



# OCTAGONAL NEWS

December 2017

## HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



[www.epsommgoc.org.uk](http://www.epsommgoc.org.uk)  
[info@epsommgoc.org.uk](mailto:info@epsommgoc.org.uk)



# TONIGHT'S PROGRAMME

Monthly meetings are on the first Thursday in the month from 7.30pm in  
The Times Square Room, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton SM1 2EY

7:30pm	Welcome
8:30pm	Mulled wine and mince pies
9:45pm	Raffle
Any time until 11pm	Goodnight, drive safely

## WHAT'S PLANNED

If not given, contact details are in Committee Listings at the end of the newsletter

DECEMBER		
Thursday 7	From 7.30pm	Monthly meeting – mulled wine and mince pies
Thursday 14	7 pm	Christmas Natter at The Woolpack, High Street, Banstead SM72NZ <i>Contact Malcolm Childs</i>
JANUARY		
Thursday 4	From 7.30pm	Monthly Meeting – New website presentation
Saturday 20	6.45 for 7.15	Dinner Dance and Annual Awards <i>Contact Paul Coleman</i>
Sunday 28		Mothballs Run <i>Contact Derek Edwards</i>

### Forthcoming Events

Sunday February 11	MG & Triumph Show at Stoneleigh
Sunday February 18	Hunt the Valentine Run
Weekend 4-7 May 2018	Isle of Wight trip

All events are undertaken at Members' own risk

CUT-OFF FOR THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER IS SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER

### CANINE PARTNERS STAMP APPEAL

Canine Partners is running an on-going Stamp Appeal to raise funds for the first year of puppy training (£5000 each). If Members would like to help them achieve their goals, Bryan will take any postage stamps and send them to Canine Partners on behalf of Epsom Area MGOC.

# EDITOR'S ETCHINGS

Happy Christmas, everyone! Gosh, where has this year gone, as I write this it is quite mild and sunny and Christmas seems a while away!

As some of you know already, Tom and I have decided to step down from the Committee. It has become increasingly hard to be able to schedule round everything and I feel in need of well-earned step back! I will still be editing the newsletter until the Committee can find someone else, so you won't lose me as Editor in the short-term.

Anyway, as everyone knows, I don't do cards and prefer to donate to charity but Tom, Teddy and I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a Happy 2018.



# CHAIRMAN'S CHATTERINGS

## 2018 Committee Election

No members put themselves forward to serve on the 2018 committee. So, as Kim and Tom will be standing down, the other committee members who have put themselves forward for re-election are duly elected. This will leave two vacancies, so if any member feels that they would like to join the committee, please speak to one of the committee members, who will be pleased to answer any questions you may have. I wish to thank Kim for her long service as a committee member and Newsletter Editor and Tom who took over the Regalia duties.

## 2017 Charity Donations

If any member wishes to nominate a local charity to be considered for a small donation from the club, you should submit a written request giving details of the charity and how a donation would be used if they were successful. Nominations must be with Bryan Young, Area Secretary (contact details are on the back page of this newsletter), by the end of the December monthly meeting. Please note that National Charities will not be considered.

## 2017 Dinner Dance and Annual Awards

This will again be held at the Kingswood Golf and Country Club on Saturday, 20 January 2018 at 6.45 for 7.15pm, with carriages at midnight. The ticket price remains at £35 per person for the three-course meal and disco. As last year, it does not include a pre-dinner drink on arrival. Dress is black tie or lounge suit.

Paul Coleman will be taking your booking, meal choice and seating arrangements. Please make payment with your booking in cash or by cheque made payable to 'Epsom Area MGO' and make known your seating preferences. This is always a popular event, so do please book early to avoid disappointment. The menu choices and a booking form can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website, as well as a pre-order form for your table wine. I will fill out your table numbers and you can pay on the night.

We have to give Kingswood Golf Club the breakdown of members' meal choices by Wednesday, 3 January 2018, which is the day before the monthly meeting. It is, therefore, imperative that those members wishing to attend the Dinner Dance and Annual Awards make known their meal choices and seating arrangements at tonight's monthly meeting.

If you are unable to attend the December monthly meeting and wish to attend the dinner dance, please contact Paul Coleman by phone or email (details on the back page of this newsletter) giving him your meal choices and seating preferences, no later than Friday, 22 December.

Overnight accommodation is available in The Lodge which is onsite. Anyone interested in staying overnight should contact The Lodge on 01737 832188.

## St Raphael's Hospice

This is your last chance to purchase Christmas cards and novelties. All purchases made tonight will help this very worthy charity to maintain the service of providing palliative care to patients in the hospice and to others in their own homes. The Hospice now has to find an extra £1 million to £5 million, in all, since the sale of St Anthony's to Spire.

