

David is flying the flag on his marathon journey



## Midge Owners and Builders Club

### Autumn 2014

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## Dear Members,

I hope that you are all well and have been making the best of the summer weather in your Midges. You may recall that in our Summer Edition of the Newsletter I mentioned that I was moving house, and my new address is given above so please make a note of it if you wish to write to me. Also, I seem unable to send emails from my usual address although I can receive them, so until this little problem is sorted out, please send your stories and pictures as usual, but the response may come from an alternative email address.

One of the more interesting tasks I was faced with was to transport my Midge a distance of over 160 miles to our new abode via some of the busiest motorways in the country. I don't know whether I was brave or foolhardy (perhaps both!) but encouraged by Gareth Bennett who has used his Midge on motorways for many years I decided to 'go for it' and one sunny morning in June I could be seen on the M6 around Birmingham. Fortunately the Midge behaved perfectly and was less stressed than I was when I reached my destination.

My journey was but like a trip to the corner shop compared with David Harvey's journey to Greece (and back) in his Midge which he did as a sponsored run for Help for Heroes. The journey was about 4000 miles in total, so if anyone has undertaken an even longer journey, please let me know.

Another member who has been flying the flag (the Saltire this time) is James Orr who has been involved in the 'Yes' campaign which was something to do with political change in Scotland.



'Yes' to more pictures like this

Although the result of the referendum may have been a disappointment to James and other Scottish members, it may have improved awareness of our cars. Thanks for doing a great job for the Club! Perhaps I should apologise for the brevity of this Newsletter. The house move has occupied most of my time, although there have been a number of other matters as well. I'll do my best to produce a bumper Christmas issue!

My best wishes, **John**



A delightful period picture from Peter Gardner  
**ALTHOUGH THE UK WILL REMAIN THE LOCATION** for the majority of our members, a glance at the Members' List will tell you that we have a number of members in other parts of the world. In this Newsletter I thought it might be interesting to show some pictures of Midges and their owners who live beyond Great Britain.



**Pierre LeCoq lives in Le Landreau in the Loire area in Western France**



**Thierry Gauchet from Paris has two Midges**



**From the other side of the world, Matt Stafford from Australia shows us that his hobbies are not confined to driving his Midge**

And then of course, we have our ex-pat members, and I'm in regular contact with Keith Oldfield who now lives in Le Quesney en Artois in France. Keith

has built several Midges but has recently written as follows

I have given up on Midges, there are not many old ones for parts anymore, and people want a lot of money for 'finished' ones, then when you see them they need lots of work and are not really that good. Ah well, I'm back to the drawing board, I have been playing around with bikes, cycle type, and have made this 3 wheeler, with an engine of course; it pedals OK, then you can switch the engine on and cruise, The barrel is empty, but could hold Brandy, for when you tire and need a pick-me up!

I am also building a copy of a 1901 Oldsmobile car, I will make the chassis, it will have moped wheels and a Honda Kart engine. The body will be varnished wood, it will have tiller steering [that should be fun to drive] and be a 2 seater. The original had four wheels, but I might make mine with three?.

Regards Keith

I believe that Keith is one of our most creative members, and here is a picture of his latest masterpiece!



**This vehicle brings a whole new meaning to the phrase 'Drink Driving' but will it pass the SVA?**

Finally, here's a picture of Graeme Crimp's Midge in New Zealand. It goes to prove that our Club is now a worldwide organisation!





**IF YOU THINK THAT OUR CARS ARE RISING IN VALUE**, they have some way to go before they reach the heights of this Lagonda .....

A famous vintage racing car has set a new world record by selling for £1,569,500 at auction.



The parentage of our cars can be seen in the picture, and it has the same headlights that grace Jim Dolphin's Midge!

The Lagonda LG45R Rapide sports racing two-seater, was sold at the Bonhams Goodwood Revival Sale which raised a total of £15.4 million. A Bonhams spokesman said: "In its racing life, 'EPE 97' was a Fox & Nicholl Team Car and competed at the highest level in prestigious international events such as the Grand Prix de l'ACF at Montlhery; RAC Tourist Trophy race; British Racing Drivers' Club 500-Miles; and the 1937 Le Mans 24-Hours."

