

Newsletter April 2022 Edition



This Month:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Committee reports | Sunday Lunch run report |
| Upcoming events – a new format | Tamar Bridge at 60 |
| How to download items from our website | A new club competition |
| Our final donation to Derriford ICU | Updating our photo gallery |

Prince Philip died April 9 2021

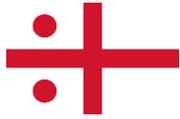
As revealed in Netflix's *The Crown* he was a keen MG driver



1949 MG TC: Prince Philip previously possessed a retro MG sports car, which was crucial in the reigning Monarch and Duke of Edinburgh's courtship. Then Princess Elizabeth said Philip drives his iconic MG "fast" and was "proud" of it.



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Secretary's Report



As I write this month things have a definite sense of returning to a form of reality: living with COVID rather than trying to shield from it. Spring has most certainly sprung, with one of those patches of very good weather which make life rich with colour and activity. Primroses explode from hedgerows while bees attend to every flower with their steady, humming accompaniment to the sun. Birds are everywhere, collecting moss and twigs for nesting whilst providing the melody for our bucolic idyll.

After spending a couple of days in London, the impact is all the greater on me and I am reminded that the Tamar Valley is a wonderful place to be, not least in an MG. Nigel and Naomi's run to California Cross was a splendid and very scenic drive in the sun, but it was a real shame that COVID prevented them joining us in person. It was good to see so many MGs braving the tidal road and indeed the brisk and chilly wind which accompanied us. Someone asked me where Charlie was on the day, and I pointed out that she was there, but almost unrecognisable as she was dressed for the Arctic under a thick woolly hat and scarf! We don't have the MGR top up often and she has learned the art of maintaining her comfort!

Thankfully the good weather stayed for our final delivery of snacks and beverages for the ICU wards at Derriford. This has been a real success story for the club, where your generous donations allowed us to keep visiting throughout the pandemic. It was great to see that the demeanour of the Nurses, which had looked worryingly fragile at our last visit, had noticeably improved. There are still a lot of people with COVID, and it is complicating the business of the hospital on a daily basis (not least with the impact on staff when they have it), but the vaccination programme has combined with increasing natural immunity to mean that the deaths have dramatically reduced.

Looking ahead, the club is in a great position to resume its primary purpose of making the most of our cars with likeminded people. For the three things for which I am the organiser, our Club trip to Wales at the end of May looks to be shaping up to be as good as ever and the Cuddy Shack has 33 of us signed up so far. Having done the Cuddy Shack route once, we will need to meet at 1745 to allow a prompt 1800 departure to get to this fantastic Fish and Chip venue on time.

The show programme, starting with Powderham on 10th July, is filling nicely with 16 cars signed up so far which is great news (as Club Sec. I coordinate all our entries, but sadly I won't be there in person as I have a long-standing commitment to a friend's wedding so Howard will be the leader on the day). If you are interested give me a call or speak to me at the meeting.

The cost is £17, payable to club funds by BACS with your Name and PM as a reference (as in SPWilliamsPM). Payment by 25 May is requested, to allow us to pay the organisers.

As you will see from our local events list that has been emailed to you along with this newsletter, these are far from the only activities in a busy Summer, but one which is very important for the club is our 40th Anniversary celebration. The committee, with Gavin our Members Rep leading the work, have put a lot of thought into selecting something which is different and very 'Tamar Valley'. The resultant plan to cruise up the Tamar looks very good indeed and I would add my voice to those exhorting you to sign up to make this the success it should be.

Best 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.

Well, what a difference a month makes. You really have to believe that spring is well and truly sprung after last month's gales. The sun has a bit of strength, and the temperatures are very pleasant for this time of the year. However, we are apparently in for a spell of colder weather as we see out the month.

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the club's AGM in March. Your attendance was really appreciated. We were able to welcome on to the committee our new treasurer Nigel, after our departing treasurer Sonia was given warm thanks for her 6-year stint on the committee. Hopefully, Nigel will enjoy his time on the committee as much as Sonia so obviously did.

I always love to get the AGM out of the way as we head off into another MG year of activity. We didn't have to wait too long as we attended Nigel and Naomi's Sunday lunch run to the California Inn.

