

Newsletter June 2024



This Month

**Committee reports
Upcoming events
A car museum closes
Car insurance issues
The MG100 Cavalcade
Launceston Vintage Rally**



Both Roy and Howard needed the services of these two organisations last Month.



**Get more smiles to the gallon
with TVMGOC**



Secretary's Report



Well, at last I type in a Tamar Valley resplendent in sunshine. We have reached the time of year when our fellow countryfolk take to their cars and campervans and join us residents of the South West for their holidays. Our motorways creak under the bank holiday traffic fest and it seems that every other farm is hosting a festival of sorts. Thankfully not all are trying to emulate the full Glastonbury experience, and many are hosting shows where classic cars are at least a part, if not the main attraction.

As most of you know we choose a few of these where we set up a full club stand with our feather flags and gazebo, supported by the MGOC in terms of our insurance for the stand, and these are a great opportunity to share our enthusiasm with the general public. It sometimes surprises me that so many people, many born into a very different world than that in which many of our cars were built, are so interested. A very good friend whose wife is to sell her lovely MGB observed that her car attracted more interest than his Porsche Boxster.

The social side of MG Ownership is a strong reason to buy one of course, and here one of our new joiners who has swapped his Porsche for an MG observed how much friendlier the MG world is. We are very much looking forward to our club 'mini-break' to the scenic Tyn y Cornel hotel in Snowdonia, which has attracted bookings for 20 cars, and promises to be serious driving fun.

Following that, this month our next club show is to be the large Powderham show organised to great effect by the Crash Box and Classic Car Club in the beautiful grounds of Powderham Castle. The list for this is now closed, with a strong membership attendance on each day which is great to see.

Nigel and I are most grateful for your annual subscriptions which allow the essential administration of the club. This year we have introduced an additional levy of some £15 to cover postage for those few who still wish to have the newsletter printed and sent by post, and this has allowed us to protect the membership cost for us all.

Finally, I should apologise for being somewhat absent of late. Charity commitments and holidays seem to have fallen at just the wrong times, however I will be there on Monday. I look forward to seeing you!

Warmest Regards,

Simon

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

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clubsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com



Notes from your Chairman



Hello everyone,

At last we are able to enjoy a spell of fairly dry and warm weather as we move into June. If this doesn't tempt you into getting your MG out to go for spirited drive, then nothing will. Should that worry you? Possibly! From my own experience, a good spin in the MGB makes me feel on top of the world.

Recently the club has gained quite a few new members and it is certainly good news that the club is still slowly expanding. Alison and I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all and we look forward to meeting you and your MGs soon.

We realise that sometimes coming into a new club can seem daunting, but you can be assured of a good welcome at our various events. Hopefully, you will soon realise what a friendly bunch we are and that your MG ownership and enjoyment is enhanced by regularly joining us out on the road. A convoy of MGs snaking over Dartmoor is a splendid sight.

The end of this month will see a contingent of 20 club cars going to Snowdonia for a four-day mini-break. This is something that we are really looking forward to. Fingers crossed for good weather!

I am unsure how the default 20 MPH speed limit in Wales will affect our driving enjoyment or unblemished driving licence. The last I heard was that the scheme was being scrapped and the 20 MPH speed limit only retained on certain specified roads.

In July, Alison and I are looking forward to attending the **Powderham Castle Classic Car Show**, the club visit to **Flete House** on Sunday 28th July and also the **Boconnoc Steam Fair** which is held over three days (Fri 26th, Sat 27th & Sun 28th), we are looking to go on the Saturday and if anyone wishes to join us, get your entry in soon.

Alison and I are also looking forward to seeing all you at the club meeting on Monday 10th June. Like us, I'm sure you will not want to miss the talk given by our Treasurer, Nigel.
Happy MG motoring,

Alan



Event Secretary - keeping it wheel

Dear Motorneers,

The Babe Magnet has been a bit stroppy and needy of late. I don't blame her. She's OK in herself, but she doesn't appreciate all the poor-quality new replacement electro/mechanical stuff that gets bolted onto her when needed.

