



Issue 1 2016

South West Midlands Area Newsletter

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Ac's News

The festive season has now passed and if you are like me you will be waiting for Spring to arrive. We had another excellent Christmas Lunch at Gupshill Manor. Thank you Penny and John for making this event the one to be at.

For the members who have not yet heard I have taken on the post of competition coordinator and will now be sitting on the National Committee. As we look forward to the year's drives, a group of us had a mini drive on New Year's day. There is a report elsewhere. You will notice that there is still a slot to be filled for one of the drive dates. If you fancy a go then let us know. It is not hard to organise a short drive.

The events calendar is starting to fill nicely. So let's see a few more out on the weekend away events. They really are great fun. Above all, let me remind you that it is your club, if there is something you would like us put on, then please ask.

Keep on enjoying your 5

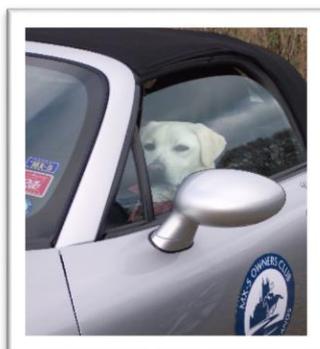
Mal

November 2015 Drive

November Drive Sunday 22nd November "A Jaunt Around The Cotswolds"

It was a dry but cool 2c when we left home, top down, for Fosse Garden Centre, on our first drive out with the club. As we got to the top of Birdlip Hill we could see snow on the grass verges and in the fields! When we arrived at the garden centre we were greeted by other members and we all waited for the garden centre to open at 10am to have a nice hot drink and use the facilities.

In all a total of 24 Mazda's turned out for the run, with 2 non Mazda cars and not forgetting 2 dogs. After a short briefing off we set at approximately 10.45 in small convoys, so as not to annoy other road users.



The new MK4
The first on our
drives

We waited for the others to come out of the garden centre, but as time seemed to be getting on we decided to set off again following the route we had been given. We went through Willicote, Lower Quinton then up the single track road, where we had been told on the route trials no one had passed any cars. Well, you've guessed it, we met 3 who didn't want to get over!

On to Stretton, Todenham, Great Wolford, Evenlode and then Broadwell. The Fox inn was our destination for dinner at 13.00, Mazda's everywhere, not surprising as it was 13.25. We had just started to go in when some Mazda's which had left before us, came from the opposite direction. Apparently they had been split from the group they were following and ended up having to use sat nav to get to the pub. The ones that had arrived on time were eating their lunch. The rest of us soon ordered ours, and tucked in.

It was a nice pub, with nice company and a nice drive to get there. I would recommend the Sunday lunch and would certainly go back. Can I thank Ian and Karen for organising the drive. The route directions were clear and easy to follow everyone made us welcome. If you have not been on a run before you are certainly missing out!

Heather & Pete



Editor's note: A big 'thank you' to Heather for this account of her first drive. Great to receive a contribution from a new member



SWM Celebrate Christmas in Style at Gupshill Manor

64 SWM members donned their best bib and tucker to gather together to celebrate an early Christmas at Gupshill Manor. Brilliantly organised by Penny White, we had a great time. In anticipation of our inability to remember what we had ordered, Penny had arranged place names with our orders on the back and members were able to organise themselves on tables. It was really pleasing to see so many members, both old and new, gathered together for a such a fine feast. The room was buzzing with conversation and laughter as we indulged in a three course meal ending with coffee and mince pies. At the end of the meal Mal and Chris organised a charity fund raising game of Heads and Tails. Everyone took part with great enthusiasm, eager to be the winner. A few rounds got us down to just two members with the final victory going to Carol Pass. Carol decided to donate the £76.00 raised to the Saint Richard's Hospice in Worcester.



John and Carol in a 'Heads or Tails' play off

Club Entrepreneurs

Club members, John White and Henry Thomas have discovered a retirement talent for finding MX5 cars that are in need of some TLC before doing them up and selling them on. If you are looking for another car or fancy a change have a word with them and see if they can help you.

Do you have an MX5 skill to share? Let us know!

Anyone for tea and cakes?

