Newsletter May 2023



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Secretary's Report



Well as I write, Spring has certainly sprung, and the Tamar Valley is bursting with life. Hedgerows are thickening and songbirds are filling the chilled mornings with a veritable wall of sound. We in the Tamar Valley Club are doing our bit to add to the happy throng with some K, B Series and V8 engine notes, and Drive-it-Day provided an excellent opportunity to get out. I thought that Drake's Café in Grenofen made for a good start to the day and while the weather flattered to deceive, soft top up and down drills are always good! Those who were on the run will have seen Charlie and me, with daughter Sophie's dog Alfie, brave the rain for longer than most, trying to convince ourselves that it was only a shower. We were glad that we succumbed before the major cloudburst!

Plans are continuing for our MGOC wide Tamar Valley 'People and Places' Run in September for which you are encouraged to book early if you want a place. Elsewhere the show season is upon us. We have a couple of cars going to Gaydon, while Powderham is filling up, including Roger towing his teardrop trailer and forming part of the club stand! With the Rosemoor Classic Car Show and Fowey, both Devon and Cornwall are being well covered.

I would like to thank all those who have paid your annual club subscriptions, and for those who have forgotten – they are now overdue! You will recall that we set the subscription at £20 and we would appreciate it if you could pay by BACS, with your name and AS as a reference (eg SPWilliamsAS) so that Nigel can take the correct action. Our bank is:

TAMAR VALLEY MG CLUB Sort code 56-00-63 Account no. 82795800. Thanks!

By the time you read this Charlie and I will be in Scotland doing the North Coast 500 plus the Outer Hebrides – not in the comfort of the MGR V8 but my old Land Rover with a rooftop tent, with another couple similarly equipped. I have mapped out where the Land Rover garages are – and I am sure that there will be a tale to tell at the end – perhaps at one of our meetings!

See you next in June, God willing.



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,

The day after the club meeting in April, Alison and I took off with our caravan for a prolonged stay in W. Sussex and to visit our family who live just over the border in Surrey. After many years of caravanning, it is still fairly rare for us to actually get away over the Easter holiday as the weather is usually unsettled and cold.

This time it was no exception, as we enjoyed plenty of rain and chilly days, along with a few days of actual sunshine. Being able to entertain our granddaughters and have them sleep over for a few nights more than made up for any inclement days. I have to say though, that the caravan was warm and comfortable, so we weren't actually roughing it.

On our days out, we drove along some lovely scenic roads, and it would have been great to have been in the MG as we skirted around the South Downs and through the beautiful countryside. We really must try and enter the **South Downs Run** sometime, which is hosted by W. Sussex MGOC. This year it is on 3rd September.

All too soon we were waving our goodbyes and heading back home to Plymouth, as we looked ahead to **Drive It Day's Sunday Lunch and Treasure Hunt** a few days later.

It was pleasing and rewarding to have such a fantastic number of members and MGs gather at **Drake's Café** for coffee and a good natter before setting off for the **Weary Friar at Pillaton** and our Sunday lunch. Typically for this time of the year rain swept in during the run but everyone arrived safely and in good spirits.

The Treasure Hunt was hotly contested, and the worthy winners were finally awarded the trophy after breaking the deadlock by using the tie-break questions.

Well! What an action-packed weekend we have just enjoyed, with the King's Coronation. I was fairly ambivalent about it all beforehand, but once in front of the television I was glued to the screen, watching history being made and enjoying the whole spectacle. I really surprised myself! Alison and I also had a street party to attend on the Sunday as celebrations continued. We went to our son Mark's house in Teignmouth, where the road lends itself to a road closure. We all had a wonderful afternoon and our dog Barney even found himself a girlfriend. The pretty cockapoo from next door, at 6 months was perhaps a bit young for him but she found him irresistible and being the gentleman he is, he shared his bed with her as we all sat out in the street.

I mentioned history being made earlier and of course I could also apply that to the feat of Plymouth Argyle being declared League One champions on Sunday. Fortunately, Mark and I managed to watch the match on TV before the street party commenced. Once again I was glued to the screen!