Before we set off with Roy & Sonia to East Anglia to explore the area on our way to the MGA Register's Spring tour from Bury St Edmunds, with help from Neil and Roy we concluded a new wiper motor was needed for my MGA. Sadly, it wouldn't arrive before we set off on the long drive to King's Lynn, so we just had to put up with wipers that didn't have the power to park properly. If only that was the only problem. *(PS When the new wiper did arrive from Moss, guess what? To cut a very long story short they had sent one that didn't have the wiper park feature. I had to get a refund and order again from SC Parts)*

First, after a quick visit to Great Yarmouth (quick was plenty long enough!) my car's ignition warning light wouldn't go off. The alternator was just 4 years old but, after testing, an AA man confirmed what we knew already - that it had stopped working. Consulting the MGOC website of MG specialist garages, I found details of a chap nearby who said he could drop what he was currently working on, and also get a new alternator delivered from his supplier that very morning. However, he had moved from the address MGOC quoted in Thetford and was now an hour and a half drive away, back near Kings Lynn. On arrival, rather than what was supposed to be a direct swap, the 'correct' new replacement alternator didn't quite fit. To get all the fan belt pulleys lined up, the mechanic needed to grind the brackets down a bit. So, a half-hour job turned into an hour and a half faff. Still, I was grateful to have found a Samaritan to fix the problem at short notice.

Then the rattle started. By rattle I don't mean an occasional squeak. This was a horrible, loud, bag of nails inside a cement mixer cacophony. It was so loud Roy could hear it driving behind me. First guess was a broken exhaust mount. The exhaust pipe on my car has always been worryingly low slung and I knew, and Roy had seen, that we had grounded on a particularly bad country road. We peered underneath and noticed one of the exhaust brackets had broken. A chap saw me with the bonnet up in the car park at a B&Q and offered to run me to Halfords to get a new bracket and stand by with spare tools should they be needed while I fixed it. He was Samaritan number two.

However, that turned out not to be the cause of the rattle, which continued and was by now flummoxing us, not least because that exhaust issue had focussed our attention in the wrong direction. We drove to Cottenham, near Cambridge, where my daughter lives. This is not far from MGOC HQ at Swavesey, and I called the workshop to ask if we could put the car up on a lift to see where the rattle was coming from. As I was 300 miles from home, they took pity and said they too would stop what they were doing to take a quick look. It turned out to be the retaining rod that secures a clip holding the front disc pads in place. It was badly bent allowing the pads to slip and grind but fortunately MGOC's huge spares department was next door and so parts were quickly sourced and fitted. I already carry replacement clips, but as this was the second time this had happened I was happy to get new ones and keep my spares in the boot just in case. The MGOC mechanic was Samaritan number 3.

Next day, and you couldn't make this stuff up, Roy's ignition light stayed on! He too took himself to Swavesey and once again Samaritan 3 fitted a new alternator from off the shelf next door. It later turned out to be just an earthing problem with the ignition light, so Roy now has a spare alternator. He had also broken a tail light and had lost a radiator cap, so these were also replaced from the Spares Department.

But what about our East Anglian trip and the MGA Register weekend? How was that?

Well, it was lovely to explore an unfamiliar area. Though the flat northern coast is a bit of a disappointment compared to our dramatic Westcountry beaches and cliffs, inland it's lovely; imagine the Cotswolds but without the crowds. We visited some historic sites including the Anglo-Saxon replica village at South Wold, and Sutton Hoo, the burial site of King Raedwald, who died around 625. The huge privately owned Caister Castle Car Collection was also well worth a visit.

It was great to see a whole fleet of MGAs gathered at our hotel in Bury St Edmunds. Roy & Sonia beat Jan & me by just 5 miles to win the furthest travelled award. They were given a gimungous jar of Branston Pickle, which is made nearby, and together with the smaller jar that they also won in the raffle, it should keep them pickled for a while. I hope they relish it. Boom Boom!



In Cambridge we went punting on the River Cam along the University Backs. Punting, as Roy can contest, is not as easy as it looks. See the photo later for this month's caption competition.

