



# Synchro!



The newsletter of the South Staffordshire and north Birmingham MG owners club

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## Tenby 2004

Our annual weekend away to a caravan park promised to be another success when I looked at the weather forecast and Tenby had a giant sun over it all weekend.

We all made our way down separately trying to find the “straightest” road; I don’t think there is one. Our bee made good time in the Friday afternoon sunshine but made an unceremonious entrance making a cough and a splutter over the finishing line. Having to be pushed the last few yards to park up is never the best end to a journey. A few minutes later she fired back up and I never did solve the mystery of why she “died”.



The Friday evening began with a trip to the bar; well you have to don’t you? We were then held captive by the ladies playing Bingo, so had another couple of pints, as you do! The beer was good and quickly made up for the poor Bingo playing. A quick wash, change, a walk on the beach and a return back to the bar finished a pleasant evening.

After a good nights sleep and a hearty English fried breakfast there was a call from outside.

“Check your dust caps, some thieving little sod has helped themselves to the shiny MG ones!” Four cars had been “done” having the nice MG caps removed to decorate someone’s two wheeled MG bike! Meryl marched off down to reception and reported the devious theft. She was put in touch with the local police and PC Pugh said he would attend site shortly. Little did we know at this stage that he was a MG fan having recently rebuilt one with his brother! Would he have attended if it had been any other vehicle? The crime wave certainly must have been slack that day because he attended site in less than an hour. Four crime reports were filled out, boosting Tenby’s crime figures for that day by 400% Paperwork completed he had a good look around the cars and spent another half an hour chatting MG’s. Criminals not caught we continued to keep an eye on any passing bike for nice shiny bits of chrome in the wheel department.



Mark and Karen had spent a lot of time and effort compiling the route books and leaflets on places to visit in Tenby. We all assembled on the car park at 10 ish, that was the MG 10ish which was 10:30. When one car shot off and decided to get some fuel a false start ensued and the pack of cars shot off in the opposite direction to the route book. The new leader of the breakaway pack shall not be named but was quickly brought under control when Mark and Karen caught up, taking their rightful place as lead car, bringing the run back on course.

We did approximately 100 miles around the beautiful Pembroke coast, taking in some fresh Welsh air and sunshine. Planning for a barbeque is always a tricky operation in our unpredictable climate, but this time we were lucky as the evening sun began to set into an orange (blaze or was it vermillion ) sky. Neil Thomas from the Pembroke MG club was kind enough to supply us with a large barbeque to cook our meat. The ladies prepared the salad and I stoked up a huge fire for the sausages, boys still like to play with fire! A few pound of meat later and a few cans drunk saw darkness fall and we retired to the caravans and the club house.

## Sunday

Our Sunday Run was organised by Neil Thomas of the Pembrokeshire MG Club, ([www.pembsmg.co.uk](http://www.pembsmg.co.uk)) who kindly led the way around some of the beautiful Pembrokeshire Coast.

The route took us past Manorbier castle via the coastal road where there were some excellent views.

Following the signs to Pembroke, we headed for Bosherton village, and the renowned lily ponds, ending up at Broad Haven Beach.

After the Club's usual photo call on the beach, we all headed back to the cars via the pub for lunch..... it was a long walk!!...and it was very hot!!

After we were all fed and watered, we carried on to St Govan's Head taking a cautious stroll down to an 11<sup>th</sup> century chapel set into the middle of a cliff face. It is said that it was once occupied by one of King Arthur's Knights. A silver bell was taken from the chapel once and brought bad luck on the person taking it. It was returned and hidden in a stone nearby, and when hit it rings out.

Enough of the history lesson and back to the Run. The route took us through the Castlemartin Firing Range occupied by a tank regiment. Luckily, there was no live firing that day, but it was a little nerve racking when we came across four tanks in a nearby field, obviously on some sort of manoeuvre.

Stopping for a quick photo call at the pebbly beach at Freshwater West, we made our way to the sleepy village of Angle and a coffee stop overlooking the sea. It was here that the Sea Empress ran aground in 1996 and spilt it's thousands of gallons of oil on its way to Milford Haven Dock.

