



Yorkshire Ridings Area Newsletter

"We're having a laugh"

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Area Website: www.mx5yorkshire.co.uk

Events link: <http://www.mx5yorkshire.co.uk/social-events-club-runs>

Photo archive: yrmx5.smugmug.com

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Hello and welcome to the August edition of our club newsletter and welcome to all our members both old and new. We've had a lot of new faces join us during the last few months and it has been a pleasure to meet you all and I do hope that you've enjoyed yourselves. With so many newbies it's proving difficult to put names to faces each time we meet but I promise we'll get there!

You may have noticed in the last couple of newsletters that there have been no reports on the social evening meets. We made this editorial decision due mainly to space constraints and it was also becoming increasingly difficult to avoid being repetitive writing about them. I do hope that the organisers of such events are not offended by the lack of coverage. For those of you who have not attended a social yet I do urge you to come along to one if at all possible, they're very enjoyable evenings with great company, food and we always manage to live up to our motto! It's also a great way to get to know one another better as time for such niceties is often somewhat restricted on club runs.

I have to say it's not been the best of summers for topless motoring with far too many dull grey and damp days for my liking but we seem to have been extremely lucky on our runs so far this year, so many wet weeks have finished with a dry Sunday for us.

By the time this newsletter reaches you the National Rally will have been held at Gaydon and I hope that those of you who were able to attend had a fantastic weekend.

It was of course a special event this year celebrating 30 years of the MX5 and 25 years of the Owners Club, both remarkable achievements for our little sports cars and long may they continue.

The final quarter of the year will see two of our most popular events so it will soon be time to start thinking about fancy dress outfits and car decorating for the Halloween and Xmas runs so I'm looking forward to seeing everyone's efforts, followed by our Xmas party at a new venue so plenty to anticipate over the coming months. See you all soon.

Rosie xx

Upcoming Events

Sun. 13th October – Breakfast Social- Sue & Graham Harker

Sat. 26th October – Halloween Run/Social – Wendy & Andy Henwood / Shirley & Tim Pickett

Sun. 3rd November - Run- Maureen & Pete West

Sat. 16th November – Social - TBC

Sun. 1st December – Xmas Run – Shirley Pickett & Norma Kassell

Sat. 14th December – Xmas Party – The Dower House, Knaresborough – Shirley Pickett & Norma Kassell

Chip 'n' Dales Run

14th July 2019

Organised by Maureen & Pete West

Report by Dawn Leggott



It was a lovely Sunday morning on the 14th June, when 21 cars met at Hawthorn farm. The 21 included one try before you buy who were Sue and Brandnrth Hearne. New members Fiona and Graeme Robert, Carol Wicklow and Rodger Inman and Tony Clark and Hugh Payn. Everyone was looking forward and keen to start the Chip'n Dale run which Pete and Maureen had kindly arranged. Everyone except John and Dawn Leggott. They set off good and early so they could enjoy a coffee and a chat pre run. But some roads in Harrogate were closed and the sat nav had other ideas about where Leeds Bradford airport was. They ended up at Pately Bridge. After a small domestic they rang Pete. The run was going that way after 20 miles so they sat and waited! The first half of the run was across some beautiful moors and narrow twisty roads. We met some people from an MG club coming in the opposite direction. We all had an ice cream and a chat at Brymor, Masham, this was our first stop. Then Pete would take a group photo The photo included 3 anniversary cars There was Norma and Rowlands' 10th anniversary car. Tim and Shirleys' 25th anniversary car and Keith's 30th anniversary orange car. And all of us of course. We left Brymor in good spirits covering more great views and countryside. But on route to our late lunch we were stopped by a police car. Sadly there had been a nasty accident in the bottom of the valley and 2 air ambulances and an ambulance and 2 police cars were there. Stopping all the traffic. We believe there was at least one fatality. Needless to say we were not allowed through and proceeded to turn around and complete our run with a 20 mile detour. Maureen notified the Trawlerman of our delay for lunch. Which they assured us was not a problem. It was a sobering incident. And brought home how important the air ambulance, (The charity our club chose to support this year) is to everybody. When we arrived we all enjoyed our meal and chat then said our goodbyes until next week's run. Unfortunately John and Dawn won't be on that run. And not because of a rogue sat nav or a domestic. But because they have sold their car which 13 years ago cost them £13000 and they sold it for over £2000. It had been a brilliant car and very cheap to run. But the buyer wanted it immediately. And their replacement isn't arriving into beginning of August. Therefore they will have to miss 2 runs! But a big Thank you to Pete and Maureen for a really good day out, enjoyed by all.

