

# WELL, TOGETHER, We did it!

**We successfully joined all parts of the MG Car Club in celebration of 100 years of MG in the manner in which MGs were intended - to be enjoyed on the road! From John O'Groats to Lands End, with a sea trip to Northern Ireland to boot, the whole MG Car Club united in our endeavour to pass a very appropriate MG100 'baton' - 'Cecil' - throughout the United Kingdom.**

This epic adventure achieved the goal of involving everything from Vintage and MMM to the modern era MGs as a Centenary-led expression of the 'Marque of Friendship'.

With many handovers of 'Cecil' taking place at MG Motor UK dealerships up and down the country, the blend of the 'old' and 'new' epitomised the 'living' nature of MG we are so fortunate to enjoy. There seems little doubt that this inclusive approach, combined with 'Cecil', captured the fun factor: something which we should aspire to provide and enjoy in all that we do together as a Club...

This achievement is something which as a whole Club we can feel justifiably proud of in fundraising for two amazing good causes: LUPUS UK and the Alzheimer's Society. LUPUS UK is the only national registered charity supporting people with systemic lupus and discoid lupus and assisting those approaching diagnosis, whilst the Alzheimer's Society vows to end the devastation of dementia, Britain's biggest killer.

Donations are still coming in, so there is still time to support our collective efforts and acknowledge the amazing achievement of all concerned - 12 Centres all dovetailing one to another to provide scenic runs the length of the UK, all timed to coincide with the brilliant MG100 South East event at Brooklands.

Please do visit [www.justgiving.com/team/mgcarclub-cavalcade](http://www.justgiving.com/team/mgcarclub-cavalcade) and your generosity in so doing is

truly appreciated.

A big thank you is due to our sponsors Cherished Insurance and Rimmer Bros.

Also, a big thank you to so very many people it is untrue! Without your involvement it would simply not have been possible to put on this event for members to enjoy. Also, in inviting others who may not yet belong, to share in what at our core we are all about. You know who you are, and a very big thank you for all that you did...

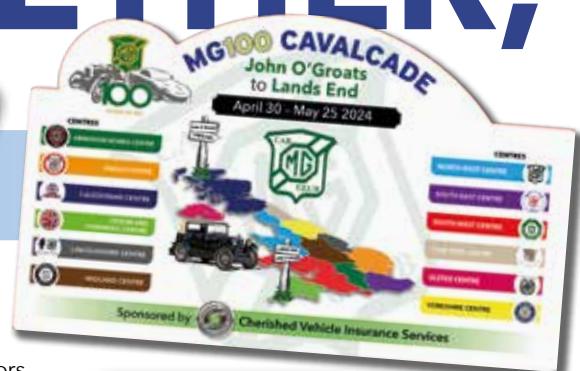
However, there are two people whom it would be simply impossible not to mention, who provided not only the inspiration for the event but also the continuity throughout: Geoff and Linda Mansfield, our intrepid end-to-enders!

Of course, Geoff undertook the Jogle back in 2021, singlehandedly driving his 1931 MG M type Sportsman Coupe all the way from John O'Groats to Lands End in his 80th year aboard his 90-year-old motorcar - a 1,000-mile adventure for both the experience and to fundraise for his chosen charity, LUPUS UK.

This time accompanied by his charming wife, Linda, they travelled in excess of 3,300 miles, zig-zagging the route from one Centre to the next. The little Sportsman Coupe became rather the 'star car' of this achievement as it, together with its owners, brought continuity to the event, completing first and last legs on the road but otherwise trailed to make practical the triple Jogle mileage this huge commitment became.

On a personal note, and without embarrassing our friend too much, Geoff delayed a knee replacement operation to perform this role in the event, and his characteristic good humour and 'can do' mentality rather embedded itself in the MG100 Cavalcade. Mr and Mrs Mansfield - the whole Club warmly applauds you!

