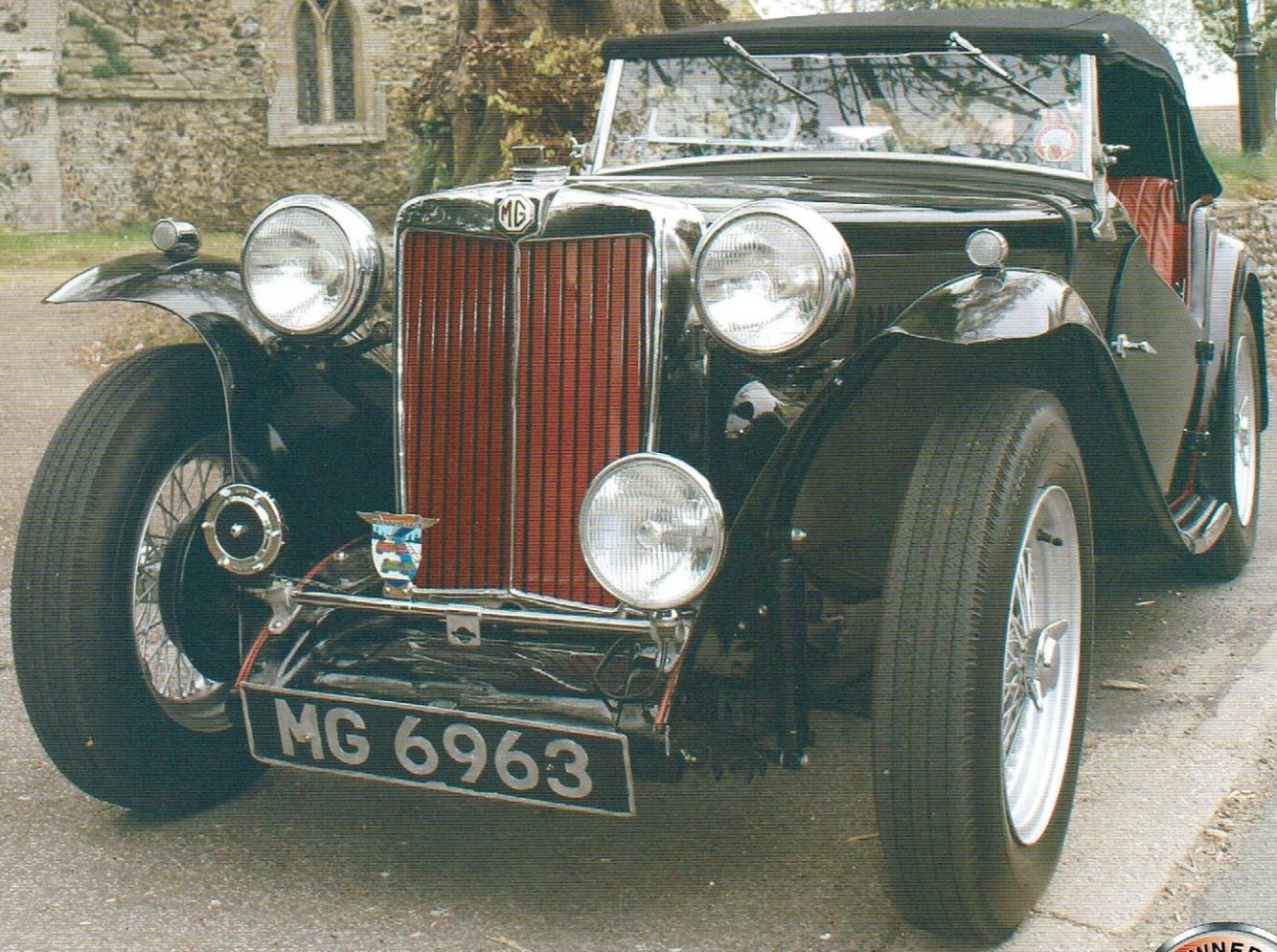
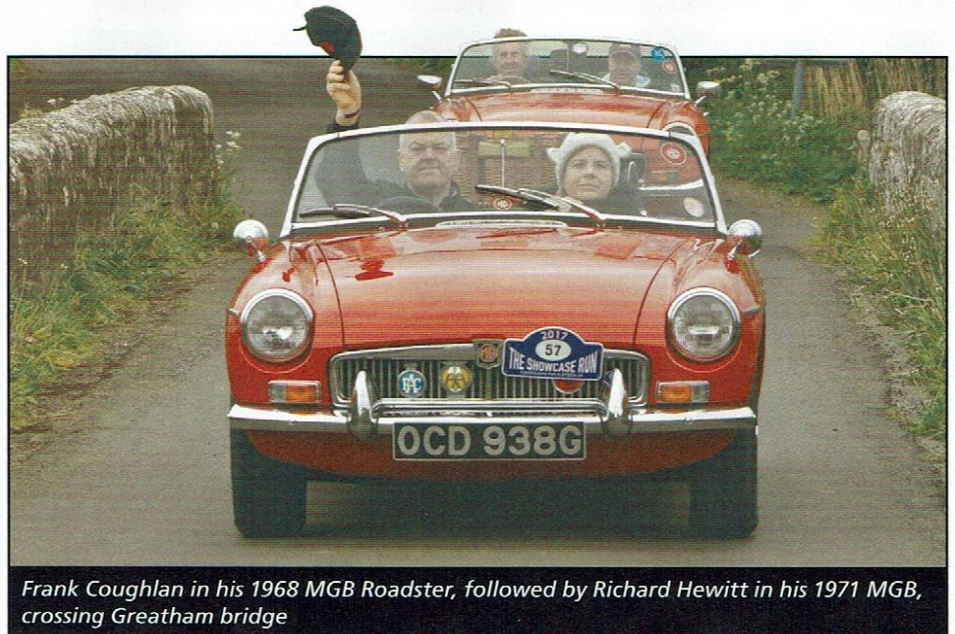