Have you ever joined us on an event when the event shelter has been up, the kettle on and the cakes being munched and wondered how it all works? Regulars to MX5 events will know that it can sometimes be difficult or expensive to get a tea or coffee and something to eat. Those of us who are regulars at these events have got ourselves organised over a period of time with the equipment and food that you see. Terry is the organiser for the tea, coffee, sugar and cups and one primus stove, Jane and Henry bring a second stove and the fresh milk and Val and Sue make the cakes.

We are always pleased to see other members join us for a cuppa and cake but realise that new members are unsure how it all works. We are 'self funding' so a few pence donation is always welcome. Sue and I enjoy making the cakes but we are always happy to receive extra donations – although it is a good idea to liaise with us so we don't end up 'caked out'! We are always open to requests for favourite cakes and have decided to share some of our most favourite recipes with you from time to time – much easier than a verbal recipe in the middle of a field! Val

Granny's Cake

250g SR Flour
150g marg or butter
125g sugar
300g mixed fruit
3 eggs
1 teaspoon black treacle
1 teaspoon mixed spice

Method

- Cream together fat and sugar
- Beat in eggs
- Stir in fruit and black treacle
- Fold in flour and mixed spice
- Bake in a lined 8" cake tin gas mark 3 elec
325 for 2 hours or until cooked

New Year's Day Blast

Well, not so much a blast, but a gentle drive in the country.

Eight 5's met at Gupshill on New Year's Day to have a drive to the Cotswold Classic Car Club's charity meet at Shipton. The marks were well represented with Mk1, Mk2, Mk2.5Mk3 and Mk3.5 all in attendance. After a leisurely chat we got going and were soon on some of Henry's legendary roads. Bishop Cleeve was the first village we passed followed by Woolstone, Gotherton and Gretton. Winchcombe was next up with a tight left turn in the town towards Guiting Power. It was about here that we started meeting loads of 4 wheel drive vehicles coming in the opposite direction, it should be noted that in the main the drivers seemed incapable of driving them. One of them even had a mouth full from a couple of cyclists that had got caught up in our little convoy. At this point Mazzy had to have her say! I would say that the 4WD vehicles were out to watch the New Year's Day hunt.

After 25 miles we arrived at our destination where our numbers were swelled to 10 with other members making it. The man on the car park seemed a bit surprised to see the 8 of us turn up. The event was for charity and they had about 100 cars there from Minis to a very nicely turned out Studebaker in bright orange. Coffee and tea was consumed as were bacon and sausage baps. All in all, a nice if a little bleary, start to the New Year. A big thank you to Henry and John for getting it on the road.



Calendar of Events 2016

| | Monthly Meeting | Monthly Drive | Other Events |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|
| February 2016 | 4th Gupshill Manor Tewkesbury | 21st Terry Manders Coventry Motor Museum | |
| March 2016 | 3rd The Berkeley Spetchley | 20th Dean and Jackie | |
| April 2016 | 7th Royal Oak Much Marcle | 17th (not 17 days after meeting) Trevor and Victoria | 24th Spring Rally Wentworth Woodhouse Doncaster 30th Historic Vehicles Donnington Park 30th Magnificent Motors Eastbourne |
| May 2016 | 5th Gupshill Manor Tewkesbury | 22nd Terry Manders A Secret Drive with a surprise! | 1st, 2nd Historic Vehicles Donnington Park 1st Magnificent Motors Eastbourne |
| June 2016 | 2nd Berkley Arms Spetchley | 19th Dave Scott The Big Pit, Wales | 11th, 12th Gloucester Motor Show Highnam Court (official SWM event) |
| July 2016 | 7th Royal Oak Much Marcle | 24th Owen and Mo | |
| August 2016 | 4th Bengry Motors Leominster tbc | 21st John and Henry Shropshire | 29th August Bank Holiday Monday Persore Plum |
| September 2016 | 1st Gupshill Manor Tewkesbury | 18th Ian and Karen | |
| October 2016 | 6th Berkley Arms Spetchley | 23rd ???????????????? | 1st, 2nd , National Rally |
| November 2016 | 3rd Royal Oak Much Marcle | 20th Val and Sue Whitehall Garden Centre | |
| December 2016 | 11th Christmas Lunch tbc | No drive | |