Team MG Car Club



## DAY 1: CALEDONIAN CENTRE - JOHN O'GROATS TO INVERNESS...

'Cecil' sets off on his great adventure aboard the Sportsman Coupe from John O'Groats with his 'guardian angels' for the trip, Geoff and Linda Mansfield!

Upon arrival in Inverness, hospitality was provided by Dicksons MG dealership...

*Bonny Scotland stage, underway!*



## DAY 2: CALEDONIAN CENTRE - INVERNESS TO PERTH...

At the re-start from Inverness, drivers imitated a Le Mans-style start (well, sort of!) and headed to Perth via the lunch stop at the House of Bruar for fish and chips!

'Cecil' was placed in the temporary stewardship of Tony Smith, Chairman of the V8 Register, in his lovely Oxford blue RV8 development car. Note seat-belt... (one can't be too careful when you're a 136-year-old cardboard cut-out!)



## DAY 3: CALEDONIAN CENTRE - PERTH TO GLASGOW...

Shows the re-start from Dobbies Garden Centre with the handover of 'Cecil' for his onward trip to sunny Glasgow!



## DAY 4: CALEDONIAN CENTRE - GLASGOW TO CAIRNRYAN...

The Caledonian Centre and the Mansfield 'end-to-enders' travelled from Glasgow to Cairnryan ferry terminal where the Mansfields, Sportsman Coupe and 'Cecil' boarded the ferry to Northern Ireland.

Geoff Mansfield comments: "'Cecil' had a comfortable ride from the MG dealership near Irvine. We were given the right royal treatment and given MG caps, drinking cups and a superb charging plug for our devices. Unfortunately not able to stop at Culzean Castle as we didn't want to miss the ferry, so we didn't get the chance to say goodbye to the

wonderful members of the Caledonian Centre. Putting farewells on Facebook is

not the same, but we really enjoyed their company."



## DAY 5: DISPLAY AT MERVYN STEWART MG, BANGOR AND AT THE CRAIGANTLET HILL CLIMB

Despite initial heavy rain, the Cars and Coffee meeting at Mervyn Stewart MG welcomed 'Cecil' to the Ulster Centre with the formal handover to Mike Armstrong, Centre President. In spite of the weather it was declared a great social occasion by the visiting Mansfields, and many old Ulster Centre acquaintances were revived!

At lunchtime 'Cecil' was taken to the Craigantlet Hill Climb where the Ulster Automobile Club was holding its annual British National Championship event, where 'Cecil' was paraded up the hill in Simon Brien's 1934 K3 replica, built to resemble Nuvolari's 1933 Ards TT winning car.

The parade celebrated not only the MG100 Cavalcade, but Cecil's class win at this venue in 1932. His C type went on to be rebuilt with the racing engine and parts



from Hammy Hamilton's C type that he had crashed in practice for the event for Stanley Barnes to race, only to retire after being hit by another car.



## DAY 6: ULSTER CENTRE SCENIC RUN

A group of Ulster members gathered at Carrickfergus Harbour car park under the MG100 feather flag for signing on and a friendly chat with each other and the many members of the public who took an interest in the cars.

The cars left the coast and started climbing to Cairncastle via the village

of Gleno. The splendid viewpoint at the top of the Cairncastle Hill Climb, in the shadow of Sallagh Braes and looking down the valley to the sea, gave an atmospheric backdrop for a picture of 'Cecil', before travelling on to Glenarm. Having stopped at the Tulip (flowers, not navigation!) Festival at the Castle,

the group continued along the much-acclaimed scenic Antrim Coast Road.

On reaching the finish at Glenariff Forest Park, pictures of 'Cecil' were undertaken and there was some partaking of tea and scones before farewells to Geoff and Linda and 'Cecil', before their seaward return to Cairnryan...



## DAY 7: STRANRAER TO CARLISLE...

Having travelled back from Northern Ireland the evening before, 'Cecil' was put in the charge of Willie Struthers for his trip from Stranraer via Kirkcudbright to Carlisle aboard Willie's RV8 (it

seems 'Cecil' rather approves of V8s!) where he met up with the Tyne Tees Centre...



