



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 final newsletter of 2019 and what another fantastic year we have had.

With so many new members joining us during the course of the year it has been difficult to keep track of you all but I hope that you have all enjoyed taking part in the wide variety of runs and social meets during the course of the year. Perhaps you may even be tempted to organise one yourself next year. There's plenty of help and advice available if you fancy having a go.

What a momentous year it has been for the club and the little cars that we all love so much, and what an honour it was for Yorkshire Ridings to be able to host what was probably the last ever Spring Rally in the clubs' 25th year. The sight of such a vast horde of MX5s circulating round the track at Elvington will live long in the memories of all of us who were there. Although GWR seem to be dragging their heels interminably and it is looking increasingly unlikely that they will ratify the world record attempt, we know that we smashed it out of the park.

This year has also marked 30 years since the first MX5 appeared on the road, 30 years that have seen it become the worlds' most popular and numerous small affordable sports car. And we have amongst our ranks two of the special edition anniversary models brought out by Mazda to mark this special occasion.

2019 has also seen a tipping point as the number of mk4 models within Yorkshire Ridings has risen rapidly, many of them in the hands of new members.

I must take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to all those who have contributed to the newsletters during the course of 2019 with reports on runs and socials, your efforts are much appreciated. Also thanks to those photographers whose photos have been used in newsletters and apologies if we have been unable to acknowledge your contribution but if my assistant has taken the photos off our photo website we may not know who took the photo.

And last but not least I owe my lovely husband Dave an absolutely huge thank you for all his hard work during the course of this year acting as my sub editor and helping me to produce this newsletter for you all. I couldn't have done it without him!

It just remains for me to wish a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year to all of you who we won't be seeing at either of our Christmas events.

Take care, stay safe and enjoy all that the festive season has to bring and I look forward to meeting you all in 2020 for more adventures in our little cars.

Rosie xx

Upcoming Events

Wed. 13th November – Social - Mike & Carol Brownlow

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

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

Sat. 18th January – AGM/Social – Burn Hall

Hey Diddle Diddle Run

14th July 2019

Organised by Shirley & Tim Pickett

Report by Sarah & David Bamber



We met at the Oil Can Cafe within The Carding Shed for a pre-run breakfast and a look around the museum and vintage shop/clothes shop (I wasn't allowed to spend any money but he said it was OK to look!) There were 21 cars in total and with new members Dave & Laura Shepherd, Debbie & Malcolm Kyle, Sally & Simon Clarke and try before you buy Tracey and Nick Pile. Shirley introduced the new faces to the group, over breakfast, and paired them up with other couples to follow on the run. Tim gave the briefing indoors due to a sharp shower, and we all set off roof down, from the car park, keeping fingers crossed that the rain (it was just spitting) didn't get heavier!

The first half of the run to Blaze Farm started dry but as we climbed through the peaks, we had to do an 'emergency roof deployment' as the rain became really rather heavy! Several other cars also adopted this procedure as we hit a red traffic light... luckily the rain didn't last too long, we were soon able to reverse the procedure and enjoy the sunshine and glorious views.

We passed the Cat & Fiddle pub (which was closed) on the main road, so now we know where it is when it's mentioned during the radio traffic updates! Blaze Farm was very busy and clearly a working farm but they did manage to accommodate us in a large room at the back. There were homemade cakes and cups of tea to keep us going. The farm had lots of animals to see, a Fairy Walk, and an ice cream and pottery parlour.

Soon after leaving Blaze Farm, we passed through Britain's Highest Village, Flash. Then through lots of twisties with glorious views and very little other traffic we headed towards Bakewell. Unfortunately I wasn't allowed to pop into a bakery while we were there....

We especially enjoyed the road through Strines Moor, with switchbacks, running alongside reservoirs and through woodland. It was glorious and definitely a good choice for an MX5 run! We worked our way back to Woolley Edge Services, where we said our goodbyes. We stayed there for tea and David reminded Rob & Heather that it had started raining and their roof was still down....

Many thanks to Tim and Shirley for arranging a lovely run with fab breakfast, 4 new counties, some great twisties and making new friends. We got caught in traffic on the A1 on the way home - typical - nearly 300 miles with few issues and 20 minutes from home there's a traffic jam!

China Palace Social

28th September 2019

Organised by Shirley & Tim Pickett

Report by Pete West

Twenty members joined Shirley and Tim for their social evening at the China Palace in South Milford. This was a new venue that Shirley and Tim had visited previously and was very pleasant. We filled three tables and the service and food were excellent as far as I can tell, (no complaints that I heard).

Our table had the banquet which included a plethora of starters followed by a course of duck and hoisin sauce pancakes. Rice, chips and noodles followed with our chosen mains. Rowland, who normally only eats chicken, was impressed by the duck!

Entertainment was again provided by Dawn Leggott who was surprised at the venue as she was under the impression that we were having some kind of afternoon tea in a palace served on fine china crockery. Dawn and John had not been to a Chinese restaurant before and were wary but suitably impressed with the food. As usual there was plenty of chatter and laughter as people caught up with events with people they hadn't seen for a while.

Shirley and Norma ran the usual raffle with some lovely prizes as usual so thank you to all contributors.

All in all an excellent venue and I, for one, am looking forward to our next visit. Much better than Maxi's but the less said about that the better.

Breakfast Social

13th October 2019

Organised by Sue & Graham Harker

Report by Mike Brownlow

Photos courtesy Mike Brownlow & Dave Morford



This event has always proved popular and no exception this year. T'was a very early start for most of us Westy's to get across the county to the wonderful Bridlington venue. This was organised by Graham and Sue Harker.

