



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023



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Committee reports
Upcoming events
Our donation to The Mustard Tree
Taunton Motor Museum
Run to Bovey Tracey Golf Club



ENJOY YOUR MG MORE WITH TVMGOC





Secretary's Report



With the first dusting of snow covering the Tamar Valley, things are beginning to resemble a Victorian Christmas Card, albeit one featuring MGs rather than a coach and four. While some of us have parked our precious charges in dehumidified splendour, we retain our core of hardened enthusiasts who are prepared to take on all weathers in cars built before anti-rust treatments were a thing.

The weather was of the more sporting kind for our monthly run, testing the water resistance of soft tops as we drove toward our destination of Bovey Tracey Golf club for an excellent lunch. It was jolly good of John to provide a shorter route for those seeking less of a challenge and as ever, in a club based on fun, there were many enjoyable moments, particularly observing the driving 'master-class' on offer in Slapton village. Our narrow roads are such that certain people should simply not attempt driving on them, it seems to me. I managed to get through Slapton before this particular individual – thank the Lord - revelling in the fact that my MGR can now do more than half a mile without overheating. I assured Charlie that I was not driving fast for the fun of it – it was of course an essential road test, which it thankfully passed - amazing what a new water pump can do.

The other car highlight of the month was giving the cheque from the People and Places surplus to the Mustard Tree, a part of Macmillan dedicated to supporting families of those with cancer, at our 'HQ', the Manadon Sports Club. We took our hats off to those who run this extraordinary support service to people in their greatest hour of need, and it was a pleasure supporting them.

We are now looking forward to our Christmas Gathering which will be fun, and we are also preparing for the raffle. As part of this Christmas giving at the lunch, I managed to get some MG 'Petrol Head' things from Arkells Brewery, who made this MG100 beer to share for those who wish. For the club, as the New Year beckons, our programme of monthly runs unfolds and we look forward to chasing the sun over snaking ribbons of Dartmoor tarmac.

Have a Wonderful Christmas and a Peaceful New Year,

Simon

Should you need to contact our club secretary, for example to send in club subscriptions, first call or email.

01822 852843

clubsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com



"I wanted to drop by and ask in person for a classic MG, just in case you didn't get my letters, emails, texts or Twitter messages."



Notes from your Chairman



Hello everyone,

We were certainly spoilt by Howard's 'Film Night' presentation at the November club meeting. His commentary on certain aspects of the cult movie 'Duel', were certainly interesting. It was almost like having Barry Norman (BBC's film critic from 1971-1998) in the room with us. Janis brought along a tub of popcorn to add to the ambience, which whizzed around the room a few times.

Alison and I look forward to the next one, as I am sure Howard already has another film in mind. Perhaps one with an 18+ certification and liable to offend, would also be interesting.

John and Bee's Sunday lunch Run to Bovey Tracey golf club, was the last one for this year. It was certainly a shame that Bee was unable to attend on the day to receive a vote of thanks from us all. John had to take the plaudits on his own, but we all know it is a team effort.

Alison and I missed out on the run due to dog walking duties but managed to give the Lotus a blast up the A38 to the lunch venue in heavy rain. I was really hoping for better weather conditions, but it was good to get the car used, as it had just been MOT'd and taxed.

Disappointingly, due to family commitments, Alison and I will be unable to join you all for the Christmas Lunch at Yelverton Golf Club this year, so will not be able to hand out our usual Christmas cards. We hope you have a great afternoon of fun together.

Alison and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families '**A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**'.

We look forward to seeing you all once again at the January meeting.

Alan



**After so many years of delivering presents to other people,
Santa thought he'd treat himself for a change.**



Event Secretary - keeping it wheel

Dear Motorneers,

As you read this Jan and I will be in Cambridge where I've been asked to film a village panto in which our granddaughter and family are appearing. After that we fly off to Mallorca to enjoy the Christmas markets and decorations in Palma. Perhaps it'll be a bit warmer there!