## In closing

Another busy year in the life of the Epsom Area comes to a close and I wish to thank the members and committee members for their individual and collective contributions to club affairs and the excellent support for the programme of events, which I know is greatly appreciated by those who have organised them.

On behalf of Doreen and myself, I wish all members and their families a Happy Christmas and hope that you enjoy good health and happiness throughout the coming year.

Safe motoring and NO DRINK DRIVING. With my best wishes, Eric

# SOCIAL SCENE

I would like to thank you for the super suggestions I have received for possible outings. These have or will be followed up

1. The 'Age of Jazz Exhibition' organised by the Arts Society, in conjunction with The Bulldog Trust. This winter exhibition will run from 21<sup>st</sup> January until 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018 at 2 Temple Place, London WC2 3BD (020 7836 3715). Two Temple Place is owned and managed by the Bulldog Trust; it is a magnificent neo-gothic mansion on the banks of the Thames, built by the first Viscount Astor, William Waldorf, in the 1890s. Normally not open to the public, it is open for the duration of the winter exhibition. Members may book themselves to see the exhibition, for which there is no charge, and reserve places on the guided tours of the House at an approximate cost of £8 - £10 ph. It was discussed at Committee and, as a private guided group tour of the House costs £200, it was felt this was too costly to arrange.
2. Visit to The Big Cat Sanctuary, Headcorn Road, Smarden, Kent TN27 8PJ (01233 771915). This was discussed by the Committee and decided, at a cost of £30ph for a private group tour, this was too expensive to pursue. There was no negotiation on price. The Sanctuary will have some public open days in 2018 which are likely to be fixed in December. Members may contact the Sanctuary directly to book on to these. The cost per head is likely to be about £16.50.
3. Guided behind the scenes Tour of the Royal Albert Hall, London - this will be arranged in the Spring.
4. London Postal Walk with London Official Guide and linked with a visit to the London Postal Museum and ride on the Postal Train. This will be arranged for the spring, I am in contact with our guide, John.
5. Mane Chance Horse Rescue near Guildford. I am in contact about arranging a possible visit.
6. Langham Brewery, Lodsworth, Sussex. I will visit this to discuss arrangements about a visit and tour.
7. Architectural Plants, Pulborough, Sussex. I will visit this venue again to discuss arrangements about a possible visit and presentation.

My thanks again for all the most interesting ideas and suggestions. Happy Socialising. Margaret.

# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Membership Forms for 2018 renewals will be with you in December and I already know of two new members for January 2018. 2017 was a strong year for new members so let's hope we can keep spreading the word in the year ahead. We finished 2017 with some 134 paid up members so well done for keeping Epsom MGOC in the forefront of local MG Clubs in the UK.

Should any members require "Business Cards" for handing out to prospective members both myself and Bryan Young have them available.

# NATTERS NEWS

November's Natter was at The Ramblers Rest in Chipstead Valley and some 10 members attended. Although the venue was quiet we enjoyed the evening.

December's Natter is our Christmas Event, and is at The Woolpack in Banstead, address being 186 High Street Banstead SM7 2NZ, on Thursday 14th December at 7pm. Although I asked for bookings to be completed by 1st December and payment by this evening, please ask me at the Club Night on 7th December as I may be able to fit you in. Full details of this Natter are available on the "Natters" page of our website including the menu choices which I need for this booking.

There will be no natter in January 2018 so please support the Dinner Dance at Kingswood Golf Club on Saturday 20th January 2018.

Malcolm

# SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLINGS

I would like to thank all Epsom members for your continued faith in the existing committee; we are obviously getting it right and satisfying all your requirements. Kim and Tom have decided not to remain members of the committee in 2018. Consequently, Eric will be dealing with regalia in the short term and Kim has offered to assemble the newsletter until we can find a replacement Editor. All the remaining members have agreed to re-stand for another year, therefore an election in January will not be necessary.

I would like to thank my fellow committee members for all their hard work throughout the year and also all the club members for supporting our numerous events. A tremendous amount of work goes on behind the scenes in order to organize these events and it is very rewarding when attendances are so high.

The December monthly meeting is the closing date for your nomination for a donation to your local charity. You should give some information about the charity, how you are involved with it and how it might use a small donation from the club. If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to submit a nomination, I can accept your request by email or snail mail by Tuesday 12th December at the very latest (my details are in the committee listings). The charitable awards will be made at the annual Dinner Dance & Awards night on 20th January.