Passport clearance was at Bilbrough Top Services for a normal meet, greet, nod and natter. Did set off just a little later than planned but only by a few minutes. Eleven cars departed for the journey with roofs down although rain looked like it might start any time? Joining us for the first time were new members Lynda & Ralph Shepherd.

Quick progress was made via A64, Stamford Bridge, Fridaythorpe 2 more cars joined our gang, on to Sledmere 2 more cars joined and then a photo point near the old fire station(Thanks Dave and Rosie, excellent job) then on to Bridlington Golf Links for a well earned breakfast. On entering Bridlington however the rain became very heavy. Why does that happen when you slow down, some roofs went up and really can't blame 'em. The breakfast was excellent and included fried bread, very, very naughty but nice eh! As always on social there was a raffle, thanks to all that donated.

Graham and Sue upped this year's meet to include a run to Castle Howard. By departure time the heavens had well and truly opened up and a now group of 21 cars set off looking more like boats running down river. The route was excellent using some roads I remember from my night rallying days and some never been on. Such a shame that the weather was so bad but never the less we all had a great enjoyable day and certainly we were all "having a laugh".

Thanks so much Graham & Sue for an excellent day.

Spooktacular Halloween Run/Social

26th October 2019

Run Organised by Andy & Wendy Henwood and Keith Lea

Social hosted by Shirley & Tim Pickett

Report by Dave Morford

Photos courtesy Dave Morford



19 MX5s gathered in the car park at Bilbrough Top services at 12.30 for some Halloween fun and laughter.

Andy's costume clearly indicated that he had been very busy making a number of bloody sacrifices to the weather gods, unfortunately to no avail as we were treated to non-stop heavy rain from Friday morning. Sadly this meant that many of us were unable to decorate our cars as we usually do, so well done to all those who made the effort.

The weather however didn't prevent us all getting dressed up and there were some fantastic costumes and makeup on show, some so scary that a request was made by the manager of the MacDonal'd's in which we were gathering to a couple of members to remove their masks because it would frighten their younger customers (no doubt the same youngsters who would be donning masks on the 31st to knock on doors demanding sweets and loving it when

the door is opened by someone in scary fancy dress!)

Next request from the manager was to vacate the premises as we needed the tables so we adjourned outside to shelter under umbrellas whilst Andy delivered his briefing including warnings to beware of flooded roads.

Briefing over and it was time to get back into our cars and get those heaters on as the Yorkshire Ridings Yacht Club set sail and formed up in convoy behind Captain Andy, with Keith acting as dutiful convoy escort to bring up the rear shepherding any stragglers.

The first part of our run would take us through the middle of our fair capital on a zig zag route to take in the Skeldergate, Ouse and Lendal bridges. Sadly most of the multitude of pedestrians that we passed were hunched under hoods and umbrellas so did not register our presence.

Leaving York behind we headed north through Sutton-on-the-Forest to Huby and our first comfort stop of the day at the Mended Drum pub, who had put on coffee and some excellent cakes for us.

Suitably refreshed we set forth once more and with the rain starting to peter out a few members were tempted to lower their roofs, this time Keith running ahead of the pack in order to check out the passability of some sections of the planned route where it was anticipated that there may be a need make a detour due to flooded roads.

This part of the route took us to its most northerly part through Easingwold before wending our way via narrow roads with frequent deep puddles down towards Wetherby, bouncing over the speed humps rattling our way over the toll bridge at Aldwark on our way. Fortunately all the flooded sections of road were passable so nobody got wet feet!

Beyond Wetherby we called into Stockeld Park for a second comfort and refreshment stop and with the sun finally putting in appearance it was time for the obligatory group photo. Rosie and I then set off ahead of the pack to find a photo opportunity spot. Sod's law then that traffic and every traffic light turning red as we passed through Knaresborough ensured that when we stopped at Aldwark Bridge, Andy was only seconds behind us so yours truly was to be seen running back towards the bridge. A few more cross country miles brought us to our final destination, The Sidings restaurant at Shipton by Beningbrough just as the sun set for the second part of our days' entertainment, the Halloween social. Whilst we enjoyed a drink and a natter, reliving the days' events, Shirley collected and counted the voting slips, the results to be announced after the meal before the raffle.

And the winners were; best dressed female: Wendy Henwood; best dressed male: Trevor Howell; best dressed couple: Heather and Rob Witty, and best decorated car: Keith Lea.

Thanks to Andy, Wendy and Keith for organising a great run which was greatly enjoyed by all despite the best efforts of the weather, and to Shirley and Tim for organising an excellent social.



Emmerdale Run

3rd November 2019

Organised by Maureen & Peter West

Report by Tim Pickett

The barometer was showing as low as it would go, "Looks like rain again" as George Formby would say. How wrong it was must get a new barometer!

With roofs down throughout the run, and the sun making an occasional appearance to enhance the autumn tints, 14 cars left Bingley including new member Rob Flitcroft and Lincolnshire member Daryl Storey.

With a theme of locations of Yorkshire Television's Emmerdale series, heading over Baildon Moor to Esholt, the former village location, then over Otley Chevin to Bramhope and Arthington where a couple of farms are used. On through "Hotton" or Otley as we know it. Our first stop was at The Farm Shop and Cafe at Fewston.

From there over Blubberhouse Moor to Bolton Abbey passing a couple of locations at Arncliffe through Malham to the finish at Gargrave.

Thanks to Peter and Maureen for arranging an excellent run and wishing them all the best in their imminent retirement.