Before we left home, I gave my MG a thorough clean which it badly needed. I discovered there was still some mud remaining underneath from the dunking it received in September's People & Places run and it was filthy from our November Sunday lunch run around the South Hams. Now the Babe Magnet* is tucked up for the rest of this year with chrome wheels and bumpers smothered in protective polish, though I hope the weather will be dry and fine for our January lunch run.

But there are jobs to do first. On the way to Bovey Tracey Golf Club in a deluge, one of the windscreen wipers fell off so I pulled over to refit it. Unfortunately, it fell off again on the Devon Expressway where it couldn't be retrieved. I presume the ribbed spline is worn so I've just bought new parts from MGOCS Spares in Swavesey, just a few miles from here.

After having had them serviced at a specialist shop near Cambridge, I'll be bringing home four sets of skis belonging to Jan & me and our daughter and her husband, in readiness for our long drive to the Alps in February. Regular readers of these newsletter know that our annual ski holiday is a highlight of my year. Doubtless I'll bore you on the subject later in the New Year 'cause I just can't help myself!

But before that we have our club Christmas lunch to look forward to. See you there, I hope.

Howard

PS A Christmas Colour Supplement (my fourth!) packed with seasonal cartoons and jokes will be on its way to your inboxes very soon. I hope you can contain your excitement and anticipation!

*As a sign of the times, please note this is a non-binary term.



Upcoming events

The most up to date and detailed information on future events can be found and downloaded on the Event Diary Page and the Entry Forms page www.tvmgoc.org.uk

TVMGOC CLUB DATES 2023/2024

Run start times and other details are on our website when available

Dec	<i>No club meeting this month</i>	
	Thursday Christmas lunch celebration at Yelverton Golf Club with magic! Meet there 1.30 for 2pm lunch.	21 Dec
Jan	Fowey show on THURSDAY 22nd August will be open for registration from 5th January. Email www.foweyclassiccar.com .	5th
	<i>Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon - Chat 'n Chill</i>	8 Jan
	Sunday lunch Meeting point: The Dartmoor Diner 10:30 for tea & coffee before the start at 11.30ish. Then drive to Dartmoor Lodge, Pear Tree Cross, Ashburton TQ13 7JW. Meal served from 1:30	21 Jan
Feb	<i>Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon – Annual quiz night</i>	12 Feb
	To The Crooked Inn, Saltash PL12 4RZ Meeting point: Travel Lodge Saltash - timings to be confirmed later. Cost £15 choice of carvery or nut roast and dessert chosen on the day	18 Feb
March	<i>Club 2nd Monday Meeting & AGM</i>	11 Mar
	Vintage Vehicle Rally. Rayle Farm. Near Redruth TR16 4QP.	30 & 31 Mar
April	<i>Club 2nd Monday - Talk by Tim Hipwell, MGOC regional Rep.</i>	8 April
	<i>Drive It Day</i>	21 April
May	<i>Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon - Photo competition winners</i>	13 May
	Launceston Steam Rally. More info and entry details in the New Year.	25 -27 May
	Exeter MGOC More To See Run. Entry form on our website.	26 May
June	Morwellham Quay Father's Car Show.	16 June
	St Merryn Steam and Vintage Rally. Near Padstow, Cornwall. Further details to follow next year.	22 & 23 June
	New Forest Run. Entry form on our website.	2 June
	<i>National Cream Tea Day – picnic?</i>	28 June



Shocking value

Classic Car Weekly report on the sale at auction of a Mercedes-Benz 350 SL that had been converted to electric at a cost of £200,000. It sold for £45,000. *Wheeler Dealers* Mike Brewer told CCW, “Unfortunately, there is no second-hand market for electric classic cars. This story proves that prices (for conversions) are far too high and have no re-sale value.”

He goes on to comment, “If people are chasing environmental issues by electrifying classic cars, they should know that restoring a classic car is the most environmental thing you can do. The classic car market is the world’s biggest recycler.”

