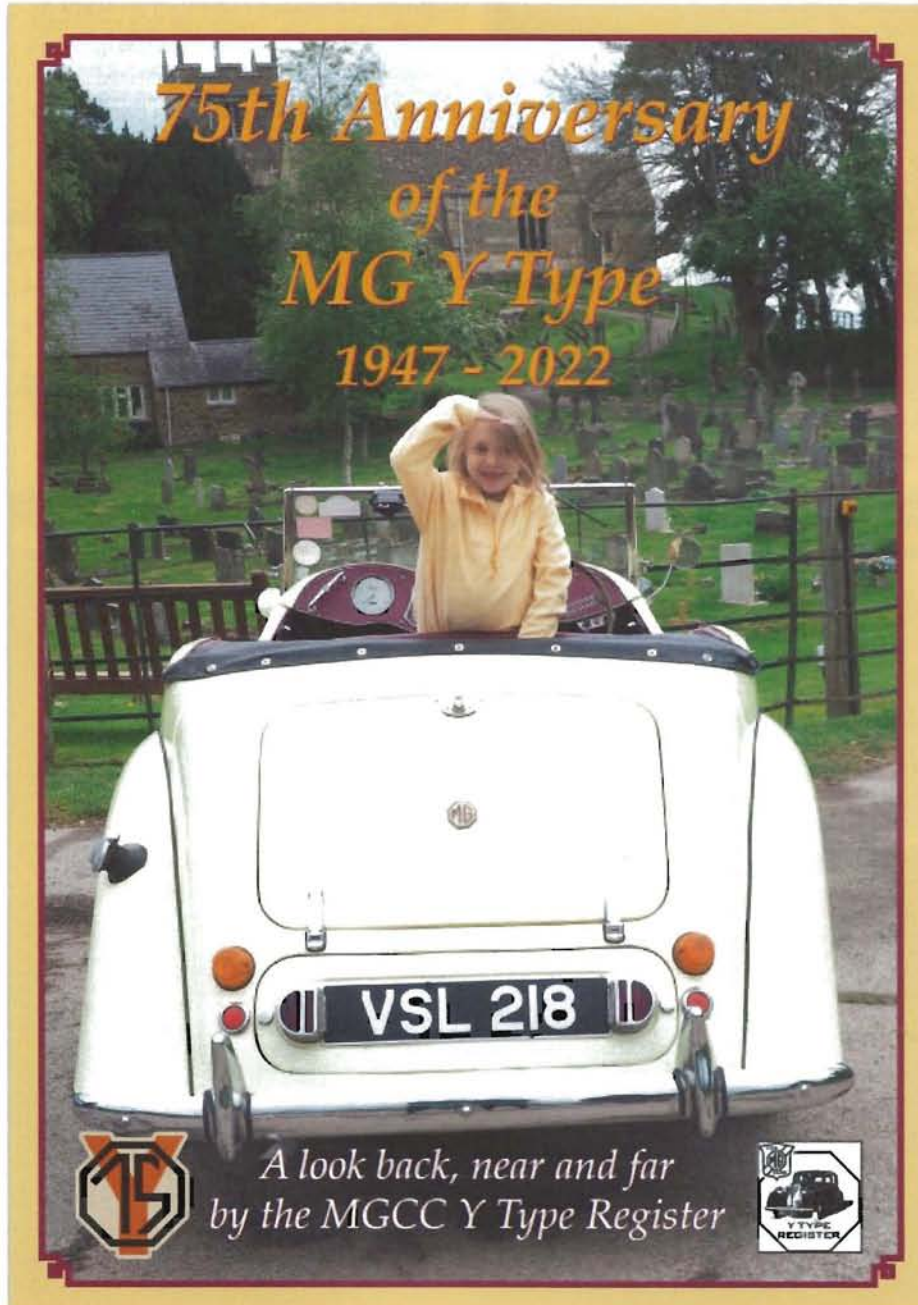




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WELCOME TO THE Y TYPE NEWSLETTER



The 75th anniversary publication produced by the Y Type Register

This year is the 75th anniversary of the MG Y Type; more properly, the 'MG One and a Quarter Litre Sports Saloon', which is what it was called when it was launched in 1947. It actually started

life as the MG 10 in 1937, which would have made this the 85th anniversary, but a slight unpleasantness caused by the invasion of Poland delayed its launch for a while. (I don't intend to go



The Rally Board for the first annual Y Type run

into details of the MG Y Type's origins and history. If you want to know, and you should, get Neil Cairns' newly published and excellently readable book 'MG Y Type Sports Saloon'.)

We are celebrating the anniversary with a publication of profiles of people who have helped preserve the existence of this elegant small saloon, who have recorded its production and identified existing examples worldwide and who have continued to promote it. It will be available at the Spring Run and will go out to all Y owners who are on our emailing list.

