



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MGs of BALTIMORE MD

February 2023

www.mgsofbaltimore.org

From El Presidente

First off, I want to thank Mike & Mary Lutz for hosting what was one of our best MGOB "After the Holidays" Parties ever. How about that location? Wasn't fantastic? How about that Banana Rum and all of that delicious food and desserts?

MGOB will, as a group, have a road trip on **February 11th** with a snow date of Saturday, February 18th. To the **Simeone Museum for their "100 Years of MG" Celebration**. We will meet at **9:30 a.m**. at the Ballpark Restaurant located on US 1 (3418 Conowingo Road) Street, MD 21154. **We will leave there at 9:45 sharp** and proceed to the Simeone Museum (6825-31 Norwitch Dr, Philadelphia, PA 19153) via US 1, MD 273, MD 213 & I-95. We should arrive at Simeone at 11:00 a.m.

Tickets are required and may be purchased by going to: <u>www.simeonemuseum.org</u> and cost \$15.00 plus \$2.35 service fee or \$17.35 per person. The tickets do not expire.

We have a location on the way back in SW Philly called John Morton's Tavern <u>https://www.john-mortons-tavern.business.site/</u> that looks interesting for lunch. At this point we have 17 members that say they will be joining us. Want to talk about it? Call me at 410-817-6862 or be at the February 7, 2023, MGOB Meeting.

MGOB's 26th Annual "Chilly Run" will be hosted by Richard & Carole Jefferson on **Sunday, February 19th, 2023**, starting at 2:00 p.m. with a **snow date of February 26th**. Bring a dish. The Club will provide drinks and assorted munchies. Where:

2520 Overlook Ct. New Freedom, PA 17349 443-605-8197 mgobjefferson@yahoo.com

Eric Salminen and his crew have started planning the **34th Annual "Get the Dust-Off Rallye** set for **Sunday, May 7, 2023**. It will start and end at Dejon Vineyards, 5300 Hydes Rd., Hydes, MD. <u>www.dejonvineyard.com</u> Look for an information & registration flier in the next issue of the Octagram.

2023 MGOB Dues are now due. Our annual dues are \$20.00 and covers both the member, spouse, and children under 18. Look for a list of those still owe club dues for 2023 in this issue of the Octagram. You can pay at the monthly MGOB meeting of by mailing your \$20.00 cheque payable to:

MGs of Baltimore, Ltd. Car Club 5237 Glen Arm Road East Glen Arm, MD 21057-9456

Safety Fast! Richard

Membership News

Below is the list of members who currently OWE DUES. Dues are \$20 per year.

Ahmet & Miriam Baschat	E
Daniel & Marilyn Bederka	J
Bill Berg	J
Bill Berg III	F
David K Bickel Jr	Ľ
David Botzler	J
Jerry & Sharon Browning	T
Peter & Ann Charles	S
Jack & Joanna Dagilas	Ν
Bruce & Barbara Darsch	0
Clint & Beth Davis	J
Philip De-Bodene	k
Samuel Demisse	F
Johan & Britney DeVicq	J
Doug Diem	۷
Michael & Vicki Egliskis	E
Paul & Alicia Farley	Ν
Christopher Fritz	C
Rick & Cynthia George	Т
Robert Guienot	ŀ
Don & Kim Hogge	A
Jolanta & Francis Honeywell	C
Bob Keefer	J
John & Marylyn King	A
Victor & Jackie Knox	

Brian & Denise Kraus Justin Lovette Jim & Donna Lucas Roger Marshall Doug McCoach Jim & Mary Miller Tom & Maria Miner Stuart Mitchell Mark Moffett George Moore Jim & Denise Mosher Kurt & Susan Nagl Roger & Lara Nicolson John & Diane Petersen Wayne & Sandra Pfau Brent & Nicka Pohl Martin & Michele Reid David Sewak Tim & Randi Shamer Harry & Mariann Snow Alice Whitehair Dan Wolf John Yee Al & Val Zoellner

Exhausted Enthusiasm

<u>Thrill is Gone</u> rj

Back not so long ago, every Fall the sky was filled with search lights and there was an air of anticipation. With great secrecy all the car dealers in my small southern town would slide their brandnew models onto the showroom floor, then as the searchlight swept the skies the doors would be open to the public. The oohs and ahhs were plentiful as we all examined wings, new do-dads, upgraded horsepower, interior embellishments, and other new technologic upgrades (*like auto dimming headlights*). Sure, I was there to score free barbeque, Dr Pepper and maybe a Moon Pie----but I did look at the cars and the difference in them was that they were *so different*!