All these Bank Holidays meant that our club meeting for May has been delayed by two weeks and it will be good to resume normal service.

So, we are looking forward to seeing you all at the May club meeting and also attending Richard and Kathryn's **Friday Night Supper Run on the 19**th.

Just to let you know, Alison and I will be going to the **Boconnoc Steam Fair** in July and will be going on the Sunday. If anyone else also fancies going to this event, let me know and we can convoy run to the show. This way, we will ensure being able to park up together.

Alison and I are really looking forward to an action-packed year with you all, once again.

Don't forget to put your names down on the lists of events.

It may encourage others to join in if they see that they have some company. Happy MG motoring,

Alan



Event Secretary - keeping it wheel

Dear Motorneers,

I've been thinking a lot about travel lately. That's partly because I've been reading *The Best British Travel Writing of the 21*st *Century,* a collection of articles that transports the reader all over the world, describing incredibly diverse landscapes and equally diverse peoples.

Travel has also occupied a lot of our time on-line, as Jan and I have been planning routes for our club mini-break to the Hereford area and eastern Wales (it's not too late to join us). Simon and Charlie are not the only ones who are away right now on a motoring adventure. Jan and I are on our way up't north on an MG holiday with Roy and Sonia.

We are taking part in the MGCC MGA Register weekend in the Forest of Bowland and the Lake District but making it a week-long trip. Seventy-two MGAs are taking part, some having come from abroad. On the way we are traversing the Peak District and the Yorkshire Dales and then spending a couple of days in the Lakes to tackle the Hardknott and Wrynose Passes, to name just two. Google Streetview has given us tantalising glimpses of the spectacle to come. It all looks stunning. I've even bought a rather special new camera for the occasion.

However, the aforementioned book overlooked UK's landscapes. We may not have the drama of the Himalayas, the desolation of Antarctica or the warm, lush beauty of tropical islands, but our landscapes are, well, ours, and are there for us to admire and enjoy. We too have a huge variety of people and places to see, and what better way to explore our highways and byways than in a classic MG.

Recently, during a visit to our daughter's home near Cambridge, we went on a family walk along the River Cam. This is a very different landscape from the moorlands and coastal scenery that grace both Devon and Cornwall. Cambridgeshire is known to be as flat as an Ikea self-assembly pack, but this creates another type of countryside, one full of huge skies, distant rural vistas, and immense fens.

We walked through Grantchester Meadows to the famous Orchard Tea Garden. Previous alumni who took refreshment here were Rupert Brooke, Virginia Woolf, John Maynard Keynes, Alan Turin, Stephen Hawkins, Prince Charles and now us. Jeffery Archer lives a stone's throw away.





The next time we visit this area we will be in our MG as we return home from the Lakes on a long detour that will eventually take us to the MG Centenary Celebrations at Gaydon, the weekend after next. Perhaps we'll see you there at this most important anniversary of our favourite marque and therefore surely a must for MG fans. Happy days and happy MGing to you all! Howard

PS On the subject of books and travel, this time of the slowest kind, I strongly recommend *Finding Hildasay* by Christian Lewis: "How one man walked the UK's coastline and found hope and happiness". It's an uplifting and life-affirming read about charity, friendship and adversity.

