

Newsletter March 2024



This Month

Committee reports
& upcoming events

LED headlights

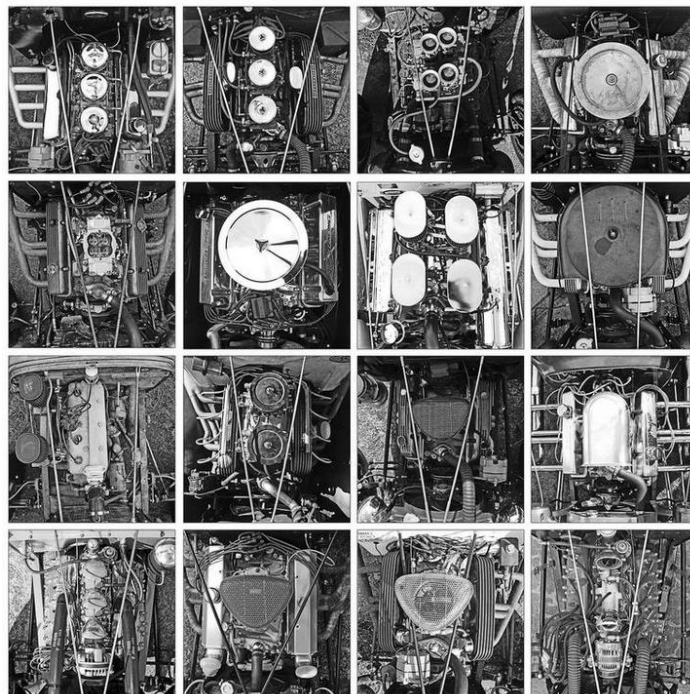
Engine bay cleaning

MGR V8 or MG RV8?

Run report to
The Crooked Inn

Stoneleigh MG &
Triumph Spares Day

Engine porn



Wife: I find the only way to get through life is to laugh your way through it. You either have to laugh or cry. I prefer to laugh.

Husband: Yeah, that's true, though I find owning an old MG helps.



Get more smiles to the gallon with TVMGOC

FEF

Increasingly, quite a few car photos in Facebook MG groups begin with the abbreviation 'FEF'. But do you know what it stands for? The answer is later in the newsletter.



Secretary's Report



Looking around there is every prospect that Spring will have sprung, given the bulging buds in the hedgerows and the whisper of indications of better weather to come. Our seasonal cars are nearing the end of their winter sleep, with Drive it Day as the annual wake up call if you are not a 'year round' runner. We do of course have a run planned to celebrate this auspicious occasion, and we are targeting a new venue on the edge of a Golf Course, Welbeck Manor, as our destination. While Charlie and I have planned the route, you will see that Janis is kindly running with the lunch aspect, to free up Charlie as she is deep into the feverish wedding administration (known now as Wedmin which is apparently 'a thing') and planning for our daughter Sophie. I had frankly no idea that so much was involved, nor indeed how many opportunities there would be to contract with wedding specialist of many kinds. This lack of understanding may have been because in the run up to my own wedding, I was at sea and was in fact rather lucky to make the day at all. I am sure that it will be worth it on the day!

Before getting ahead of myself I should return to the Secretary's annual delight of the AGM. Perhaps the hot topic this year will be our membership fees, with our venue now intending to charge for the privilege of using it. Without having the discussion beforehand, this presents both a challenge, in potentially higher membership fees, but also an opportunity as there have been some complaints about parking at Manadon and it may be that with a higher income we can look at other places in due course (not immediately). We would have to do some more work there, building on the excellent research done by Janis before we chose Manadon, not least because we chose the latter as it was initially one of the few that did not charge.

So a few things to think about alongside the enjoyment of our cars as the weather finally improves (he said hopefully).

See you on Monday!

