

David Pelham reports  
on the Y Register's  
Tour of the Yorkshire Dales

# Life begins at 40 for Y-types

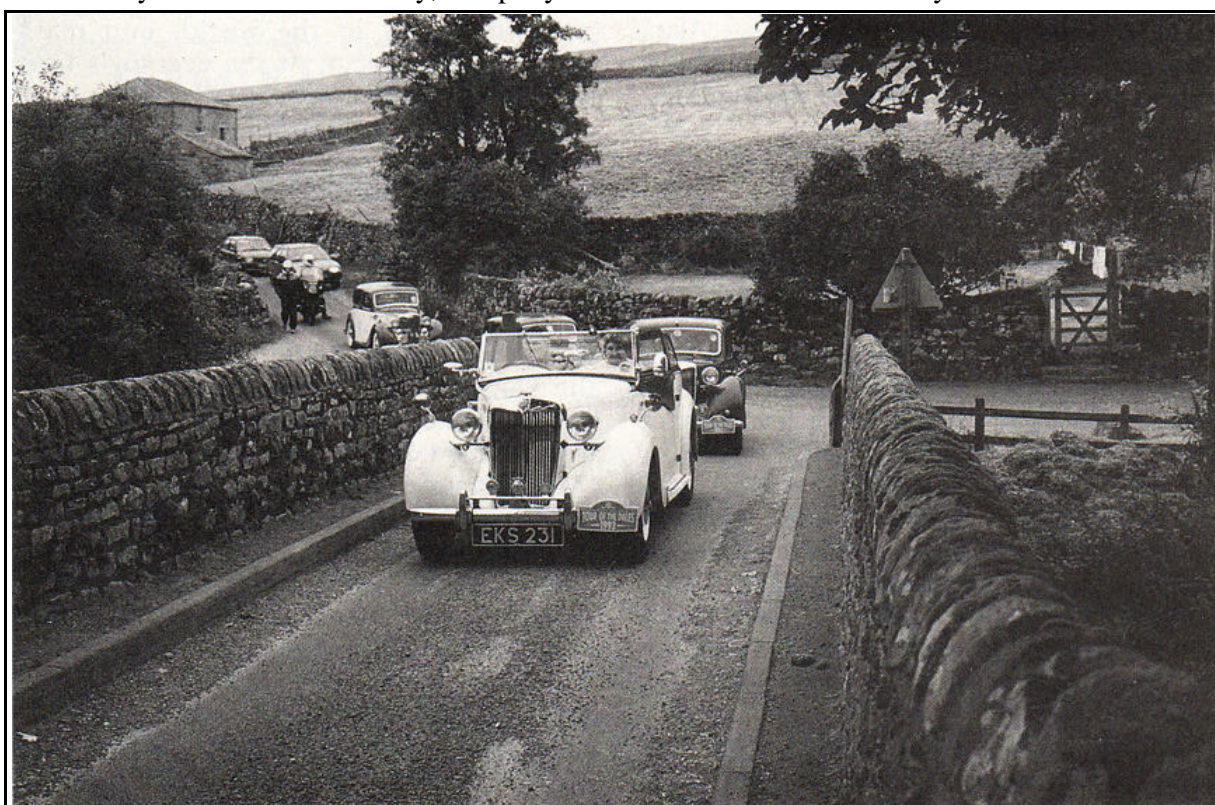
**F**OLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF THE Y-TYPE Tour of Brittany last year, it was decided to make the occasion an annual event, alternating between Europe and the United Kingdom. For 1993, the Tour was meticulously planned by Dennis Doubtfire to visit some of Britain's most beautiful countryside in the Yorkshire Dales.

It's almost exactly 40 years since the last Y-type rolled off the production line. And it was therefore befitting that the 1993 Tour of the Dales' should start at Abingdon, the birthplace of our cars. Four cars gathered at the MG Car Club's Head Office for morning coffee before setting off in convoy, with the added insurance of Cohn Rea's Landrover sporting the bespoke rally plate 'Official Support Vehicle.'