	Events & Shows			
	Currently listed on our website Entry forms tab – many have entry t		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
100 Mile Celebration Scenic Drive Plymouth to Harrowbarrow			Sunday 21 May	
MG Centenary at the British Motor Museum, Gaydon			Saturday 27 May	
Launceston Steam and Vintage Rally		27 th – 29 th May		
MoreToSee Exeter MGOC		Sunday 28 th May		
Tavistock Steam & Vintage Fair		Sunday 4 June		
Southampton & New Forest MGOC		Sunday 4 June		
Classic Cars @ Morwellham Quay - Father's Day		•	Sunday 18 June	
Totnes Rotary Classic Car Show and auto jumble		Sunday 2		
TVMGOC run and picnic for National Cream Tea Day		Friday 30 June		
Cotswold Caper		Sun 9 July		
Powderham Historic Vehicle Gathering – TBA		Sat & Sun 8 & 9 July		
Wadebridge Wheels Royal Cornwall Show Ground		Sunday 16 July		
English Riviera Show on Paignton Green +			3 July	
	hen Country & Classics (Both clash with our Sunday lunch run)			
RHS Rosemoor Vintage Weekend			July 29 and 30	
Boconnoc Steam Fair (now back at Boconnoc Estate)			July 28 – 30	
St Luke's Open Gardens at Flete House, Nr. Ermington		July 30		
Athelhampton House Garden Party and Picnic - Dorchester		Sunday 13 August		
Fowey Classic Car Show and Parade		Wednesday 16 August		
RAF Harrowbeer 1940s Weekend		Sat & Sun 19 & 20 Aug		
Great Trethew Vintage Rally		Saturday	26 – 28 August	
Aveton Gifford Classic Car Show			Sunday 27 August	
Saltram Rotary Classic Car Show		Sunday 3	September	
Bristol MGOC Brunel Run		Saturday	Saturday 9 September	
People & Places		Sunday 1	7 September	
	TVMGOC CLUB DATES 2023		Lunch	
Run start times and other details are on our website when availab		ible	organiser	
May	Club Monday meeting at Manadon (avoiding BHs)	15 May		
	Peter Stabb talk on WWII & Coronation medals			
	Friday Supper run to The Old Inn Widecombe	19 May	Richard & Kathryn	
June	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon – Chat 'n Chill	12 June		
	National Cream Tea Day – last Friday in June to	30 June	Iain & Helen*	
	Iain & Helen's barn nr. Launceston.			
July	Club mini break to Hereford, Wye Valley & Welsh Borders	3-7 July	Howard & Jan	
	Club 2 nd Monday David F. talk about Everest Base camp	10 July		
	Sunday Lunch run on 4 th Sunday	23 July	Neil and Pam	
Aug	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon – Chat 'n Chill	14 Aug		
	Supper run Friday a week after the club meeting, or BBQ TBA	25 Aug	Required	
	or Sunday Lunch on 4 th Sunday lunch	27 Aug		
Sept	Club 2 nd Monday Clive D. talk about HMS Britannia	11 Sept		
•	People & Places run organised by the Committee	17 Sept	Committee	
Oct	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon – Chat 'n Chill	9 Oct	1333	
	Lunch on 4 th Sunday inc. Tulip Trophy	22 Oct	TBA	
Nov	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon – TBA	13 Nov		
	· •	+	John & Ree	
Dec		+		
Dec	Lunch on 4 th Sunday No lunch or meeting – Christmas celebration	26 Nov TBA	John & Bed Janis	

> News snippets

MG Centenary

A century ago, the Oxford *Isis* newspaper carried an advertisement for a new car dubbed The Super Sports Morris.

Promising "Real Speed, Real Comfort, Distinguished Appearance, Beautiful Proportions and Superlative Paintwork" for £350, it was also the first known display of a simple, yet instantly memorable, octagonal logo with the letters "MG" inside.

Haggerty have produced a short history of 100 years MG, decade by decade. Read it here:

https://www.hagerty.com/media/automotive-history/100-years-of-mg-decade-by-decade/



Many events will take place around the UK this year at MG Owners' clubs and societies, and several have joined together to organise what will be a huge MG Centenary event at the British Motor Museum at Gaydon on Saturday 27th May 2023. For more details on this specific event, take a look at their website: https://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk/whats-on/mg-centenary



MG TF at 70

Another worthy MG celebration sees 2023 being 70 years since the introduction of the TF. The first cars were powered by 1250 XPAG engines with just over 6,000 manufactured. The 1500 XPAG was introduced a year later and built alongside the smaller engined cars. In all 9,600 TFs were sold before production ceased in April 1955 being superseded by the MGA with a 1500 B-Series engine.

If you want to learn more about these cars there is a dedicated and detailed website to this model here: See: https://www.mg-cars.org.uk/mgtf/index.html

We only have one TF in our club and that belongs to Tom here. He sent us this email last week and clearly man and car both deserve a round of applause. Happy birthday Tom!