Making our way back to Tenby, Neil suggested that we stop off at Carew Castle for a picture of the cars against the backdrop of the castle.

A lovely way to round of a very enjoyable weekend.

*Steve Moore / Mark Brookes*



[www.pembsmg.co.uk](http://www.pembsmg.co.uk)

## MG TR7 ?

In 1980 British Leyland was considering the possibility of badge-engineering the TR7 as an MG. At least one styling prototype was produced — a metallic green drophead. Differences from the standard car appear to have been relatively minor: the car wore MG decal badges and had a rather tinny-looking “MG” grille tacked on to its nose. Mercifully, perhaps, the proposal went no further.

The way things might have been (1): this is a styling mock-up for the MG-badged version of the TR7 which never went into production. The car has the early type of bonnet, without the bulge which arrived when production switched to Canley, and also has the pleated upholstery used on Speke-built TR8s. Perhaps neither feature was intended for the new MG, however: more likely is that the car used for the styling trials was a Speke-built TR8 drophead.



### Top Tips:

How to take a group photograph and get in the picture.

1. Find a suitable location to mount camera and position your group. Either side of a road is not ideal but if the view is good then it's worth the challenge.



2. Set the camera to automatic and press the shutter release.
3. Make your way swiftly to get into the group photograph.
4. Wait for auto exposure to fail.
5. Set up camera again.
6. Note: don't loose your hat and go back and

fetch it, you won't get in the picture on time.  
( See Photo)

7. Set up camera again.
8. Run to get into shot and wait for the passing car to come into shot. Admire shot of car with the group visible in background.
9. Set up camera again
10. Repeat above steps and fourth time lucky get the group shot, made even more valuable for taking 10 minutes to get!



**What is Going On?!!**

Sunday 20th June	Mike's Derby Dales Run	Meet at Old Market Place car park Ashbourne at 09:45, to leave at 10:00 prompt.
Thursday 01st July	River Dart Week End	Exeter MGOC
Thursday 8th July	Leicestershire Motor Museum	Contact Alan Heeley
Saturday 10th July	Moat Hall School Fate, Cheslyn Hay	Meryl Moore, Meet 11 am Four Crosses
Sunday 11th July	Curborough, MG Rover Day	Mike Watkins
Friday 16th July	Steve & Meryl's Barbeque	Bring your own booze! Open to all Club Members
Sunday 18th July	Regional Event, Weston Park	Roy Clarke, £15 per car
Friday 23rd July	Stonehenge Camping Weekend	Steve Moore.

**S**taffordshire Police are currently increasing their campaign targeting speeding motorists. They have recently purchased two more mobile speed camera vans. This takes their total to four vans allowing a number of sites to be "surveyed" at the same time. I passed one the other day, (within the speed limit) and they are very easy to spot. The problem is that when you do spot them, they have already clocked your speed! They have also kindly produced a timetable of where these cameras are to be located. Have a look at this website for the latest timetable.

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/cameralifesavers/mobiletimetable.htm>

The West Midlands Police camera website is

<http://www.wmsafetycameras.co.uk/> as yet they are not using mobile cameras, but watch this space!



**I**t's interesting that the police are giving notice of when and where their speed traps will be, because when a member of the public did the same, he was prosecuted: A pensioner who warned motorists of a police speed trap was convicted of wilfully obstructing a constable in the execution of his duty, banned from driving for a month and ordered to pay £364 costs yesterday.



Stuart Harding, 71, was attempting to slow motorists down as they approached a Sunday morning car boot sale where many people were crossing the road.

Noticing that police were parked nearby with an officer using a hand-held laser speed camera, he decided that a warning stating "Speed Trap - 300 yards ahead" would be the most effective way of getting drivers to reduce their speed. But as soon as the officers noticed his placard he was cautioned for committing an offence.

Harding, a retired instrument maker, said: "I have been convicted of breaking the law because I was trying to stop others from doing so. It is totally unjust."

"It seems to be more about raising revenue than road safety. I'm just so angry and upset about the driving ban. It was totally uncalled for because this wasn't a motoring offence," he said.

Happy  Motoring

Our Thanks to Karen Brookes for printing and posting.