The run to Shrewsbury, the first overnight stop, was relatively uneventful, but the procession of Ys turned many heads. At Shrewsbury, the party of

Mike and Sue Kelloway, Paul and Joy Rundell, Dave and Elaine Willo and Ian Paterson and Dennis Doubtfire, were joined by Mervin and Mary Davies in their immaculate white YT tourer, ready for the next stage to Yorkshire.

The second overnight stop was scheduled at the 'Three Acres Inn,' a splendid hostelry at Shelley, a small village not far from Huddersfield. The tour participants had received, via Mervin, an invitation to join the local MGOC for tea at the Drover's Arms in Glossop where the 'Y' owners were made most welcome. The additional mileage was starting to show on the cars with Mike's overheating, while Dave's headlight switch had burnt out. Neither of the two faults were terminal and the Ys reached Shelley just before dark. Whilst our lead navigator had trouble finding the hotel, it was noted that Emley Moor TV mast, the tallest freestanding concrete structure in Europe, was sited less than 250 yards from the hotel and



Marvin and Mary Davies lead the way in their YT tourer in the Dales around Malham.

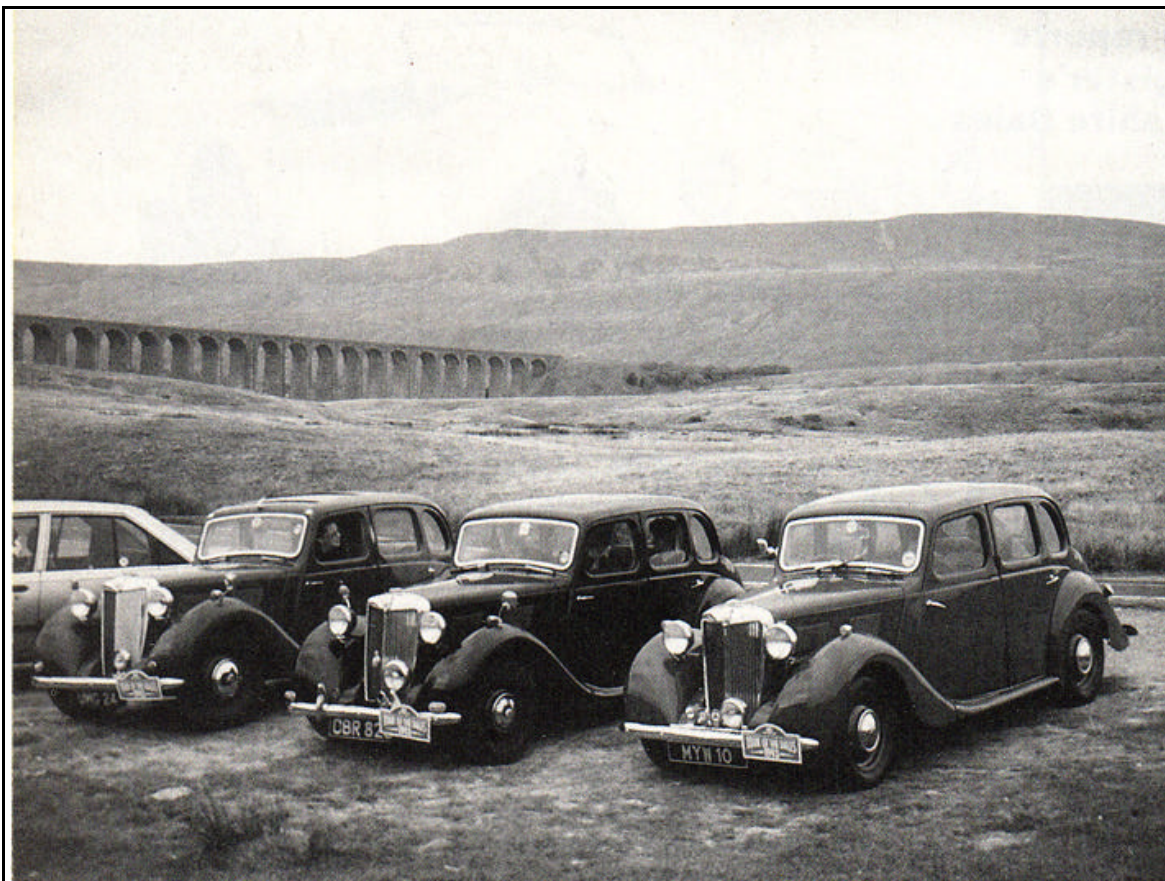
could be viewed for many miles in each direction!