Warmest Regards

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



Notes from your Chairman



Hello everyone,

Well, now that we are into the month of March, we know that spring has officially arrived. Even the hedgerow and woodland flowers think so. That fact is difficult to believe though, when we are still battling days of incessant rain. Nearly every daily dog walk of ours over this long winter, has found us wearing full waterproofs, even if it is only to avoid the splashes from muddy puddles and wet dogs.

Of course, March also means that the club's monthly meeting will commence with our AGM, after which, we will have a chance to discuss normal club business.

I really hope you will be able to make the effort and come along to witness and oversee the formal due processes of the AGM. One of those processes is of course, the necessary election of your committee for another club year.

It is now time to get excited about all the runs and shows that are available to us in the coming months. So if your MG hasn't moved all winter, then please give it a bit of love and attention. It is always good to see if the wheels still turn and more importantly that the brakes work properly. These old MGs of ours seem to run better with the more use they get, and they are certainly more reliable.

The February Sunday lunch and Run to the 'Crooked Inn' near Saltash, was well supported with quite a lot of MGs braving the overcast weather and damp roads. Although the run included some country lanes, the cars didn't look too disgusting at the end. Nothing that a good hose down couldn't sort! The lunch was excellent and portion sizes were quite generous. Our thanks go to John H and his daughter Vanessa for giving us a good day out.

We can now look forward to John and Bee's Sunday lunch/Run to the Cornwood Inn, later on this month.

Alison and I are looking forward to another fun filled MG year in 2024, and hope you will be able to share a lot of those moments with us. See you all at the March meeting!

Alan



Event Secretary - keeping it wheel

Dear Motorneers,

Jan and I, together with our daughter Emily (who wrecked her knee skiing a couple of years ago) and family, recently returned safely from a fantastic ski holiday at La Plagne in the French Alps. I think Emily enjoys her skiing even more than I do. But, let me regale you with a tale of driving woe...

With the car piled high with ski equipment, a sledge, clothes and food, Jan and I set off for a planned leisurely two-day drive, starting on the overnight Plymouth to Roscoff ferry. The first day to Clermont Ferrand was fine, leaving us a short hop the following Saturday morning to spend the night at Albertville after exploring the old town in the afternoon. From there, an early Sunday morning start to drive up to the resort meant we'd beat the many other cars and coaches to get an extra day of skiing. Well, that was the plan. Our ETA for Albertville was 12:15 but it became the worst, most frustrating drive we have ever done.

The problem is that many of the northern Alpine ski resorts here are reached from a single dual carriageway that snakes along a valley, so all vehicles heading for multiple destinations have to use the same access road. Google maps told us that there had been an accident, and the road was blocked. In addition, it seems that the French police have a plan to stop vehicles seeking alternative routes off the main road. They blocked off all exit lanes, trapping some 60,000 vehicles together on the same autoroute.

The resulting jam was many, many kilometres long. Barely crawling forward as the hours passed by, there were no food or comfort facilities to assuage the boredom and our tired, hungry bodies. Stationary coach loads of people disembarked to find 'relief' on the hard shoulder.

We were able to get out of our cars to stretch our aching shoulders, bums and legs, though not for long as every few minutes we could edge forward just a metre or two before becoming stationary once again. Passengers went for long walks up the road alongside the jam.

Most of the controls on the Merc are operated by a large Cockpit Management and Data System screen. I ignored the usual 'Take a Rest' warning after three hours but at five hours without a break the whole screen is designed to literally go haywire. It displayed only white noise and wouldn't let me operate such things as the aircon, satnav, radio, media etc. When you are stuck in a jam like this and can't turn off the car for half an hour to reset the computer this is a *really* annoying 'safety feature'.

By about 8pm, after being behind the wheel for almost twelve hours, I had well and truly had enough and nearly had a meltdown in frustration. Eventually, we managed to get to our overnight accommodation in Albertville and met up with the rest of our family. I was well and truly knackered, aching in mind and body.

