



Issue 6 – December 2018

South West Midlands Area Newsletter

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Area Coordinators Column

Well what can someone say about the National Rally at Ragley Hall? Just simply one of the best!

The work that the National Committee went into to organise this event was overwhelming. The number of cars that turned up on the day and the view of them from the hill were simply amazing and the band playing most of the time made for a terrific day out!

For our own area to be involved was brilliant, and I must say a big thank you to the following:

The usual ladies team - for helping in the National Tent - Sue, Debbie, Heather and Val.

Sue and Claire - for supplying super cakes on the day. Yummy in my tummy!

Penny and others - helping out making Tea/Coffee

The lads – for helping Mal with judging cars and the car parking.

Claire, our pumpkin - for helping out Mal with the competition results.

If I have missed anyone I do apologise.

Thanks must also go to all the members who came for the day out. I sincerely hope you all had a great day out I know I did with the usual banter making it a fun day for all. Thanks for making Fudge welcome and the fuss you made of her.

It was interesting seeing that our Drives Coordinator Vince, who could not help himself, buying more Chrome for his car. I do hope you all had a great time!

The next Spring National is at Elvington Air Museum near York 2019.

May I take this opportunity to wish ALL Club Members a Very Happy Christmas and New Year!!

Terry - AC

Pershore Plum Festival, Monday 27th August 2018

The Pershore Plum Festival has become the 'Jewel in the Crown' on the South West Midlands events calendar. This year's event was no exception with fifty five MX5's turning out for the annual Classic Car day during the three day festival.



The Plum Fayre dates back over 100 years and is set in the splendid grounds of Pershore Abbey. The Festival days include craft stalls, rides for the kids, food markets in the closed off streets and the Teddy Bear Zip Wire from the top of the Abbey. I heard one parent enquiring whether he could book the zip wire for his kids!



Jeff, Junie and I were there bright and early to set up the event shelter and Trevor, Victoria, Ged and Frances made a welcome addition to wrestle the event shelter into submission. Sue and Val had provided the usual 'Great British Bake Off' selection of cakes to accompany the tea and coffee. John arrived to help with the parking while Penny, Teresa and Junie 'manned' the gate to greet members from our region and guest regions too. Junie came back with two hundred pounds which will go nicely towards the car insurance, ha!

The weather was at least kind to us after heavy rain on the previous day. During the day we celebrated Pat's birthday with cake and candles and later also sang happy birthday to Judge Ron who was celebrating his birthday the next day.

The show of MX5's gleamed as everyone had polished their little cars in a bid to take home some of the hardware that was available in our own club 'Show & Shine' competition. This show attracts just about every car you can think of from Rolls Royce to Nash Metropolitan with some fabulous examples on display.

The MX-Factor Judges, John White, Ged, Ken and Ron Edwards moved amongst the cars from mid-morning. Each Judge was assigned a category which made certain that they couldn't judge their own marque. The trophies donated by Mal through the National Committee were presented at 3pm. The MK1 class was won by John & Penny, MK2 was won by Alan & Jenny, MK3 was taken by Captain Chrome & Junie, and the MK4 class was won by Trevor & Victoria. The Judges 'car of the show' was won by Wayne Perry from North East Midlands, the MX-Factor Judges were presented with a bottle of fizz each as a 'thank you'.

Our cars always attract loads of interest from those who either have one or those who'd like one. There was no shortage of the usual chat and banter and the day passed too quickly. Many thanks to everyone who turned up and to those who helped out. See you all again next year.

Vince - Drive Coordinator,

Sudeley Castle Classic Car Show-September 2018



September saw another great day at Sudeley with twenty two MX5's in attendance. The day started early for 'Junie' and I when we arrived to find Jeff waiting at locked gates. A couple in a Chrysler Crossfire told us that the opening times had been changed but luckily they were wrong and the gates opened at 8am as planned.

It wasn't long before Henry arrived and the four of us started unpacking the tons of equipment from Jeff's car. Erecting the shelter can be like a Krypton Factor puzzle and it was fun to watch Henry and Junie wrestling the cover against the wind, a bit like preparing a hot air balloon in a hurricane.

We enjoyed our regular spot by the ornamental lake which fitted the number of 5's perfectly. The weather started cool and breezy with the sun making an appearance for a short spell. We had a heavy shower at lunchtime which brought all the members into the shelter. It was certainly good for making new friends! Sue had wandered off for a walk and left her top down! Trevor and I raced to the rescue with a couple of umbrellas which did the trick and covered up the car too. Claire had suggested lifting the shelter over Sue's car but the group would have had to stand outside while the Silverbird kept dry, no way I thought!