## DAY 8: TYNE TEES CENTRE LEGS FROM CARLISLE TO CROXDALE NEAR DURHAM AND ON TO RICHMOND...

Geoff and Linda Mansfield and 'Cecil' arrived safely at Carlisle MG on the Tuesday, to be a part of a showroom display in marking 100 years of MG. On the Wednesday, Geoff formally handed over 'Cecil' to Martin Robinson and his MGB GT V8 to transport him to Croxdale MG, on an 86-mile road run with 20 cars signed on for a route that crossed three counties!

Tyne Tees put on a showroom display with some of the MGs entered on the afternoon run and were very surprised to see an



Inca yellow MG Cyberster in the showroom! An LHD dual motor model, which wowed everyone!

The second section of the Tyne Tees leg of the Cavalcade was a 43-mile scenic run to Richmond in North Yorkshire, with 26 cars entered. Dealer-driven MG3 Hybrids took part in both road runs. For this section, 'Cecil' was handed over to Andrew Kelly and his red MG TF 1500. The management and staff at both MG dealerships really went all out to support this event...



## DAY 9 & 10: YORKSHIRE CENTRE LEGS FROM RICHMOND TO HARROGATE, AND TO HULL

Several Yorkshire Centre entrants arrived in Richmond, North Yorkshire, the day before the Yorkshire Leg event started, to meet up with the Tyne Tees Centre after they finished their leg. An informal joint Natter/supper had been organised between the two Centres and a great time was had by all. No sign of 'Cecil' though... obviously he was in need of an early night!

Our first day saw 34 MGs ranging from 1931 to 2015 assemble in Richmond's historic marketplace in brilliant sunshine. The official handover of 'Cecil' completed, cars were flagged away by Chairman David Copeman to enjoy the splendours of

motoring through Yorkshire Dales scenery at its best. Some drivers experienced the challenges of Buttertubs Pass and Fleet Moss for the first time, and all with a big smile at the end!

The first day's drive finished just south of Harrogate, the same spot where our Day 2 drive would re-start. Twenty-four MGs set off again in lovely bright sunshine to drive east and around the northern outskirts of York, before enjoying the scenic Yorkshire Wolds. We visited the Robert Fuller Gallery in Thixendale to be impressed with his wildlife artworks and view his live camera feeds from secret nesting locations. Back out on

the road, we continued our drive through gentle Wolds backwaters before finishing at Maple Garage, just east of Hull. Maple very kindly arranged a welcome reception for us before 'Cecil' and a few continuants made their way south over the Humber Bridge, to meet up with the Lincolnshire Centre...



## DAY 11 & 12: LINCOLNSHIRE CENTRE LEGS FROM RICHMOND TO HARROGATE, AND TO HULL

On Friday May 10, the Yorkshire Centre handed over 'Cecil' to the Lincolnshire Centre at the Old Tile Works, Barton Upon Humber. With views of the iconic Humber Bridge in the background, the Cavalcade of 19 assorted MGs, including the 18/80 Mk I Speedmodel of Richard Martin, set off for a scenic drive to NT Shaw, MG dealers in Louth. Once there, we were greeted by another 19 MGs. A Cavalcade rally plaque was presented to the staff, and in return they presented David Stonehouse with a number plate: 'MG 100'.

Saturday dawned with a photoshoot at the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre, East Kirkby with their Lancaster Bomber 'Just Jane', and yet another 18/80, this time a Fabric Saloon, belonging to John

Rogers. The Cavalcade then set off for Hall's Garage, Morton, where Steve Hall and the staff put on a display of MGs and had a golden balloon made with the MG100 logo. The Cavalcade then departed for WH Brand at Whaplode Drove, near Spalding, where other MGs had gathered including Dave Kempton's J3 Midget and Rob Taylor's WA.