Just had a run around our bit of Dartmoor, Princetown, Two Bridges for coffee and a sticky bun. Attached is a photograph taken at Two Bridges on 12 May 2023, my 85th birthday. I bought the TF just before my 28th birthday, so I've been driving it for 58 years. Is this a record? Kindest regards.......Tom.



MG Cyberstar, a 'British' rival and a new announcement

Driving around there are increasing numbers of modern SAIC-owned MGs to be seen on our roads and various models continue to win accolades and customers. Next year the long-awaited Cyberstar seems set to go on sale, seven years after an electric EV two-seater sports car was first proposed as a design concept. MGOC shared a link to a promo video:

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=206470595436894&extid=CL-UNK-UNK-UNK-AN_GK0T-GK1C&mibextid=2Rb1fB&ref=sharing

However, if for any reason you doubt the Cyberstar can possibly be a 'real' MG and would prefer your hard-earned cash to be spent in Britain, Caterham will soon announce details of its most radical model in decades – a "stunning" electric two-seat sports car entirely unrelated to the Seven.

Plans have fast progressed, and the new design will be showcased in the coming months as Caterham marks its 50th anniversary. Talking to Hagerty, David Ridley, Caterham's chief commercial officer said, "If I had mentioned an electric Caterham two or three years ago, I would have been strung up as a witch. Now there's a growing acceptance and interest in it."

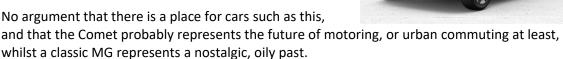
But there's a small caveat. Caterham is owned by the Japanese retail group, VT Holdings, a multibillion-dollar international car dealership group, so while your car money would be spent on British workers and manufacturing, profits will still go abroad.

Back to MG, and it's worth pondering what your MG means to you and mentally listing all its attributes. You might conjure up British engineering, history, motor sport, open-topped touring, fun, major life events, lots of smiles to the gallon, the romance of the open road.

So, with all that in mind we come to this: behold the MG Comet.

Here is the very latest offering from MG, revealed in India with the aim of being the country's cheapest and most cheerful electric car at a mere £7,800, give or take a few pennies.

This, then, is what MG has become. Celebrate or lament as you see fit.



Things to consider about EVs

As an MG club we must embrace the future, and that future includes EVs, but these vehicles are not all good clean fun. According to a new study, EVs on average will lose 51 percent of their purchase value from 2020 to 2023, compared to just 37 percent for petrol vehicles. The data, from ChooseMyCar.com, used a comparison of new car prices three years ago compared to their value now.

The higher the original purchase price of the car, the bigger the loss, with the Tesla Model S losing £25,000 in value in just three years - a 46 percent drop.

If you want to read more about the flip side of owning an electric vehicle, there's a fascinating article in the Guardian here:

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/may/06/electric-vehicle-conscience-clean-batteries-carbon-emissions

After reading this, especially the bits about the "break-even point" where, all things considered, the EV begins to be less environmentally damaging than a petrol car, including the human and environmental costs of obtaining materials, it seems difficult to conclude that there will ever be a truly environmentally clean, guilt-free method of personal transport, irrespective of its power source.

Not-so-smart motorways

The building of all new smart motorways is being cancelled over cost and safety concerns, the government has announced. Some 14 planned schemes, including 11 already on pause and three set for construction, will be scrapped due to finances and low public confidence. Yippee! But commiserations to the families of the 79 people who died on them.

Wiscombe Park Hillclimb

We received this message from the organisers of what promises to be a nice MG day out at Wiscombe Park which is situated between Ottery St Mary and Axmouth.

This year we are promoting Wiscombe Park to car clubs, and we hope that our Club Package, details of which are attached, will be of interest to your members.

Of particular interest to MG owners will be our meeting on Saturday 9th September which is organized by the MG Car Club. This event will attract a number of competitors in MGs, as well as a very varied entry of road, modified and single-seater race cars.