James Knight, Bonhams Group motoring director, said: "What a weekend - beautiful weather, fantastic cars and hours of exciting bidding in what has been our biggest Goodwood Revival sale ever. Top lot the Lagonda 'EPE 97' captured everyone's attention with its illustrious racing history."



**Jim Dolphin's Midge with headlights shared with the Lagonda**

**WELCOME.....**

I'm delighted to welcome three members who have joined our club since the last issue of the Newsletter

- **Adrian Lock of Tilehurst, Reading** has a Midge which is based on a Triumph Herald 1200. His car came from the Isle of Wight, has a current MOT and was purchased very cheaply. Bargains are still available if you look for them!



**Adrian's bargain Midge - looking good in BRG**

- **Wayne Nutt of Radstock, Somerset** has a Triumph Herald based Midge, which has just emerged from a period in storage



**Wayne's Midge sees the light of day**

- **Ray Jones from Barrow-in-Furness** describes himself as an inveterate tinkerer who likes nothing better than to fettle, fix and adjust. He continues:

In 1976 I was apprenticed at the town's shipyard and able to buy my first car - I knew nothing about them or how to care for them, but soon became fascinated and read workshop manuals cover to cover as I went through a procession of vehicles - '66 Herald 12/50, '65 Anglia 123E, '70 Spitfire

MkIII, '68 Viva HB, '72 VW Beetle (and a 1600 Fastback of the same year), '77 & '79 Sciroccos, '81 Golf GTI, '81 Opel Manta....pew. I looked after them all and made more adventurous repairs as time went on.

In June I was browsing the ads at work and saw a Midge offered for sale. When I read she was Herald-based I had to enquire. I had fancied building a kit car for years, but space, opportunity and finances never came together at the right time. A chance to own one, out of the blue, was irresistible.



**Ray's superb Midge**

'Ethel' was built to a very high standard in Warrington on a 1970 13/60 Herald by Dave Southern. He had already constructed 2 previous kits and the work was first-class. On pickup day I could see immediately the car was trustworthy - I had no trailer, but knew she was good for the 100-mile journey back to Barrow. She didn't let me down and I had a brilliant day soaking up the '30's open top experience and basking in a barrage of smiles and waves from following & passing drivers. I have been in touch with Dave since taking the car on, and he is happy that ownership passed to a caring successor. 'Ethel' still has some detail to finish, but I intend to take my time, add and improve sympathetically, and keep her smartly turned-out on our local roads as long as I possibly can. To say I am enjoying Midge ownership is something of an understatement! Looking forward to learning more about these brilliant cars with MOBC,



**Another shot of Ray's pride and joy**

#### **AND FAREWELL.....**

- **Kevin Carpenter of Eastleigh, Hampshire** is advertising a very tidy Midge on eBay which is based on a Triumph Herald 13/60. He says that his car has new brakes, callipers, drums etc. with both master cylinders and slave cylinders replaced, Wet weather gear including windscreen is included but not fitted. It's eligible for cheap insurance and is registered correctly as a JC Midge. Areas for improvement are aero screens and tyres as it is currently running on remoulds. The radiator would benefit from a recore. The engine was rebuilt many years ago and has done about 1000 miles. If you're interested then please call Kevin on 07872389278. He is open to sensible cash offers.



**Kevin's Midge - now for sale**

- **Richard Pollard of Lubenham, Leicestershire** is selling his Ford based Midge. It has a 1300cc engine with Webber carburettor, Escort/Cortina suspension and new exhaust with Cherry Bomb silencer. Richard's Midge has RS alloy wheels with tyres which have done 4000 miles. He has the history of his car, and it has current Tax and MOT until May next year. Richard is looking for offers around £3250 so please call him on 01858 464507 if you are interested in becoming the new owner.