Geoff and Linda Mansfield and a few others then retired for dinner at the Paper Mills pub, Wansford, where 'Cecil' was returned to Geoff's care to continue his journey to the North West Centre. The two days of Lincolnshire legs were blessed with wall-to-wall sunshine, good spirits and lots of laughter! The 'marque of friendship' was evident in abundance!



## DAY 13: NORTH WEST CENTRE LEG FROM STOCKPORT TO WARRINGTON

On the Sunday, 'Cecil' travelled from Wansford, near Peterborough, to Stockport in Cheshire, where of course 'Cecil' was born and grew up. So on Monday, time was spent visiting his old haunts.

First call was to the house that he lived in with his family as a teenager attending Stockport Grammar School. He is pictured with the Blue Plaque, which involved a quick trip into the front garden! He then went on to the Avro Heritage Museum in Woodford, which is on the site of the airfield where Lancasters, Vulcans and Nimrods were made. Around 20 North West Centre members turned up for a photo shoot under the only white-painted Vulcan left in the world.

Onwards from here, 'Cecil' travelled through the Cheshire countryside via Wilmslow, Alderley Edge and Knutsford to the village of Grappenhall, near Warrington, where his family lived from 1909 to 1911. It was here that he was involved in a serious motorcycle accident which changed the course of his life. Grappenhall today looks very much as 'Cecil' would have known it, with red sandstone cottages on the cobbled main street. Time for lunch in the Parr Arms, lay flowers at his mother's grave in St Wilfrid's churchyard, then a short walk to the family home, Greenbank House. After goodbyes to Geoff and Linda, they set off again with 'Cecil' for Longbridge for the next leg.



## DAY 14: MIDLAND CENTRE LEG FROM LONGBRIDGE TO THE BRITISH MOTOR MUSEUM, GAYDON

After the North West Centre leg revisiting Cecil's youthful haunts, he was transported down to Birmingham for the next day's leg from Longbridge to the British Motor Museum.

He was handed over to the Midland Centre, and the picture shows Geoff Mansfield and the Midland Centre

ensemble after the long drive from Warrington, at Q Gate of the Longbridge works.

The other picture shows 'Cecil' reunited with Old Number One. Apparently, he couldn't be persuaded to leave the old girl so spent the night with her at the British Motor Museum!



## DAY 15: ABINGDON WORKS CENTRE LEG FROM THE BRITISH MOTOR MUSEUM, GAYDON TO MG CAR CLUB KIMBER HOUSE, ABINGDON...

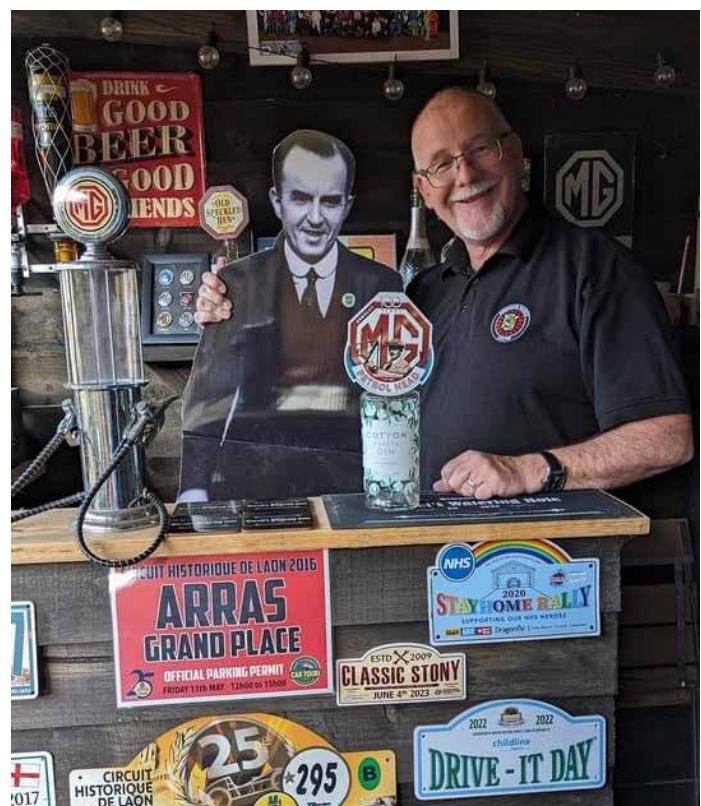
A fantastic array of 27 various MGs, plus a certain gold Rover 25, were gathered at the British Motor Museum at Gaydon for the start, in a pool of sunshine, for the Abingdon Works Centre run to Kimber House.

