



Treat him with a tasty MG on Tuesday 13 February



Treat her with flowers on Valentines Day 14 February

This Month Committee reports MGF & MGTF key fob reprogramming Calendar of upcoming events More on our mini-break to Wales TVMGOC technical articles on our website Shows & no-shows Run Report to Dartmoor Lodge



Secretary's Report



Writing at the end of a cold and windy January, an end to this winter and the associated budding of spring flowers to line the inviting tarmac of Dartmoor is eagerly anticipated. The brave continue with soft top motoring, with the odd smattering of hardtops making an appearance, while GT and Saloon owners nonchalantly turn the heating up, but the enjoyment of driving is undiminished for all. We have had a very successful monthly run to the excellent Dartmoor Lodge, where the first-class Carvery was a welcome reward for a foray into some patchy weather in the South West.

Our plans for future shows are coming together, with Powderham, Fowey and Flete House being full club events together with a wide variety of other shows which we will keep in mind. A trip to the new Motor Museum in Taunton has been proposed in addition to the Club mini break in Wales.

Howard is looking at other day trips as the weather improves, potentially to Abbotsbury Swannery*

The Photographic Competition Trophy will shortly be receiving a clean and polish, ready for the next recipient, and I imagine (probably when the skies clear a bit) that we can find ever more evocative pictures of our MGs set against the dramatic scenery in these parts.

My personal journey to give a little TLC to my previously neglected TF160 has taken a rather interesting turn this month. The car arrived via a couple of dealers – I imagine that it may have been one of those trade ins that the main dealer didn't want – and in the process one of the sets of keys had been lost. This turns out to be quite a saga if you want a new key fob, particularly if it is a post 2003 car with a newer and more secure 'Pektron' type set up. Key fobs are available on the internet, but you need a new one with a bar code. I contacted a local mobile vehicle locksmith who couldn't get one himself but offered to programme one for £80 if I could get one, which I did. Long story short, after an hour and a half he declared my fob faulty and left, empty handed, saying that our MGs were just too difficult, and that he wasn't going to touch one again. Scratching my head, I went onto the MGF Forum of the Car Club, where I spotted that a chap in Torpoint suggested that he had the right diagnostic tools which could programme. Not really knowing what to expect I boarded the Ferry and drove to Keiran's house. To my astonishment, Keiran has not one but two MG Rover diagnostic tools. Within 15 minutes he had programmed the new key successfully. Not content with that, he went through and cleared old fault codes still on the system and then looked at dealer programmable stuff like autolocking the doors on driving off, which mine did not do initially. He showed me how both programmers worked and mentioned that one of them could still be purchased. He did all of this out of the goodness of his heart, to help a fellow MG enthusiast, and the point of the story is that he would be happy to help out other MG enthusiasts in our club who have cars of this era (Zs and Fs).

You can still find people in this world who are just genuinely decent human beings, and on that high note I will sign off.

Warmest Regards

Simon *The swan round up may be biennial. I'm waiting to find out. Howard.

Should you need to contact our club secretary, for example to send in club subscriptions, first call or email. 01822 852843 <u>clubsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com</u>





Hello everyone,

As unappealing as it may seem to go out into a cold garage at this time of year to tackle some of those outstanding jobs on our MGs, the very least you should be doing is ensuring that the battery is still able to start the car, and if not, try and charge the battery. It absolutely kills a battery if allowed to go flat, and maintaining the battery on a trickle charger is probably the best solution and will save you the expense of having to buy a new one.

Alison and I missed out on the January Sunday lunch run to the Dartmoor Lodge, due to a family get together to celebrate our son Mark's 40th birthday. It seems unbelievable to think where all those years have gone since he was born, but they have all been a delight.

A lot of Mark's friends also came along to join in with the celebration and it was good to see how hands-on the dads seemed to be with nappy changing and other aspects of parenting. I must say that, thinking back to my own feeble efforts as a new dad 40 years ago, I felt slightly uncomfortable.

Having said that, I wasn't quite as bad as my daughter's father-in-law, who upon being confronted with his first soiled nappy change, was so disgusted by it that he promptly opened the bedroom window and threw the nappy onto the lawn. A neighbour spotting this flying nappy then called around to rescue the situation.

The club's AGM is not too far away (March club meeting) and I really hope you will come along to witness and oversee the club's due processes, one of those processes being the election of your committee for another club year.

I am happy to report that all of the existing committee members are willing to stand for reelection and that this proposed continuity really helps to ensure that the club continues to thrive and prosper.

The club's Sunday lunches continue to be popular and really do serve a useful purpose in keeping our club active over the winter months. Alison and I will actually be able to come along to the February lunch, so that will be good as it seems an absolute age since we have met you all socially, apart from the club meetings.

