

From the Library

By David Hoskins, Librarian, **August 2021**

Donation from Paul Ingham and Jeff James

Octane Magazines

Paul is not an MGCC Member but some of us know him from attendance at the Killa Run. Paul has a blue Jaguar XK120 - one family owner as his uncle bought it new 70 years ago! Paul has previously donated magazines to the Club and has added another 66 titles to our growing collection. We now have 179 from a total of 217 plus a substantial off-site backup collection.

Donation from Kelvin Jewell

MG Enthusiast Magazines

Kelvin has added to his donation of magazines - every little builds us towards completing our sets and we now have 375 out of the 424 published.

Donation from David Brook

Magazine Rack

A year or so ago someone gave us a wall rack in which I put the latest 4 editions of the three MG Magazines. I must have been busy at the time and did not notice our benefactor but now the riddle is solved so, Thank You David Brook for this useful item which sits just on the right as you enter the Library - if we are ever allowed in again!

From the Magazines

April **Safety Fast** featured a 6 page article 'MG Production in Australia' by Tom Aczel from the MGCC - Sydney. I found it interesting that in the UK MGB body shells were delivered complete and painted to Abingdon whereas the Sydney plant welded bodies from individual pressed parts and painted

them in-house.

June **Safety Fast** celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the modern Midget with several articles including an interview with Don Heyter on how the Sprite was incorporated into Abingdon's production lines (all Sprites and Midgets were assembled at Abingdon).

Peter Browning 1936 - 2021

June **Enjoying MG** and April **Safety Fast** report the death of Peter Browning. Peter was the BMC Comps Manager from 1967 to 1970, based at Abingdon until the Department was closed. This was the golden era with Minis winning rallies, MGBs at Le Mans, Landcrab 1800s on the London to Sydney and Dolomites and Rover 3500s racing. He contributed to several books and we have **X036 - The Works MG's , M.Allison/P.Browning** in our Library.

Gerry Coker 1934 - 2020

February **Enjoying MG** includes a 5 page profile on Gerry Coker, 'the Man with the Magic Pencil.' Gerry designed the Healey 100 and laid the foundations of the Sprite before emigrating to America where,



MGBs in Sydney

amongst other products, he designed the Ford dual-action tailgate - a design which we used on our XA-XC Falcon Wagons.

From the Internet

I have mentioned before my membership of the Enthusiasts of British Motor Vehicles Built before 1985 web group (now with 28,000 members!) I couldn't help loving this MG Rover publicity photograph of Anthony Osborne's Austin 12 (called Herbert - what else?) and a Rover 75 Tourer and MG ZT-T parked in front of the RAF's Lancaster at Coningsby. Although built at Broughton, for the photo shoot PA474 represented the 330 Lancasters built at Longbridge during WW II. Check out the blogs at www.britishmotorvehicles.com



Electric Cars

This is a topic which will become more prominent in the next few years. I try to take a neutral stance (although my views are well known). I thought a statement from Volvo about the birth to death carbon footprint was interesting. Volvo stated that its Polestar2 EV needs to run for 78,000km before its carbon footprint is smaller than a diesel Volvo CX40.

Our Club Library (cont from July)

Reflecting on the past, something I'm sure many of us do at our age, and having no new books to review this month I thought of reviewing the history of our Library.

I became our Librarian in May 2010, at which time the 'Library' was housed in two steel cabinets at the back of the Clubhouse main room. The cupboards were not big enough to house our library and it was difficult for potential borrowers to see what was there. Doug Sherman, Max Richards, Chris Freeman, Brian Robertson, Stan Ball

and others had built a nice collection of MG related books.

Our Executive Committee obtained the use of the storeroom in October 2012 and approved funds for the purchase of shelving. This allowed me to set up a Library with everything on display so that our 'clients' could more easily view and borrow books. It also allowed the display of the thousands of magazines which had hitherto been hidden away in boxes.

Around this time your Librarian was given an annual budget for the purchase of books and the increased 'presence' of the Library led to many members donating books and magazines including some items which would have been far too valuable for us to contemplate purchasing, but for which we are very grateful.

In the revamp of the Clubroom in September 2017, the Library was moved to the other side of the meeting room to its present location. For several years we have been open, with the Regalia shop, from 2:30 to 4:00 in the afternoon of the **third Tuesday** of each month. Sometimes we have a crowd attend, at others nobody turns up but it gives the Librarian and Regalia Officer time to sort out our stores and any 'customers' are a bonus.

It is planned to expand these sessions when the 'Club Corner' of our shed is completed - and covid rules allow.