

# Cars rev up to celebrate link with town

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**CLASSIC** cars crammed into Abingdon Market Square for the annual Boxing Day tradition saluting the town's MG heritage.

Some 50 finely-tuned vehicles were revving up to take pride of place in the town centre for the MG Car Club event.

The tradition, now in its 23rd year, gets bigger each year with more drivers, spectators and MG models old and new joining in.

Event founder John Harris, who started the event's engine back in 1993, said: "It all came about when somebody said about all the motorcycles that gathered each year in St Giles.

"We went along one year and a mate John Venables suggested to me about doing a road run in the MGs so I organised it.

"At first I would say there were about eight to 10 cars and now the events pulls in



**MOTORHEADS:** Founder John Harris, organiser Richard Martin and MG Car Club chairman Ian Quarrington; and below, Malcolm Bailey, of New Milton, who brought along his 1973 MGB GT V8 police demonstrator

about 50 cars every year, as long as it is nice weather like this year."

The spectacle took place from 10am and noon, marking the town's historical link to MG.

The car manufacturer



had a factory in Abingdon for 50 years until its closure in 1979, employing generations of residents.

MG enthusiast John Venables, from Cumnor, said: "I have been here every year because it is just Boxing Day tradition."

Richard Martin, chairman of the Abingdon Works Centre of the MG Car Club, added: "It is all part of tradition in Abingdon and the town is still a lovely place to walk round on a sunny morning like it was on Boxing Day.

"MG brings people to the town, as I always say, it helps put people in the shops and brings in the crowds. Every year there are more members and also members of the public who come along. Many of their families would have worked in the factory."

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