Now days, not so much... Which perhaps is one reason my enthusiasm is so exhausted. What other factors have contributed to this malaise? Indeed, given the global decline of car sales in recent years, perhaps the public is exhausted too. These low sales numbers perhaps are not just a supply problem, but maybe desire. Note that I was remembering the days of the big three auto companies, how many are there now. **Toyota didn't exist.**

Does my lack of enthusiasm have to do with the age? Sure, I've torn off the pages of a few more calendars. Along the way, I have seen a few trends come and go, but for the last 20 plus years the trend toward the SUVs that all look the same tends to dull my already tired enthusiasm. Sure, you can pay more to look a little different, but the extra multiple thousands you paid for this perceived difference will still only get you a transportation appliance designed to get you from point A to point B.

Perhaps we also need to look at the low number of new drivers and the lack of enthusiasm for Gen XYZ to even get a license. Perhaps they've figured out that a car as a **status symbol** is not such a measure of accomplishment *(Give them a break they must have figured out something by now)* For them, need to go somewhere, call Uber- don't want the expense—call Mom. Nothing is absolute, but perhaps something else has changed with these generations. ("Oh, driving is sooo complicated and can't I just sit and work at home, watch Netflix and have my food delivered?")

Lowered enthusiasm could be the cost of a new car? The average new car is about \$45,000 and of course the sky is the limit here. I do believe that's more than I paid for my first 4 houses. You choose, you can have a place to live or own a *Transportation Appliance*. For the XYZers that **already paid** *multiples of this price for that all important 4-year Art History degree that is in such demand. (Hey, wait a minute*: *fool me once*) Of course, owning a car is just the first step and while paying for gas, insurance and maintenance are second nature to you and me, for some of the newer generations this comes as a surprise!

Perhaps it's the perception of status. Perhaps the country has changed from having your status defined by what you drive to how many views you've got.

Again, way back in the age of big iron when it was really just the big three, each manufacture had a line of cars that followed you up the American status ladder. If you moved up the success ladder you started with a Chevy, ramped up to a Pontiac, cruised into a Buick, and road into the sunset in your Cadillac. Even when America was invaded by foreign cars you migrated from VW to Audi, to Porsche or perhaps Toyota to Lexus. But what if now no one *(especially XYZ)* perceives the car as a symbol of making it in America. What's next - home ownership? *(A 30-year mortgage requires a lot more commitment than a 60-month car loan)*

For me personally, I'm just <u>bored</u> with the offerings. Face it, they all look the same and of course all perform the same function. The marketing departments all still sell the desire of performance (**0-60 at the speed of stink**). Or they may convince us that we can drive to save the planet because your car can run of *Fantasy Fairy Farts* with no nasty carbon. (*By the way 30% of FFF's are still generated in this country by burning coal*) Yes, today's cars are safer and more comfortable. (*Wow my steering wheel is heated...nice!*) The Status thing doesn't row my boat, so am I really waiting for a design that impresses me? Yes! Someday In the future you'll probably see me in something that uses electrons versus octane. You can probably be assured that one of my current stable occupants had to be put out to pasture.

I know this sounds a little bleak for a culture and industry that really did make America the industrial power it is. As a car guy sure it saddens me, but as George sang *All Things Must Pass*. I do think the car companies can take heart in that; for generations XYZ what works in NYC doesn't play so well in Kansas. (*An area Uber doesn't frequent and where Moms can't wait for their kids can learn to drive.*)

Also remember this is being written by a guy with two in his household, but who owns 5 cars. OK one is a racing vehicle (and who doesn't need one of these) one is Carole's MG (no chance of that *leaving*) My beloved Ranger pickup (a *truck is a legal requirement for all rural residences of the State of Pennsylvania...I think*), an SUV (doesn't matter the brand; they're all the same) and a VW -GTI (OK that one snuck into the garage on the grounds of the need for speed)

Last exhaust

So, fear not for the Auto sector totally. Status perceptions change all the time and face it long-term focused commitment is not the hallmark of generations XYZ. And if you see me in something new, realize that I can still be tempted by shinny objects *(see VW-GTI)* Now go enjoy the link I put in the title.



