



# Welcome to the Y Type Newsletter

By the time you receive this all the major events of 2012 will have finished with the Classic Car Show at the NEC again attracting around 50,000 enthusiasts over the weekend of November 16–18. Y Types were present on the MGCC stand, with 'Little Gem' and Peter Veilvoye's lovely YA that has just had a bare metal respray and re-trim and the MG Octagon display with my YT. A brilliant weekend as always.

Looking back over what has been a generally miserable year climatically, many long standing events were cancelled due to flooded grounds or desperate conditions which made the operation and public safety a key issue. For once common sense prevailed though 'elf and safety' was of course uppermost in organisers' minds.

However, for the Y fraternity three of our major events were unaffected by the rain, although Silverstone was caught by awful weather on Saturday night!

## March 2012 – Celebrating 65 Years of the Y

Thanks to Chris Seaward and Chris and Annette Callaghan for arranging our first event of the year in Abingdon's historic market place. This was a wonderful afternoon in late March and the square was lit up by a number of Ys. Thanks to all and great awareness raising for the Y.

## May 2012 – The 15th Spring Run

This year found us in new pastures in the Forest of Dean with a route chosen by our Chairman Peter Veilvoye. It started at Goodrich and ended up at the Forest of Dean Heritage Centre. The weather was

fine and an excellent Dinner was held at *The Hostellerie* in Goodrich in the Forest of Dean, and attended by 46 guests.

It was a fitting occasion for Jo and me to hang up our maps and guides having thoroughly enjoyed organising these since Dennis Doubtfire requested our help in setting up the *Birth of the Y* run in 1997. We have, with help in the early years from Richard Dick, arranged a run every year since, 2000 being the exception due to the 'Foot and Mouth Disease' outbreak. Chris and Annette Callaghan came forward that weekend and have already organised our 2013 event, more details of which are available in this supplement.

## June 2012 – MGLive!

MGCC's flagship event was badly hit by the weather with heavy rain on both Friday and Saturday evenings. It was a case of wellies and anoraks. However, on Saturday the Y's 65th Anniversary was celebrated with a presence in the main ring with a number of Ys. It gave us the chance to present the model to a wider audience and was great fun.

The Register had a presence in the main marquee and thanks to all especially Mike and Sue Silk for their organisational flair – well done. The high point was Rob King's restored Y Type rolling chassis. Rob did a great job and surprised many MGB owners who were unaware that their car's front suspension was the same as and had evolved from the Y. We must thank Rob not only for providing his superb chassis but also responding very helpfully to not only all matters Y but trying to help out with details of other cars on the stand.

## 3rd Y Trip to Brittany - September 2012



Mike and Sue Silk approach for a well deserved lunch break south of Falaise

This superb event which was brilliantly organised by David Pelham (DP) was for those fortunate enough to attend probably the highpoint of their 'Y' year! David set the ball rolling last year and asked for expressions of interest. As a result 12 cars together with 24 drivers and navigators took part, with a late entry from a new YT owner from the Loire who joined us during the trip.

Unless you have organised anything like this before, you may be unaware of the logistical headaches involved. These included ferry arrangements, accommodation for 24 of us, a daily itinerary, lunch stops and so on, as well as sorting out spares that could be shared if needs be. If this was not enough, a week before everything had been resolved Brittany Ferries cancelled the fast crossing on the Sunday morning! We were given three options – a later and slower crossing the following day, an overnight ferry on the Saturday evening or travelling west to Poole!



Getting ready to depart from Domfront on Day Two



Is the wheel still wobbling Peter?

The majority plumped for the Saturday crossing, though two – Brian Moyse and Kaye Mankelow, and Peter and Gillie Sharp – took the Sunday option. Logistics were further compounded with Peter Veilvoye and Derrick Newman taking an overnight ferry on the Sunday evening following their attendance at the Isle of Wight Festival (busy guys these pensioners!). That it all came to be is a testament to David.