A Run of 3 Halves

21st July 2019

Organised by Mark Norris

Report by Dave Morford

Photos courtesy of Dave Morford & Mike Brownlow



Mark's fears that with the previous run having been moved to the weekend before his would affect attendance proved groundless as 22 members accepted his invitation to join him on a run mainly through East Yorkshire out to the coast. 20 cars met up at Ferrybridge Services to collect tulip maps, amongst them were "newbies" June & Peter Crouch and Jacqueline Clough & Tim Kinder, plus Julie & David Shillitoe joining us for their first run, welcome to you all.

After listening to Mark's briefing they set off to follow some roads familiar to longer standing members of the club, bringing them eventually to the first comfort stop at Allerthorpe Lakeside Park, where Carol Wickow & Roger Inman and Rosie & myself were waiting to join in the fun. Having been volunteered to take photos I positioned myself by the entrance to Allerthorpe Park to capture physical evidence of MX5 drivers who ignore the rule about waving to a fellow 5er! Luckily our AC was one of the culprits so no prosecutions are imminent and most redeemed themselves later on the run!

As Rosie and I had arrived early enough at Allerthorpe to have already had our coffee and cake we were able to wander round and chat and take photos. A personal observation here but this year seems to be the one where Mk4 numbers attending have shot up, plus one or two RFs to keep Rufus company and Jayne happy.

Rosie and I departed ahead of the pack to seek out another photo opportunity and we didn't have to follow the tulip instructions far to find a spot just beyond Millington on one of my favourite roads in the area, smooth and fast with short straights and bends that flow from one to another so you can get into a nice rhythm. Photos taken and it was time to chase the pack, whom we caught up with at Fridaythorpe (I wasn't speeding honest officer! Look at the dashcam footage).

From Fridaythorpe we followed a narrow less travelled road with grass growing down the centre through Burdale, some great views over the Vale of Pickering towards the North York Moors as we climbed out of Burdale on the tail of a little red convoy of MX5s to reach Wharram-le-Street. The route then took another great road following a valley bottom eastwards through the typical Wolds' villages of East and West Lutton, Helperthorpe, Weaverthorpe, Burton Fleming and Grindale to arrive at our second comfort stop, the RSPB reserve at Bempton Cliffs.

Refreshments consumed and leaving behind a few of our number who were going to brave the clouds of flies to see the seabirds nesting on the cliffs we followed another sweeping wold top road back to Sledmere via Octon roundabout and thence on through Fimber and Fridaythorpe and down Garrowby Hill to complete the third half of the run to The Fleece in Bishop Wilton where a late Sunday lunch awaited. Ensconced in the marquee in the beer garden, the attentive and efficient staff ensured that we all had a splendid meal accompanied by much laughter before it was time to wend our separate ways home.

Thanks Mark for organising a great day out for us all, we look forward to the next one.

May The Force Be With You Run

4th August 2019

Organised by Antonia & Richard Hirst

Report by Dave Morford

Photos courtesy Mike Brownlow & Dave Morford



With the days preceding the run filled with media reports and pictures of flash floods, roads washed away and bridges collapsed following heavy rain and storms hitting the Yorkshire Dales area, and more to come threatened, it seemed like an ideal time to go for a picnic run! But a recce. run by Richard on the Thursday found our proposed route to be ok apart from the odd patch of mud or stones washed onto the road from surrounding countryside, and we could always sit in the car to consume our sarnies.

So 18 cars duly gathered at Wetherby Services eager to take part, amongst them Alison and Darren Storey on a try before you buy basis. The carpark was awash with MX5's as a group from Doncaster & Wakefield were also meeting there for their own run out up the Dales, so it would definitely be a case of follow the tulip map and not the car in front! Fortunately they departed first so there would be no mix ups and our paths weren't to cross again.

