



Issue 4 – July 2019

South West Midlands Area Newsletter

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Area Coordinators Column

Well what a time we have had the last couple of months wings and wheels at Bidford, the Scottish trip organised by Mal and the last two drives, sadly I have not been able to attend, which comes to a sad point for me. I pointed out at the June meeting that I wanted to step down as AC in November, nothing to do with the club but work commitments. I have enjoyed doing the job and I have loved the banter that sometimes happen, but I felt that I am letting everyone down by not being on drives and at events which as you all know I love. I there for feel that its best if someone who would like to take over in November speak to the helpers team or myself, and I am more than happy to assist anyone who gets the post for the first couple of months. But I am more than happy to carry on coming to events and setting up the shelter and making tea/coffee for all until I leave for a new life in Spain in 2021. All the best to you all Terry AC

Terry - AC

May Drive 2019 - 'A journey to the source of the Thames'



As there was no official write-up for the May Drive, as Editor I think it important to note and record our 'Official Standing' Club activities.

So here are a few snippets from the Forum on the May Drive with super photographs from Andy (as always!) edited by me for this publication. *Ed*

'Lovely drive with you guys today, thanks for organising.' *Andy*

'Really enjoyed my first drive out of the year today! I had to fight the car at every junction but managed to get there and back ok, into the garage tomorrow for a much needed service'.

'Thanks to Ajit & Katrina for the route and a great pub at the destination. Lovely warm weather only spoiled a bit by having to put the roof up 2 miles from home in a downpour'.

'Thanks Stuart for stepping in and sending us all off in the right direction'.

'Cheers Andy for the cracking photo will pinch that action shot and to Ken and the gang on table 303 for the invite of a seat and join in your friendly chat...'

'And the rest for another cracking day out.'

Cheers all.' *Phill L*

'My thanks to Stuart, for standing in for me, who should have been standing in for Ajit, our organiser.'

'Super photographs, as always from Andrew. Don't ever accept an invitation to see his holiday snaps, ha!'

'See you all soon when I'll be back in perky form and as unbearable as always.' *Vince*





'An enjoyable 'top-down' drive today through some lovely villages and countryside to a great pub destination. Thanks to Sue and Pete for guiding us there. The rain stayed off until our return journey.'

'Thanks to Ajit for organising the route, sorry you missed 'your' drive. BTW, I'm surprised that the 'Source of the Thames' was as wide and as deep!' 🤔

Hope you're feeling better Vince?' *Steve & Kathy*



June 2019 Drive – June Drive 2019 – “Oh no, not another stately home 2, The Sequel”.



As twenty MX5's gathered at the Gupshill Manor for the June Drive, the weather was cloudy but nicely mild. Our hosts for this one, Gavin & David were there to greet us with their friend Rona.

Breakfast rolls and gallons of tea were ready for us before the drivers briefing in the car park. The Drive Coordinator welcomed everyone including Harry who was doing his first stint as navigator.

Gavin & David who are 'old hands' at organising drives gave the final notices and with tyre warmers off, we were ready for departure on their 'two choices' drive. This drive ran last year in

disappointing weather and our two organisers decided to offer it again with an option of an alternative route for those who had done it before. We knew we were in safe hands with these two. We headed for our first stop at Hidcote Gardens, a National Trust property. The route took us towards the Cotswolds with fantastic views of Cleve Hill (the highest point in the Cotswolds). Passing through Broadway and other picturesque villages we continued to Chipping Campden with its famous market hall. Passing Mickelton, we prepared for landing at Hidcote Gardens where a dozen of our 5's had already parked up. We had a welcome cuppa outside with Roger, Ron & Theresa followed by a stroll around the Garden Centre which sold some very nice quality plants. Whilst some visited the house, we cracked on to our final destination at Broughton Castle, near Banbury.



Meanwhile, those who took the original route had been busy picking their way through cyclists, horses and walkers as they motored past Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park which regularly features on BBC's Country File. The Cotswold villages caused a lot of envy amongst those who live in suburbia. A fabulous Ferrari joined the MX5's at Lower Swell but who needs a 4.5 litre fuel guzzling beast eh?



As Junie and I left Hidcote, a number of solo drivers plus Paul & Pam latched on behind us. It wasn't long before a total Kerfuffle broke out after we took a wrong turn within a mile of leaving Hidcote. Our convoy of six cars turned around in the narrow lane and Andy who had a Satnav took up the lead. Within a mile we were all turning around again in another narrow space after Andy's Satnav wanted us to turn left and right! After another meeting in another tight space, lone driver Mike (all the way from Merthyr) took the lead with his Satnav. Mike got us to Ilmington where he signalled for Junie and I to take the lead again. Guess what?.....within a mile we had taken a wrong turn again, Andy and Mark must have taken the correct route and had disappeared from the back of our little convoy. After another

meeting with Mike, Paul and Pam we decided to set Mikes Satnav for Broughton Castle and away we went. After missing fourteen miles of the drive we arrived at Broughton, parked up and wrestled our picnic into submission.