Jo and I drove down from the Midlands and arrived on the Portsmouth peripheries just before 6.00pm, and found a delightful pub just off the M27 where we stopped for a meal. We were therefore at the Docks well before David's requested arrival time of 8.30pm – 'before time' unusual for me I know! However, David and his navigator Dave Hardy were waiting, along with Mike and Sue Silk and Brian and Gill Mellem. David and Barbara Hague – a veteran of these tours (he like David P had attended the original trip in 1992 and the 10th anniversary in 2002) – turned up having taken the short hop from Petersfield.

We were awaiting the Sharp's arrival when DP received a call to say that they

had suffered a breakdown on the A3 due to petrol pump failure. It was not as straightforward as one might have thought as Peter had a spare pump. However, the fuel pipe was also leaking and it took the resourcefulness of the RAC to resolve the issue. This meant that they would not be at the docks in time for embarkation. They were fortunate as they had booked for an overnight stay at a Travel Lodge in Portsmouth but when the arrangements were changed they could not cancel their booking – so it was still available for them on their arrival!

The overnight crossing was uneventful and all were well rested as we arrived on French soil at 7.00am. DP had arranged that we met up at Pegasus Bridge which should have been straightforward. He had produced a comprehensive route book with all the route directions based on Michelin maps. Though, as he mentioned during the tour, somehow road signs seem to disappear in French towns! Anyhow despite these alarms we all met up at the Café Gondree at 7.30 on a Sunday morning and the owner Arlette Gondree kindly



Commander Pelham issues the instructions for the day

opened up for us to serve us with much needed sustenance of coffee, croissants and pastries. She was a four year old child living in the very same house when the Allied Troops landed and liberated France on June 5 1944.

DP had arranged lunch south of Falaise, where we met up with Victor and Evelyne Rodrigues who had motored up from Geneva three days earlier. The temperature was rising to around 30C and a relaxing time was spent by all before we travelled to our overnight stop at Domfront. There we were joined by Brian Moyse together with the Sharps who had an interesting time travelling down, with the high temperatures causing some discomfort to their vehicles, as they were forced to stop to cool down.

The following morning we were joined by our 'rock and roll' pensioners Peter and Derrick, fresh (if that's the word) from the Isle of Wight. Our journey took us to Guilliers, with a stop for lunch at Vitre where we met up with Henri and Marlies Hebels and our party was further swelled to 24 with the arrival of Michel and Martine LeGoube. Our hotel had been used on the initial 'Brittany Run' in 1992 and the Courtel family were still running the place.

This was an excellent base for trips on the Tuesday and Wednesday. The car park was a hive of activity as daily maintenance tasks were undertaken, Neil Cairns' advice and guidance often being sought as cars were 'prepped' for the day's events. Indeed had Michel and Martine's Y not suffered from electrical problems prior to the trip, which resulted in them using their modern, we would have had four YTs – more than any other Y Type present – common cars these YTs!

Our Tuesday trip was either to Loheac to visit the *Manoir de L'Automobile*, or Josselin. Although Loheac was only 30 miles from Guilliers – for those of us who chose this option we obviously took a very



David and Victor re-enacting a scene from the 1992 and 2002 Brittany trips in Josselin



Peter Veilvoye (Y Register Chairman) presents David Pelham (Tour Organiser) with very Breton thanks from the tourists



David Pelham gives himself up at Mont St Michel

long route to get there! The museum was huge and included an impressive array of Formula 1 cars though there were very few Brit cars except some Astons, Jags and Triumphs but no MGs. The remainder of the party chose to visit the historic town of Josselin which is well worth a visit.

The following day Michel organised a tour of the Atlantic coast and this was for us probably the highlight of the week. He took us to oyster beds, found an opportunity for a paddle in the sea, selected a splendid lunch at Pont Navalo and then led us for a walk and tea in Rochefort-en-Terre. This beautiful historic town is well worth a visit and we enjoyed an au revoir as our group of Ys drove through the centre of the town – much to the enjoyment of the locals and tourists. In the evening DP provided the answers to a notoriously difficult quiz (which at least was on cars and rather different from those set by Andrew

Coulson on other Y holidays!) Brian and Kaye and Mike and Sue were well out in front with Brian just crossing the line in front of the Silks. Congratulations guys and well done David for compiling a very well thought out and searching competition.