Linda will be selling the St Raphael's Christmas cards again tonight along with their seasonal toys, etc., so please dig deep and see if we can raise more money than we did last year. Also, I am still collecting stamps for the Canine Partners Puppy Stamp appeal, so please keep them coming.

I would like to thank Eric, Paul & Ted, for stepping in to organise the buffet and to run the darts night on 18th November in my absence. I do know that Ray Reeves had been practicing hard in order to attempt to retain his title, but due to family commitments was unable to go. I hope you all had a good evening and no doubt Eric will announce the results at the December meeting.

I am seriously considering re-fitting the hardtop on my F (which is still awaiting its new headlining) but I do need to wait until the fabric hood is completely dry before folding it down. It is so nice to have a heated rear window that clears quickly and the hardtop completely transforms the car, makes it much stiffer to drive and far more cosy. I must be getting old!!! The MoT is also due, so we will see if she throws up any nasty faults again this year. Might need a bottle of Catclean and an Italian tune up to get it to pass the emissions this year.

Thank you very much to the contributor for the joke this month.

A man and his wife were awakened at 3am by a loud pounding on the door. The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunk, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push. "Not a chance," says the husband, "it is 3 in the morning!" He slams the door and returns to bed.

"Who was that?" asked his wife. "Just some drunk guy asking for a push," he answers. "Did you help him?" she asks. "No, I did not, it's 3am in the morning and it's bloody pouring rain out there!" "Well, you have a short memory," says his wife. "Can't you remember about three months ago when our car broke down and those two guys helped us? I think you should help him, and you should be ashamed of yourself!" The man does as he is told, gets dressed, and goes out into the pouring rain. He calls out into the dark, "Hello, are you still here?"

"Yes," comes back.

"Do you still need a push?"...

"Yes, please!" from the dark.

"Where are you?" asks the husband.

"Over here on the swing!" replied the drunk

I would like to finish by wishing all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Kind regards, Bryan and Piggy.

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, LINDA AND I ARE MAKING A DONATION TO ST RAPHAEL'S HOSPICE INSTEAD OF SENDING CHRISTMAS CARDS TO CLUB MEMBERS.

# CAR EVENTS

## **Mothballs Run – Sunday 28 January 2018**

The first car event of the coming year, namely the Original Mothballs Run, takes place next month on Sunday, 28th January. The run will be through the Surrey countryside and will finish at a pub to be advised in January's newsletter. We should arrive for lunch at 12 - 12.15 so for those of you are still finding it difficult to rise these dark mornings we will be pleased to see you for then. For those of you who intend to make the run the start time will be 10.30am for departure at 11am at 'The Pheasant' at Buckland, RH3 7BG, on the A25 west of Reigate. Tea, coffee and toilets will be available. Tin tops acceptable on this event! Names and lunch numbers to Derek Edwards on 01737 765891 prior to the event please. More details to follow next month.

## **MG & Triumph Show at Stoneleigh – Sunday 11th February 2018**

This event is a good opportunity to meet old friends and to find those elusive spare parts from specialist traders and cars for sale etc.

## **Hunt the Valentine Run – Sunday 18 February 2018**

This year once again we are joining forces with the SE Centre of the MG Car Club. This is a good opportunity to dust down your car and partake with your valentine in some light-hearted fun in and around Surrey. Full details to follow next month.

## **Isle of Wight Tour – 4th – 7th May 2018**

Looking further ahead to next year's events it is planned to visit the Isle of Wight over the early May bank holiday weekend. Further details will be available shortly. Those interested should speak to me at the next meeting or by phone on 01737 765891.

## **European Event of the Year 2018 – Flims, Switzerland – 8th – 12th August 2018**

Next year's European Event of the Year is being organised by the Swiss MG Car Club and will be held in Flims, Switzerland. Applications opened on 1st September along with full programme information. However, we understand that this event is possibly now fully subscribed. If interested in a potential reserve list, website information can be found at [www.mgcc.ch](http://www.mgcc.ch).

If you are interested in participating there is a waiting list in operation.

I hope you have enjoyed the various car events during 2017. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all  
Derek Edwards

### **CHRISTMAS WISHES**

Ted and Sue will be making a donation to a deserving charity and not sending Christmas cards.

We would both like to wish all members a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

# DINNER DANCE & ANNUAL AWARDS

## Saturday 20 January

The Dinner Dance and Annual Awards will again be held at the Kingswood Golf and Country Club on Saturday 20 January 2018 at 6.45 for 7.15pm, with carriages at midnight. Members, please note that dinner will start at 7.15pm SHARP. Whilst the majority choose black tie, jacket and tie is quite OK if preferred. The ticket price is £35 per head.