Our SWM Show & Shine competition was judged by her Ladyship's Butler, Charles, who some of our lady members thought was a nice bit of 'eye candy', his trousers were a bit too tight in my opinion. In third place came John & Penny's Mk1, second was Ron & Teresa's Mk1 and the winner was Mike & Clare's Mk1, it was clearly a victory for the Mk1's. Unfortunately, Mike had fled the scene by the time the trophy was presented at 3pm. Well done to everyone who had got their cars looking their very best.



Sudeley Castle is a venue of great historical interest and the displays in the house had been changed since last year. This year an actress in period costume playing the part of Lady Dent whose family owned Sudeley 150 years ago was on hand to chat about the Dent family history.

Many thanks to all those who came along and those who helped pack the kit & caboodle back into Jeff's car, we should get him a company van.

I'll be happy to arrange another event here next year if folks want to go.

This event was brought to you by Captain Chrome Productions.....

Vince.

"Oh no, not another stately home drive" - September Drive 2018

The Area's September Drive was organised by Gavin and David, it started at Gupshill Manor, Tewkesbury with breakfast. Only one Full English Breakfast was ordered and it looked very good. Surprisingly it wasn't Jeff who enjoyed it, he had one of the excellent bacon baps.



We were joined by Margaret and John in their Mk 4 from the Milton Keynes and Chilterns Area. We first met them back in July when they came on the SWM Area Trip to Delft. They had stayed overnight in Cheltenham before making their way to Tewkesbury. It was great to see them again and catch up over breakfast.

It had been very stormy prior to the Drive, but things were looking-up; the Met Office had withdrawn the two Weather Warnings, so no need to cancel the Drive. The good news continued with an impressive 11 MX5s attending despite the horrible wet weather.

As the Briefing started it stopped raining providing the opportunity for top down motoring. The Drive is an interesting and different way from Tewkesbury to Broughton Castle. We set off on a mixture of single-track country lanes and good driving roads. Along the route there were some fabulous views of the countryside and

some picturesque villages like The Slaughters and Chipping Campden.

Some members stopped at Broadway Tower for coffee and cake. Others decided on Hidcote Gardens but the café was closed due to rain, but the sun was shining! The alternative coffee stop was Whichford Pottery which manufactures terracotta pots using traditional methods. The pots were fabulous although a little pricey for this MX5 owner! The coffee and cake were great.

Gavin and David like to take us through a ford and this time it was Traitors Ford, it was very shallow despite the recent heavy rain, so no water splash photographs this year. Some members commented that the lack of highway maintenance and the recent rain had created additional water features on the route.



At Broughton Castle we were joined by two more members, Mary who had taken the quick route from Tewkesbury and Roger who lives nearby and drove last few miles of the route. Members enjoyed a picnic in the sun before a photo shoot of our MX5s beside the moat at Broughton Castle. The tour of the Castle was both interesting and informative. Other members, who arrived before the Castle opened, chose Sunday lunch at the village pub – an excellent idea.

Several members suggested we re-run the Drive and it's been scheduled for 23rd June 2019, there will be some changes to keep the Drive fresh. The working title is: "Oh no, not another stately home Drive 2 – The Sequel – Broughton Castle or Bust – The Director's Cut"

David

National Rally – Ragley Hall



I think that the AC has clearly said what most people I spoke to thought of the National Rally on 30 September, at Ragley Hall.

It had been sometime since I attended a Rally, thinking that 'been to one, been to them all' but this time I was pleasantly surprised. Whether it was the rest I had had from not attending or that the effort gone into this Rally was something else it certainly was much busier with lots more to do and see for a change. Well done the National Committee and local teams who helped put it all together.

I do not know how many cars attended but the view from the top of the hill outside the House was just full of MX5s. A great sight to see!

As Terry mentioned we had a space allocated to us just below the House close to the competition cars, all looking shiny and bright ready for judging by our very own Mal and others from SWM. Well done guys it must have been a difficult decision as JW and VH did not enter their cars!!

It was good to meet many old friends, as well as the celebrity Fuzz from Car SOS, and catch up on their news and views and planning next year's International in Norway, go or not go, as well as far as 2020 the next MIM in Assen, The Netherlands and even Switzerland the following year, 2021.

Well done the National Team and as our AC says, the whole SWM MX5 OC for their contribution!



Dave

October Drive 2018 – Penderyn Distillery, nr Brecon



The October drive hosted by Jeff had to be the 'bluest sky of the year drive'. Twenty nine 5's arrived at the Yew Tree Pub, Nr Ross-on-Wye for this month's drive to the Penderyn Distillery. The Welsh are of course about as famous for whisky as the Italians are for curry.

After breakfast rolls for many members (I've never seen an entire breakfast crammed into a bread roll before), it was out into the early sunshine for the drivers briefing. First time drivers Pam & Paul and Jackie & Richard were welcomed along with Emily, Ken & Gina's daughter who is visiting from Canada..... I was keen to see how the three of them would fit into Ken's MK3.