Presumably, by this unclear quote, Brewer means restoring a car with its original powertrain.

Taunton County Classics Motor Museum

As mentioned in the November newsletter, when the museum opened recently it received a huge amount of press, not least because it was opened by The Hamster, aka TV star and passionate petrolhead, Richard Hammond. Judging by the crowds it was a monumental day for Taunton and the historic motoring community.



motorcycle museum in the heart of Taunton's town centre. The Museum is a non-profit organisation and relies on donations, sponsorship and volunteers to keep it running.

The beautifully-laid-out museum is located uniquely in the city centre of this fine old county town, in an historic department store building dating from 1836, which used to be called County Stores, hence the museum's name as a nod to the past. The museum is focussed on affordable and accessible cars and motorcycles, mostly from the 1960s to the 1990s, and includes a café and shop.

If any of our members is looking to organise a day out for the club sometime next year, then this could be it. I think Andy S. may do a recce for us.

Power Assisted Steering for MGs - What, Why & How?

MGOC Spares have a detailed article in their newsletter. If you are interested, read it here: <https://www.mgocspares.co.uk/blog/1025/power-assisted-steering-for-mgs-what-why-and-how>

Car storage

Our club chairman received this message which may be of interest to someone:

Good afternoon Alan, we are contacting your club to see if you would be interested in Behennah Vehicle Storage putting an advertisement in your club magazine. We are based in Kelly Bray Callington Cornwall PL17 8ER. Please check out our website www.behennahvehiclestorage.co.uk or my contact 07890325352 thank you Paul @ behennah vehicle storage.



The FBHVC website says of the event:
The opening of the Somerset Museum – which is a FBHVC member – comes after a Herculean struggle by Pat Hawkins in the face of the impacts of Covid lockdowns and the sheer scale of the project. He started work on creating the museum four years ago, and has now achieved his life's ambition of creating a classic car and



Our People & Places donation to The Mustard Tree charity



Eight TVMGOC cars turned up at the Manadon Sports Hub to hand over a cheque for the funds we raised during our People & Places Run for the Mustard Tree charity based at Derriford Hospital. Simon produced a press release about the effort:

When MG stands for More Giving

The Tamar Valley MG Owners Club tried very hard when they arranged their biennial classic car drive around our area to raise funds for the Mustard Tree Charity. The course is always chosen to show off the wonderful scenery and driving roads that we have, and this year the 105-mile route swept around the South Hams and up onto the moor to finish at the Two Bridges Hotel. The club chose the Mustard Tree Macmillan Cancer Support Centre at Derriford Hospital to receive charitable funds raised and, with collecting boxes as well as giving a proportion of the entry fee for the drive, MG drivers gave generously, making a total of £570 for the day.

Event Planner, Simon Williams, said that ‘with so many people having personal experience of cancer, including some in our club, we couldn’t think of a better place to put our fundraising this year. Macmillan people are quite the best of us, helping us in our darkest hour, they deserve all the help we can give them.’

Well done all who contributed, and in response we received this letter of thanks:

Dear Janis

I am writing to thank you for the very kind donation of £570.00 raised at the recent Tamar Valley MG Owners Club Rally! I understand the team covered 100 miles around South Devon and braved the worst weather to end at the Two Bridges Hotel. It sounds as though it was a great success, and good time was had by all!

Thank you for your welcome to Amanda and Helen, when they came to visit you for the ‘cheque presentation’. The photos we were able to share on our social media pages were wonderful!

We are so grateful to you for thinking of the Mustard Tree and I can assure you that the money raised will be used to support local cancer patients, their families and carers.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or my team if we can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Sheen', written in a cursive style.

Kate Sheen
Mustard Tree Manager

The 'Puddles & Potholes' Sunday Lunch Run to Bovey Tracey Golf Club



On a damp and dismal Sunday morning 25 members and friends met at the Ivybridge park-and-ride car park. What else would you be doing on a Sunday morning with a liberal helping of west country sunshine to help us on our way? The usual pleasantries were exchanged before John, our organiser for the day, issued our instructions and relevant warnings.

