

WELCOME TO THE "

Y TYPE NEWSLETTER

Lots of us Y owners graced shows and tours around the country this last year. As we near the end of the year I thought it would be good to look back at some of the Y Type events we've all attended in the last 12 months. Of course, because of the deadline for this piece, I am writing this on a sunny Mediterranean beach in July. (Oh, how I wish I was; I'm really in rainy English November). We start traditionally at the Spring Run in May.

The year should start at Stony Stratford for their 'Vintage Stony' show on New Year's Day. Every year I intend to go; however, the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. I find that it's flesh especially weak at their start time, 9.30am on January 1. I have been invited to attend in 2025; I will try, honest. In addition to formal runs and tours, we have car shows. These seem to have proliferated in recent years; every signpost and roundabout around me is festooned with posters for shows from June to September. They do vary in quality though. Some are fully booked months in advance, and are full of every type of vehicle, food stall and amusements, including the St John Ambulance. At some, I've found myself alone with two Minis and a Vauxhall Cresta in the middle of a muddy field.



The nearest town to us has held a sizeable car show for a number of years now. This year was the first time I've applied and been given a place. When I arrived, I was waved from one marshal to another until I finally got to my allotted spot. I found myself not in the main arena, not in either of the overflow fields, but in the playground of a school some distance away from the action. "Book early to avoid disappointment," they said; should have

listened. It was a good day all the same. I was enjoying talking to the owner of the MGF parked next to me when he suddenly looked at his watch and said, "Sorry, I've got to dash. I'm due to present the best car awards in five minutes." And that is how I got to cross 'Man taking his Mayoral Chain out of MG car boot' off the list of things I've never seen.

I took my granddaughter Alice to her end of junior school prom in the YB. I know,

MG YB with Talbots and Sunbeams at Shuttleworth Race Day October 2024



Mick Breare and Jo Birkbeck with Mick's YB



dreadful American import blah, blah; but they all had a wonderful time, that's all that counts. She and her friends were very elegant and it was a delight and an honour to take them. The car was upstaged though by a long-base military Landrover, complete with a swivelling anti-aircraft gun on the back and a load of over-excited eleven-year-old boys. I've never heard so much yakka-dakka-dakka in my life.

While the YB was parked outside my son's house, a passer-by introduced himself as the organiser of the village's annual Scarecrow Festival and Car Show and asked me to attend. This time I was parked next to an immaculate Bentley Mk VI. The sports field is next to my son's house back gate, so I could leave my car safely and come back for it later. I like classic cars and I enjoy meeting other people who own them, but I do have a limit to how much I can sit beside one and remain interested. About 45 minutes at a time is my limit, I don't know about you.

Every year the Shuttleworth Collection in Bedfordshire holds a Race Day as its end of season finale. As well as planes which raced in the 1920s and 30s, they invite vintage and veteran racing cars and motorcycles. The vehicles use the length

of the runway to sprint; the noise of huge engines from the turn of the 20th century is incomparable. There is also a paddock for classic cars, and I had been invited to apply for a place. I arrived with my permit, only to discover that I was five minutes late; it was being closed to allow the sprint to start. No amount of pleading or pointing to the fact that nothing was happening yet had any

effect. Just behind me, a line of Sunbeam and Talbot saloons from the 1920s and 30s were also just too late. We all decided to park on a patch of grass facing the entrance road. The photo shows how tiny a Y looks when in such stately company.

Mick Breare and Jo Birkbeck started the year with Mick's YB on January 1, having a pub lunch with the Surrey Vintage Vehicle Society. They came third in the South East MG Treasure Hunt in February and got a first prize in the MG Car Club event at Shere in Surrey.

May this year marked the first time Mick had organised our Spring Run (together with assistance from Jo). Thirty-four people sat down to an enjoyable Saturday evening meal at Pettifer's Hotel, Crudwell. Twenty-two cars took part on the Sunday, following a route through the Wiltshire countryside, looking for White Horses on the hillsides and finishing at the extensive Avebury Neolithic site, which is even older than Stonehenge. As arranged by Mick, the rain held off for most of the day.

Jo took her YT to the 'Cars at the Spa' event at Royal Leamington Spa in June. She also took her saxophone and played in the Warwick Community Band as part of the afternoon's entertainment. (If Mick's lovely hound Lottie had been there it would have been 'Sax and Dogs and Rock and Roll'. Sorry, I'll get my coat.)

Mick and Jo took her YT to represent the Y for us at the Inter-Club International Weekend at the Malvern Showground. Derek Moore was also in attendance in his YB, along with Reg Dixie and Linda Veryard

Mike and Sue Silk's YT at Lymm



(who were in some other sort of MG).

Talking to Mick and Jo about the year in their YB and YT, the common theme running through all events seems to be Sunday lunch and Real Ale, and there's nothing I can say against that.