We had a lovely bright day for this and although there was still a bit of a nip in the air, we were encouraged enough to drop the hood as we gave our dog Barney his second outing in the MGB. He had to be gently persuaded to sit in the foot well as he is now a bit too big to sit on Alison's lap, although that didn't stop him trying to do so, mid run.



The route was excellent and took us along a tidal road as we approached Aveton Gifford. The road had dried out quite nicely, but one had to drive slowly to try and avoid some water filled potholes. This gave some ignorant a***hole the chance to come past too fast through a pothole and spray water over me and the side of our car. It all happened so fast I was unable to taste the water for salt content but assumed the worse. I am not too sure where the nearest sewage outlet was either. We soon dried out though and arrived at the pub, as we joined in with Tamar Valley, taking ownership of the car park. We had a great lunch, and it was such a shame that after doing all the organising Nigel and Naomi had to miss out due to a positive COVID test.

Our winter Sunday lunch runs continue as we look ahead to **Sunday 24th April**.

Alison and I are arranging the club's '**Treasure Hunt Trophy**' and **Sunday Lunch run to Boringdon Park Golf Club**. This event coincides with '**National Drive It Day**', where owners of classic cars are encouraged to get out and about and be seen on the road. We usually have a great turn-out for this and hopefully this year will be no exception. A tick-sheet will be doing the rounds at the April meeting.

It is so nice to have a few of you joining us for **MGCC's ACE RUN on Sunday May 15th**. This run will certainly suit those of you who enjoy driving their MGs. Sharing this day out with others really enhances the experience. If you have never tried these longer runs but fancy doing so, then get your entry form in ASAP.

Happy MG motoring,
Alan



Event Secretary - keeping it wheel

Dear Motorneers,

Firstly, I must belatedly thank you for voting for me to continue as your Event Secretary and newsletter scribe. It is a pleasure to help the club in this way. I am sorry to have missed the AGM, but Jan and I were in Mallorca again, mainly to entertain our granddaughter Sophia during the Spanish school half term holiday whilst her mum and dad worked.

It is not surprising that Mallorca is fairly quiet in the early part of the year, but judging by the number of large hotels, villas and yachts, the summer will be very different. We were able to escape some child-minding duties to explore the island a little on a road trip.



Lists of the world's best driving roads abound, but if I were compiling one, this route would definitely be added. Jan and I drove up to Port de Pollençà in the NE of Mallorca and then took the amazing coast road along the Serra de Tramuntana mountain range heading SW through Sóller, Deià, Banyalbufar and on to Port d'Andratx where our daughter Katie owns a rental property which is a lovely little fisherman's town house Jan and I were staying in.

The route is breathtakingly beautiful as it winds its way, hairpin bend after hairpin bend, over rocky, ear-popping mountains, through lush valleys serrated with terraces of vines and olive, orange and lemon trees. The almond orchards were in full bloom.

This is a challenging drive as the road is often very narrow with many cyclists to avoid, but utterly lovely and worthwhile.



It is a pity we were in a small, hire car rather than our MGA, though the Merc's automatic gearbox took the effort out of the countless tight bends. Making us jealous were a Lotus Elise and Morgan out enjoying this engaging route, but in more style than ourselves.

It reminded us of our MG trips to the Picos de Europa in Northern Spain, organised by our friend Beth. Jan and I are visiting the Picos again this summer after taking the Santander ferry to meet Katie and husband Andy over from Mallorca. They need to attend an international conference in Porto, which is important for their web-based business, so we are looking after Sophia for a few days. Afterwards we plan to tour some more of Portugal returning via the Picos. But read this and weep – the return Plymouth to Santander ferry and cabin cost us over £900.

I'd love to and wouldn't hesitate to do this trip in the MGA, but for the five of us we need all the seats and luggage space our estate car has. Ho hum. I expect the Merc's air-con will be handy though.

Happy MGing!

Howard



Upcoming events

The most up to date and detailed information on all 2022 events can be found and downloaded on the [Event Diary Page](#) and the [Entry Forms page](#). See:

www.tvmgoc.org.uk

“Events dear boy, events.”

So goes a quote by Harold Macmillan, sent to me by John H. And from some dusty recess of my mind, here’s another, this time from Samuel Taylor Coleridge: “Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm.” Both these lines are apt because I find myself re-enthused about events, and I hope it’s catching. There’s loads going on!