Fortunately, everything after that went brilliantly. Best of all, was seeing how well our two granddaughters, Susanna aged 9 and Isabella aged 12, can ski now. I'm an experienced skier but they can match my pace easily on all but difficult black runs. They don't fall over so often either!

Anyway, enuf of that. Apologies in advance for me missing our March AGM meeting. This is likely to be an annual occurrence as Jan and I will be needed at this time each year for child minding duties in Mallorca (yes, we are away again having swapped snow for sunshine) while Sophia's mum & dad attend conferences in different parts of the world.

If you are inclined to vote for me to continue as your Event Secretary, then thanks.

Happy MGing!
Howard



Upcoming events

The most up to date and detailed information on all 2024 events can be found and downloaded on the Event Diary Page and the Entry Forms page. See: www.tvmgoc.org.uk

TVMGOC LOCAL & CLUB DATES 2024

Run start times and other details are her & on our website when available
For events outside our region see the Event Diary on our website

March	Club 2 nd Monday Meeting & AGM	11 Mar
	Sunday lunch run to Cornwood Inn The Square, Cornwood PL21 9PU. Organised by John & Bee – the list is closed. Meet: At The Dartmoor Diner from 10 am to depart at 11. Lunch 1pm.	24 Mar
	North Cornwall Run by MGCC- See below for more info	24 Mar
	Tamar Historic Transport Club AUTOJUMBLE - see below	29 Mar
	Vintage Vehicle Rally, Rayle Farm. Near Redruth TR16 4QP Entry details on our website.	30 & 31 Mar
April	Club 2 nd Monday - Talk by Tim Hipwell, MGOC regional Rep.	8 April
	Drive It Day – run organised by Simon & Charlie To Wellbeck Manor, Plympton PL7 5DF - 12:30 for 13:00 lunch Meet Dartmoor Diner 10:00-11:00	21 April
May	Social meet with friends from Chichester MGOC at Knightstone tearooms Yelverton 10:30 for coffee & tea followed by a run over the moor for all - organised by Alan & Alison. Lunch will be totally informal, and participants can stop anywhere en route, but will be encouraged to stop at Widecombe. Please add your name to a list at meetings and/or let Janis know.	Thursday 2
	Club 2 nd Monday meet at Manadon - Photo competition winners	13 May
	Friday evening run to Church House Inn, Rattery - organised by Richard & Kathryn	17 May
	Launceston Steam Rally. Entry form on our website.	25 -27 May
	Exeter MGOC More To See Run. Entry form on our website.	26 May
June	Tavistock Steam & Vintage Fair	2 June
	Newton Abbot Classic Car Show – entry details on our website.	8 June
	Club 2 nd Monday meet at Manadon - Talk by Nigel S 'The Extra Factor'	10 June
	Morwellham Quay Father's Day Car Show.	16 June
	St Merryn Steam and Vintage Rally. Near Padstow, Cornwall.	22 & 23 June
	Club 4-night mini-break to southern Snowdonia. We have 20 cars going and the hotel has JUST ONE ROOM LEFT! Organised by Howard & Jan.	24 - 28 June
	Friday picnic? TBA	TBA
July	Club 2 nd Monday meet at Manadon	8 July
	Powderham Historic Vehicle Gathering – organiser Andy	13 & 14 July
	Wadebridge wheels – Entries from Easter	21 July
	Boconnoc Steam Fair	26 – 28 July
	NEW Flete House Open Gardens for St Lukes. We have been asked to put on a show again – details TBC	28 July
	Lunch or evening meal run TBA - organised by David & Teresa	TBA
August	Club 2 nd Monday meet at Manadon	12 Aug
	Club day out to County Classics Car Museum, Taunton – organiser Andy & Janis	TBA
	Fowey Show and Parade – Entry link on our website	Thursday 22