The Midlands Centre handed over 'Cecil', after his night with Old Number One, to Angie Wright, Chair of the Abingdon Works Centre, who in turn passed 'Cecil' to Brian Fisk as his passenger for the day. The run took in parts of the old test routes used by the MG factory.

The cavalcade travelled from Gaydon through parts of the Cotswolds, and on to the British Motor Heritage at Witney, where they were invited to take part in a tour to see how parts are produced to ensure British classic cars can remain a part of our lives.

Next, on to Abingdon and a visit to the home of MGs at Kimber House, just alongside the old MG works. We had a special visitor,

Georgia Thornton, who is a regional fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Society, which is one of the charities the Cavalcade is supporting. All were well received with copious tea, coffee and biscuits, and 'Cecil' was handed back to Angie and then had a ride in the Rover 25 to his overnight stay in West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, where he was persuaded to have a pint or two at the garden bar!!



## DAY 16: ABINGDON WORKS CENTRE LEG FROM MG CAR CLUB - KIMBER HOUSE TO BROWN & GAMMONS, BALDOCK

Angie Wright, Abingdon Works Centre Chair, presented 'Cecil' to his driver for the day, Fred Jenns, for his trip of circa 70 miles, once again taking in MG factory test routes on the way to Baldock.

Driving through the countryside of Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire, the weather decided to take a turn for the worse, so a stop was made for hoods to be put up and the rest of the drive to Baldock was wet and soggy!

There was quite a display of MGs outside Brown & Gammons, including two MG 18/80 Mk IIs (!), and they put on great

hospitality for the participants! 'Cecil' was then handed over to Anglia Centre



Chair, Tony Batson, for the next stage of his journey...



## DAY 17: ANGLIA CENTRE - BALDOCK TO ANCASTER MG, DARTFORD

After a lovely breakfast, 'Cecil' and Co made their way once again to Brown & Gammons, who again provided us with a lovely selection of Danish pastries and tea and coffee. We really can't thank them enough for the hospitality they showed us.

After signing on, donations and pastries it was time to leave. Vicky and Nick DeVries were Cecil's designated drivers for the day. After promising not to smoke too much or be a back seat driver, 'Cecil' and the rest of the Cavalcade set off.

Fortunately, despite a surprise road

closure, the cars still managed to take in some lovely scenery on the evolving route to the planned stop at Saffron Walden. Thank goodness for sat nav! Fortunately, the rest of the route went as planned - it was a lovely ride through the countryside, with roof-down motoring (for those that could).

Some participants had decided that they did not want to make the journey across the bridge to Ancaster MG, but we had a few that did and we were greeted by Ian Russell, Trevor Osborne, and some of

the South East members and their cars. We were again made very welcome by the team at Ancaster in their very busy showroom. 'Cecil' enjoyed looking at all the new cars and had his photo taken in front of the brand new MG3...



## DAY 18: SOUTH EAST CENTRE - ANCASTER MG, DARTFORD VIA SPADEWORKS, OFFHAM TO THE MG100 SOUTH EAST EVENT AT THE FAIRMILE PUB, COBHAM

The South East Centre took on 'Cecil' at Ancaster MG in Dartford from the Anglia Centre, and proceeded via the pre-organised run from Spadeworks at Offham in Kent to the MG100 South East event at the Fairmile Pub, for a summer party on the Fairmile Lawns. His chauffeurs were Susan and Trevor Osborne and their lovely MG Magnette, riding in style, and taking good care of him throughout the weekend.



