



Issue 6 – December 2019

South West Midlands Area Newsletter

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Area Coordinators Column

Well after the first full year as being you're AC, can I just say what a great year for me it was and I hope everyone had lots of fun. From the first show, Bidford on Avon Glider Club to the last, at a wet Sudeley Castle as well as all the well-arranged drives, the spring Rally and the summer National Rally at Gayden.

I would like to thank Vince, Dave, Ron, Ken and Gerard for all their help over the past 12 months. I would also like to thank the Helper's team for all their support and advice not forgetting Penny White who does a sterling job of organising the Christmas Party every year.

For myself I would like to say I have loved this Area Club since I joined, the great fun we all have is second to none. I am sorry to step down as AC but I sincerely hope that the new AC will do a far better job than me. Whoever it may be can be assured of my full support and help in the future if requested.

I wish you all a happy 2020 with lots of top down driving.

Terry - AC

August Drive 2019 - Meandering in the Marches Drive.



First time drive organisers Keith & Aprils' drive began at the Squirrel pub in Ludlow for breakfast, coffee and tea before the off at 10.30.

Gavin was the stand-in not only for Keith & April who had gone off for cakes! But also for our drive coordinator Vince who was holidaying on a beach somewhere in Ibiza.

We had gathered together 28 cars in all, some doing all the drive others joining on route for a tour of the black and white villages of Shropshire and Herefordshire. Some new members also joined us for the first time Gary and Julie from Gloucester in their Mk4 and Andrew & Friend from Malvern in his Mk2 welcome.

Gavin asked we start off in small groups and intervals so we had time to stop for photo's and not clog up roads all turning up together.

I followed Gerard & Fran and we were first out of the starting blocks as we set off with our small group of 4 cars. Traffic was light but we soon got caught behind a group of old motorbikes (you can't beat the smell of burning oil) luckily they saw a sign for a café and turned off to leave us with a clear road.

It wasn't long before the first black and white houses started to appear on route and as we passed through Pembridge a very picturesque village, we (I mean me) could smell the wafting scent of cake & coffee as we arrived at the Norton Canon village hall. We were met by Debbie who joined the drive at this point and we made

are way into the hall to be greeted by Keith & April who had arranged free yes folks free tea coffee and cakes. Great choices too, chocolate, lemon drizzle, cherry, ginger, coffee and walnut, Victoria sponge and biscuits phew! Its here I have a complaint NO fruitcake! This being my absolute favourite and none to be found tut tut, must do better. Just kidding for a first drive Keith and April have set the bar high.

After refreshment we all set off again on the second leg of our adventure and it wasn't long before we arrived in Weobley village, let's stop for a photo or two we thought but the square was a little busy so we decided to give it a miss especially as the next group of cars caught us up at this point so it was mayhem as cars tried to go around the square. The locals must have thought we've got a right bunch here and had a laugh at our expense. My group pressed on until we spotted a familiar face crouched on a corner camera in hand what Andy you cry no his stand in for the day Steve & Cathy who proceeded to take photos of us all as we passed waving..



Finally we had chance to stop ourselves in Eardisland where we did have time for a photo or two.

Then onward to the finish point at the Ludlow food centre where again Keith & April had arranged VIP parking for us all. We all split at this point to have snacks etc. we opted for ice cream, it was at this point the heavens opened and it proceeded to lash down with rain

But it was too late it couldn't dampen our spirits what a great drive and day out with friends old and new. Well done and thank-you Keith & April fantastic.

Trevor Nelson

Pershore Plum Festival – August 2019



It was a cool, misty start that greeted Theresa & I as we pulled up in front of the magnificent Pershore Abbey to help prepare for our day at The Plum Festival; a day that the BBC's Carol Kirkwood had promised us would be 'Scorchio!!'

Terry, Jeff and Vince were already wrestling with their first erection in their bid to get the two events shelters and 4 flags ready for the expected hoards and Ken, Gina and John soon arrived to lend a hand.

By the time the Festival was opened to the public at 10:00am we had 45 MX5 Owners Club cars in our area and in total there were 58 MX5s dotted around the site that had approximately 860 classic vehicles. Not a

bad percentage eh; something that reflects the popularity of our special little car.

As the sun came out and the temperature rose, we were thankful for the shade provided by those shelters and also the established trees, under which we were parked. We took an early opportunity to walk through the town, which as usual was bedecked in purple and as usual, the market stalls were selling a range of items from hot food, to antiques, to fruit and veg.

Only one thing was missing at the Plum Festival. There was a definite lack of plums!! Apparently it hasn't been a very good year for growing the juicy fruit so there was no Plum lorry adjacent to our area, as in the past. However, we did have our own little plum. Evie dressed for the occasion and looked a treat in her purple outfit and she even attracted the Festival's purple Stick Man, who came over for a photo.



Sue, of course baked cakes and Terry and Penny did a great job providing us and the public, with teas and coffees

The day went by really quickly and it was soon 3:00pm when John and Henry, who had judged the 'Show and Shine' competitions presented the prizes to the winners, which were:

MK1	F643 OFM	Ron & Theresa
Mk2	S909 CEU	Mike & Clare
Mk3 and Overall Winner	R600 HEV	Heather
Mk4	VN19 FBK	Andy

At 5:00pm we everyone assisted in clearing the site and we left for home after a truly, lovely day. Thanks everyone for attending, helping out and for your great company.

