

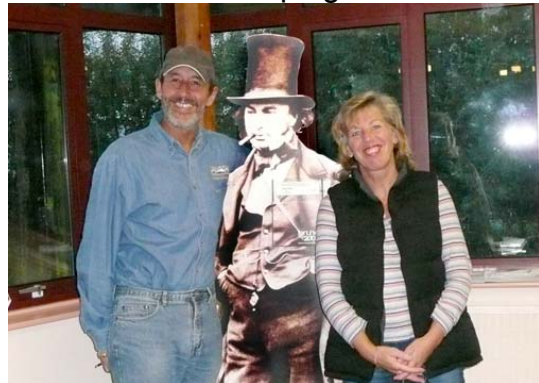
## Brunel Run 2008

2008 celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Brunel Run, organised by Bristol Area, we think that this is the only weekend event now held by a MGOC area club. Like all good ideas it was originally formulated in a pub and, as they say, a good idea can run and run!

With the prospect of dismal weather, the Bristol Area Secretaries spent some time on the day before the run encouraging everyone to attend and, in the spirit that we 'Brits' are known for, assured all attendees that we could accommodate them indoors – somehow.

It looked even less promising as we headed towards Barton Camp through yet another cloudburst. In convoy we were one Bristol Area Chairman in a Transit towing a caravan, followed by two Area Secretaries. After two 'puddles' about a foot deep and stretching from verge to verge, we came to a halt. The flood in front of us stretched around the bend and out of sight and we had no way of knowing how far it went, nor how deep it was. Chris went through with the caravan with Helene and then Pauline following in his wake as the waters parted like the Red Sea. We came safely ashore, ready to set up for our 15<sup>th</sup> Brunel Run.

The field at our venue was sodden so, as our campers started to arrive, their tents were set up inside in the basketball court. Indoor camping!



By around 4pm friends both old and new were gathered in the dining hall, chatting, laughing and drinking tea. Everyone was now accommodated under cover with one family even in the log cabin in the grounds. At dinner time some used the kitchen but many took advantage of the takeaways in the village with Ian organising a "fish and chip run" in his seemingly flood-proof Discovery.

Saturday morning dawned dry but overcast as we breakfasted in style thanks to Theo and Nick. Engines revved and Mark Neale made a splendid job of seeing the cars off on the run dressed in a style that only Mark could pull off.



The run itself covered around 95 miles of countryside from the Mendips to Chew Valley Lake, the hills above Bristol to the network of lanes down to Frome. This included a rather fast running ford which most participants tackled, even though they were given the opportunity to avoid it.

Many had not seen Nunney Castle before and some took the opportunity to visit the East Somerset Railway, a steam railway preservation society at Cranmore. The run then twisted back on itself through Wells and back up onto the Mendips where, unfortunately, the fabulous views were too misty to be seen. Cheddar Gorge however never disappoints and made a fitting finale before the last few miles 'home'.



Returning Brunellers were treated to Helene's home-made cakes with their tea and coffee with many coming back for more.

Then the dining hall was cleared so that it could be 'dressed' for dinner. Finally our guests were allowed in. Ninety people sat down to chicken in a tarragon and cream sauce, peas, carrots, cauliflower and broccoli cheese and roast potatoes followed by a selection of desserts. Everyone agreed that the banquet provided by Lynn Powell and Penny Neale was superb.



Chris Leverett's after dinner speech ended with a plea for men to help with the washing up and volunteers flocked to the kitchen while Mark 'Two Decks' Neale set up as our DJ for the evening. He entertained us royally and the dancing went on until midnight.

Sunday morning found us judging the cars which had taken part in the run. Some of the cars were actually quite visible underneath a rich variety of Somerset mud – we should charge them for taking it home! The results are shown below.

Winners of self judging of cars with run plaque		
MGB Roadster	MTC180K	Jeff & Sandi Cook
MGB GT	TAP 111G	Neil & Trish Doubleday
MGC/ V8 / RV8	FYJ 726F	Brian & Carol Griffiths
MG T Types / Y types	FNM 526	Mike, Sue & Adam Wright
MG Midget / Sprite	HGT 156C	Gerry Narraway
MGA / ZA / ZB	No entrants	
MGF / TF	LD04 3YP	Katherine Guy
Other MG Rover ZR / ZS / ZT / MMM	M60 GJE	Geoff & Vicki Edge
MIKE MEEK AWARD FOR BEST IN SHOW	FNM 526	Mike, Sue & Adam Wright



The extensive raffle was drawn with prizes that had been generously donated by so many.

Our chosen charity is based at our venue, The Bristol Childrens Help Society, which was set up over 100 years ago to give underprivileged children a holiday in the country. The facility is still used year round for this purpose, and they are badly in need of a new roof, hopefully the generosity of the Brunel attendees will go some way to helping fund that project.

So the 15<sup>th</sup> Brunel Run drew to a close with everyone agreeing that it had been the best ever which just goes to prove that it is the company that counts. The only complaint? Apparently indoor basketball courts echo and it's not only snoring that you can hear.....



Pauline Bane and H el ene Vaughan  
Bristol Area MGOC Secretaries