With tyre blankets off, the 5's started to roll out of the car park for the first part of our journey towards Hay-on-Wye. The route directions were written by Terry who had offered to help our solo driver host and were simple and effective. Experienced rally navigator 'Eagle Eyed Mo' (of Mo & Owen) had spotted that one tulip symbol was upside down. Perhaps Terry had been upside down when he wrote it...Remember Jeff was driving! My navigator Junie had plenty of gaps between directions to sit back and enjoy the scenery as I slipped up and down the gears as smooth as a cream sherry.

The roads were mostly A and B roads with plenty of opportunity to 'give it some beans' if drivers wished. The scenery became truly stunning as we started to climb towards the Brecon Beacon. Many members parked up at the 'loo' stop which was packed with cars belonging to walkers who had taken off on foot. We saw numerous other classic cars out for an autumn drive and at one stage we thought we had arrived at the Isle of Man TT as dozens of bikers zoomed past.



Shortly we crossed the cattle grid onto National Trust land which was breath taking. As we drove and enjoyed the vista we spotted Trevor, Ron and Andy parked at the side of the road and sensed all was not well. Trevor had collided with a wayward sheep which had sadly died after the collision. I'm glad to say that Trevor was ok but the RF will definitely need a new nose cone (which was lucky because he said he'd planned to have the bonnet repainted anyway) Trevor had called the police who informed the farmer.

After the sixty one mile drive, everyone else had arrived at the Distillery without incident. Some of our members took a tour of the distillery with Mary making sure she was at the front of the queue. Others started back along our route to the Old Railway Line Garden Centre for a Sunday roast. Junie and I had a picnic at the reservoir en-route before joining our chums at the Garden Centre for a cuppa and a mince pie.....Aaargh, our first Christmassy thing!

The October drive was a truly great day out, thoroughly enjoyable and worth it for the scenery. Many thanks to Jeff, for organising the event the 'bluest sky drive of the year'.



Once, Drives Co-ord



Calendar of Events 2018/2019

An "at a glance" guide to the remains of the year

November 2018			
Monthly Meeting	Thursday 1 st		Ledbury Rugby Club, HR8 2LP
Monthly Drive	Sunday 18 th	Ged & Frances	
December 2018			
Monthly Meeting			No Meeting this month
MXmass Supper/Dinner	Wednesday 12 th	Penny W	Gupshill Manor, Tewkesbury, GL20 5SY. 1900 for 1930
Calendar 2019			
January 2019			
Monthly Meeting	Thursday 3 rd		Berkeley, Worcester WR7 4QL
Monthly Drive	No Drive		No Drive This month
February 2019			
Monthly Meeting	Thursday 7 th		Ledbury Rugby Club, HR8 2LP
Monthly Drive	Sunday 24 th		
March 2019			
Monthly Meeting	Thursday 7 th		Gupshill Manor, GL20 5SY
Monthly Drive	Sunday 24 th	Terry	
April 2019			
Monthly Meeting	Thursday 4 th		Berkeley, Worcester WR7 4QL
Monthly Drive	Sunday 28 th	Ken & Gina	
May 2019			
Monthly Meeting	Thursday 2 nd		Ledbury Rugby Club, HR8 2LP
Monthly Drive	Sunday 19 th	Ajit	TBC

Meet the Members



In this edition we say hello to Carol and Teddy who joined our club in 2011. They live at Hucklecote in Gloucestershire and own a very attractive Arctic Razor Blue MX5 2.5. Their first MX5 was a bright yellow Arizona 1.8. Their most memorable trip in their current 5 was a 50th wedding anniversary trip this year to the Gower Coast in South Wales.



These two members are no strangers to motor clubs, having been Area Organisers for a VW Beetle club called 'absolutely air cooled' where apart from writing a monthly magazine they organised treasure hunts, drives and hill climbs.

Both now retired, Carol & Teddy love spending time with their five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

On his retirement, Teddy bought a VW powered and weekend camps with the club.



trike which took our pair around the country to rallies

Many of us will have seen these two in action are also members of a 'uke' club with over sixty also teaches beginners if you fancy becoming

with their ukuleles. They have played in a band and members. They play at 'gigs' for charity and Carol the next George Formby.....'Turned out nice again'.

In addition, Carol & Teddy also find time for Alzheimers Disease. A couple of times a week the brain' and also offer their help with those Carol is planning to take part in the Memory Walk in Cheltenham. To take part yourself simply Google Memory Walk or you could sponsor Carol.

volunteering to help sufferers of Dementia and they spend time running sessions called 'singing for who have a Young Onset of Dementia (YODA).

Thanks to you both for being our featured members this time.

Dince.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW MX5 YEAR!!!!