Mike and Sue Silk were at the Lymm Historic Transport Show in perfect summer weather in June. Their YT has the distinction (unique?) of being raced in Ireland. Just once we believe. It was at the show with another Y of distinction, the very first YB. This is a bit contentious I know. The last YAs got bits of the upcoming YB, and the early YBs contained bits left over from YA production. (A bit like the dinners my mum made on a Monday.) Their Tourer was used as a wedding car in July and proved a great hit with all of the children at the reception. Maybe there is hope for future generations.

Paul and Maggie Grafham, as we've noted before, have decamped with their collection of Ys to France, to the amazement and amusement of the town



YT Kids at Matt and Sarah's wedding

mayor apparently. They have flown the Y flag at events around the region, including the famous 'Circuit des Ramparts' in Angoulême. Among the many Ys they have

restored was a 1948 YA which had 'Earls Court' marked on the seat back. This was the car exhibited at the Car Show of that year.

27TH MG CAR CLUB Y REGISTER SPRING WEEKEND

The 2025 Spring Weekend will be held in Shropshire. We will be holding the Register's AGM on Saturday at 4.30pm, followed by our Register dinner in the evening. The road run will take place the following day, on Sunday, finishing at Stokesay Castle, considered by many to be the finest and best-preserved medieval manor house in England.

Our accommodation is at The Clive Arms, Ludlow, Shropshire. We may well have the whole hotel for the weekend, and they have offered us a choice of

rooms for accommodation on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday (there is no requirement to stay for all three days, one or two nights are acceptable). Prompt booking is advisable as the hotel only has 18 rooms. Our three-course dinner on the Saturday will commence at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, with a choice of three starters, mains and pudding at only £35 per person! We will circulate the menu when it is available next year. Please book the dinner with us via the application form and pay as outlined on that form.

**FRIDAY MAY 9 -
SUNDAY MAY 11 2025**

Please note that this does not include the cost of any drinks that you may order.

Please book accommodation and pay directly with the hotel (01584 856565 and ask for Alison) quoting MG Y Register Spring Weekend.

For an application form, please email Mick Breare, rosnick@oneuk.com or telephone 07956 639924.



Stokesay Castle



The Clive Arms, Ludlow

SEAT RUNNERS

You may recall that earlier in the year I wrote about some owners' vain searches for replacement seat runners (the channel which is fitted to the floor). We have now heard from our friend Paul Barrow of the International Website. He wrote:

'Many people have bemoaned the fact that their floor mounted seat runners (for driver and passenger seats Y and YB and driver seat for YT) have either cracked, split, broken or are simply missing from their cars, and so they

are not able to adjust their seats backwards and forwards and lock them in place or even easily remove them. Quite simply they have not been available from any MG parts supplier and no one has been prepared to make up the tooling to make them before now.

Well... I have decided to change that, and YZ Publications has now had the tooling made and these will soon be available again. At this time, I do not have a final supplied cost price, so what I am looking for, please, is expressions of interest.

These will be available individually. A full Y/

YB set therefore will be a set of four, the YT a set of two.

Please respond on Facebook or on the MG Y Type International Website if you are interested in obtaining any (and indicate how many). I won't hold you to a final request but I am trying to assess how many to make in the first batch. The cost will however I am sure be reasonable. Shipping will always be a variable but then that will only be at market cost.'

Thank you, Paul. We look forward to seeing the first batch. Do get in touch with him as soon as you can if you require a set.

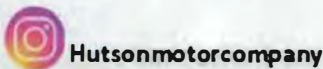
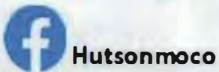
HIDEM TAPE

This tape was used to cover the joins in headlining. We are hoping to manufacture some of the tape for restorations. In the interests of authenticity, we have been looking for a sample of the original lace-finished Hidem tape.

We have found a sample but we are not sure if it is correct and faithful enough to the original. Can you help? A good quality close-up photograph could be sufficient if you can supply one.

**A HAPPY
CHRISTMAS
TO YOU ALL,
AND HERE'S
TO A GOOD
NEW YEAR TOO!**

Happy Christmas and a Good New Year from Emgybear!

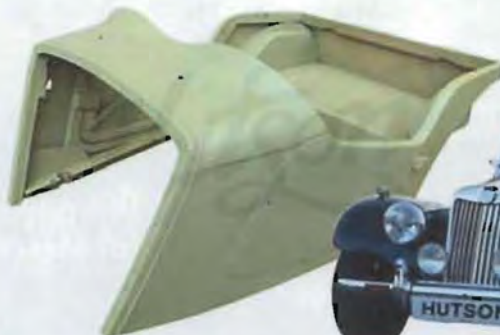


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