September	Rotary Club of Saltram Classic Car Show – organiser Andy	8 Sept
	Club 2nd Monday meet at Manadon	9 Sept
	Rerun of 2023 People & Places (a shortened route) hopefully in better weather – organised by Simon & Howard. Likely to be called PP7½	22 Sept
October	Club 2nd Monday meet at Manadon	14 Oct
	Annual Tulip Trophy Run - organised by Gavin & Rachel	TBA
November	Club 2nd Monday meet at Manadon	11 Nov
December	Christmas Lunch at Yelverton Golf Club (no club meeting this month)	Thurs 19 Dec

Tamar Historic Transport Club AUTOJUMBLE held at The Duchy College near Callington Cornwall. PL17 8PB, on 29th March (Good Friday) Entry £2 per person. Stalls will cost £15 for 15ft frontage X 20ft depth. Plenty of FREE parking plus separate parking for CLASSIC CARS and MOTORCYCLES. Lots of stalls, lots of jumble, lots of classics on display. Tel 01579 384232 for more details.

Our member Douglas has asked if anyone would like to display their car at his village fate on 14 September in the field before the church in Brampford Speke. There will be food, cream teas, games, stalls. Please let Howard know if you can attend.

North Cornwall run Sunday 24 March

Members were emailed on 15 February details of this event put on by North Cornwall MGCC. This clashes with our own club's Sunday lunch run but as that list is full anyone not taking part may wish join the North Cornwall run instead. Please let Howard know and he will buddy you up with the two members who have already signed up for it.

Engine Bay clean

Peter C. emailed us to say he recently had the engine bay of his MG RV8 valeted by the South West Lotus Centre in Lifton. It cost him £75 plus VAT.

Peter thinks the result has been spectacular and feels it was extremely good value for money. If you are interested in giving you own car a treat, the contact no. for the South West Lotus Centre is 01566 784152.



Howard

Peter

Howard

Simon



Howard

ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ



TWO VIDEOS:

Top 10 Famous MGB Owners

The Classic MGB Channel has posted this video on YouTube. The MGB is an iconic British sports car and in its time, has been owned by some of the most famous people in the world. View it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YWAkKv5Fg>

The "Pedestrian Scoop" and 6 Other Crazy Car Safety Ideas

https://www.hagerty.co.uk/articles/the-pedestrian-scoop-and-6-other-crazy-car-safety-ideas/?utm_source=SFMC&utm_medium=email&utm_content=23_MED_UN_UK_EML_UN_UN_UK_News_DrivetimeWeekend

Someone belatedly passed this on to me after the Herald published it three months ago. It was accompanied by this photo too. Thanks to those who turned out on the day.

10 **PLYMOUTH HERALD** FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023

Clubs

MG Owners cut the Mustard a cheque from fundraising effort

TAMAR VALLEY MG OWNERS CLUB

THE Tamar Valley MG Owners Club (tvmgoc.org.uk) held a fundraising drive in more ways than one when they arranged their biennial classic car drive around the 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 with collecting boxes as well as giving a proportion of the entry fee.

In total, MG drivers gave generously, making a total of £570 for the day.

The Mustard Tree provides Macmillan professional and trained volunteers and is available to anyone affected by cancer (at any stage of the illness).

They offer a cosy and comfortable environment for patients, relatives

and carers to share concerns, ask questions and access a range of support.

Event Planner, Simon Williams, said: "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."

■ The Mustard Tree details are at: plymouthhospitals.nhs.uk/mustard-tree.



You think your car costs a lot to maintain? Then don't buy an Aston Martin Valkyrie

In Norse mythology, a *valkyrie* is one of a host of female figures who guide souls of the dead to the god Odin's hall Valhalla. While some real-life women can be expensive and high-maintenance, the Aston Martin Valkyrie takes this to another level.

Needless to say, if you can afford a £3 million, track-focused hypercar, you can afford its absurdly expensive maintenance. Or can you?