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 February meeting.

Alan



Event Secretary - keeping it wheel

Dear Motorneers,

2024 club outings kicked off in style with our Sunday lunch run from the Dartmoor Diner to the Dartmoor Lodge (see Sonia's report later in this newsletter). Not all had ventured out in their MG. I didn't, but my excuse is that I'd just had a small bit of bodywork done by Steve in Callington to fix a single rust spot and the paint needed time to harden.*

This is a fairly quiet time of the year for MGing. With this cold, wet weather keeping our beloved cars mostly tucked up and under cover (and yes Alan, my car is hooked up to a battery conditioner), the best thing to do is look forward to warmer, drier times and a classic year of MG motoring. As you will see from the following Upcoming Events list there is a lot to look forward to already and a few events that are new additions, so please go through everything there.

Andy has been busy investigating and listing local car shows and I'm sure he will soon be recommending a few that are well worth visiting but are not usually on our club radar.

It's marvellous that we now have 19 cars booked to take part in our club mini-break to Southern Snowdonia in July. More on this later in this newsletter.

It's also great that we will have a large club display at Fowey this summer. So far we have 24 cars taking part. If you are still undecided, the show's website features a gallery of photos and, if you haven't seen it already, at the bottom is the 360° video I made. See here: https://www.foweyclassiccar.com/galleryvisitors/

But first, skiing is one of the great loves of my life and soon Jan & I will be driving down to the Alpes with a car full of skis, boots and fleeces to join our daughter and her family for a week hurling ourselves down mountains. Frankly, I'm counting the minutes until it's time to set off (and Ski Sunday has returned to our screens...yeaaaah!).

I really should have been a downhill ski racer. However, I don't think I'd have been much good as it doesn't take place on a level playing field.

Happy MGing! Howard

*Who ya kiddin'? You just didn't want to get it dirty! Ed.



Come on guys & gals. Not many photos have been sent in yet.



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 here & on our website when available. For events outside our region see the Event Diary on our website.

Feb	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon – Annual quiz night	12 Feb
	Sunday Lunch organised by John H. & Vanessa. List now full. To The Crooked	18 Feb
	Inn, Saltash PL12 4RZ	
	Meeting Point: Travel Lodge Saltash services at 11-00 for a 11-30 departure.	
	Arrive 12-30 to eat at 1pm. List now closed.	
March	Club 2 nd Monday Meeting & AGM.	11 Mar
	The Big Auto Jumble at Five Bridges, Willand Rd, Cullompton EX15 1QP.	16 Mar
	Sunday lunch run to Cornwood Inn, PL21 9PU. Organised by John & Bee.	24 Mar
	Meet: At The Dartmoor Diner from 10 am to depart at 11. Lunch 1pm.	
	Vintage Vehicle Rally, Rayle Farm near Redruth, TR16 4QP	30 & 31 Mar
	Entry details on our website.	
April	Club 2 nd Monday - Talk by Tim Hipwell, MGOC Regional Rep.	8 April
	Drive It Day – run organised by Simon & Charlie, catering by Janis.	21 April
May	Social meet with Chichester MGOC at Knightstone Café 10:30? TBC	Thur 2
	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon - Photo competition winners.	13 May
	Friday evening run to Church House Inn, Rattery - organised by	17 May
	Richard & Kathryn.	
	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 – to exhibit at the inaugural show costs just	8 June
	£5 per car. See the entry details on our website.	
	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon – with Nigel S. talk "The Xtra 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. Hotel now full but other	24 to 28
	accommodation may be available nearby. Organised by Howard.	June
	Friday picnic? TBA	ТВА
July	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon.	8 July
	Powderham Historic Vehicle Gathering.	13 & 14 July
	Wadebridge wheels – Entries from Easter.	21 July
	Boconnoc Steam Fair – Entry link on our website.	26 – 28 July
	Rosemoor Vintage – Entry form on our website.	27 & 28
August	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon	12 Aug
	Club day out to County Classics Car Museum, Taunton – organised by Andy S.	ТВА
	RAF Harrowbeer 1940s Weekend – just turn up.	17 & 18
	Fowey Show and Parade – Entry link on our website.	Thursday 22
	Great Trethew – Application forms for 2024 will be available to download from March.	26 to 28

September	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon.	9 Sept
	Rotary Club of Saltram Classic Car Show.	TBA
	Rerun of 2023 People & Places (a shortened route) hopefully in better weather – organised by Simon & Howard. Likely to be called PP7½.	8 or 15? TBA
October	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon.	14 Oct
	Annual Tulip Trophy Run organised by Gavin & Rachel.	TBA
November	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon.	11 Nov
December	Christmas Lunch at Yelverton Golf Club (no club meeting this month).	Thurs 19 Dec

Man's Quest To Build The Ultimate Sports Car – a talk

Gavin has forwarded this invitation:

Drummond Challis - film producer - will be giving a presentation at Harrowbarrow village hall PL17 8BQ on Thursday February 29th at 7pm on making the film 'Man's Quest To Build The Ultimate Sports Car'. The talk will be followed by a viewing of the film.