Paul Coleman will be taking bookings, menu selection and, most importantly, your preferred seating arrangements. Whilst it is possible to have tables to seat 12, it is much more comfortable to keep tables to 8 or 10. It also makes life a lot easier if one of your party jots the names down and passes this on to Paul (his contact details are below).

<b>MENU</b>
<b>Starters</b>
Sesame and fried basil dressed king prawns served with avocado puree, pepper cocktail, olive bread stick, lemon balm and mango vinaigrette
Winter vegetable soup
<b>Main Courses</b>
Grilled medallion of beef fillet with gratin dauphinoise potato, carrot hash, broccoli and confit onion sauce
Pepper and maple glazed salmon supreme with pommes Anna roasted courgette, pancetta & borliti casserole and seafood veloute
Mexican vegetable pithivier with chestnut cream béchamel sauce (V)
<b>Desserts</b>
Sea salted caramel and nutty milk chocolate tart with berries and green tea ice cream
Warm Granny Smith apples and frangipane tart with clotted cream ice cream and tropical fruit puree
A selection of British and continental cheese, served with a selection of biscuits and crackers, dried fruits and chutney
Freshly brewed tea/coffee and dark chocolate

Please make your menu choices on the following slip, and pass it to Paul. For those receiving the newsletter through the post, please forward the slip, together with your cheque for £35 per person made payable to **Epsom Area MGOC**, to Paul Coleman, 126, Ockford Ridge, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 2NQ, or email your choices to [paaablo@talktalk.net](mailto:paaablo@talktalk.net)

✂ .....

I/we wish to attend the Annual Awards Dinner Dance. Details and choices are as follows:

Name	Prawns/Soup	Beef/Salmon/Vegetarian	Chocolate/Apple Tart/Cheese

**PRE-ORDER WINE LIST**  
**Dinner Dance and Annual Awards - 20 January**

Kingswood Golf and Country Club would appreciate it if you are able to pre-order your wines for the Dinner Dance. This will help them give you the best possible service.

Although you are pre-ordering, you still pay on the evening at the dedicated ordering table. Although you can still order at the bar on the evening, we are hoping that pre-ordering will speed up the process.

You can give your pre-order form to Eric Nicholls at either the December or January monthly meetings or email either the form or your choices to him at [w.ericnicholls@btinternet.com](mailto:w.ericnicholls@btinternet.com).

**NAME:-**

**TABLE (to be completed by Eric)**

WINE SELECTION	PRICE	QUANTITY
Please note that all wines are subject to availability and the right is reserved to change prices where necessary		
<b>WHITE</b>		
Ca Luca Pinot Grigio - Italy	19.50	
Los Caminos Sauvignon Blanc - Chile	19.50	
Los Caminos Chardonnay (unoaked) - Chile	19.50	
Backsberg Estate Chenin Blanc – South Africa	19.95	
<b>ROSÉ</b>		
San Antini Pinot Grigio Blush - Italy	18.95	
<b>RED</b>		
Bodegas Azabache Rioja Tempranilla - Spain	18.75	
Los Caminos Merlot - Chile	18.95	
Tulbagh Shiraz Pinotage – South Africa	19.75	
Hamilton Heights Shiraz - Australia	20.95	



# THANK YOU MEMBERS



## HERON'S GHYLL DRIVING GROUP RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

Registered Charity No.1073569

2 Rolling Mill  
Maresfield  
East Sussex  
TN22 2BF

9th October 2017

Dear Mr Nicholls,

On behalf of the Heron's Ghyll Carriage Driving Group I would like to thank you and members of your club for the gazebos you donated to our group.

Our weekly carriage driving sessions take place in a field with no shelter, we rely on nice weather and when we have competitions with other group we have to erect shelters against the rain or sun.

Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Yours Sincerely

Karen Tutton

Chairman

# 2018 COMMITTEE ELECTION

Every year, we have an election process for our Committee. The titles and primary roles are:

Chairman	Acts as the focal point for all matters relating to the Club, both externally and internally.
Area Secretary	Acts as a link between various external and internal parties, providing information and communication as required.
Membership Secretary	Responsible for registering and maintaining the members list and giving new members the background to club activities.
Treasurer	Responsible for all financial matters to do with the club and the provision of the Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet.
Regalia Secretary	Responsible for the ordering, promotion and sale of club regalia.
Social Secretary	Responsible for collating members' attendance for events and taking deposits.
Car Events Secretary	Responsible for organising a programme of car events, excluding car displays.
Newsletter Editor	Responsible for the notes of the committee meetings, production of the Octagonal News.
Club Stand Secretary	Responsible for the organisation of the club stand at events.
Special Events Coordinator	To organise, manage and coordinate all matters relating to special events, particularly the Surrey Run, on behalf of the Epsom Area.
Communications	Responsible for updating the Club Website.