Our penultimate day took us from Guillers to Avranches led by Henri and Marlies. Our hotel was superb and it was only afterwards that David (P) acknowledged that he had been under some stress, as despite confirmation prior to the tour of our accommodation, when he phoned up the day before they had no knowledge of us! It transpired that all was well and they did indeed have all our details – but nonetheless a tad worrying!

Our Dinner that night saw Chairman Peter V presenting David with all things French – a beret, Breton top and other memorabilia as thanks from us all for arranging such a superb event.



Gathering the troops at Avaranche before the Normandy Beaches 2012 Y invasion



A photo opportunity at Guillers



Henri looks a bit unsure about the binbags!

The final day was a trip along the Normandy coast which should have been straightforward. However, road works and diversions meant that we arrived at the port just 45 minutes before departure. From Portsmouth we then went our separate ways. 'Great fun, great company, great food and great weather.' Very well done David. Thank you!

**The tourists:** Jo and Jerry Birkbeck (YT), Neil and Janet Cairns (YB), Henri and Marlies Hebels (YA), David Pelham and David Hardy (YA), David and Barbara Hague (YB), Mike and Sue Silk (YT). Peter and Gillie Sharp (YA), Brian and Gill Mellem (YB), Brian Moyse and Kaye Mankelow (YB). Victor and Evelyne Rodrigues (YA), Peter Veilvoye (YT), Derrick Newman (TD), Michel and Martine LeGoube (YT\*) \* not present on tour **(Brittany photos by Victor and Evelyne Rodrigues)**

# Update on the Sydney Perelman trip

In the September and October *Safety Fast!* Y Jottings I wrote about Sydney Perelman's tour across Europe on his way to Peking – which of course he never reached with his YT. I received a fascinating e-mail from Gerhard Maier who was mentioned in Syd's article in the *Sunday Times* and I thought that folk might be interested!

Hi Jerry,

Nice to read your story in *Safety Fast!* about the MG YT on its way to Peking. I was the 'German friend' who supplied them with the tins of orange juice, which shaved (stayed?) on the floor of the little trailer, until they started leaking after several thousand miles. Syd Beer knew my home at Hausach very well from four 'International Hausach MG Meetings' which he attended. So it was a good idea to stop for another two days here in the Black-Forest, to (do) sort all kind of things, which were neglected at the start in Paris, because there the exposure to the press was the main thing to pay attention to. After assuring that everything was 100% fit, the car technically, and the three pilots bodily, they went on with their adventure, eastwards. From then on I got some postcards, until they were stuck at Hong Kong. Months later, when visiting Syd Beer, I saw the Y-type at Houghton, battered by the journey and an odyssey through the Indian and Atlantic Ocean. Jerry, if you think it would be interesting for your Y-type files, and I get your postal address, I could send you the two original issues of 'THE SUNDAY TIMES', which I saved.

Best regards,

Gerhard



Intrepid trio. The intrepid trio about to leave Hausach in September 1978

I have attached a photo taken by Gerhard of the trio, which was taken in Hausach in September 1978, and a copy of a lovely cartoon by Deek Alder, published in the *Sunday Times*. More photographs can be seen on our website [www.mgccyregister.com](http://www.mgccyregister.com) (**Hausach photos by Gerhard Maier**)



## Spring Weekend May 2013

As mentioned earlier Chris and Annette Callaghan have already organised the 2013 Y Type Register Spring Weekend in 2013. It will be on May 11–12 in the Abingdon area. The Dinner on the Saturday will be at The Dog House Hotel (OX13 6QJ) not far from Abingdon Airfield, and the start is proposed as from Abingdon Market Square. Accommodation has been reserved at the Hotel and we will have a separate room for our meal. Full details will be available on our website and application forms with full details and arrangements can be obtained from Chris direct.

His contact details are: 16 Cherry Tree Close, Southmoor OX13 5BE and his e-mail: [Chrismgabingdon@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Chrismgabingdon@yahoo.co.uk)