Free entry but voluntary donations to the RNLI will be appreciated. Tea and coffee available. Drummond Challis is a producer and director, known for La Coupe De La Gloire: The Official Film of the 1998 FIFA World Cup (1998), The Riddle of the Sands (1979) and A Tiger's Tale - The Tiger Moth Story (1992).





The Big Auto Jumble Saturday 16 March at Five Bridges, Willand Rd, Cullompton EX15 1QP from 09:30

MGs in the Park 9 June Cotswold Wildlife Park

Social meet for coffee with Chichester MGOC Thursday 2 May

Former TVMGOC members Clive and Wendy, who many of us will remember fondly and who always come down take part in our People & Places runs, are organising a tour of our region for their club at the end of April. They have suggested we meet up with them and their crews at Knightstone Tea Rooms, Yelverton at around 10:30. I will be pre-warning the café of our visit, but it might be useful to find out how many of our members will be joining us. I will organise the details and produce a list for Janis to bring to club meetings nearer the time. The tea rooms house the RAF Harrowbeer Archives Educational and Heritage Centre that commemorates the airfield's history. You can learn more here: https://rafharrowbeer-dartmoor.org.uk/

Fowey – Thursday 2 August

We currently have 24 cars entered, which is fantastic! After some confusion with the organisers' new on-line registration system, some of you may or may not have new numbers. However, the stewards will also have a list of names to check against as we drive into the showground, so the allocated numbers are not vital.

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Club mini-break to Southern Snowdonia in July at the Tyn y Cornel Hotel

We have 19 cars taking part so far. If you would like to join us there are still a couple of rooms available.

The Lancia Motor Club have been there, and they are handing over their route books to the hotel to share with other car club visitors. I have read an LMC blog, and the comments about the hotel and routes sound excellent. Nearer the time I'll try to get hold of these books in advance, but as a backup I've been searching through my collection of AA-type books for routes and have already found a couple of crackers which would take us into spectacular areas of Snowdonia I doubt many of us have visited before.

Mountains, coastlines, and lakes - what more could we want for a memorable MG adventure?

The Guild of Motoring Writers have also stayed there, so it all bodes well. There's a video showcasing the hotel here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=devcCHoAmOI

Bournemouth & Poole MGOC Garden Party & Picnic -Sunday 18 August

Our club has been invited to join Bournemouth & Poole MGOC's annual Garden Party & Picnic at Athelhampton House, near Dorchester. I once filmed an antiques programme there, and it is a lovely place to visit. Contact Simon and/or Howard if you are interested.

Shows & no shows – a sign of the times

Across the country, some historic events are being cancelled. The latest closures include The Brighton National Speed Trial which has been run since 1905. This is due to the deteriorating state of Madeira Drive, the cost of safety measures, and spectator terraces being closed thus reducing attendance. The various London to Brighton Runs have had to be relocated due to ULEZs, whilst the London to Brighton Mini Run which attracted around 2000 cars has been cancelled.

Chichester District Council has told a local car club that after 13 years they may no longer use a payand-display car park to meet. Not even a Conservative MP whose husband is a member of the club could dissuade the Council to change its mind.

Most relevant to us is **MG Live!** which has been held at Silverstone comprising a show and historic vehicle racing. This event is no longer viable due to the significant financial risks involved, site hire charges, key volunteers retiring without replacements being found, and dwindling attendances. However, there is an alternative for MG fans and one that is closer to home...

Inter-Club International Weekend – Malvern, 28th to 30th June

This does sound good, and for organisers, forging partnerships with other clubs is a way of sharing costs and responsibilities. Please be aware that, though advertised as taking place across three days, Friday 28th is just a set-up day for exhibitors and for those camping for the whole weekend. Day tickets are available for the Saturday and Sunday.