## DAY 19: THE MG100 CAVALCADE VISITS THE MG100 SOUTH EAST BROOKLANDS EVENT

The superb MG100 South East event at Brooklands was blessed with brilliant sunshine, a great crowd and great cars! And 'Cecil', who seemed to pop up all over the event! The dovetailing of the two events worked perfectly.

At the end of the event, 'Cecil' was returned to the Abingdon Works Centre, handing over with the help of Joe McGavin, Cecil Kimber's great-grandson, to Ian Wright, for the following day's leg to the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu.



## DAY 20: ABINGDON WORKS CENTRE - BROOKLANDS MUSEUM TO THE NATIONAL MOTOR MUSEUM, BEAULIEU

The Abingdon Works Centre held their third and final leg of the spectacular MG100 Cavalcade, with members in six cars meeting outside Brooklands before setting off to the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, via the very scenic and 'long way' route to enjoy the A24 and then the A272 westwards.

A lunch and refreshment stop was had at the Hinton Arms, hosted by the Winchester MG Owners Club, and after an hour of rest and chatter, the six intrepid cars set off on the second half of the run down to Beaulieu via more scenic roads.

'Cecil' certainly had a great time, being in Ian Wright's MGF for the first half,

and then Steve the WMGOC Secretary's BGT for the second. Everyone arrived at Beaulieu, and amazingly had managed to keep together the entire route, where Geoff Mansfield and Linda were awaiting us, to once again receive 'Cecil' back into their care.



## DAY 23: SOUTH WEST CENTRE - COMPTON MARTIN TO WESTON-SUPER-MARE

With Days 21 and 22 being 'rest' and 'linking' sections involving some R&R for the Mansfields and 'Cecil' - whilst dovetailing with a visit to The Haynes Motor Museum at Sparkford with the MGB Register - we move to Day 23's report..

'Cecil' reached the West Country in style on May 23, with an early morning rendezvous at the Ring O'Bells in the Chew Valley. An assortment of MGs were there to meet him, with a total of 35 MGs joining in the celebrations. A smattering of T types, As, Bs, Midgets and Fs, the early era of MG production being represented by an 18/80 and an F type Magna, the latter more often seen on the racetrack than the road.

Under instruction of route co-ordinators Andrew and Sue Owst, entrants set off to cover a 40-mile scenic drive incorporating some of the most scenic roads of Somerset, starting off with a climb through Burrington Combe to reach the 'Mendip Motorway' - an old Roman road allowing several miles of straight travel where the cars could show their sporting pedigree - before heading

downhill with views of Glastonbury Tor.

The route took the MGs into the quaint village of Wookey Hole, famous for its caves, an extensive network which runs beneath the Mendip Hills. Next, the steep incline through the Ebor Valley with fantastic far-reaching views over the Somerset Levels, before descending into Priddy and onwards to a finish on the sea



front of Weston-Super-Mare. The local Council kindly provided us with a car park opposite the Tropicana, within easy reach of local amenities to enable 'Cecil' to replenish his reserves with seaside fish and chips prior to his onward journey to Exeter for the evening...



## DAY 24: DEVON & CORNWALL CENTRE - EXETER TO LAUNCESTON

Twenty-five MGs assembled at Hendys MG Exeter, where members were treated to bacon and sausage baps by our affable Devonshire hosts, before presenting ourselves at the MG dealership for signing on and to await the arrival of Geoff and Linda Mansfield, the M type Sportsman Coupe... and, not to mention, star man 'Cecil'.

Having welcomed Geoff and Linda to the region and enjoyed chatting around the cars and the dealership, not to mention formally receiving 'Cecil' for the last leg of this epic adventure, the cavalcade set off

on a scenic tour carefully devised by Barry Smith to mark the occasion.