Enjoying

A large, stylized MG logo consisting of the letters 'MG' in a bold, black, sans-serif font with a red outline, set within a black octagonal border with a red inner ring.

AUGUST 2017





Frank Coughlan in his 1968 MGB Roadster, followed by Richard Hewitt in his 1971 MGB, crossing Greatham bridge

2017 SHOWCASE RUN

Andy Harris,
Area Secretary,
Chichester MGOC

On Sunday 7th May 1006 Chichester MGOC hosted the inaugural Showcase Classic & Sports Car Gala, a charity fundraising event, in the grounds of Lord Cowdray's estate, Midhurst, West Sussex www.cowdray.co.uk.

Building on our friendships with other local car clubs, we made the decision to open this event to all marques of British classic and sports cars, and also to the general public.

This proved popular, and although MGs were still dominant among the 300 cars present, many MGOC owners of multiple classic cars took the opportunity to show off their Austin Healey, Triumph, or Morris Minor.

Many other marques joined the party too, including an Aston Martin DB5 formerly owned by Sir Paul McCartney, and some very nice examples of Panther, Lotus, Bentley, Jensen, and Alvis, to name just a few.



Amy Johnson & Jen Chambers from Alopecia UK, in the charity's branded MG TF LE500

Guest star of the event was double Olympic gold medallist (London and Rio) Joanna Rowsell Shand MBE, representing our charity partner Alopecia UK, for whom we raised just over £3,000.

And so, after enjoying cooked breakfasts served from a traditional shepherd's hut on a slightly chilly morning, the drivers taking part in the Showcase Run clambered back into their cars, and set off at 09:30 when Joanna cut the ribbon.

The route headed first to Graffham, and east along the edge of Burton Mill Pond, across the narrow Greatham Bridge over the river Arun, through the picturesque leafy lanes that run between Pulborough Brooks and the Parham estate, then westbound back over the Arun again at Amberley.

The climb uphill at Houghton provided views over the South Downs, before the cars wound their way through the pretty National Trust village of Slindon, and out through some tight bends at Eartham Wood towards the Goodwood race circuit, where cars taking part in Supercar Sunday could be glimpsed.

The open road section allowed drivers to pick up speed through Chilgrove to Harting Down, leading to a steep descent down the winding road into South Harting village, and finally back along the picturesque lanes of Elsted to Midhurst, and the Cowdray estate.

Despite the event team having thoroughly checked the route the day before, and again just before dark, an unscheduled road closure popped up in Midhurst first thing on the Sunday morning when none of us were



Martin Bailey preparing his 1980 MGB Roadster for the Showcase Run

looking! Fortunately, diversion signs were in place, and most drivers soon found themselves back on track.