After a visit to RAF Duxford Imperial War Museum, it was time for Roy & Sonia to head home as we stayed behind for our granddaughter's 13th birthday party.



Admiring my technique!

Two hours into their journey, Roy's fuel pump packed in. It was just two years old and Hardi is supposed to be superior to SU pumps! Now this was a bummer as had I been with them we could have rigged up my spare fuel pump. Ho hum. They had to call the RAC for a lift home on a transporter. That stopped at Exeter Services to change to another transporter which failed to materialise for two hours. Eventually the RAC took pity on them and provided a courtesy car for them to drive home to Saltash where they arrived at 6:30 in the morning. Their MGA was delivered the next day.

My overall mileage for the trip was 1020. I'm assuming that, as his MGA covered the last 200 or so miles on the back of a truck, I actually won the unofficial 'total distance driven' award. But, Roy & Sonia, there's really no need to share all that relish with us. Please keep it to enjoy all by yourselves.

Thousands MORE miles in Wales and Norway are yet to come this summer, so hopefully that's the last of our mechanical problems...fingers crossed!

Happy MGing!

Howard

PS Apologies for missing the June meeting.



My car outside the Royal Station at Sandringham



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. Contact:
Howard re runs by other clubs, mini-break & Fowey Show & Parade: eventsecretarttvmgoc@gmail.com
Andy re all other shows: reptvmgoc@gmail.com
Janis who helps the organisers of Sunday lunches, picnics + Xmas lunch:
socialsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE

The number of classic car events is now so large that to list even just the local ones here is getting too much and is too confusing. Also, there are show dates that clash with one another. From now on, these newsletters will feature only shows and runs which TVMGOC has a particular interest in attending as a club event and which we would very much appreciate you trying to attend if possible so that we can put on a decent club stand.

As always, you are free to take part in anything you choose, and so a more complete list of local events will appear in the Event Diary on our website which we try to update monthly if there are additions.

June	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon – Nigel S talk “The Extra Factor” on his work as a TV Extra	10 June
	Friday picnic run to Dartmoor Gliding Club nr Tavistock – bring your own picnic - meet 2pm Coypool Retail Park for picnic 3.30 at gliding club	Friday 21 June
	Club 4-night mini-break to southern Snowdonia. We have 20 cars going. Organised by Howard & Jan	24 to 28 June
July	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon - Chat & Chill	8 July
	Powderham Historic Vehicle Gathering – organiser Andy – list closed	13 & 14 July
	Flete House Open Gardens for St Lukes – once again TVMGOC have been exclusively invited to put on a car show. Please add your name to the list at a meeting or contact Members rep 1 Andy: reptvmgoc@gmail.com	28 July
Aug	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon – a talk from a member? Any volunteers?	12 Aug
	Sunday lunch run by David & Teresa	TBA
	Club day out to County Classics Car Museum, Taunton. Organised by Andy	Thurs 15
	Fowey Show and Parade. Entry link on our website	Thur 22 Aug
	Great Trethew Vintage Rally. Entry link on our website We hope to put on a club group display on Monday 28 th	26 to 28
Sept	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon - external speaker?	9 Sept
	Rerun of 2023 People & Places (a shortened route) hopefully in better weather – organised by Simon. Likely to be called PP7½	22 Sept
Oct	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon - Chat & Chill	14 Oct
	Annual Tulip Trophy Run organised by Gavin & Rachel	TBA
Nov	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon	11 Nov
Dec	Christmas Lunch at Yelverton Golf Club (no club meeting this month)	Thurs 19 Dec

Sharing routes from Hereford

Two more clubs replicated our Hereford trip so the routes Jan & I formulated last year for our club mini-break have proved popular elsewhere. I received this message from Newbury MGOC:

Hello Howard

What a brilliant week we spent at the Pilgrim Hotel following your routes. We four thoroughly enjoyed the drives round and had little difficulty in completing them all.

The drive over to Hay via Llanthony Abbey was the highlight. It was a perfect day with clear blue skies, just the conditions MGs were designed for.

