bag Hill.

At the end of the war, it became a personnel dispatch centre, and service personnel were demobilised. Between 1950 and 1956, it was used for National Service Training there, and included the dreaded 'square-bashing'. After it closed as a training camp, it became a resettlement camp for Hungarian refugees, fleeing from the Russian Invasion of Budapest. It was also used by the Territorial Army, after which the buildings were sold off and fell into disrepair.

In the 1960's and 70's the remains of the Camp was demolished and the whole site became part of the Cannock Chase Country Park.

(Story courtesy of Cannock Chase D.C website)

Rare World War One Trench discovery on Cannock Chase

A rare World War One training trench has recently been discovered on Cannock Chase and has been declared as an official ancient monument. However, its location is currently being kept secret by English Heritage and The Forestry Commission while they work together in partnership to look after this important piece of history. Cannock Chase was the location of two giant training camps established in the Great War. Up to a quarter of a million British and Commonwealth troops, destined for the trenches, passed through the camp.

At the time there were few trees on the Chase, which made it an ideal location to practise large scale activities. Among those who did their military training on Cannock Chase was Lord of the Rings author JRR Tolkien. Some also claim that the huge army camps gave inspiration to him for the vast camps of Mordor in his famous tale.

(Story courtesy of Cannock & Rugeley Mercury)



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CLUB NIGHTS

Now 8.30pm

Don't forget—our new start time for Club nights is 8.30pm every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month.

MEMBERS INPUT

This is your Newsletter—if you have any stories or articles that you think may be of interest even funny photo's etc, then please send them to me.

Also, if you know of any good events that you have attended recently, then please let me know so that they can be entered into this year's calendar.

The newsletter is also available for download off the website. **Mark**

If you would like anything entered onto the website. i.e MG cars or parts for sale, or any interesting MG items, then please e-mail Steve on our website address. www.ssmgoc.co.uk. Also, visit our website for new Run updates

PROMS NIGHT – SHUGBOROUGH

A limited number of tickets have now been reserved for the Club.

For those who have never attended, we usually organise a buffet for the evenings event—bring a bottle.

If you would like to attend, then please contact Steve Gwilt who will confirm costs etc.



Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 25th April 2007	Club Night, The Globe Pub
Wednesday 9th May 2007	Club Night
Monday 7th May 2007	Rudyard Lane, Potteries MGOC
Sunday 13th May 2007	Cannock Chase Run
Wednesday 23rd May 2007	Club Night
Sunday 3rd June 2007	Leicestershire Run (A Heeley)
Wednesday 13th June 2007	Club Night
Saturday 16th June 2007	Moseley Old Hall, W-ton
Sunday 17th June 2007	Club Event
	MG's in the Trees
Wednesday 27th June 2007	Club Night
Friday 29th-1st July 2007	River Exe Rally (Exeter MGOC)
Sunday 1st July 2007	Cars In The Park

Issue 4 will be available on

Wednesday 11th July 2007

I have been given 'Enjoying MG' magazines - every month's issue since 1988! **Free to a good home!!**

If anyone is interested, please contact **Mark Brookes on 07918-659657**

Our venue for Club Nights

The Globe Pub
Hednesford Road
Hednesford
(until further notice)

Kath's Corner

A welcome return to one of our favourite Club magazine features which used to appear in our 'Overdrive' magazine.

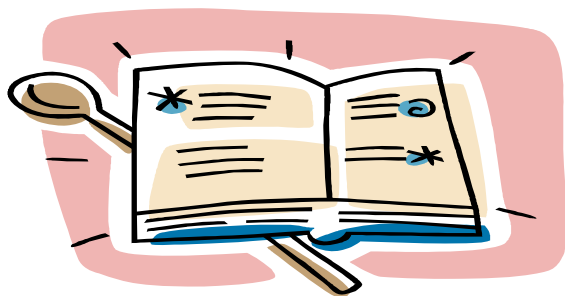
Many thanks to Kath Jones for supplying these recipes.

ORANGE CAKE

Ingredients

- 225g (8oz) Butter, softened
- 175g (6oz) Caster Sugar
- 3 medium Eggs, beaten
- 275g (10oz) Plain flour
- 1 heaped teaspoon Baking powder
- 1½ large oranges—zest & juice
- 110g (4oz) Fresh clotted cream
- 3 tablespoons marmalade—stirred until soft
- 225g (8oz) Icing sugar

1. Pre-heat oven to 180°/350°/Gas 4. Grease 2 sandwich tins 20 x 4cm (8" x 1½").
2. Cream the butter and sugar until pale and slowly beat in the eggs. Sift the flour gradually into the mixture. Add the baking powder, orange zest and half the juice.
3. Divide between the 2 tins and bake for 30 mins (check after 25mins). Cool on a wire rack.
4. Mix the clotted cream with the marmalade and sandwich the sponges together. Make the icing by gradually adding the remaining orange juice to the icing sugar until smooth. Drizzle over the top.



SARDINE PATE

Ingredients

- 1 x 120g can of sardines (drained)
- 75g (3oz) low fat sift cheese
- 1 teaspoon sun-dried tomato puree
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon Worcester sauce
- Black pepper to season
- French stick - sliced and toasted to serve.

1. Mash the sardines in a bowl.
2. Add remaining ingredients and mix. Cover and chill for at least 1 hour.
3. Serve on toasted French stick.

Note: this also works with other canned fish. i.e salmon Tuna, mackerel and pilchards.

BAILEY'S IRISH CREAM

Ingredients

- 1 tin condensed milk
- 1 large tin evaporated milk
- 1 teaspoon Glycerine (must have)
- 1 dessert spoon Instant coffee
- 1 mug whisky

1. Whisk all together
2. Bottle and leave overnight