Ron & Ken (Events Coordinators)

National Rally – Gaydon 2019



What a great weekend the national club put on for the clubs. On Saturday a drive was organised by the national club and a show area set up at Caffeine and Machine at Ettington. Jeff and I went to Gaydon Saturday to see how things were progressing and after a while we decided to go onto Caffeine and Machine and have a drink. When we arrived there must have been well over 60 MX5 from other areas.

After looking around them all for a couple of hours we decided to go back to

Gaydon, when we arrived I decided to help by putting up the event shelters whilst Jeff went walking around taking photos.



On Sunday we arrived a little late as some members were there already getting the cars on the stand and getting the display ready. We had the added bonus of the MX5 Lamont on our stand area as a feature. Well after the members got the stand done and a great job they all did, we got the tea and coffee on the go and a well-deserved drink we all had. The club displays were all good and what the national club put on was second to none! just simply the best national yet with the added



bonus of the designer of the MX5 Mr T Matano who came on our stand area and signed his name on two members bonnets well under it.

Paul one of our new members got out his Drone Camera and made a short film which he showed some of us and it looked really good. Well done Paul. It was great to see so many friends again from other areas. Well done team.

Can I say a big thank you to the girls who helped in the national organiser's shelter, the members who displayed the cars, Penny for helping me with Tea/Coffee again and if I have missed anyone please except my apologies.

Terry AC

Sudeley Castle – September 2019



The day started extremely wet and windy as well as very early to arrive at the meeting point in Torrington. On arrival the weather improved yet we still had to park on the Visitor car park rather than the North Lawn where we normally gather for this event. First thing first and as Vince described, wrestling with bacon/sausage baps and a hot coffee!

It was a pity the weather put many off, as we were expecting around 20 cars yet only 10 turned up and very few other clubs turned out due to the forecast. In fact the car park looked distinctly empty for the most of the day despite the improved weather. Never mind, lots to talk about with friends etc.

Thanks to all those that did turn up, it is normally a very nice event and location

for picnic etc on the lawn!

Dave

October Drive 2019 – Caffeine & Machine



A bright sunny morning for the Drive and Meet at the Caffeine & Machine, just outside Strafford on Avon. Next some snaps from the FB pages and one comment from the Forum which sums it all up from everyone!:

Hi Debbie and Claireand Terry!
Many thanks for organising a great day out, at a very different kind of venue, and to Terry for planning the drive.

Thoroughly enjoyed the day and thanks to newcomer Nicky for letting me lead her up the garden path as her navigator.

Vincey, Drive Coordinator.



Calendar of Events 2020

An "at a glance" guide to the year

	Club Meet	Club Drive	Other Events
January	9 th Gupshill Manor, Glos, GL20 5SY	No Drive this month	
February	6 th Ledbury Rugby Club HR8 2LP	23 rd TBA	
March	5 th TBC	22 nd TBA Gary & Julie	
April	2 nd Gupshill Manor, Glos. GL20 5SY	19 th Volunteers Required	
May	7 th Ledbury Rugby Club HR8 2LP	31 st Volunteers Required	21 – 24 MIM Arnhem Netherlands
June	4 th TBC	28 th TBA Karen & Ian	
July	2 nd Gupshill Manor, Glos. GL20 5SY	19 th TBA John & Henry	
August	6 th Ledbury Rugby Club HR8 2LP/or BBQ Leominster?	Volunteers Required	
September	3 rd TBC	20 th The Elgar Route & Other Variations Theresa & Ron	
October	1 st Gupshill Manor, Glos. GL20 5SY	18 th Volunteers Required	
November	5 th Ledbury Rugby Club HR8 2LP	22 nd Volunteers Required	
December	MX5 Xmas Meal Gupshill Manor, Glos. GL20 5SY	No Drive this Month	

Meet the Member



This time we are heading to White Ladies Aston (what a great address) to meet Pat and Stuart who joined our club four years ago and are members of the Westfield sports car club too. They own a Silver Mk 3.75 MX5 and also own a Westfield that Stuart built in 2000. Our photos include Stuart driving the Westfield on track at the Silverstone Classic (it's not Pat with him, it's his mate). Their most memorable 'drive in their 5' was a month spent touring Spain in 2014.

Pat & Stuart met at University in Norwich, they are both Yorkshire born and bred. Stuart is from near Sheffield and Pat is from near Leeds. Our couple have two sons and one granddaughter.

Our two featured members are both retired now, Pat worked as a Primary School Teacher and Stuart was Technical Director for a multinational recycling company (I'd certainly like to have look through their brown bin).

Their hobbies include listening to music and watching music live. They have been to hundreds of gigs and festivals and have almost 1900 albums!! It must be one of the largest collections outside of the BBC. To add to their musical interest, Pat is a member of a local singing group and is also into keep fit and Tai Chi (no, it's not paper folding, that's origami) it's what Chinese folks do in the park every morning. Watching tennis is also on Pat's agenda.

Stuart was once interviewed by Top Gear Magazine and described as 'dour' but this can't be true as he has sung on stage with the Troggs! For the youngsters amongst us like myself, the Troggs were very popular and in the charts in the sixties.



Last year our intrepid pair did a month's road trip to Arizona and California and are planning another road trip this year to the Canadian Rockies (Crikey, and I thought some of our club drives were a bit long!).

Thanks as always both for 'volunteering' to be this edition's Meet the Members.

Vince-Self Appointed Head of Features