Maybe once you see the figures it might give you second thoughts. Apparently the Aston Martin Valkyrie will cost its owners about £436,000 to service over the course of just three years, which is enough to buy a Rolls-Royce Phantom. The first Valkyrie service comes at 600 miles (or six months, whichever comes first) and costs £25,000. Its 3,100-mile (12-month) service costs £85,000, or about as much as an entire Porsche 911. At 6,200 miles (or 24 months), Valkyrie owners will be on the hook for another £150,000 which is enough to buy a whole Aston Martin Vantage to go along with your Valkyrie. The last scheduled service is at 9,300 miles (or 36 months) and costs £95,000. On top of all that it will need a full transmission rebuild every 31,000 miles. Goodness knows what that costs! Stick to your MGs eh?

FROM THE RAC MEDIA CENTRE: A glaring problem: - RAC calls for government action on headlight glare as eight-in-ten drivers affected say the problem is getting worse.

The RAC is calling on the Government to commission an independent study into the issue of headlight glare after new research found 85% of those affected believe the problem is getting worse. An RAC survey of 2,000 drivers found 89% think at least some headlights on cars on the road today are too bright, of which three-in-ten (28%) – a higher proportion than ever – think most are.

Of all the drivers who complain about the brightness of car headlights, some 91% say they get dazzled when driving, with three-quarters (74%) saying this happens regularly. When it comes to the effects of glare on drivers, two-in-three (67%) who suffer say they have to slow down considerably until they can see clearly again, while a similar proportion (64%) believe some headlights are so bright they risk causing accidents. In fact, five per cent of these drivers state they have nearly been involved in a collision themselves.

Alarmingly, nearly one-in-ten (7%) say they find headlight glare so bad that they avoid driving at night altogether, a figure that rises to 14% for drivers aged 65 and over.

While the RAC has been surveying drivers on dazzling headlights since 2018, these new findings show more drivers than ever appear to be suffering from them, with 85% of those affected stating they believe the problem is getting worse.

With help from Neil, as I had a connection problem that needed tracing, I have just fitted LED brake, indicator and side lights to my MGA – it already has hazards fitted, a must-have in my book – but I don't plan to fit LED headlights. I find my halogen bulbs are perfectly sufficient and see no reason for brighter lights.

The Merc has the cleverest LED headlight system. I'm sharing this because in my opinion this system should be fitted to all new cars. Whilst driving, the car's cameras automatically recognise red tail lights and oncoming headlights. It then creates moving black spots around the cars in front so as not to dazzle them from behind. As headlights come towards the Merc, it's utterly amazing to see the shadow patches panning around bends and moving to shade the approaching vehicles from my car's headlights.

Howard

Preserve the historic name of a popular public house

A pub is being urged to change its name, and as a petition has been created to force that change, another petition calls to resist the change. It's all about The Midget in Abingdon. Hundreds of Oxfordshire locals are signing a petition on Change.org calling for The Midget to be renamed. Organiser Erin Pritchard said the owners Greene King "should recognise the offence of the term and its implications". But Greene King said the name is a reference to the MG Midget cars which were built at Abingdon in the 1930s. Pritchard challenged Greene King's claims that the pub is named after the MG Midget car "as the name omits 'MG'. Furthermore, the origins of the name of that car come from freak show terminology, which is disablist hate speech and flouts the Equality Act," she said.



Lord Stokes, the chairman of British Leyland, opened the pub in December 1974 at a time when MGs were still made in Abingdon. After a competition run by the Morland brewery and pub chain, the pub was originally named after a world-famous Racing Car, designed and built in the 1930s – the MG EX 127, otherwise known as the Magic Midget. Commenting on a Facebook post by Bob Slatter of D&C MGCC, our MGOC area representative, Tim Hipwell, who will be giving a talk to our club in April said, "Bleddy snowflakes !!!!!!"



