



# NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2009



**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**



EXETER MGOC

57

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Newsletter available at [exetermgoc.co.uk](http://exetermgoc.co.uk), the week-end before the monthly meeting.

### Club Committee

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Chairman	Bob Featherstone	01392 670283
Membership Secretaries	Colin and Pat Hughes	01395 277537
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Event Co-ordinator's	Derrick & Hazel Layzell	01404 43058
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# CHAPTER TWO – PART TWO

Laughter and landfill.

Dear reader

As Christmas approaches we turn our thoughts to those who for one reason or another know not the joy of this festivity, some through religion will not be celebrating around a flashing tree with turkey and fruit cake steeped in brandy. Though me, I like to 'pooh pooh' Christmas because it is silly, the whole reason behind Christmas seems very much lost in the past leaving myself (and I'm guaranteed not to be alone) in a position where I would happily join the homeless for the day. Lounging in a urine stained sleeping bag rather than bringing the world to its knees by spending inordinate amounts of cash on pointless rubbish that will either spend all eternity in the back of a dark mouldy wardrobe or topping up our already 'full to bursting' landfill sights. No! Only kidding.

It is a moment for us all to enjoy quality time with friends and family and spread joy into each others hearts. Oh! And eat and drink ourselves stupid as otherwise there will be no reason for those overzealous New Years resolutions, although losing the few pounds you put on over Christmas will not exactly change your life – still, that's by the by.

As we are not quite ready to look back over the year we will content ourselves with November, a pretty damp month which saw little weather windows for even the sturdiest of MG enthusiasts. Just when all seemed lost there was the clubs 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, an event I sadly missed . I have already heard stories about quizzes and jubilant behaviour and would like to thank Bob our very tall chairman for keeping the ceremony moving as smoothly as a fish on a waterslide. The evening sadly clashed with a similarly important event but the other one promised sunshine and sangria, you understand the predicament but I made my bed and in the heat of the night dutifully slept on top of it.

As the month crept on and the nights grew darker there came a light in the tunnel of autumn, Roger & Pat organised an impromptu run culminating in a fine feast at an old favourite in Widdecombe. Sadly I missed this also but look forward to hearing all about it in this newsletter. I managed to take a long tea break to visit Moto and see all those ready to embark on their adventure but sadly had to return to work in order to pay for the now long forgotten holiday. A big thank you and well done to Roger & Pat because they made a lot of people very happy that day.

Then there was the outgoing committee Christmas dinner. This I managed to squeeze in the diary and enjoyed the evening very much. I would like to thank the club on behalf of the rest of the outgoing committee for their generosity, and look forward to the next time which will be just before the AGM, a suitable thanksgiving for those committee members about to finish their year serving the club. This is a fine way for the club to thank their committee for all the hard work involved in running the club and hopefully it will remain a tradition for years to come. Well done Barbara for organising the whole event and sorry your steak was overdone.

December is now in motion and the month uses the Christmas dinner as its club night. The event still has space for those who have not booked but you need to get on to Barbara & Trish immediately if you would like to participate. It promises to be a superb evening and the unusual chance to dress up and let your hair down at the same time. Fine dining followed by frenzied dancing and something for everyone. If you are put off because you can't dance, don't be, as last year the dance floor was not so much strictly come dancing but more sickly cold dousing which may seem nebulous but I think you know what I mean. There will be a raffle so if you still have any unwanted presents from last year you can't find a home for let Barbara know as it may be the last chance for these sad and lonely gifts to be appreciated.

Early in January sees the New Year Treasure Hunt with Nic & Lyn being mummy and making sure no toys are thrown out of the pram. They will have a super run and treasure hunt in store for us, so make sure you are at The Dartmoor Lodge for 10.30 and if your New Years resolution is to use your MG more then this is the perfect time to start.

Happy Christmas – Tim (oh! and Heidi XXX)

## Roger & Pats Run 22nd November

Six cars met at Moto for a run that Roger & Pat put together at very short notice, unfortunately it was not the weather for the roofs to be down. We left Moto and took the Motorway to junction 31 and joined the A30 towards Okehampton, took the first exit towards Ide then to Longdown and on to Moretonhampstead, past the Warren Inn on Dartmoor to Postbridge where there is a restored clapper bridge. Then on to Dartmeet for a much needed toilet stop we then travelled on to Ponsworthy and across the ford ( this is where I thought Neil was going to get out and wash his GT as he went into the ford and reversed out again). Anyway onwards we went to follow signs for Widecombe where we had a much awaited lunch stop and a nice pint of Ale at the Old Inn which Roger & Pat had reserved tables for us  
A very excellent meal was had by all and a very big thank you to Roger & Pat for arranging this run and lunch stop.