Interesting that there were 10 other MGs in the hotel car park when we arrived. They were from the Cambridge Club who had also taken up your offer of supplying the routes. It was great to meet up with fellow enthusiasts.

Thank you once again for supplying the information, it was excellent.

Roger

It just goes to show there is an appetite for sharing routes. It's such a pity my plea to MGOC to start a database of runs that clubs could draw upon has been ignored. Perhaps it's because, as MGOC Area Sec Tim Hipwell suggested at the talk he gave us recently, it's because our parent club is only interested in being run as a profitable business (his words, not mine). However, some of us MGOC members have been grateful for the free technical advice and practical help we have received on numerous occasions, so it's not all about money.

Another donation to The Mustard Tree Charity

Tim also encouraged us to submit articles to *Enjoying MG!* for which we would be paid. I told him that I had not received anything from MGOC for the one I submitted about our trip to Hereford.

I had been paid in the past and Tim was surprised I hadn't received anything this time.

A couple of weeks ago, Simon received a call from MGOC saying that the cheque they had sent me for the article last year hadn't yet been cashed. Well, I don't know what happened, but I didn't receive said cheque. The upshot is that £80 has been paid into club funds and, as I promised last year, I have asked for it to be donated to our People & Places nominated charity, The Mustard Tree. So together with the £570 we gave them last November, we have now donated £650.

Howard



And the winner of the impossible to parallel park award goes to....



News snippets



Sad news as the Moretonhampstead Motor Museum announces its closure

Frank Loft, owner of the Moretonhampstead Motor Museum which is housed in a 1930s art deco style former bus depot within the Dartmoor National Park, posted this on the Museum's Facebook page:

It is with some regret that I have taken the decision to sell the museum and retire from my 'retirement project'. This has been a difficult and emotive decision to make. I hope that someone with a similar level of passion and drive will take this 'project' on and continue to develop and curate the collection well into the future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the success of the project along the way and to all who have enjoyed visiting.

Whatever happens, the museum will remain open to visitors until at least the end of August.

If a new custodian is not forthcoming by mid-July, then it is likely the collection will be auctioned later this year.



Car Insurance problems

Safety Fast! recently carried a report on classic car drivers either being stopped by the Police or receiving letters from them saying that their car has been caught being driven without insurance, even when they were in fact fully covered. The consequences of driving an uninsured car are very serious. In these cases, the cars had not appeared in the MID (Motor Insurance Database) as having current insurance due to an admin problem.

One owner reported that after sending his insurance certificate and bank statement proving the policy had been paid for to the Police station that picked up the issue, a Sergeant called to explain the issue. First he advised the owner to immediately stop driving the car as, although it was insured, their system reported otherwise. He advised keeping the car off the road until the insurance company updated the owner's insurance details on MID.

So, what's to be done to stop you from being pulled over and threatened with dire consequences? Firstly, enter your car's registration number onto the MID website here: <https://askmid.com/>

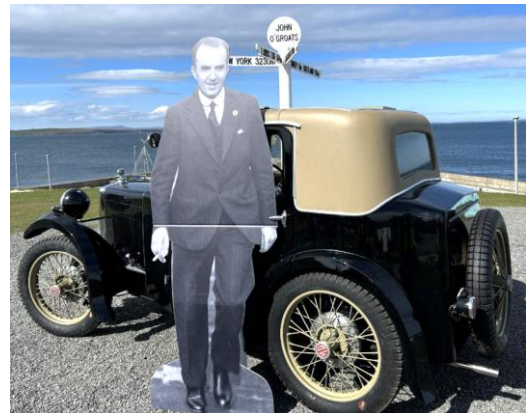
My MGA is registered as being insured. If yours is not, stop using it and contact your insurance company urgently to get them to update their records immediately. Afterwards, please tell me how you got on sorting it all out.

Secondly, it's a good idea to carry your insurance details with you at all times. Having the documents stored on your phone is fine.

FYI the Police take an uninsured car off the road every three and a half minutes!