With this year being the Centenary of the MG marque, we are hoping to attract a large number of spectators in MGs - hopefully, this is an event that your members would like to consider. For details see: https://www.wiscombepark.co.uk/events email: wiscombe.hillclimb@gmail.com



Colin boasts a wealth of automotive experience and expertise. His passion has led to him opening his doors to share his knowledge with other owners and classic car club members who may lack the equipment, skills or confidence to do the jobs that are needed to keep them running and looking as they should.

Colin has a team of fellow experts who also advise owners and help diagnose and solve problems in their own specialist areas.

Classic Car Garage follows Colin Denton, a dedicated and skilled head mechanic who opens his North London garage at weekends for classic car owners to come and get the help they need to keep their precious cars on the road.



The staff seem very knowledgeable and likable as they help owners with fixes, tinkering and advice. It's very much a feelgood series.

Set a series link for Classic Car Garage on Yesterday Channel.

MGA Register Notable Journey Award

Some of us in the club have become friends with a remarkable MGA driver, Beth from Exminster.

Jan and I first got to know Beth when she invited us to join her on a tour of Northern Spain, which she had organized. A year later a few more of us went with her on another trip to that area.



Some of our cars with Mavis in the Picos de Europa 2019

Since then, we have kept in touch, and she was part of our club stand a couple of years ago at Rosemoor.

Beth, who is not as sprightly as she was back in the swinging sixties, is frankly an inspiration. Not letting anything stop her, over the years she has fearlessly undertaken many solo long-distance foreign trips in Mavis, her MGA coupe. Their most recent epic journey deservedly won the 2022 MGCC MGA Register Notable Journey Award.





Beth and Mavis, loaded with a wheely Zimmer frame and electric wheelchair

Beth drove to and through Italy during May 2022, retracing the footsteps of her father during his escape from POW Camp 49 in Fontanello, Northern Italy in 1943, and subsequently making his way on foot to Mount Majella and the Allied lines. That epic journey took him 3 months.

The link below takes you to Beth's excellent write-up of the trip *Mavis On A Mission*, which is well worth reading as it's an amazing and inspirational story. It wasn't an easy or uneventful trip, though Mavis behaved impeccably, but it was certainly an adventure, and you'll understand why Beth is one of my MG heroes. But, if you are nervous about undertaking long journeys in your own MG, be ready to be humbled by this article!

See: https://ldrv.ms/b/s!AqbIwACX3Q97gbADe0CFQMF_XL9HjQ

Howard

DRIVE IT DAY TREASURE HUNT AND SUNDAY LUNCH 23rd APRIL 2023



Twenty-three cars met at the Drakes Café in Grenofen for a pre-run coffee and chat (I also noticed some members having a bacon sandwich too!). The route and quiz questions were handed out by Alan. The weather was cloudy and overcast but the weather forecast didn't predict rain until later in the afternoon. How wrong could they be?





The run started at 11am. Leaving the car park and turning right to head towards Tavistock, the roads were relatively quiet and everyone got under way ok, some with their tops down, braving the chilly but dry weather.



Keith & Sally failed to run Howard over as he stood in the middle of the road to take this picture of our cars passing through an avenue of arching trees, just coming into bud.

The drive took us down country lanes, some narrow and muddy, through the villages of Chillaton, Portgate, Tinhay, Luckett, Callington, St Mellion and eventually finishing at Pillaton. The route took us across the Tamar over the Horsebridge which we now know was constructed in 1437.



Hoods up just before the deluge

All 23 cars made it to the Weary Friar at Pillaton where we were met by two more cars that couldn't make the whole run. Drinks were purchased and then 47 of us sat down for a very nice roast lunch followed by even nicer desserts (in my opinion anyway).

The results of the quiz were announced and after a tie-break question the Treasure Hunt Trophy was won by Simon and Charlie. Well done.

The rain started about half way into the drive, gradually getting heavier and heavier, with many of the convertibles stopping to put their roofs up. I had never used my wipers in anger, and I was pleasantly surprised how good they were until the car decided to 'throw' a wiper with it ending up on the bonnet. Two minutes standing in the rain putting the wiper back on solved the problem. Luckily this was the only mechanical event of the whole run.