February Sunday Lunch Run to The Crooked Inn



12 MGs, 1 Lotus, 1 Ford Fiesta and 1 Honda met at Carkeel Services on a wet Sunday on the 18th February at 11 am. Vanessa gave a briefing on the route and emphasised that the final couple of miles through Forder and Trematon are narrow and for all drivers to take care. After a chat and catch up (and a few laps of the car park for me with my Grandson who was suffering with chicken pox) we left the car park and headed out on the route.

The route took us down to Hatt Roundabout where we turned left taking us through the village and heading out towards Amytree, which is somewhere that I have never been before, a site of five intersecting roads and used as a hanging tree during the 17/18th centuries. We headed towards St Mellion and drove through the golf course, returning to the A388 where we turned right and headed back towards Saltash. At Carkeel roundabout we turned left and if you were lucky you didn't go up the tunnel towards Plymouth. The route took us down under the Tamar and Royal Albert bridges; the remains of the many slipways laid by the Americans prior to D Day can still be seen at low tide here. Some people (i.e. Annette and I) took the opportunity for a toilet break here whilst the convoy of MGs went by.

The route now headed back through Saltash and towards Forder and Antony Passage, where the roads started to get narrower, revealing a hidden, spectacular, Brunel Railway Viaduct. The price to pay? The route got muddier! (our car is proof of this). We were now at the back of the convoy, and we never met any MGs that had stopped so presumably there were no mechanical issues which was a relief and a good advert for our MGs and their owners. After driving through Forder and across the top of the hill and through Trematon, all the cars arrived safely at the Crooked Inn.



Here we were met by some other club members who had not done the run but were attracted by the food. About 40 members sat down to a delicious roast lunch and I can vouch for the desserts (Annette and I were the only ones to have one) which was lovely white chocolate and Baileys cheesecake, irresistible.



A big thank you to John and Vanessa for arranging the outing, a lovely little route and an excellent venue to finish off at.
Peter A.

Stoneleigh MG & Triumph Spares Day

It's been a few years since we have been to Stoneleigh MG Spares Day, it's now called MG & TRIUMPH Spares Day. It was one of the best days out, to get all the bits you needed for your MG.

But not so much nowadays. There is a lot to see, in three big halls and some very nice cars, but the spares are a lot for Triumph and not so many for the MG, but saying that we did get all the bits we needed.

We can't remember how many times we have been there, with club members, it was one of the club's days out. I can remember going up one Sunday, many years ago in a van, nine of us, and we met up some other members there. All the spares filled up the van. But we are now getting a bit older and to drive up and back in one day is a lot to do. Getting out of bed at 4am to pick them all up, and drive to Warwickshire and back. So now we stay in a Premier Inn, for 3 days to make a weekend of it. Having a good breakfast and a short drive to Stoneleigh park, but it was not like that this time?! With a lot of the roads closed to the Park because of the HS2 construction sites, there were hundreds of cars on the road with just one entry gate open. However we did enjoy a good day hunting and talking to folks.



On the Monday, we went to the British Motor Museum at Gaydon. If you have not been there it's a great day out looking at classic cars, and finding a car that you once had, and now it's in a museum.

There are quite a few MGs in there including the land speed record ones and some prototypes. Other interesting exhibits include some of our late Queen's vehicles and William Morris's personal car. Nice cafe too. If you have English Heritage membership you get a discount on the entry fee.



We got to Gaydon quite early so now we had some spare time for some more heritage. Off we went to Kenilworth castle, which was on the way back to our hotel. Luckily it was open on the Monday, due to it being half term, usually it's only weekends. It's English Heritage so free for us. This visit made Hilary particularly happy as she loves ruins! You can see that the weather played ball too! This reminded us of a weekend we spent with club members near Hay on Wye where we went on a tour of several Welsh castles. So long ago don't think any current members were there.

Keith & Hilary



Gallery

MG Sea

Here's an MG oddity.

This picture of a small boat was posted on Facebook by a chap in Bournemouth.