Trawling through all our plans and opportunities for the rest of this year has left me very enthusiastic indeed, and yes this is in spite of rising fuel costs.

We have a full year of events to look forward to. You want a run? We got ’em, near and far. Fancy showing off a bit? Get the polish out as we’re spoilt for choice with car shows. Tummy rumbling? May your appetite be fulfilled with our plans for Sunday lunches, fish & chip suppers and cream tea outings.

And consider this for yourself: before I hesitate to fill up my MGA as the price of petrol rises, I remember how little it's been used in the last couple of years and consequently how much money I've inadvertently saved. I’m quids in!

My enthusiasm is further fuelled by recalling that this club is as much about friendship as it is anything, and now we have the chance to renew those friendships with facetime. I remember the great trips we had together pre-Covid, and I want this to be the year we create new memories of laughter in great company, out on the open road.

Our MGs need outings too. Lots of classics have languished in garages for too long and that does them no good at all. The Babe Magnet is celebrating her 60th year. One of the very last MGA MkIIs to be built in March 1962, she was registered in April of that year. I have invested a vast amount of time, energy and money into that car and with so much fun to be had I intend to make a real effort this year to use my pride and joy as much as possible.

Event list

Ok then, so where are all these events? Where’s the usual list of dates and entry forms etc? Well, if you are reading this then you should already have them. We are trying out a new format. In addition to all the usual information, it’s clear the majority of members want to know who else is taking part in a run or show. I am frequently asked to provide lists of participants so members can buddy up. But these can’t go in the newsletter because that is also posted on our website, and we never publicly publicise in advance who will be away from home on a certain day – data protection and all that.

So, when you received the email containing this newsletter, also attached was a list of local events and who from TVMGOC is taking part. But for this system to work I rely on you to tell me what you are planning. If your name is missing from an event listed below then please enlighten me. Although there is no obligation to do so, it really helps*.

However, if you want to join a club stand at a show it is vital to tell me, as organisers need to know how much space to allocate to us.

This list of local events will be regularly updated and accompany the club email meeting reminder and newsletter **. The website's more complete Event Diary is also kept updated.

*The exception is for club lunch and supper runs. The Event Secretary does not manage the list of participants for this type of the event. Contact the organiser.

** Please note that the June club meeting will be held a week later on the 8th June, NOT the 1st.

How to use our website and download Entry forms etc.

For the benefit of anyone who is not confident about this simple process, here is a reminder. We will use the example of downloading our Event Diary.

1. Visit the TVMGOC website here: <https://www.tvmgoc.org.uk/>
2. Click the *Event Diary* tab.
3. Scroll down to the picture of the document and click the grey box labelled *Download PDF*.
4. This will go into your Downloads folder. So, where's that?
5. **On a PC** open **File Manager** (where all the rest of your folders are listed) and look for your **Downloads** folder. The diary will be in there.
6. **On a MAC** the Downloads folder is easily accessed from **Finder's sidebar**. If you don't see it under Favourites, go to Finder > Preferences, and turn it on in the Sidebar tab. You can also quickly get to it from **Go > Downloads**.
7. **On an Android device** look for your **My Files** app (called **File Manager** on some phones). Usually there is an option to see downloads. For example on Howard's Samsung phone it's a down arrow labelled Downloads.
8. Once the Diary is open you can print and or/save it to another folder where you keep MG stuff.

An exclusive event invitation from St Luke's - Sunday 3 July

Tamar Valley MGOC have been asked if a few of our cars could put on a small show at Flete House Garden Open Day in support of St Luke's Hospice on Sunday 3 July. This year is St Luke's 40th anniversary. Their Open Garden Scheme has been running for 12 years and in that time has raised more than £429,000 to help local families receive compassionate care.



Flete House

St Luke's Open Garden Scheme runs throughout the summer and to see a list of additional properties you could visit, see this: <https://www.stlukes-hospice.org.uk/open-gardens/>

Flete House near Ermington - not usually open to the public - is surrounded by Italianate landscaped gardens, shrubbery and also features water gardens complemented by panoramic views of the South Hams.

Entry is £7pp with an additional charge to look around the house. More details for members will follow, but if you would like to attend, let Event Sec. know by email or add your name to the list at club meetings as this is limited to just 20 cars.