Top Gear looks affectionately at the MGB

The Top Gear on-line magazine asked this question: *What's the most MG car in the back catalogue?* An odd kind of question, as surely an MGB is no more of an MG than any other British car of that marque built since the 1920s. Putting that aside, the article below is a nice celebration of MG's most popular sports car and worth a read:

https://www.topgear.com/car-news/retro/whats-most-mg-car-back-catalogue

Denham Bridge & Seaton Beach Café closed

Many of our routes cross the River Tavy. The Grade II listed Denham Bridge near Bere Alston had its parapet knocked off recently and was shut for safety reasons, Devon County Council said. It is understood the bridge was hit by cars on two separate occasions and is expected to remain closed for weeks.



Seaton Beach Café has often been a destination for some of our runs. The company that leased the building has gone into liqudation and closed the business. The owners plan to reopen the café, but new building work is needed and the café is likely to remain closed for a year or more.

2004 MG ZT 1.8 160 T 4dr SALOON Petrol Manual

John I. spotted this for sale at a dealer via eBay asking £11,989. It looks perfect, which it should do as its stated mileage is just 7! The dilemma would be: keep it pristine in a collection or drive it, in which case the mileage would go up as the value dropped. See here: https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/285657508571



January Sunday Lunch Run to the Dartmoor Lodge



We set off from home anticipating a cold and misty drive and decided to keep the hood up on the old car. The week before had been arctic weather that would have made the roads icy and challenging but the temperature gauge rose, and we actually had a delightful drive albeit with the hood remaining up!

Having fortified ourselves with coffee we set off from the Dartmoor Diner and headed out onto the moors. I know we all love Dartmoor in the summer and our cars were really made for driving with their hoods down, feeling the wind in our hair, but I never tire of Dartmoor and find it just as magical in the winter. It is wild and wonderful.

This particular route took us initially on the road to Princetown with the sweeping views of Laughter Tor and the Powdermills Pottery, then through Postbridge. The ancient clapper bridge was first mentioned in 1380 but is thought to have been built much earlier. The three huge granite spans are part of a medieval route between Exeter and Tavistock. Our journey then took us on past the famous Warren House Inn onto the remote high moors.



Here we were treated with wonderful long-distance views of the valleys whilst the tors still had their summits in the clouds. The usual greenery was replaced by swathes of rusty bracken broken by highlights of bright yellow gorse. After several miles of stunning scenery, we took a right turning towards Manaton. The village is quite spread out but does have a village green and a parish hall. We travelled along narrow lanes with manicured beech hedges and through woods with the undergrowth covered in fallen leaves. In the winter you can see more deeply into the woodland and enjoy the outline of the trees.

After passing Becky Falls car park we found ourselves back on open moorland. Briefly we were on another sweeping road alongside a valley with nothing but huge skies ahead of us. All too soon we were over a cattle grid into farmland and tree lined roads heading towards Haytor. The road climbs gradually until rounding a bend you get your first view of the iconic Haytor. For visitors from further north, this is likely to be their first encounter with beautiful Dartmoor and the road from Haytor to Widecombe must rank as one of the most scenic. It certainly gave me some ooh! moments.

As we turned off the road, heading for Ashburton and our lunch rendezvous, we saw a large group of horses galloping across the open moors. They were not being rounded up and I like to think that they too were simply enjoying being out in such awe-inspiring countryside. If you were unable to join us on this run I suggest you get a copy of the route and give yourself the chance to enjoy it too.

Sonía



Twelve months previously the service at the Lodge had been slow but not this time. Our food was served promptly, was generous and delicious.

This was a repeat route and venue because towards the end of last year we still hadn't got any volunteers for the January run, and so we dusted this one off as it is reliable. Devised by Jan and me three or four years ago we have only ever done it in a January. Even on a dull Dartmoor day – at least it was dry! - this is a nice scenic drive, and we really ought to repeat it in summer some time. Thanks to Richard and Kathryn for advance checking it for us. Howard

