



NEW Area Coordinator Drive Coordinator Newsletter Editor

For the South West Midlands area - please update your records using the details on the reverse of this newsletter.

New Year, New Area Coordinator

Dear Members,

By the time you read this our very successful Christmas lunch will be well in the past but I must say well done to all that attended, your input and hilarity added greatly to the excellent atmosphere. Here we are at the start of an another anticipated excellent year of fun and frolics on our drives, excursions and events. Most of our drives are booked with their respective organiser's but we do

have a couple of months left to fill (please contact Gavin Coulthard and step up to the plate) Your club needs you!!!!!!

Without your input we are nothing and our success and reputation hangs with you guys, so, come on if you don't try you will never know how good you can be, after all, you will get reimbursed for your fuel used on setting out the run.

Well that's enough banter from me and I look forward to seeing you all on the February drive.

(see Drive's on the Forum)

Best Wishes,



John White
Area Coordinator

24th November - 'Children in Need' Silly Hat Drive

The November Drive was a terrific Grand Finale to the 2019 season, raising £281 for Children in Need.



www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk

Old hands at organising club drives, Gavin and David decided to raise money for charity with a silly hat drive from Gupshill Manor Hotel to the Jet Age museum in Gloucestershire. The members threw themselves into the fun with hats ranging from some amazing home-made creations to the downright crazy.

It was difficult to spot some of the members who had wigs attached to their headgear. Ged wore a Viking helmet with a beautiful blonde wig which reminded me of a girl I once went out with. (she even had a similar beard).

Our new Area Coordinator, John White was wearing a turkey on his head, I didn't comment. Mary had sown a couple of stuffed gloves to a woolly hat and looked like a reindeer! And Ken wore a traffic cone on his head, handy if he had a breakdown I thought.

Thirty-three cars turned out and after my final drivers briefing as drive coordinator and a few words from Gavin & David, we took some photos of the group in the car park and flagged them away towards Tewksbury town centre where a market was taking place and diversions took us around the town.

The route mainly on open cruising roads due to the time of the year and recent floods also took us through the villages of Upper Pendock, Sledge Green and Berrow. The views from the Southern tip of the Malvern Hills were slightly obscured by mist which was soon to lift. The route took us near Eastnor Castle and directions from Gavin and David were as good as always.

After eighteen miles we stopped off at The Nest Café and Garden Centre which had some interesting gin's and cheeses for sale.

Junie treated us to a delicious Ploughmans Scotch egg from a range with some interesting names. When I heard someone say they wanted an 'old fart', I moved away.

After a brief pitstop we were on our

continued overleaf...

'Children in Need' Silly Hat Drive ... continued



way again to the final destination twenty-eight miles away, the Jet Age Museum. The museum café provided snacks and drinks before members

wandered around the exhibits, indoor and outdoor. The museum had everything from military aircraft to civilian airliners and interesting

stories and videos about jet age flight. I was particularly interested in the BEA Trident that was my sister would have worked on for BEA as cabin crew in the 60's. We boarded the Trident for a short video presentation and a visit to the flight deck.

After a thoroughly enjoyable day out with many laughs, the final drive of the year had come to an end. I will be handing the Drive Coordinator job over to Gavin for 2020 and wish him every success. I'm certain that members will give Gavin their support as I will. Many thanks to David & Gavin for a great fun day out for a very worthy cause.

Well done Boys.



Vince Holley
Drive Coordinator 2017-2019

8th December - Christmas Meal - Gupshill Manor

Hello All,

Well what a great time we all had at this years Christmas Party at Gupshill Manor, all excellently organised by our very own Penny White.



With over 80 members turning up, I believe this was the largest gathering for a Christmas meal we've ever had.

Members started turning up early for pre-drinks at the bar before going in for the fun. All tables really well organised by Gupshill Manor staff who did a great job for us all, serving us all with great food.

John White our new Area Coordinator who took over from myself in November opened up the event by saying Grace before we all tucked into our 3 course meal.

After dinner, I stood up to present my old team with some goodies for all their hard work and support for the past year, and John then thanked me for all my hard work over the past year.

Vince then took over to speak about the future of the Drives for 2020 whilst handing over the gavel to Gavin, wishing him good luck in the process. He finished up with a little 2019 review competition, guessing the mileage for all the combined MX5 Drives for 2019 etc.

Ken took over for the fun game of 'Tops and Tails' and guess who won...? Dave Grove, how he managed that I have no idea, as a result we however raised £72 for Driving out Cancer. Driving out Cancer want to make a

difference; by taking the fight back to cancer and help to get the people we love onto the road to recovery. That's why they are taking to the road to make that difference.... by driving from Land's End to John oGroats to shout thier message loud and clear - MX5's are Driving Out Cancer.