Howard

The MG100 Cavalcade began on April 30th at John O Groats and ended at Lands End on May 25th 2024



A 1920s M type Sports Coupe and a cut out effigy of Cecil Kimber with a tracker attached was transported daily on a route taking in a fair amount of the country. On each daily section, members of the MG Car Club of Great Britain were invited to accompany them through their area.

Devon and Cornwall Centre members joined the event for the final two stages - from Exeter to Lifton on Friday 24th May and then from Lifton to Lands End on Saturday 25th May, where many photographs were taken of the closing ceremony after an obligatory cream tea.

There was also a dinner in the evening.

The Devon section took us south to Dawlish and Teignmouth before heading back up via Bovey Tracey onto Dartmoor, stopping for lunch at the Rugglestone Inn, Widecombe. After lunch we went through Princetown, Tavistock and past Brentor and Chillaton to end at Strawberry Fields, Lifton.

On this day I was privileged to be asked to escort Cecil Kimber in my MG RV8.



Next morning, bright and early, was the Cornwall section. Through Launceston, South Petherwin, down to Minions, on to Dobwalls and then the A390, turning off to traverse the Respryn bridge after which we passed the Lanhydrock estate and under the A30 to reach the north coast route westward to Blackwater for lunch at Hawkins MG.

After lunch was the north coast route through numerous holiday hot spots, eventually arriving at Lands End where we all parked up overlooking the sea in front of the hotel.



Wow, what a couple of days it was, and we can do it all again in another 100 years!

Andy

Pictures from MGCC and D&C MGCC Facebook pages



For me, this Rally heralds the beginning of the classic car season, and I have reported on it many times since 2003. The journey to Plusha Bridge, near Launceston on the A30, was obviously familiar and the late Spring growth ensured a pleasurable, green, escapist drive, through villages with unlikely Cornish names as Bray Shop, Coads Green and Congdons Shop. After a brief flirtation with the infamous dual carriageway, the first slip road took me under the road at Trewint and back again following the old London Road (part of the newly named Trafalgar Way) to the Rally site 200 yards away.

Initially my heart stopped when confronted with the entrance. A sea of mud greeted me; acres of it! On reflection I should not have been surprised as, before I left home, during a phone call to Roger Grace, he warned of the likely conditions, as he had taken his everyday car there two days previously and mentioned heavy showers both on the Bank Holiday Saturday and Sunday; Monday should be the best day!!

Back to the mud. The main gate sentry said, "You're welcome to try it sir, at your own risk. It gets better the further you go in".

I eyed a couple of gleaming abandoned classic cars parked on the road outside, and another behind me who immediately performed a 'Uee' and went home. I decided to be a man of decision and went for it!

Amazingly the Magnette is quite good in mud, provided it has momentum. I attempted to skirt the sea of goo using what little grass was left near some tents, regardless of plucking out a few strategic guys and pegs on the way. I literally ploughed on, eventually reaching some virgin grass. Surprisingly there was a large assembly of classic cars there already, with club member Andy Slapp attempting to wash the mud from his pristine RV8 with a litre bottle of drinking water. Obliging he had left ample space for me alongside, overlooking the main ring.

The sun was shining quite bravely by this time, but we could see shower clouds lining up in the West. This gave Andy a further dilemma: put his hood up and down in rhythm with the showers, or alternatively protect the cockpit and stylish interior with a large MG umbrella. The umbrella won - just (see photo)

The weather had a marked effect on the displays. No traction engines were allowed to move, sulking 'in-steam' in a corner of the field. No classic tractor races were run other than who could be the slowest over 100 yds. You could eat two ice cream cones end to end whilst that event took place. The displays that benefitted from the restrictions were those involving animals, people, and children. A family of llamas strutted their stuff regularly around the arena. I'm now an expert on the species, having heard the commentary four times. Shire horses too enjoyed being the centre of attraction. Relieved of the plough, they behaved like kids' show ponies, to say nothing of the all-female drummer band, definitely an acquired taste!