Can you say Bravissimo? MG's Italian Connections

By MGOC member John Hunt

The MG is often called 'the people's sports car.' It is also known as the margue of friendship. Our MGs have many associations and connections in the world. Our cars have, as they say in Italy, "Brio" (Italian word for panache). Let's explore the many associations and connections MG has with Italy and Italians.

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Tazio Nuvolari

Tazio Giorgio Nuvolari (16 November 1892 – 11 August 1953) was an Italian racing driver. He first raced motorcycles and then concentrated on sports cars and singleseaters. A resident of Matua, he was known as 'Il Mantovano Volante' (The Flying Mantuan) and nicknamed 'Nivola'. His victories-72 major races, 150 in all --included 24 Grands Prix, five Coppa Cianos, two Mille Miglias, two Targa Florios, two RAC Tourist Trophies, a LeMans 24-hour race, and a European Championship in Grand Prix racing. Ferdinand Porsche called him "the greatest driver of the past, the present, and the future." (Source: Wikipedia)

Among his many impressive achievements was a major MG victory with an MG K3 Magnette in a RAC Tourist Trophy race on a street circuit in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in 1933.

Pireli Tires

Pirelli & C. S.p.A. is a multinational tire manufacturer based in Milan, Italy. The company, which has been listed on the Milan Stock Exchange since 1922, is the world's

sixth-largest tire manufacturer. In 2015, China National Chemical Corp. Ltd. (ChemChina) took controlling interest of Pirelli, with the Chinese state-owned company agreeing to maintain the tire company's ownership structure until 2023. *

When the MGB rolled off the factory in Abingdon in 1962, the car was issued Pirelli Cinturato CA67 (165HR14) tires.

MGB GT Coupe and Pininfarina

John Thornley wanted to create an everyman's version of the DB5. (The DB5 is the Aston Martin model that James Bond drove in the movie Goldfinger). Don Hayter and the design team with Sydney Enever tried a variety of different ways to develop a coupe. The initial idea was to keep the front windscreen the size as the roadster to save on production costs. However, the lines never looked attractive. When you have styling issues, where else do you go, but Italy? Pininfarina raised the front windscreen by one inch. Then everything fell into place and the classic MGB GT design was created.

Pininfarina S.p.A. (short for Carrozzeria Pininfarina) is an Italian car design firm and coachbuilder, with headquarters in Turin, Italy. The company was founded by Battusta 'Pinin' Farina in 1930. In 2015, the Indian multinational giant Mahindra Group acquired 76% of Pininfarina S.p.A. for about €168 million. *

Pininfarina is employed by many automobile manufacturers to design vehicles. These firms have included Ferrari, Alfa Romeo, Peugeot, Fiat, GM, Lancia and Maserati, to emerging companies in the Asian market with Chinese manufacturers AviChina, Chery, and Changfeng, and Korean manufactures Daewoo and Hyundai.

Pininfarina was run by Battista's son Sergio Pininfarina until 2001, then by his grandson Andrea until his desth in 2008. After Andrea's death, his younger brother Paolo was appointed as CEO. Interesting side note: Battista Pininfarina's nephew Nino Farina was the world's first Formula One world champion in 1950 driving an Alfa Romeo 158/159.

1967 Targa Florio Race

The Targa Florio was a public road endurance race held in the mountains of Sicily. Founded in 1906, it was the oldest sports car racing event, part of the World Sportscar Championship between 1955 and 1973. While the first races consisted of a tour of the whole island, the track length in the race's last decades was limited to 44.74 miles, which was lapped 11 times (Source: Wikipedia).

In 1967 the MG Works team entered MGB GT, LBL 591E for the Targa Florio race. Driving were Paddy Hopkirk and Andrew Hedges. They duked it out with world-class machines that included Ford GT40s, Porsche 906 and many others. In the end they won the GT class and placed 11th overall, ahead of Shelby Cobras and a host of 911s. A glorious day for Paddy, Andrew and the B GT! (See the complete story and a video referenced in The Octagon, December, 2021, January, 2022, and June, 2022.)

