



South West Midlands Area Newsletter

Area Website: <http://www.swm.mx5oc.co.uk>

Area Forum: <http://mx5ocswm.proboards.com>

From your AC

With 3 months of the New Year passed, it would seem that we are now in full swing. The club nights are proving to be very popular with the numbers increasing each month. At the March club night we were visited by Roger Mead the OC chairman, I can say that he had an excellent evening and was impressed with how friendly our area is.

The first drive of the year was also very well attended with a total of 42 cars making an appearance. The finish venue was superb and the site of all those 5's outside the Coventry Motor Museum was impressive to say the least.

We have some excellent drives and events coming up so I hope to see you all out enjoying our cars.

As many of you will know, I am now on the National Committee in the role of Competitions Coordinator, a role that will keep me busy on the Spring and National Rallies.

Let's hope for some safe and fun mx5 driving.

Mal



Jane Thomas and Penny Wood knit for the charity, Knit for Peace. The charity is based in London and send clothing all over the world where it is needed.

Penny knits toys to sell and the profits go towards the cost of posting the parcels to London. Jane is fantastic at knitting blankets, hats, scarves and all

types of jumpers from baby to adult. We both buy the wool used and we have a few people who help us. If you can donate any balls of wool or if you can help with the knitting we would be most grateful. Or perhaps you would like to help by buying a toy at a monthly meeting.

few people who help

So ladies (or men!!!) get those needles out! Many thanks to those who bought toys at the March meeting. This resulted in £28.50 profit and some new orders were taken. Regards, Penny Pennywood99@btinternet.co





All about tyres

We need them for accelerating, braking, road holding and comfort so perhaps we should know more about them. There is a lot of writing on the sidewall of a tyre but what does it mean?

205/45 R17 84W DOT HBC9 28TT 2310

This means that the width across the tread is 205mm and that the height of the sidewall is 45% of the width (92mm), R17 is for radial and fits a 17 inch diameter wheel rim. 84 is the load index (500kg) and W is the speed rating of 168mph maximum! The last 4 digits of the DOT code mean the tyre was made in the 23rd week of 2010.

<https://www.kwik-fit.com/tyres/information/> is a good source on information.

The law requires a minimum tread of 1.6mm across the centre $\frac{3}{4}$ of the width of the tread. If your MX5 does a low annual mileage, your tyres may be legal but worn out in other ways.

Manufacturers generally recommend that tyres should be replaced after 10 years with an annual check by a tyre expert after 6 years. This is because the rubber degrades in various ways often resulting in cracks which can be hidden at the base of the tread. So low mileage tyres may be unsafe after 6 years!

Although sunlight (uv) accelerate tyre degradation, hiding your beloved in a dark garage is not enough because oxygen is still all around the tyre and the antioxidising chemicals in the rubber are less active.

So if you are a really low mileage user you may want to change your approach to tyre selection and go for really good grip!

Safe driving!

Chris Wood

Following on from the tyre article, may I add my 5 penny worth! When I bought Bluebird she drove okay, but only okay. On a wet road she was far from mx5 like. Indeed, she was not very nice to drive at all in the wet and I was not happy for Val to drive her in case she was put off.

I did know when I bought her that there was a different tyre type on each corner. On the rear there was a brand new one, on the nearside and on the offside they were 8 years old. I knew that the miss matched tyres would make a difference but I was shocked by how much.

When I bought her, a new set of tyres was on the cards and a trip to Newent a few weeks ago for a full set made all the difference. For £147 she now feels sure footed and is a joy to drive. (And now Val is allowed to drive her!)

Mal

February Drive 2016

Members are usually keen to get out on the road with the top down, especially after some very wet winter months, however 42 cars for the first drive of the year was impressive. When we first joined SWM, 20 cars was thought to be outstanding!

After a hearty breakfast at The Swan in Whittington, we charged off in groups in search of Coventry. The weather allowed us to feel the wind in our hair and appreciate the picturesque route through the Worcestershire and Warwickshire countryside. Terry had planned a relatively smooth journey via the Alcester area and Henley in Arden, reminding veterans of previous drives and of the Coventry Festival of Motoring which is due for a reprieve this year. What a privilege to be able to park in front of the Coventry Transport Museum which has recently had a £9.5million makeover! One each of the four marks were parked by the main doors, attracting a great deal of attention from the public, and the rest of the cars made an excellent photo.

The museum now takes you through time and shows you how transport has evolved up to present time with examples from the Midlands. It made many of us reminisce about our early cars. For example, Dave G and his HA Viva with a huge engine and us with our Triumph Herald estate with wide wheels! Many thanks to Terry for his usual excellent organisation and a splendid day out

Chris Wood



Pumpkin, Clare and Nick on their first drive



Calendar of Events 2016

	Monthly Meeting	Monthly Drive	Other Events
April 2016	7 th Royal Oak Much Marcle	17 th (not 17 days after meeting) Trevor and Victoria	24 th Spring Rally Wentworth Woodhouse Doncaster 30 th Historic Vehicles Donnington Park 30 th St Richards Boat and Car Festival Droitwich Spa
May 2016	5 th Gupshill Manor Tewkesbury	22 nd Terry Manders A Secret Drive with a surprise!	1 st St Richards Boat and Car Festival Droitwich Spa 1 st , 2 nd Historic Vehicles Donnington Park
June 2016	2 nd Berkley Arms Spetchley	19 th Dave Scott The Big Pit, Wales	11 th , 12 th Gloucester Motor Show Highnam Court (official SWM event) 26 th Hampton Ferry Car Show Evesham
July 2016	7 th Royal Oak Much Marcle	24 th Owen and Mo	9 th ,10 th Historic Transport Show Powderham Castle Devon 24 th Castle Combe Family Sports Car day
August 2016	4 th Bengry Motors Leominster tbc	21 st John and Henry Shropshire	7 th Hampton Ferry Charity Day 21 st Tewkesbury Classic Vehicle Festival 27 th Gloucester Goes Retro 29 th August Bank Holiday Monday Pershore Plum
September 2016	1 st Gupshill Manor Tewkesbury	18 th Ian and Karen	
October 2016	6 th Berkley Arms Spetchley	23 rd ????????????????	1 st , 2 nd , National Rally Donnington Park
November 2016	3 rd Royal Oak Much Marcle	20 th Val and Sue Whitehall Garden Centre	
December 2016	11 th Christmas Lunch tbc	No drive	

Area Coordinator: Mal Jones; 01684 560998; malfishing47@aol.com

Drives Coordinator & Webmaster: Chris Wood; 01386 554409; 07902 279395; chriswood99@btinternet.com

Meetings Coordinator: Mal Jones

Events Coordinator: Terry Manders: 07976099140 Tezzy1956@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editors: Val Sedge-Jones: 01684 560998; salvedge@aol.com

Sue Abel: 07808053556; sue.abel@btinternet.com

International : John White