He says, "I'm sure some of you will be aware that not all MGA engines went into cars. I have a Healey 55 wooden speedboat with an original MGA engine fitted from new.



"I intend to restore it and the boat sometime in the next few years. It was called the Healey 55 because of the engine being 55hp*. It's not enough for serious water skiing so most people put the MG 1800 in because it looks the same. I am thinking of originality with this one and might supercharge it as you need the instant power to pull a skier up.**

*1500cc

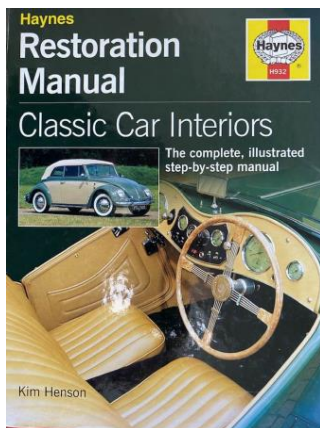
** So much for originality then!

'FEF' is an abbreviation of Front End Friday.

People post photos of the front of their MGs on Facebook on a Friday.

Yes it's a thing and yes it's weird!
It's not something I'd ever do.

Theres also TET – Tail End Tuesday. Ho hum.



This might be of interest.





Exploring the cosmos
from the kitchen:
two intergalactic adventurers
with boundless imagination!

But did your imagination
match theirs?
Let's see:

Received entries	From
<i>"Not looking forward to when Dad gets home after we scratched his pristine MGB, pity he got rid of that battered old MGA!"</i>	Richard M.
<i>Oh Lord, they've arrived then.....</i>	Tom E.
<i>♪ I can see clearly now the brain has gone ♪</i>	Howard
<i>The lengths some will go to never to miss an episode of Strictly!</i>	Howard
<i>Billy and Johnny soon wished that they hadn't messed with the sky dish!</i>	Clive
<i>And mum thought she was having a bad hair day!</i>	Richard M.
<i>Roy, equipped interested spectators watching his MGA restoration with period PPE.</i>	Gavin
<i>"Mum, will we really be able to get Sky through these?"</i>	John I.
<i>Mum insisted on proper health and safety precautions before the kids helped Dad with the new alternator installation.</i>	Simon
<i>The offspring of Sparky the Battery Boy.</i>	Howard
<i>"Don't know about you bro but my exam results were not that good."</i>	Richard M.
<i>Once fully charged these two EV's (Evil Villains) will do 200 yards before collapsing.</i>	John I.
<i>If that's the best Specsavers can do !!!!</i>	Andy S

And the winner of last month's competition chosen by Janis is Tom. Well done!
He will choose next month's winner

Here's next month's photo requiring a
caption. Squeeze out an entry by the end
of the month and send it to:
eventsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com





And finally...



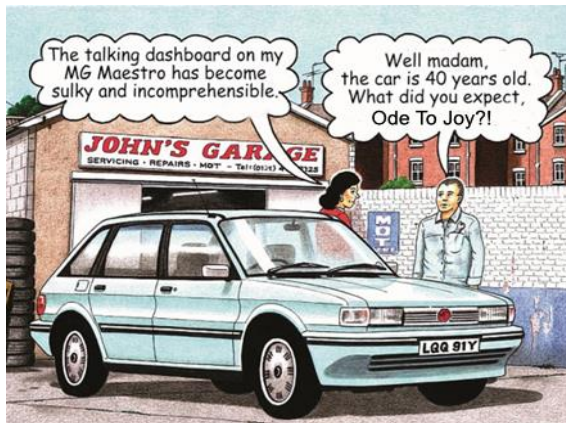
The top three unwritten rules of classic car ownership are:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____



The lead guitar player in The Doors fronted by Jim Morris.

Our club chairman waits a long time for members to be quiet at a meeting.



They say that there are no true gentlemen anymore but today I saw one. He was holding an umbrella for his wife while she was changing the tyre on their car.