TVMGOC TECHNICAL ARTICLES AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOADING ON OUR WEBSITE

https://www.tvmgoc.org.uk/links-technical/

FILE NAME	SUBJECT
01a Pt 1	Rebuilding SU carbs Pt. 1
01a Pt 2	Rebuilding SU carbs Pt. 2
01b	Setting Up SU carbs (See also 02, 13, 14 & 28)
01c – see also 28	Carb Spring Clean by Roger Parker
02	SU carb rebuild by EB Engineering to a 1950s TF
03	13 Changing tyres on a modern T/TF
04 Fuel tank corrosion	How to stop corrosion in a fuel tank caused by fuels containing ethanol
05	MGF&TF key fobs & indicator bulbs
06	Soft top renovation
07 Midget starter	How to strip down a starter motor off a midget
08	Fitting wire wheels
09	Bodywork – lead loading skills
10a	Fitting a Ford 5-speed gearbox
10b	Fitting an MG supercharger kit
11	Fitting power steering
12	Dodgy fuel lines
13- see also 22 a&b	Ethanol Fuel additives and the effects of ethanol in your petrol tank
15	Fitting an MGB front wing –
16a	Fitting an MBG rear wing
16b	Fitting headlamp relays – see also 25
17	Fitting an ammeter
18	Battery leaks & charging
19	Fitting a rear brake cylinder
20	Fitting a voltmeter
21	MGB leaf spring & lever arm damper upgrade
22	MGD lear spring & level ann damper apgrade
22a	E=ethanol Pt.1
22b	E=ethanol Pt.2
23	How to recondition your brake callipers
24	Soft top hood restoration
25	How to fit headlamp relays – see also 16b
26	Decoding MGB engine & VIN numbers
27	Clutch & brake master cylinders rebuild
28	Synchronising twin carbs
29 – see also 34	Engine overheating
30 MGA bilge blower	Fitting a bilge blower to an MGA to help cool the carbs as Howard has.
31 Diagnosing electrics	Diagnosing electrical problems if your car conks
31 Diagnosing electrics	How to store your classic car
	MG F+TF subframe replacement
33 34	
35	MGA hot running issues
	Fitting hazard warning lights MGB Rev counter fire
36	
37	Electronic Ignition Systems by Roger Parker
38	car fault finder
39	MGB GT gear change issues by Richard M.
40	Repairing Smith/Jaeger speedo
41	MG Suppliers UK, USA & Canada, Australia & New Zealand – list from
	mgaguru.com

jaller

Car wash

In the winter our roads are often full of rock salt which makes cars rust. In summer we traverse muddy lanes. One chap has knocked up this device to wash under the car. It's a fanning lawn sprinkler screwed onto a pole - a cheap and cheerful solution.

Angled attachments are available for power washers, but they can be expensive.





We're delighted to announce an exciting multiyear partnership with MG, which will see the UK car manufacturer become our Official Automotive Partner.

Welcome to the Arsenal family, @MGmotor 👋



Gunning for the gunners John I. spotted this.

MG, which sold over 80,000 cars in 2023 in the UK, will support Arsenal's men's and women's teams, and fans will see their brand showcased at Emirates Stadium. MG and Arsenal will also work together to create engaging content designed to engage the club's global supporter base.

(It sez 'ere on't web. Brace yourselves for more corporate BS speak... Ed.)

Juliet Slot, Arsenal's chief commercial officer, said "We're delighted to welcome MG to our family of partners. It's a brand renowned for its history and heritage, but they also bring a forward-thinking mindset that aligns with our club's ambitions.

"In their centenary year, we're excited that MG can become part of our own long-term growth journey, and we look forward to working with them to promote their range of leading sustainable electric vehicles."

It does seem odd though. Do MG think they will sell more cars to Arsenal fans? Stand by for lots of photos of top players, such as Bukayo Saka, Martin Odegaard and Declan Rice, driving around in freebie Cybersters. Or will it just antagonise non-Arsenal fans and consequently lead to selling fewer cars? An own goal?

Perhaps the green of Argyle wasn't to MG's taste, though on a good day the range of the Cyberster may be enough to get as far as Plymouth from Emirates Stadium.



Received entries	From
The North East's formation drinking champion goes for just one more!	Clive
Drink responsibly means don't spill it.	Howard
Janis tries to demonstrate the difference between RON 95 or RON 98 but finds that	Peter S
after 4 or 5 glasses she couldn't tell the differenceor what day it is!	
"Well, it was full a minute ago!"	Howard
"It was wine but some b****r turned it into water."	Roger
"Dry January be dammed!"	Gavin
"Don`t worry, it is E5 compliant so shouldn`t damage my hoses."	John I.
"It's Christmas so it's time for some Holy Spirit!"	Howard
"What do you mean, my glasses are too large? I've had a hard day!"	John H.
"When I read about the evils of drinking, I give up reading."	Howard
"I am just adding some Castrol Valvemaster, it stops me pinking or running on"	John I.
"For some reason my glass always seems to be half-full !!"	Nigel S.
In the voice of David Attenborough: "Here we have Janis, our social secretary, in her	Janis
natural environment, demonstrating the skill developed through years of evolution ,	
of using utensils to transfer vital fluids"	

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

Here's next month's photo that requires a caption.

Beam your entries in by the end of the month to: <u>eventsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com</u>





And finally...



One of our club members had their email hacked. As I was a recipient of the scammer I thought I'd better reset my own password too, so I chose 2444666668888888. It's easy to remember...12345678



(This is a joke that doesn't work if it has to be explained)



It was only a matter of time, first hybrids then electric and now vegan.