Undeterred, all drivers returned with smiles on their faces, and one lady even jumped out of her MGB and declared "that was the best road run ever!" Hardly, but we appreciate the sentiment.

While the Showcase Run cars were still out on the route, owners remaining on the showground were treated to "Jazz on the Lawn" by the FB Pocket Orchestra.

Then, as the Showcase Run cars returned to the finish line around midday, where each one was greeted by Joanna and presented with a souvenir, the party got underway with live music from 1940s vocal harmony group The Cadettes, who had some of our attendees up on their feet and dancing, while others tucked into the vintage style afternoon teas and browsed the stalls.

Joanna wore her Olympic gold medals for all to see, and readily allowed everyone to have a closer look, some of whom wanted to

touch and feel the medals too. Well, it's not every day that MGOC members get their hands on a pair of Olympic gold medals after all!

The sun finally warmed us all up from around 2:00pm, just in time for a great performance by the Petworth Town Brass Band, which gave everyone an appetite for lunch, with choices including venison burgers, roast lamb, and spicy chicken.

Choosing winners among so many fabulous cars was a tough job for our judge, classic car expert Jamie Cripps from Milestone Classics, who did a sterling job selecting finalists.

As expected, the MGs fared well, with congratulations to Eileen & Tim Kilpatrick winning the trophy for "Loveliest interior" in their 1972 BGT, and Darren Sparks taking second place in his 1971 MGB Roadster, and Nigel Melbert taking third place in his 1973 BGT V8.

Congratulations also to runners up in the Best Soft Top class; Peter Hall with his 1933 J2, and John Farncombe with his 1996 RV8, and runner up in the Best Saloon class Peter Smithson with his 1958 Magnette ZB Varitone.

The Car Of The Show trophy was presented by Joanna to Tim Davies with his stunning 1930 Aston Martin International Series 1, rather appropriately emblazoned with the name "Jo Jo" on its bonnet.

Joanna, despite being more expert on two wheels than four, took on our event with great enthusiasm, and when invited to award the "Star's Favourite Car" trophy, selected a lovely green duo tone 1958 Austin A55 Mk1, owned by Dave Wimble.

Finally, the audience cheered for their favourite car of the show, and chose Tim Davies' beautiful Aston Martin again, allowing him to drive away with not one, but two trophies!

There were also some fantastic prizes won in our raffle, including a day at the races, dinner for two, and a t-shirt autographed by several of Joanna's Olympic team mates.

The event closed in style with a fabulous performance from folk pop group Fred's House, filling the air with their melodies, as one by one the cars made their way off the Cowdray estate.

We're very grateful to local camera club ACCD, who captured many beautiful photos of the day, including some iconic images of MGs emerging through the leafy lanes of the South Downs.

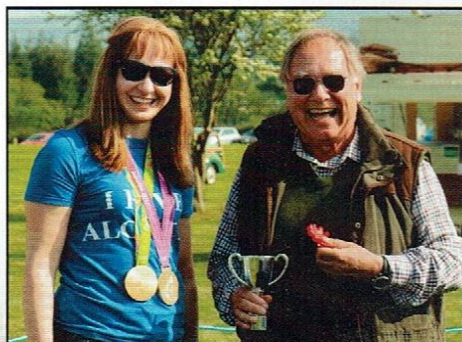


David Nuttall leading the pack in his 1973 MGB

Whether you were there on the day or not, go to www.showcase-classic-cars.events to watch the official event video, download some lovely images, or order prints (from which 50% of the proceeds will go to our charity partner Alopecia UK).

The 1006 Chichester MGOC team wish to extend our thanks to all the MGOC branches and charity volunteers who helped with marshalling and stewarding, and also to www.mjsautoandmarine.co.uk for providing roadside recovery. Special thanks also to Tony and Jamie from www.milestoneclassics.co.uk.

Judging by all the smiling faces you can see in the photos, and kind comments received, we'd say the day was a success, and we look forward to welcoming you all back next time. 🍷



Jo Rowsell Shand MBE presenting the trophy for Loveliest Interior to Tim Kilpatrick for his 1972 BGT. Watch the event video at www.showcase-classic-cars.events



Dancing to the sound of The Cadettes



Chris Rogerson in the red 1977 MGB Roadster, and Graham Knopp in the blue 1978 MGB Roadster, emerging along East Dean Hill at Goodwood. View the full image gallery at www.showcase-classic-cars.events