Broughton Castle is magnificent and the walled garden too. Many of our members had chosen to finish at Hidcote and eight cars made it to Broughton. After a walk around the grounds, Junie and I packed up the racer and headed home. Despite getting hopelessly lost we had a great day out and say 'many thanks' on behalf of everyone for another super day, thanks Boys.

Vince (the lost Drive Coordinator) and Junie (lost in her own thoughts).

Meet the Member, Sue & Dave



In this edition we travel to the middle of nowhere, known to those who find it as Ullingswick which is about five miles from Bromyard to meet Sue & Dave.

Our friends have been members of the SWM club for four years (in fact we sat with them for lunch at Terry's 60th party drive, it was the first drive for both of us).

You'll see Sue & Dave at club events in their copper red MK3 which only comes out on sunny days. It has never been driven on a salted road and has only 15,000 miles on the clock, it's a beauty. The registration is MX08 BUZ (Buzz will become obvious later). Prior to that, they owned a limited edition MK2 which Dave drove their daughter to her wedding in.

The most memorable 'Drive in their 5' was spent travelling through France for two weeks after taking a ferry to Santander (that's not very far, we have a Santander in Solihull) and touring their way back home. Sadly it was mostly a top-up drive due to heavy rain showers

Dave has just retired after selling his business which dealt with everything from milk leaving the cow through to parlour refrigeration equipment. Don't ever offer him a glass of milk! He started the business at the tender age of twenty and has just sold it, Hurrah!

Sue started her working life with Midland Bank before running playgroups and becoming a classroom assistant, finally working at a Doctor's surgery for 17 years, Sue is also now retired.

Our pair have been Bee Keepers, (see the number plate connection now?) for twelve years, having eight hives at home. Each hive has approximately 40,000 bees in the summer! They produce 3/400 lbs of honey a year and I can testify that it's amazing stuff.



Dave passed his private pilot's license in 1992 and has just sold his French Jodel aircraft. He is currently building a Eurofox 2 seat light aircraft.....Look out for him in the skies over your place. Sue has recently taken up quilting, her first item being a king sized quilt which was completed last winter, very useful if the aircraft has an open cockpit. They own a miniature schnauzer which I took to be a small German aircraft but Junie says it's their little dog Ellie that accompanies them on the MX5 drives.



Our couples claim to fame is that Dave was an advisor to the writers of the Archers, advising on the dairy industry and how they could incorporate it in the show. 'Dum de dum de dum de dum, dum de dum de do do'

Sue & Dave joined the club not knowing what to expect, 'a load of petrol heads talking about nothing but cars!' They said it came as a nice surprise when they met such great people. I'd like to know who they've met, ha!

Thanks to you both for being our 'meet the member' this time.

Vince - Self appointed Head of Features

Calendar of Events 2019

An "at a glance" guide to the year

	Club Meet	Club Drive	Other Events
July	4 th The Berkerley Worcester WR7 4QL	21 st (J&D) A Step Back in History	14 th Prescott Breakfast Club
			27 th Hampton Ferry, Hampton Ferry, Boat Lane, Evesham WR11 4BP
			26 th – 28 th Silverstone Classic Get Club Discount on OC Main Site
August	8 th Leominster Motors BBQ	18 th 'Mortimer Country and the B&W Villages'	10 th /11 th Tortworth Vintage Rally The Downs, Wickwar, GL12 8LF
			24 th Gloucester Goes Retro, Gloucester City Centre
			26 th Pershore Plum Festival Church Walk, Pershore WR10 1BB
September	5 th Gupshill Manor, Glos. GL20 5SY	22 nd "The Elgar Trail and other Variations" (T&R)	14 th – 15 th National Rally Gaydon
			29 th Classic Car Rally, Studeley Castle, Winchcombe, Glos, GL54 5JD
October	3 rd The Berkerley Worcester WR7 4QL	20 th (Debbie, Claire, Terry) Caffeine & Machine Banbury Rd, Ettington,, CV37 7NS	13 th Prescott Breakfast Club
November	7 th Ledbury Rugby Club HR8 2LP	24 th In Aid of 'Children in Need!' (G&D)	
December	8 th MX5 Xmas Meal Gupshill Manor, Glos. GL20 5SY	No Drive this Month	

STOP PRESS!!! Christmas MX5 Lunch deposits to Penny Please asap!