Our MGs have many associations and connections with Italy and Italians. Can you say Bravissimo!

* Perhaps we will need further articles about the MG China Connection and the MG India Connection?





The MG Italian Connection - Introduction

By Dan Shockey

John Hunt proposes that there is a significant tie between MG and Italian influences, most notably with the MGB. I explore whether the connection may be deeper rooted. There certainly is an early <u>French</u> connection with regard to the "MMM" overhead-cam MGs (first MG Midgets) built in the early 1930s. The engine design was derived from a French aeroplane motor of WWI vintage and the chassis design was heavily influenced by the Rally sports car of France. Famous Frenchman M. Ettore Bugatti had an influence through an engineering suggestion for the MG K3 that enabled the significant MG win at the Mille Miglia of 1933.

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The T-series engines also had this strong indirect French connection, also being produced by the Hotchkiss/Wolseley companies using (metric) tools and dies (and design experience) obtained when producing French Hispano-Suiza aircraft engines under license in WWI.

The greatest MG Italian success was that class and team win at the 1933 Mille Miglia (MG K3). This was the first British effort (of any make) to make an impact on the Italian classic and was a huge deal. In addition, three MG L-types won the team prize in the 1933 Alpine Rally, run in France and Italy. That was a very big deal, too.

Another shock for the Italians came on the racetrack at the 1933 Coppa Acerbo Junior race where Englishman Whitney Straight beat a horde of twin-cam Maserati racers with a single-cam MG K3. It was these Italian MG successes that induced Nuvolari to drive an MG in the Ulster race. (See John's article.) MG was the sports-racing "Porsche" success of the early 1930s.

The Mille Miglia attempt was described as a "very daring raid on the very Mecca of motor racing." I think that describes the MG Italian connection before the MGB. Italy was then a broad influence on sports and racing car design, something that has continued to this day. But also perhaps MG also had an influence on Italian design? Small Fiat and Alfa sports cars were once considered "Italian MGs."

The attached article from *The Octagon* (12/20) describes the styling influence of the 1958 Ferrari on MGB design. MG never admitted to that influence except for the Don Hayter quote included. This is the 1958 to 1960 Ferrari 250 GT Pinin Farina, now worth \$600k restored. I think you can describe the MGB as a smaller, poor-man's Ferrari 250. Perhaps its resemblance to the MG has kept its prices down! Of course Ferrari has influenced the design of many sports cars, including the Corvette.

Design Influences for the MGB

Don Hayter came to MG in 1957 from Aston Martin. According to John Thornley, the DB2/4 Coupe certainly influenced the concept and general design of the MGB and MGB/GT.

Syd Enever claimed that the MGB design was inspired by the EX181 record car. "The MGB shape, though you may not realize it, was basically borrowed from EX181 ... When we started the MGB we took this shell and developed it into a passenger car." Some thought that Syd

exaggerated the influence to impart a performance pedigree to the MGB.

A response from Hayter, "I liked the Ferrari, which had 'pocketed' head lamps. We started with that headlamp style



and cut down the car's nose. When I first saw the Floride, I thought, well, they've done our front end – but without a radiator in it." Renault claimed that MG had poached their design and Don kept the legal correspondence.

The Sunbeam Alpine caused quite a stir during the time (1959) that MG was deep into designing the MGB, because of its unibody construction, American styling and roll-up windows in a small sports car.





We invite you to join the largest club in the area dedicated to British car enthusiast.

Your membership benefits include:

- You get invited to all club events. Including these three great parties:
 - The after Christmas celebration
 - The "Chilly Run"
 - The summer pool party
- You get the club's newsletter
- You get access to the club's extensive tool chest
- Our monthly meeting is held at very nice restaurant and each meeting includes a tech session. Johnny Dees Lounge 1705 Amuskai Rd Loch Raven, MD (First Tuesday of the month)
- We also host an annual tech session Saturday hosted by the club's tech guru.
- MGOB sponsors the annual "Get the Dust-Off Rallye" the first Sunday in May.
- You can join us at MG's on the Rocks. This is the oldest continuously running British car show in the world! Celebrating our 42 year in 2021!