We are also organising our first post lockdown overseas trip to Jersey in September (details on page 56)

As well as being 75 years since the launch of the Y Type, it is the 25th anniversary of our annual runs, which started with 'The Birth of the Y Run', held near Leamington Spa in 1997, with an attendance of 39 immaculate cars.

Sadly, because of lockdown, this year's Spring Run will have been the 23rd, but because we had two Autumn Runs in the period I'm officially classing it as our 25th Run – so there!

At the time of the first run, the Register was awarded the Nuffield Gold Cup for Best Register.

The first independent MGCC Y Type Register was formed in 1979 by Paul and Maggie Grafham. For the first time, events and competitions were organised specifically for Y Types. After a few years they moved on and the Y Register returned to being a subsidiary part of the T Register.



The 1997 Y Register Gold Cup Winners. The picture shows: David Lawrence, David Hague, Brian Moyse, David Pelham, Paul Rundell (then Chairman), Ian Hopkins, Jack Murray, Dennis Doubtfire and Colin Rea at the presentation ceremony

The present Y Type Register was officially formed in 1991 by two Y Type owners. Dennis Doubtfire and Colin Rea realised that, although the model had been well represented by former registrars within the T Register, the Y Type needed an independent Register. Dennis and Colin set about creating a new independent Y Type Register. They gathered interested Y owners together and formed the first Y Register Committee.

Our Y Register Committee Chairperson this year is Maggie Grafham, who started the very first Y Register with her husband Paul. They rejoined the Register in 2016. They can be called MG Y Type nuts; in fact, they do call themselves that. As well as her having the initials MG, all her children have MG in their names. Here is Maggie's account of her interest in cars, which she has called:

'Potted history of a Petrol Head'

My Dad was in the Army Cycle Display Team until Arnhem, where he lost his right hand. He still had a keen interest in all motors which he passed on to me. From a very young age I was literally his right hand when we repaired both motorbikes and the family cars. I passed my test the week following my 17th birthday and had a full motorcycle licence before that. Cars from the 1940s to 1950s were what I grew up with and my initials were MG. When I met Paul I fell in love with his beautiful red Y Type from the start – he married me to add another MG to his collection. When we married, we were chauffeured in the Y, now known as Little Gem, then owned by our friend Tim Pennicott. The disease spread and within five years we had various vehicles mainly aged 1930–1950: three Ys, MGA, VA, Z Magnette, a 20/25 and a 25/30, and a Mark I Silver Shadow Rolls Royce, Bentley Mark 6 and 1962 Drophead Continental, Triumph Dolomite Sprint, Armstrong Siddeley, Daimler Hearse and a 1930 Bristol coach. We gave up our jobs in the Home Counties and moved to a large garage in Lincolnshire to play with our cars. We also set up the original Y Register, splitting from the T Register. Our eldest, JMG, has very few photos of him as a baby when



Y Types being loaded on the transporter in the UK



The Y Types arrive in France

he is not in, on or under a Y. Then along came AMG and BMG, twin daughters. Three children under the age of two years made travelling slightly more challenging. Garaging with living accommodation attached became no longer practical. We sadly returned to a more grown-up arrangement with a more regular home and proper jobs once more. We reduced the vehicle collection. At this point we also had to let the Y Register be dissolved as no one else was willing to take it on. We did still retain a number of Ys and the VA. Life moved on. The children grew up and moved on. In 2016 we re-joined the MGCC and through Peter Vielvoye were brought back into the Y Register. I am proud to have been the Y Register Chairperson for the past year. In 2017 the Car Club decided to sell Little Gem (she had been left to the Club by Tim in his will) and we bought her. In 2020 we gave her to our eldest grandson George on his 10th birthday. We have now gone full circle – given up a comfortable home and our jobs and moved to Central France along with 11 Ys in various stages of repair.

This is Paul's account of the move;

Having decided to retire to France, apart from all the hoo-hah with Brexit and the normal moving problems, we had to figure out how to move all our MG Y Types and 50 plus years of collected car parts. The decision was made to use a car transporter and the sight of eight Ys on one was something that had not been seen since the days they came out of Abingdon.



Tim Pennicott with his MG YB

The local Mayor was notified that we would be closing the road outside our new home to unload. When the transporter arrived, half the village turned out to see what was happening. It was just as well that they did, as we needed

help to push them all up the drive and into their new barn/workshop home.

Once we get settled we will have plenty of time to work on these wonderful MGs, and keep them alive for all to enjoy.

JERSEY TOUR

We have organised a trip to Jersey this year, our first 'overseas' since we went to the Isle of Man in 2019. It is from Monday September 12 to Friday September 16. We leave from Poole at 2.40pm and return at 8.15 am. We are staying at the West Hill Hotel in St Helier. If you are interested, please contact me at sharp.fam@btinternet.com or call me at the number at the head of the page.