Nine MGs set off and not surprisingly there was no usual discussion of "do we put the hoods down or not". The route took us eastward through Bittaford and Wrangaton then through Loddiswell and on to Kingsbridge.

This section of the route was very reminiscent of our recent club People and Places run and we decided that a more appropriate name might be Puddles and Potholes run. There were certainly a lot of puddles, and very brown at that. At Kingsbridge we had a dilemma as there were signs warning of road closures in our intended direction but being British we decided to carry on regardless and hope for the best. After all what could possibly go wrong?

Near Kingsbridge, members could choose to take a shorter route depending on their thirst or need for a comfort break possibly. However, my navigator and I decided that we would take the longer route. This took us into Torcross where a Sherman tank is permanently sited on the left-hand side as a reminder of a well-publicised disaster that took place during WWII. Although we had visited the area several times before it is always a pleasant spot to revisit. To our right was Slapton sands and the sea, with a few hardy dog walkers braving the elements, and to our left a rather large puddle known as Slapton Ley. This "puddle" is the largest freshwater lake in the southwest and its official title is "Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve". It is a popular spot for ornithologists and walkers alike, 4.2 miles around apparently. I must admit we didn't see too many birds today from the MG, only a few gulls, terns and waders. The route then took us left off the coast road into the village of Slapton itself which, like many villages in Devon and Cornwall, was never built for motor cars. Chaos reigned due to parked cars and high stone walls and possibly a few motorists with no reverse gear on their vehicles. Horses and carts would probably have struggled to pass. Hey Ho, all part of the fun.

The route then took us through Totnes and, passing the river Dart on our left, which was in full flow, we joined the A38 heading in the Exeter direction. We could now at least blow the cobwebs from the MG engines as we headed for the Heathfield/Bovey Tracey slip road where we turned off in the Moretonhampstead direction towards Bovey Tracey. On the last roundabout, mounted in the centre was

what can only be described as a granite "Jenga stack" for those of you familiar with the game, I am not quite sure what it represented, any ideas? (*Yes. Ed.)

Just a mile further along the road on the left was the entrance to the Golf club. Here we met the remainder of our MG club contingent bringing the total to 31. Lunch was served promptly and the view from our table looked pleasantly over a grassy expanse with apparently a plethora of white mushrooms growing until the truth dawned on us, they were of course golf balls. Who'd have thought it - we were overlooking the driving range with no golfers in sight.

In spite of the weather, we had another pleasant day, a good chat and plenty of laughter and only one mishap to date, one of our members shed a wiper blade but all was not lost as it was soon recovered and refitted so all ended well. (No it didn't! It fell off again. Ed)

Many thanks to John and B for organising the run and hope that B gets well soon.

Noel



*Originally the 'Jenga' stack was made of railway sleepers, but these had rotted and have been replaced with granite replicas.

I'm speculating, but this is surely a monument to the Haytor Granite Tramway built to convey granite from Haytor Down to the Stover Canal. It was very unusual in that the track was formed of granite sections, shaped to guide the wheels of horse-drawn wagons.

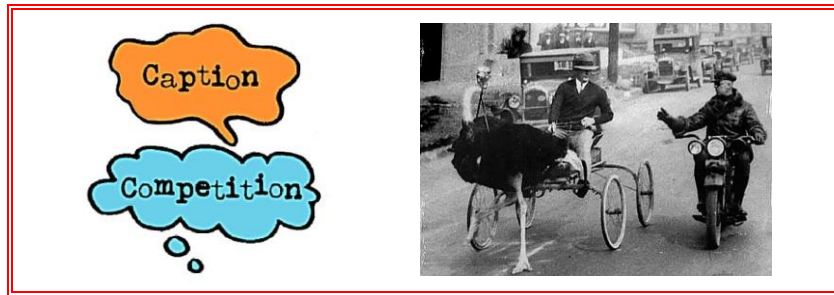
The wooden flat-topped wagons had iron flangeless wheels and ran in trains of usually twelve wagons drawn by horses in single file, in front for the upward journey and at the rear for the downward.