The following day, another Y appeared in the car park. Alan and Barbara McCormick had driven over from Bingley to join the Tour. The overheating problems being experienced by UMG 24, Mike's car, necessitated a revision to the route to Malham avoiding steep hills, somewhat difficult in Yorkshire.

The cars set off on the short trip to Holmfirth, the television location for 'Last of the Summer Wine'. After photo opportunities at Sid's Cafe and

at Pateley Bridge and is an active member of the North East Centre of the MG Car Club. Brian had spent many hours mapping out the tour through the Dales, which we would undertake the following day.

On Sunday morning the instructions for the day's tour were given out, however, there was much confusion with instructions such as 'Please ensure that you close all gates.' Were we going on foot or by car? Just before our planned departure, Steve and Lynn Brompton, together with their



**A trio of Y-types take time out at the famous Ribbleshead viaduct.**

Nora Batty's house, the team collected their cars and headed towards Sowerby Bridge, a picturesque village, for lunch. Parking was difficult, so the Ys were distributed throughout the village. Alan, our local man, suggested a lay-by some few miles from Sowerby Bridge on the Keighley road, as a rendezvous. Miraculously it worked and the Y-types once again set off in convoy for Malham, making a brief afternoon stop in Skipton.

## Classic Convoy

We arrived in the beautiful hamlet of Malham and checked in to Beck Hall, our base camp for the Dales. Brian Moyse, a veteran of Brittany, had driven up in his MGB to join us, for the Dales section of the tour. After a most enjoyable dinner, we were joined by Brian Church, who lives nearby

three children, joined us. Steve runs the YT' register 'Down Under' in New South Wales and is on an exchange visit.

The tour incorporated a mobile treasure hunt with some devious clues. It was difficult negotiating the gradients, avoiding sheep, and trying to find Brian's clues at the same time. At one point, I am sure one of the locals thought that the 'All Creatures Great and Small' team were filming, with post-war cars in abundance. The lunchtime stopover was at Pateley Bridge, Brian's home village. Memories of Brittany here as the Yorkshire Police had provided Brian with some No-Parking cones, and at last we managed to park all the cars together. After lunch we set off for Fountains Abbey, a spectacular 14th Century Monastery that was left to decay after Henry VIII's split with Rome.

## Herriot Country

The following day was free and both Dave Willo and Mike Kelloway took the opportunity to carry out some maintenance to their cars. In the afternoon half the team went to Ribbleshead Viaduct, stopping for afternoon tea at Settle, whilst the remainder left their cars at Beck Hall and went walking in the Dales.

On Tuesday it was time to say farewell to the Dales and start southwards. We could not however, leave without seeing the city of York. The main points of interest here were the Minster and the National Railway Museum. The 'Y's spent almost half a day here before proceeding on to South Cave, our next overnight stop. That evening we were joined by yet another 'Y' owner, Paul Eastburn.

Next morning, it was time to cross the Humber Bridge, the largest single span suspension bridge in the world, and make towards Kings Lynn. At the evening's farewell dinner, it was time to recall

the memories of the tour. It was surprising how quickly one is able to make new friends at MG events. Once again all cars had completed the course without need for professional assistance - a testimony to the standard of maintenance.

During the year, unbeknown to the rest of us, Dennis had the plaque that was donated to him in Guillers (Brittany) mounted. Thus the 'Spirit of Guillers' trophy was born. Mike and Sue Kelloway had a number of problems with UMG 24 on the tour, but never once let them interfere with their own or other people's enjoyment. Consequently there was an obvious winner.

The Y-types had completed their second annual tour. Dennis Doubtfire, together with assistance from Cohn Rea and Brian Church, had organised another memorable event, which all participants thoroughly enjoyed.

For 1994 the seeds have already been sown and the Y-type tourists are thinking about taking their cars to the Netherlands. Anyone interested in the proposed tour should contact David Pelham.

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