Sadly, the whole show was subdued this year, but eventually the sun came out permanently and, in true British spirit, punters made the best of it, particularly viewing the 50-odd classic cars on parade. "I passed my test in a Magnette nearly 60 year ago," a regular opening gambit.

The final challenge at the end of the day was exiting the 25-acre field unscathed. Andy and I chose to use the natural slope in an attempt to find an alternative un-muddy gateway. We managed in the end, after several three-point turns, to circumnavigate the whole site back to the A30. Andy expressed his relief by giving his V8 engine the full wellie treatment to Mac 2, as he headed East, passed me in a 'blurrrrr!', and home.



John H



Received entries	From
<i>And it was at that moment the Traffic Warden realized they were dealing with a special kind of criminal.</i>	Howard
<i>Fortunately for Fred, the Clamping Team only had access to the spare wheel on the boot of his MG due to the very narrow parking spaces, and all was quickly resolved !!</i>	Nigel S
<i>Turns out a £50 wheel from ebay is cheaper than the parking fine.</i>	Simon
<i>"Yes, the tyre tracking is well out, mate!"</i>	Gavin
<i>How to get moving again when you have lost the wheel clamp key.</i>	Richard M.
<i>"Whe'll meet again..."</i>	Gavin
<i>There are several types of anti-theft devices. Some are better than others!</i>	Paul F
<i>Sometimes you just need to leave your problems far behind.</i>	Howard
<i>Choose carefully where you leave your locked and secure vehicle. Some thieves are more clever than you may think!</i>	Paul F
<i>I only left the MG parked there for two weeks in the rain and that's all that's left.</i>	John I.
<i>'I only told you to blow the bloody doors off !!'</i>	Nigel S
<i>When I got home I re-registered the car as a Reliant.</i>	John I.
<i>Lock nuts ~ no problem.</i>	Richard M.
 <i>Dude... where's my car!</i>	Tony S
Three wheels on my wagon, and I'm still rollin' along...	Clive
<i>'I know MGs rust, but this is ridiculous, I only popped in the shop for some milk'.</i>	Peter A
<i>"Why couldn't he use a unicycle bay rather than hogging a whole parking place?"</i>	Gavin
<i>Who needs 4 when obviously 3 will do.</i>	Richard M.

And the winner of last month's competition chosen by Peter S. is Clive. Well done!

He will choose next month's winner.

Peter also submitted these but as he is the judge this month they are not eligible:

"Top motoring tip...when you find a parking spot you really like... you can always leave your spare wheel to bagsy the space!"

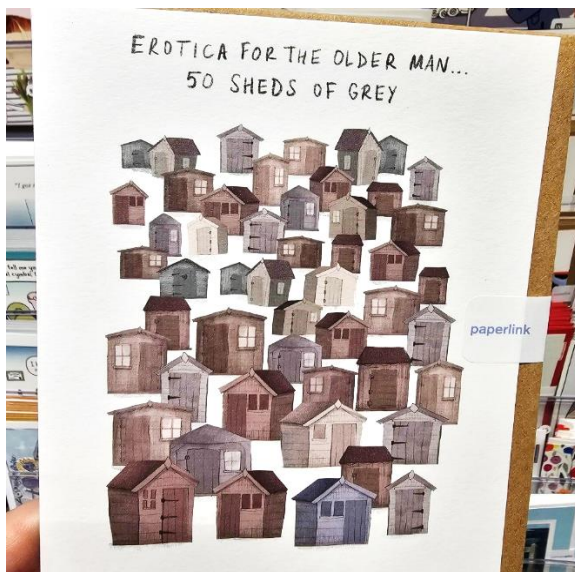
"Please remember when using the spare wheel you must keep your speed below 40 MPH"

Here's next month's photo requiring a caption. Send your entries by the end of the month to:

eventsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com



And finally...



Devon & Cornwall have cancelled their plan to put on a joint '60s & '70s music festival after a row about whether to put The Jam or Cream on first.

A Senior's Version of FACEBOOK

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them "thumbs up" and tell them I "like" them. And it works just like Facebook. I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.