

MGBGT V8 on a photoshoot for Classic Cars magazine



Keith Belcher (one of our Pricewatch volunteers) reports on the photoshoot.

I was invited in September last year by **Classic Cars magazine** to a photo shoot for their **feature on V8 Grand Tourers**. Having been involved in a shoot before I knew what to expect, harder work than you might expect but ultimately very rewarding. It goes without saying that your classic car should be prepared to work as expected and be cleaned and detailed beforehand.

We started the day early in fair weather but soon ran into trouble finding the A38 north at a standstill and making our rendezvous time of 10.00 am at Upper House, Derbyshire difficult. After retracing our journey we made a wide sweep via Cannock arriving around half an hour late. We were just in time to drive the car into a pre prepared spot with floodlighting for the engine photos. We joined the other drivers with Ross Alkureishi, the journalist for morning tea and biscuits. The day had obviously been well planned, the cars well-chosen and each originally aimed at different demographic. Meeting the other owners was refreshing; each one was knowledgeable and passionate about Classics and especially their own models which frankly were all superb examples.

The setting up of the main collective shot took around 2 hours, the photographer working hard having the cars shunted around to make the composition just so. When he was ready many shots were taken with assistants moving around with reflectors to get all the cars in focus and looking superb. Upper House is surrounded by hills and has its own micro-climate; it rained heavily on and off during the day, hampering the shoot.

We then made our way in convoy around the Peak District. The photographer was dropped off at pre-arranged places to get the moving shots of the cars in line. It is more difficult than you think to stay in line with set intervals between the cars. We stopped off for a quick drink and a sandwich, consuming these while Ross asked us for our input. I stated my thoughts emphasising the superb support from the V8 Register website. He then took the cars out one by one to get his driving impressions. Then some more in line shots and eventually arriving at a dead end hill road to take following shots. We were given two way radios to receive instructions, the cars in twos with one following the other quite close; the photographer strapped in the back of a large hatchback hanging out the back at all angles. The trip home in the evening along the "bikers" Derbyshire route was glorious with the BGT V8 exhaust soundtrack completing an excellent but exhausting day.

Looking at the final article in the April 2019 issue of Classic Cars magazine, the photography is stunning, especially the cover shot and Ross Alkureish's narrative is particularly good. The two quotes which I think are the best are **"its proving to be more at home than all of them when devouring back roads, and its one heck of a lot cheaper to own."** And **"The MGB GT V8 is the real surprise. Forget what year it was made, it's a thoroughly enjoyable Sixties sports tourer that won't break the bank."** Praise indeed, but then most of us knew that didn't we?

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Keith Belcher provides a photo from "**the other side of the lens**" so to speak - here is one on the day as the Classic Car team were setting up the shot used for a double page spread at the start of the article.

Keith adds, the time and care the photographer Alex Tapley spent setting up the photos was extraordinary and the brisk style of Ross Alkureishi's text is both informative and engaging throughout the 19 page feature article.