Mike Brownlow and I decided upon a plan to share the photography duties so Rosie and I forwent the briefing and sped off to get ahead of the pack and find a photo location. And boy did we speed, at times reaching the heady heights of 20mph from Boroughbridge all the way to Ripon in a tailback behind a convoy of tractors and combines moving to a new field! Still at least we didn't have to wait long after parking up between Ripon and Masham. Photos taken we chased the convoy to reach our first halt at Jervaux Abbey Tea Rooms where the field to park in had fortunately dried out sufficiently for us.

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Refreshments consumed in the warm sunshine we continued our journey up through Leyburn and on towards Richmond, roads to Reeth closed signs occurring more frequently as we headed north, before branching off to head up to the A66 and Barnard Castle where our second comfort stop/photo call awaited at Bowes Museum.

From Barnard Castle we continued our journey north, sweeping along some great roads over Hamsterley Common to drop into Weardale at Stanhope. Heading west along Weardale, the skies ahead looking increasing dark and threatening. Luckily by the time we turned southwards to cross the tops back into Teesdale, the heavy shower had passed by so although the roads were wet in places there was no need to raise roofs, and at our destination of High Force waterfall it was dry if cloudy so we were able to gather round for a chat and a laugh whilst consuming our pack ups. A wander down to High Force found it to be a raging torrent of brown water after the previous weeks' weather.

On departure we headed down to the A66 and a final stop at Mainsgill Farm Shop to say our goodbyes and in our case make a few purchases before heading for home.

Remember those tractors and combines I mentioned earlier? Well Sod's Law they pulled out onto the road just before us as we left Ripon so we had to follow them all the way back to Boroughbridge! And the rain finally caught up with us just as we left the A64 east of York so despite the forecast we only had the roof up for the final 15 miles of a long day.

Thanks to Richard and Antonia for organising a great day out with some super roads and comfort stops and ensuring the weather didn't spoil things.

Designer Outlet for some FUN run

18th August 2019

Organised by Keith Lea assisted by Andy & Wendy Henwood

Report by Dave Morford

Photos courtesy of Dave Morford



Keith had arranged a new start venue for us this week in the car park of the Designer Outlet just off the A64 York bypass to the south of our fair capital city. As one might expect, because the start was nearer to home than usual we were one of the last to arrive! I couldn't recall receiving a blow to the head; perhaps my glasses were faulty? But I could swear that I was suffering double vision. No it wasn't me, there were definitely two racing orange MX5s amongst the ranks drawn up in the car park. Dawn and John had swapped their 13yr old Mk3 for a new 30thAE to double the number within our branch of the club. Joining them were 18 other MXs, including new members Josie & David Hanson and Nick Lankester, plus try before you buy couple Catherine & John Golden.

With skies brightening the weather looked promising following another of this summers' far too frequent damp weeks. Keith's briefing completed, the convoy departed to make our way to the first comfort stop at Thorpe Arch retail park. The route took in an interesting variety of different roads through a number of villages in a loop to the south and southwest of York before we arrived at the Cafe & Bistro in the middle of the retail/industrial estate for a cuppa and a choice from an assortment of excellent home made cakes.

The second section of the days run took us west from Thorpe Arch, Rosie and myself scooting off first to get ahead of the pack and find a spot to fulfil my photographer duties before playing catch up to tag on the end of the convoy. This part of the run would bring us to our second comfort stop at Fewston reservoir and took in a number of narrow single track roads, on one of which we met a large agricultural vehicle travelling in the opposite direction, forcing a reverse manoeuvre until we reached a side road into which to turn. On regaining the route an unfamiliar red Mk1 tagged onto the back of our convoy and followed us for several miles until we turned into the car park at Fewston, where they peeled off with a cheery wave having clearly enjoyed that section of Keith's run.

Just time for a quick ice cream and we were off again, this time looping through the countryside north of Harrogate to cross over the A1 near Boroughbridge and work our way down to the A59 to head back towards York and our final destination, the Red Lion, tucked away off a lay-by as we drew near to Poppleton. We were joined there by Wendy who had not been able to co-drive Andy on the run due to dog sitting duties

Here we were able to partake in an excellent carvery meal laid on for us (or in my case one of the finest home-made steak and ale pies it has been my pleasure to consume) as we filled the room with chatter and laughter.

A big vote of thanks to Keith, ably assisted by Andy and Wendy for organising a thoroughly enjoyable day out round a part of our beautiful county that we tend to pass by on the way to somewhere else, taking us down some roads that were new to us. Hope you all enjoyed your day and we see you again soon.