'Cecil' travelled aboard Andy Slapp's lovely RV8 (there we go with 'Cecil' fancying a ride in a throaty V8 again!) across Dartmoor, before arriving for a great lunch at The Rugglestone Inn at Widecombe-in-the-Moor, where the lovely Ness and her team looked after us exceptionally well as everyone descended en masse upon their pub!

With the weather kind to us, we dined outside, and by the time we were all replete from a great al fresco lunch, our

numbers had swelled to 28 cars as the MGs headed further across Dartmoor to traverse the moor, heading north-west to arrive at Strawberry Fields Farm Shop, for a cream tea completion at Lifton, near Launceston.

Once inside, 'Cecil' rather came alive and was moving between the tables entertaining one and all regaling anecdotes of his time at MG! He even made friends with the staff and 'held court', stood aloft on the coffee bar (rumour has it, as he left, he wrote nice things in the visitor's book in his trademark green ink!).



## DAY 25: SOUTH WEST CENTRE - DEVON & CORNWALL CENTRE - LAUNCESTON TO LANDS END - MG100 CAVALCADE COMPLETION...

**On Day 2 of the Devon & Cornwall Centre-organised legs, the start was back at Strawberry Fields, Lifton, and with a few changes of personnel and cars, after tea, coffee and signing on, 28 cars (again) set off for the MG100 Cavalcade completion at Lands End!**

'Cecil' thoroughly enjoyed travelling aboard the much-campaigned MG J2 of Colin Bird, although the owner did say he couldn't quite hear what 'Cecil' was saying over the exhaust note!

By late morning the cavalcade had arrived at the mid-route lunch stop at Hawkins MG at Blackwater, where Hawkins made us extremely welcome, putting on Cornish pasties and all manner of local treats, including jam and cream scones and saffron cake.

'Cecil' was delighted to stretch his legs, having felt a little folded up double, and was seen inspecting the new MGs around the dealership, chatting with staff and entrants. At Hawkins the cavalcade was joined by a further ten cars, to make a travelling cohort to Lands End of 38 cars.

With these final cars on board, overall, across the two days, 54 MGs participated in the Devon & Cornwall leg. Amongst our 'joiners' were John and Janet Day, our Club President who had travelled down to Cornwall especially to be with us at the completion of this epic national adventure!

The very last leg of our UK-wide tour of MG Car Club Centres was completed by way of the coastal road from St Ives to Lands End, enjoying the dramatic

scenery of West Penwith, where everyone was greeted and marshalled in by Colin Murrell and Steffi Broch, who, by happy coincidence, found themselves camping in Cornwall at the time of the event.

Cars were assembled outside the Land's End Hotel, overlooking the ocean and, although the weather was somewhat windy and drizzly, nothing dampened the spirits as entrants tucked into more Cornish cream teas before braving the elements to support the event completion photo at the iconic Lands End sign-post!

With cameras snapping aplenty, three cars symbolically 'completed' the MG100 Cavalcade as Geoff and Linda Mansfield's 'square-rigger' M type was flanked by Devon & Cornwall Centre stalwarts Bob Slatter's modern MG TF and Alan Davis' MGB Roadster in representing 100 years of MG.

Once again 'Cecil' was photographed at an iconic signpost, just as he had been at John O'Groats all those miles ago on April 30... Much merriment ensued as the careful 'positioning and repositioning' of motorcars and banners was orchestrated in the somewhat damp and blowy conditions!

It mattered not a jot, as this enjoyable spectacle represented the achievement of the event goal to join all regions of the country and all parts of the MG Car Club in celebration of 100 years of MG, whilst fundraising for charity... MGs on the road: the 'Marque of Friendship' in action.

'Cecil' will now make his way to Kimber House to live comfortably amongst his

friends in Abingdon – the spiritual home of MG. To support our efforts and to donate to either Lupus UK or the Alzheimer's Society, please do visit [www.justgiving.com/team/mgcarclub-cavalcade](http://www.justgiving.com/team/mgcarclub-cavalcade)