Anyone wanting to make a further donation can do so by visiting their website at

www.mx5s-doc.co.uk

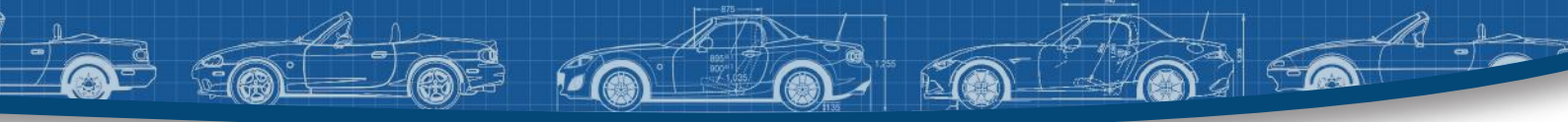
John then closed the event and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We all had a great time and would like to say a very special thankyou to Penny and John for doing a great job putting on a packed afternoon for all the members.



Terry Manders
Area Coordinator 2017-2019





1st January - Cotswold Classic Car Club Drive

What would be better than lying in bed nursing a hangover after seeing the New Year in?

Yes you've guessed it, a trip to the Frogmill Inn for the annual Cotswold Classic Car Club meet. In all I counted eight intrepid MX5 members who turned out, some came in their MX5's, whilst others (mentioning no names!!!) decided to turn up in something beginning with an 'M' leave you all to work that one out.



There was a good collection of various classic cars, however, there were definitely more MX5's than any other car around.

So a big thank you to those who came and a Happy New Year to all SWM MX5 members.



Ken Rowe
Joint Event Coordinator

Special thanks...

We would like to further thank Terry Manders once again for all his hard work and time, sorting, arranging and printing all the SWM Calendars for 2020...

...and all this for just 50p each,

Top Man!



Paul & Lou Lou
MX5 Nut Jobs

Meet the Member - Kathy and Steve

In this edition, we head to the lovely Forest of Dean to meet Kathy & Steve who have been members of the SWM club for two years. They were also members of the MX5 Owners club with the Solihull group back in the 1990's. Our pair are no strangers to the MX5, Kathy owned a 1996 Mk1 and Steve has owned a 2007 Mk3, a 2013 Roadster and a 2018 Mk4, he says he thinks he's done now.



Their most memorable drive in their five was a holiday in Cannes, South of France when they visited Monte Carlo and more recently the Wild Atlantic Way and the Ring of Kerry.

Kathy & Steve met when they were both part-time bar staff at the West Bromwich Albion Social Club (I thought WBA fans held their social's in a phone box). Steve was sat on a

beer crate when he used his well-rehearsed chat-up line "From down here Kathy, I can see right up your nose" (the silver tongued charmer). Both have worked for Dixons, Steve for thirty years as a Divisional Manager and Kathy as an administrator for twenty years.

Steve's hobbies and interests include cars (no surprise there eh?) Formula 1, Golf, Tennis, Photography and Football. Our couple have been hospitality guests at the British Grand Prix on two occasions and were there when Nigel Mansell won the GP and famously gave Ayrton Senna a lift back to the pits on his car. Whilst Kathy enjoys listening to music and socialising, Steve was at Wembley when Jeff Astle scored the winning goal against Everton in the 1968 FA Cup Final (I guess Steve was just a boy at the time). To conclude this 'who's who' of sport, Steve and Kathy were guests at the British Open at the Forest of Arden Golf Club and one of our photo's shows them holding the Ryder Cup that was on display, a nice bit of hardware eh?

Steve loves his photography as a hobby and could even make a new career out of it I suspect. He was commissioned to take a series of assignments for the Dementia

charity 'Dogs for Good' and recently gave a presentation of his work for Mindscape who run activities for Dementia sufferers locally which Kathy and Steve attend.



Steve's claim to fame is that he once interviewed Anneka Rice at a company conference (he was lucky to get her to sit down for ten minutes!) In addition, he set up a neighbourhood watch scheme in Spain where they once lived after being told that the Mayor would not agree... he must have read 'How to win friends and influence people'.

Many thanks to you both for being our 'Meet the Members' this time.



Vince Holley
Self-appointed roving reporter
& general nosey parker



Meetings, Drives & Event Dates for 2020

	Monthly Club Meet	Monthly Club Drive	Other Events
February	6th Ledbury Rugby Club HR8 2LP	23rd TBA Ron & Theresa	
March	5th TBA	22nd TBA Gary & Julie	
April	2nd Gupshill Manor, Tewkesbury. GL20 5SY	19th TBA Lance & Alan	
May	7th Ledbury Rugby Club HR8 2LP	31st Volunteers Required	21st – 24th MIM Arnhem Netherlands
June	4th TBA	28th TBA Karen & Ian	
July	2nd Gupshill Manor, Tewkesbury. GL20 5SY	19th TBA John & Henry	
August	6th Ledbury Rugby Club HR8 2LP/or BBQ	23rd TBA Gavin & David	22nd 'Driving Out Cancer' Lands End to John O'Groats
September	3rd TBA	20th The Elgar Route Ron & Theresa	
October	1st Gupshill Manor, Tewkesbury. GL20 5SY	18th Volunteers Required	
November	5th Ledbury Rugby Club HR8 2LP	22nd Volunteers Required	
December	Xmas Meal Gupshill Manor, Tewkesbury. GL20 5SY	No Drive this Month	

Do you need to get in touch with the club?




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