Derrick & Hazel Layzell



What's this strange object ?

Funny, we have one too !



## NEW MGTF LE500 LANDS AT THE EXETER MG CLUB



In the Showroom.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> day on the Road.

Car number 465 of 500 to be precise and one of only 75 cars to be built in Graphite Grey.

You will all recognise the story. I wasn't looking for a brand new car but became disenchanted with the misrepresented vehicles that Janice and I travelled to view, including the one at a garage in Carlisle! Don't worry, it wasn't a special journey as such, as we were already on the motorway travelling south from Scotland. However, I had mentioned in advance to the sales manager, that the car looked like it may possibly have been resprayed? from the photo details sent to me. "Oh no sir" came the reply, "just a few small stone chips on the bonnet". You can write the rest of the story yourselves!

So it came to be, that we later travelled to an MG Dealership in Bristol to view a brand new metallic green TF135 and of course we didn't buy it, we bought the new TF LE500 parked next to it instead.

The MGTF LE500 as some of you may not know, is a special run of 500 "fully loaded" cars built to launch the new M.G.Motors Company. The cars were all painted and assembled at Longbridge (the ongoing TF135's will have ready painted body shells shipped from China). The extra goodies on mine include aircon, full leather trim, reversing sensors, high spec Pioneer stereo system with ipod connectivity and the hardtop.

The engine has also been revised and is now called the "N" series. The changes should hopefully see an end to the horrific head gasket problems of the "F" (someone should have "swung" for that problem).

What's my verdict on the new car? Well the engine seems very willing though I am still running it in, so not taking full advantage of it yet. The updated brakes are "too" good, I'm struggling to get use to their stopping power and the cars roadholding is also superb. On the downside, I think the carpets have a very cheap feel, the tonneau cover also seems very flimsy compared with the original MGF version that we owned previously. Some of the welding marks give me the impression that the bodies were made very much by hand rather than a highly refined production line and I have also had to refit some of the trim myself. Oh, and the interior mirror fell off in my hand in the showroom! Not good MG.

Then again, none of us bought our M.G's because we thought they were BMW's or VW's did we? For me, my car is about good looks, great driving, the connection with a great motoring name (however tenuous) and sunny days with the roof down. Anyone heard a weather forecast by the way?

**Jim and Janice Ferris**

**Exmouth**

**New Year's Run - Sunday Jan 3rd. Meet 10.30am at The Dartmoor Lodge, Peartree Cross, Ashburton.**

The hotel will be open for Tea/ coffee if people wish.

Followed by a meander through the Devon countryside with a few questions to test the brain cells and blow the cobwebs away.

Then carvery lunch at the finish.

The lucky winner will receive the MG club treasure hunt trophy!!

**Nic & Lyn**

**NOTICE BOARD**

**Club night – Tues 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

There will be guest speaker on our January 12th club night which will be a representative from the Devon Air Ambulance starting at 8.00pm please could we have a good attendance for this deserving cause.

**Derrick**

**For Sale**

Windstop for MGF/TF. Genuine MG Rover item in excellent condition with fixtures. Current new price £155.00 at MG Owners Club. Ideal Christmas present £75.00.

**Tel Keith:- 07779549187.**

**Week-End break to the Isle of Wight – 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

Barbara has found a destination for the club holiday in February. A nine bedroomed hotel on the Isle of Wight, AA 4 star, £134 per person for 3 nights (Fri, Sat, Sun) to include bed, breakfast and dinner, ferry cost (via Lymington) included and safe parking. Bookings to be made direct to the Hotel , they require a £50 pp deposit and say you are with EMGOC.

St Maur Hotel, Castle Rd, Ventnor PO 38 1LG. Tel 01983 852570 [www.stmaur.co.uk](http://www.stmaur.co.uk)

**CLUB REGALIA**

DEVON GREEN (CLUB COLOUR) POLO SHIRT £10.00  
AVAILABLE IN ALL SIZES AND IN MALE OR FEMALE CUT

VARIOUS COLOURS OF POLO SHIRT £15.00  
AVAILABLE IN ALL SIZES AND IN MALE OR FEMALE CUT  
SHIRTS CAN ALSO HAVE YOUR NAME ADDED FOR A SMALL FEE £ 3.00

ASSORTED BASEBALL CAPS IN VARIOUS COLOURS £ 7.50

LAPEL BUTTON BADGES £ 3.00

SPARE WINDSCREEN STICKERS £1.00

MANY OTHER ARTICLES AVAILABLE SO FOR DETAILS SEE

PAUL WOOSTER – REGALIA SECRETARY.