All this for \$20 per year!

Visit us on the web: MGsofBaltimore.org or Find us on Facebook

Please complete the form on the next page and mail it with a cheque made payable to MGOB to:

Kathy Liddick 5237 Glen Arm Road Glen Arm, MD 21057







MGs of Baltimore Ltd. Membership Registration

Please fill out the registration form.

You'll want to enjoy all the benefits of membership as listed on the previous page!

Your Name (MGing is a family activity, Please include those of family members)	
Address	
City/State/Zip	
Contact Number	
e-mail Address	
MG's or Other British Cars	
Owned	
Areas of interest: Technical,	
Rallyes, Social, Restoration	

Dues for MGOB are a blazing \$20 Bucks a year. (January through December)

Mail your check made out to: MG's of Baltimore Ltd.

To: Kathy Liddick: 5237 Glen Arm Road, Glen Arm, MD 21057







Tools Available for Club Members Contact Eric Salminen to Borrow

- Engine Stand (2)
- Engine lift with tilt device (2)
- Whitworth wrenches & sockets
- Whitworth thread file
- MGB Kingpin Reamer
- Sandblaster (Suction from a bucket type)
- Rostyle Wheel Paint Mask (MGB)
- Midget King pin reamer
- SU Carb throttle shaft reamer for MG T, A, B carbs
- SU Carb throttle shaft reamer
- Midget carbs
- Torque Wrench Click Type 0.150 ft lbs
- Standard 12" socket set
- Hub Puller
- Compression tester
- Harmonic balancer puller
- Camshaft Degree Wheel with TDC finder.
- Timing light
- Dwell/Tach Meter
- Differential flange removal tool
- Brake line bender tubing cutter, bubble type flaring tools
- Slide hammer for bushings, bearing caps and axle extraction tool
- Lift-A-Dot Upholstery Punch tool
- SU Carb Synchronizer
- Pickle Fork for Tie Rod Ends
- Mob Clutch Alignment tool
- Front Suspension Toe-In adj tool
- Rear Hub Sockets for MGA and early and late MGB.
- Cylinder Leak Down tester

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DISCLAIMER

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Articles appearing herein may be used by other car clubs or organization in their own newsletters, providing appropriate credit and recognition of the source is given.

The MGs of Baltimore, Ltd. Car club was established in 1977. The club represents over 150 members in the Metro Baltimore area. As the name implies, the club centers its activities around the preservation and enjoyment of the cars that bear the classic MG marque. The club is affiliated with the following national organizations: The North American MGA Register, The North American MGB Register, and The American MGB association. Internationally, the club is affiliated with the MG Car Club and The MG Owners Club. The club's activities include sponsorship of the nationally known "MGs on the Rocks" car show, a series of challenging (and FUN) historic car rallies, as well as numerous fun gatherings all through the year.

Articles in this newsletter are courtesy of: RJ – MGOB & LEL Member The OCTAGON – Newsletter of the M.G. Owners Club/The Northern California Centre of the M.G. Car Club

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

7 th	Club Meeting
11 th	100 Years of MG – Simeone Museum Philadelphia
19 th	25 th Annual "Chilly Run"
MARCH	
7 th	Club Meeting
APRIL	
4 th	Club Meeting
29 th	BSA Troop 328 Car Show
30 th	25 th Annual Britain on the Green
MAY	
2 nd	Club Meeting
7 th	34 th Annual "Get the Dust Off Rallye"

MGs of Baltimore Affiliations

North American MGB Register North American MGA Register American MGB Association MG Car Club UK MG Owners Club UK

Register Your MGA With NAMGAR!



Join over 2,000 enthusiastic owners in the restoration, preservation, and sheer enjoyment of driving an MGA, Magnette, or variant of this noble breed. You'll receive six bi-monthly issues of *MGA!*, our full-color,

award winning magazine, invitations to National and Regional Get-Togethers

throughout the U.S. and Canada, plus a knowledge base and support group second to none. All this for just \$37.50 per year (North America), or \$52.50 (International). Get more information at http://www.namgar.com, or contact registrar@namgar.com.





North American MGB Register

The only MEMBER-RUN organization for MGB, MGC, Midget,1100/1300 and Post Abingdon Car owners.