An old sailor called Thomas Taverner wrote a poem which gives us this information:

*Nineteen stout horses it was known,
From Holwell Quarry drew the stone,
And mounted on twelve-wheeled car
'Twas safely brought from Holwell Tor.*

Howard





Received entries	From
<i>"I don't care whether your wagon is bird powered, the Ostrich is not on my list of ULEZ compliant emissions so that'll be 300 quid."</i>	Simon
<i>The driver was shunned by all his pals. He was ostrich-sized.</i>	Howard
<i>"What sort of rear light is that?"</i>	Richard M
<i>Soap box challenge before Red Bull took over.</i>	Jan P
<i>"Excuse me sir your tail lights are faulty".</i>	Janis
<i>"Yes, it is a FORD product. You can have it any colour as long as it's black".</i>	Gavin
<i>Rod Hull ended up before the Beak.</i>	Jan P
<i>Sam was certainly in 'flight mode' but couldn't 'bury his head in the sand' any longer when the cop pulled him over, saying he 'had a neck' for driving so irresponsibly !</i>	Nigel S
<i>"Slow down big fella, this is a Mark Drakeford 20 mph zone".</i>	Gavin
<i>The cop arrested the driver. He was held ostrich.</i>	Howard
<i>"Pull over and pick up the detritus that thing just left behind. You know it gives off a global warming gas."</i>	Richard M
<i>"It's got a special safety device. If the traffic gets busy it just stops and buries its head in the sand".</i>	Gavin
<i>"I'm stopping you because you just knocked someone over with a feather!"</i>	Howard
<i>"Pull over, Buddy. Your white-lining machine is marking in the wrong place!"</i>	Alan
<i>"Pull over. Has that power unit passed the IVA and MOT test?"</i>	Richard M
<i>"I know I cut you up but that's no excuse for giving me the bird"</i>	Peter A
<i>"I had to upgrade my drive-chain, officer, my big hen's gone!"</i>	John H
<i>The first eco car turned out to be a bit of a turkey!</i>	Clive

**And the winner of last month's competition chosen blindly by John I. is Janis. Well done!
She will choose next month's winner.**

**Here's next month's picture that requires a caption. What do Santa and Rudolph make of this much modded MBG?
Send your entries by the end of the month to: eventsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com**





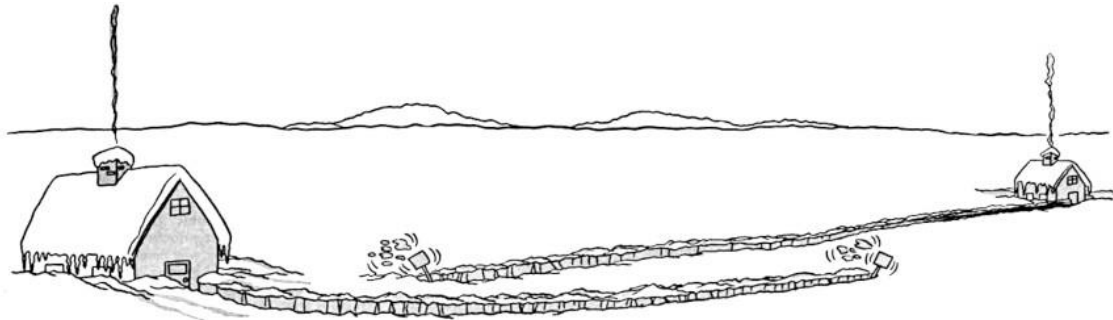
**AND
FINALLY...**



*Ideal apparel for the club
Christmas lunch.*



"Yes, I know! You want a classic MG for Christmas. Now get off me as I can't feel my legs!"



THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

DICK
MACDONALDO