

THE SOUTH LEICESTER MG CLUB RATAE RUN

Story and Pictures
by John Bishop

Several members of the North Leicester MG Club took part in this year's Ratae Run back in June, which was organised by our sister club, South Leicester MG.

Lovely sunny weather was enjoyed by the participants throughout the day, which started, as usual, at the White Horse pub in Broughton Astley. From there, the route took the crews and their classics through the back lanes of the organising club's stomping ground of south Leicestershire before heading towards Oakham for a half way coffee stop at Gates Garden Centre near Cold Overton.

For the second leg, the cars drove towards Corby, travelling past Rockingham Motor Speedway before arriving at the very scenic Deene Park, which was the final destination.

The long curved drive leading up to the house was an ideal space for displaying a line of MGs and the lakeside was a great picnic spot.

Among the run's participants were a group of four MGAs which had been driven from the Netherlands to do a tour of the UK.

The park was the seat of the Earls of Cardigan, and has been continuously lived in by the Brudenell family for over 500 years.

The most notable (*or notorious?* - Ed.) Brudenell was the 7th Earl of



Cardigan, who as a cavalry officer during the Crimean War, led the disastrous, but heroic **Charge of the Light Brigade**. The knitted waistcoats worn by officers in Crimea (and supposedly by the earl himself) came to be known as **cardigans**, thus ensuring the titled Lieutenant General's lasting fame.

These were not the only fashion trends made popular by the war. Hand-knitted **Uhlán caps** were sent to the troops to fend off the cold, and these became known as **Balaclava helmets**, after the Crimean port and battle of the same name. Lord Raglan, the overall commander of the cavalry, gave his name to the **raglan sleeve**, which he favoured because of the freer movement it allowed for his



sword arm. Slightly less known is the **hoodie**, named after Private Hood, who was caught lurking in the wine cellar of the officers' mess with a bottle of finest claret under his loose-fitting, knitted jersey jacket, which also covered his ac-
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PICTURES:

Above: *Driveway up to the house was ideal for displaying the participating cars*

Opposite Page Top: *Half way stop was at Gates Garden Centre*

Opposite Page Bottom: *This Dutch MGA sported a Union Flag roof*



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