North American MGB Register

PO BOX 876 · Downers Grove, IL 60515-0876 Toll-free phone: 800-NAMGBR-1 www.namgbr.org

25th Annual Chilly Run Invitation

Nothing sounds better than a hot bowl of chili on a cold February Day. Here's you invitation to make and share your best recipe with all your friends. Please join us for the **25th annual** gathering to celebrate a food group.... *I mean car club*!

Bring you best chili, remember we can't let Mike Lutz win the *Hunk-O-Burning-Love* trophy every year. We'll have prizes for the best classes of chili as well as prizes for you folks than bring appetizers, deserts, and other goodies. Beverages, Beano, and Antiacids provided by the club.

Join your friends at the home of Carole and Richard Jefferson.

Sunday February 19 (snow date 2/26). 2:00 PM 2520 Overlook Ct. New Freedom PA.

Please RSVP and let us know what you're bringing to: mgobjefferson@yahoo.com



Boy Scout Troop 328 Car Show

My name is Kristen, and I am reaching out about an upcoming car show and to invite your MG Club members to attend. The upcoming Classic Car Show is hosted by Boy Scout Troop 328 in Timonium, MD, **on Saturday, April 29th**. We would appreciate it if you might forward the following email to your club members. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Troop 328 invites AACA Club members to join us for our second annual Classic Car Show on Saturday, April 29th (w*ith a rain date of Saturday May 6th*) from 10:30 am to 1 pm. Location: 2300 Pot Spring Rd, Timonium MD 21093.

Vehicles from all eras are welcome.

Sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b4aadaf2ca7ff2-classic#/

This event is free for our guest vehicles and to the public. Grilled food, drinks, and snacks will be available for purchase with proceeds to benefit our Troop. The monies raised in this event provide our boys with updated gear, exciting trips and financial support for families in need.

Awards will be given in various categories with one-of-a-kind trophies built by our Boy Scouts. We will also be holding a community car wash during the event.

See a video of last year's event here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnMIzvZxW24

Our event is free for guests and the public, but if you'd like to support the Car Show and our Troop with a donation, we'd be very appreciative: <u>https://troop328timonium.square.site/product/bsa-troop-328-</u> donation/30?cp=true&sa=false&sbp=false&g=false&category_id=10

Thanks for your support and we hope to see you at the Car Show,

Sincerely, Kristen Engelke Scoutmaster



Scouts BSA Troop 328 2300 Pot Spring Rd, Timonium MD, 21093 Kristen Engelke, Scoutmaster www.troop328timonium.com

25th Annual Britain on the Green

April 30, 2023

The Capital Triumph Register is proud to announce that the 25th annual Britain on the Green (BOG) will be held at historic Gunston Hall, the colonial home of George Mason, in Lorton, VA, on Sunday, April 30, 2023. BOG, which welcomes all British cars and motorcycles. is well-established as one of the premier all-British shows in the metropolitan DC area.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend as we expect this year to be the best ever! In addition to hundreds of beautiful British vehicles on display, we'll have live music, a Food Truck Alley, a sponsor/vendor Midway for your automotive needs, activities for children, and tours of the Gunston Hall mansion and gardens for participants and spectators.

We are pleased to welcome the Nation's Capital Jaguar Owner Club (NCJOC) which will again join Britain on the Green to host a Jaguar Club of North America (JCNA) Concours d'Elegance (Concours) event according to national JCNA rules.

For 2023 we will be celebrating British sports cars with V-8 engines with a special display at Britain on the Green.

Participant's Choice honors will be awarded in 25 or more classes of British cars and motorcycles. There will also be a number of special awards including Best Resto-Mod, Best Survivor, Best Display and, of course, Best of Show.

So please plan on joining us on April 30th for the 25th annual Britain on the Green. It is a great day to bring out your car and celebrate the British car show and driving season with friends, family, and fellow enthusiasts.

Cars registered by April 15, 2023 will receive the collectable 25th anniversary show poster by famed artist Joseph Craig English.

BOG Show Car Registration Prices:

On-line early registration received by April 15, 2023: \$30 per car Registration after April 15, 2023: \$40 per car Mail in registration: \$40 per car

Further information on Britain on the Green can be found at: <u>https://www.britainonthegreen.org/</u>