Thank you to Alan and Alison for arranging such an interesting route and finding a delightful venue for lunch, a lot of work goes into arranging our runs and it is much appreciated. $Peter\ \mathcal{A}$

PS Roger, who sadly doesn't have much of an appetite these days, stayed at Drake's Café and enjoyed a personalised coffee.

BTW his red Gentry, a TF homage, photographed above looks fabulous!

It's an unusual and welcome addition to our club's stable of cars.







This chap started a new dating web site for chickens, but it didn't turn into the financial success that he was hoping for. Now he's struggling to make hens meet. You were asked what the cluck this Morris dancing bloke thinks he's doing. This is what you came up with.

I caught bird flu, but I really don't think it has had any lasting effects	
I heard someone say fetch the Paxo I`m off!	
I think since my MG was laid up it needed a bit more eggceleration,	
so I filled it up at the Shell garage	
Civil Servant heads for the exit	
Kentucky Fried Chicken has nothing on this one	
Which way to the London Marathon?	Richard
Now you know what Bird Flu can do!	
Just call me HPAI	Richard
"Cerebos" you can't catch me	Richard
Fred's attempt to gate crash his sister's hen night party	
This is the result of laying down on the job; too much energy	
His feathers were ruffled when he was late for the dawn chorus	Jan
Being free range wasn't what it was cracked up to be	Jan
Coronation Chicken making a quick getaway from the street party	Jan
Le Coq Sportif could only improve from this first tracksuit	
Harry the Hen was desperate to cover some miles, but his 'wings' were in poor	
condition and his 'faulty clutch' didn't bode well for longevity	
Ol' speckled hen was still running well, in the Lands End trial!	Clive
The hitmen from Colonel Sanders are after me.	
Kentucky fried chicken legs never looked so tasty	
I was only trying to steal a few eggs when this giant cockerel decided I looked cute	
"News FlashInternational car makers race to design a new sportscarThe new	
Chinese MG Cyberstar is the front runner but the French entry was less of a Phallic	
Roadster and more a Gallic Roosterperhaps they should stick to le foot-ball!"	
I was born a 'Morris' Dancer but reckoned without Darwin's theory of evolution!	John H
Just practising my future Trans!	
His mates always knew he was a bit of a cock.	
Always ready to ruffle a few feathers and to try and rule the roost.	

And the winner of last month's competition chosen by Howard is Simon. He will choose next month's winner. Well done all, though. They really cracked me up.

What have they seen!
Put it away and think up a caption.
Send your entries by the end of the month to:

mediatvmgoc@gmail.com





And finally...





I've been looking back at some of my files from when I was a BBC producer and came across a few ideas that I pitched to commissioning editors, suggesting sponsors for TV programmes. My career went downhill afterwards.

Coronation Street sponsored by Prince Charles

One Foot in the Grave sponsored by Dignitas

Call the Midwife sponsored by Durex

I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue sponsored by Diane Abbott

Steph's Packed Lunch sponsored by Tupperware

Match of the Day sponsored by Swan Vesta

Flog It sponsored by the Tory Party

Magpie Murders sponsored by Tottenham Hotspur FC

Bangers and Cash jointly sponsored by Walls Sausages and Bitcoin

Not Going Out sponsored by the Agoraphobia Society

Would I Lie To You? sponsored by Fox News and the Daily Express

Mock the Week sponsored by The Daily Mail

Only Connect sponsored by The Psychics Society

Who Do You Think You Are? sponsored by the Alzheimers Society

World's Most Dangerous Roads sponsored by Imodium

Top Gear sponsored by The Crash Test Dummies

Walking with Dinosaurs sponsored by Jacob Rees Mogg

Carry On franchise sponsored by Next

Bottom sponsored by Anusol

The Two of Us sponsored by Twix

Money for Nothing sponsored by Prince Andrew

Who Wants to be a Millionaire sponsored by Benylin cough linctus