Full details of the duties for each of the roles are on our website at [www.epsommgoc.org.uk/Committee\\_Elections.htm](http://www.epsommgoc.org.uk/Committee_Elections.htm)  
If you do not have access to the Internet, please call Kim Shrosbree and she will happily send you a printed copy.

Members are elected to the Committee at the January monthly meeting and roles decided at the first committee meeting after that. Committee Meetings take place on the Wednesday following the monthly meeting at the same venue as the monthly meetings. If you feel that you would like to give some time to club affairs and would like to serve on the 2018 Committee, please give your name to Bryan Young, Area Secretary, by the end of the November monthly meeting.

# ADS

Private Ads are free to members and will stay in the newsletter for 3 issues unless you request an extension. Contact the Editor for entry in the next issue. Please note that inclusion of an advert does not indicate endorsement by the Club.

## WANTED - Any unwanted OS maps

Tom and I are trying to build up a whole set of both the pink and the orange covers before paper copies finish. We will donate £1 to charity for each map

[kimshros@gmail.com](mailto:kimshros@gmail.com) or 07831 427 515

## WANTED

Any old fountain pens and related items  
- I collect them

Mike 07976 204560 or 020 8942 0554

## FOR SALE

MGB GT (J Reg) Chrome Bumper  
Original Condition - colour Bracken  
Last Owner 35 Years

£1950 ovno

Contact: Derek Edwards 01737 765891  
[edwards.mgmadness@ntlworld.com](mailto:edwards.mgmadness@ntlworld.com)



Brownridge Cottage  
sleeps 4 - 6

## HOLIDAY HOMES

### HUNMANBY, 3 MILES NORTH YORKSHIRE COAST

Grade II listed Cottage: Period features (exposed beams, chalk walls) • Child friendly • fully-equipped kitchens • gas central heating • level access • parking • Wi-Fi • Smart TV • BT Sport • garden tables and chairs • dogs by arrangement • Cottage has courtyard and farmhouse a garden with grass area

Roger and Helen Bennett – 07818 077258 or [mg190plus@aol.com](mailto:mg190plus@aol.com)



Castle House Farm  
sleeps 10



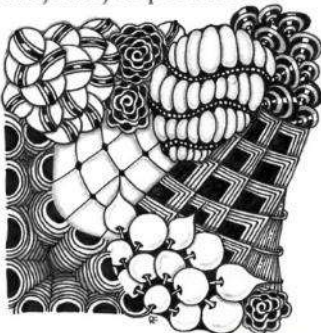
## MEMBERS' HOLIDAY HOME FOR RENT IN FRANCE

Charentaise house in the popular village of Mortagne sur Gironde, SW France

Well-equipped • 2 bedrooms (sleeps 4) • 2 bathrooms • solarium • ideal for exploring villages, vineyards and fields of sunflowers • 15 minutes from beautiful sandy beaches • short ferry ride to the Medoc from Royan or Blaye • 1 hour from Bordeaux or La Rochelle.

Roger or Helen Bennett – 07818 077258 or [mg190plus@aol.com](mailto:mg190plus@aol.com)

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## HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION TO LET IN SWANAGE, DORSET

**SWANAGE**  
*and Purbeck*



Modern 3 bedroom house near sandy beach and with views of the Purbeck Hills for ideal family holiday.

For more information contact  
**Sue Swann on 01932 247140**  
or [sueni15@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sueni15@yahoo.co.uk)

# COMMITTEE LISTINGS

## CHAIRMAN

Eric Nicholls  
☎ 020 8669 1793/07960 089009  
💻 [w.ericnicholls@btinternet.com](mailto:w.ericnicholls@btinternet.com)

## CAR EVENTS

Derek Edwards  
☎ 01737 765891  
💻 [edwards.mgmadness@ntlworld.com](mailto:edwards.mgmadness@ntlworld.com)

## SECRETARY

Bryan Young  
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## CLUB STAND

Paul Coleman  
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💻 [paaablo@talktalk.net](mailto:paaablo@talktalk.net)

## SOCIAL

Margaret Billinge  
☎ 01892 610117/07784 771562  
💻 [m.billinge45@btinternet.com](mailto:m.billinge45@btinternet.com)

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Nigel Swann  
☎ 01932 247140/07946 262630  
💻 [sueni15@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sueni15@yahoo.co.uk)

## REGALIA

Tom Pope  
☎ 01372 802481/07832 326661  
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## COMMUNICATIONS

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