Sunday Lunch Run to California Cross report by Kathryn



A bright sunny spring morning promised well for the first Sunday Lunch club outing of the year. Unfortunately, the Coronavirus was not finished with us yet. The first two planned lunch outings in January and February were cancelled due to lingering concerns about Covid. Then this very morning, our organisers Naomi and Nigel had tested positive. After all their preparation work, they couldn't be there to share the meal and our appreciation, so very disappointing.

We met as planned at Lee Mill Tesco where Nigel hastily handed over sanitised route directions to our Alan who sent us on our way for a 21-mile journey. The sunshine encouraged those in roadsters to go "open top" despite the rather fresh and cold wind necessitating winter weather gear.



Chairman Alan briefs the team



Paul and Sue's MGB.



Noel admires Roy's handywork on his restored MGA.



Geoff and Terry's MGTF in the foreground, the Red MGB is Sarah's, then Noel & Kate's MGTF with the hard top.

Setting off we crossed the A38 southwards enjoying the sight of many daffodils and flowering heathers. Then through the pretty village of Ermington and on to Modbury where we descended down the attractive main street. Next to St Ann's Chapel with views of sweeping countryside. A turn towards Easton brought us down a narrow road to what was, for some of us, the surprise of the trip.

The road to Aveton Gifford is tidal, and on spring tides is covered for about two hours either side of high water. So, the order of the day was to go slowly through the potholes, don't go off the edge into the soft mud, follow the stakes if you can't see the surface, and don't break down!



Bill and Sue following Paul and Sue



Howard's MGA was celebrating its 60th birthday - one of the last MkIIs to be built, in March 1962.



Peter and Annette



Sarah and her navigator Janet

Nigel popped up again to see the cars, and he reassured us there was no salt water in the puddles. Some of us spotted him and stopped for a brief socially distanced chat. It meant that we could offer thanks in person for his and Naomi's organisational effort.

Nigel was a bit miffed because he didn't have any Covid symptoms and felt perfectly normal, while Naomi had a sore throat, but they were wisely going to isolate to protect others.



Then we journeyed onward through Churchstow enjoying open views of the countryside with green fields and hedgerows, across the River Avon and so to Loddiswell where we spied a splendid magnolia in full bloom in a roadside garden. We were now heading in a northerly direction and the views opened to show the rising ground of Dartmoor ahead, still in its winter yellow-brown.



We all arrived at the California Inn in a timely manner to be seated and orders taken for the carvery which had three meats and salmon on offer with small or large options.

Alan added to our local knowledge by pointing out that the name of the Inn came from it being a meeting point to catch the stagecoach to Dartmouth for those going to the California gold fields.

Once again our thanks go to Naomi and Nigel for organising a picturesque run through South Hams and a venue which catered for the 41 diners and their cars.

Kathryn (Photos c/o Gavin, Peter A. and Howard)



When MG stands for Mightily Grateful

The logo features a rainbow at the top with the text 'THE YEAR OF THE CANCELLED RALLIES' underneath. Below that, it says 'TAMAR VALLEY MG OWNERS CLUB' with the MG logo. Underneath is 'supporting our' followed by a COVID-19 virus icon and 'HEROES' with the NHS logo. There are also small red hearts around the word 'HEROES'.

Two years ago, in early 2020, Tamar Valley MGOC members were asked to make donations to support the Intensive Care Unit staff in Plymouth's Derriford Hospital as they battled to help people suffering from Covid. We raised a staggering £2450 and recently made our fourth and final donation to the unit. Now it's time to pat ourselves on the back and remind ourselves what it was all about.

At the time hospitals were overwhelmed by Covid, mortality and serious illness rates were frightening, and medical staff were openly struggling to cope. The question our club asked ourselves was - is there anything we could do to help?

We asked the ICU staff how we might use the money to make their lives a little easier. Initially they asked for hand-cream and lip salve, which were easy purchases.



Unloading gifts from Simon's Landy



However, they also needed laundry bags in which to take their scrubs home, and these were hard to come by at short notice, so the club's sewing bees Tim, Janis, Alison, Sonia and Pam, quickly swung into action, converting a total of 130 pillowcases.

The medical staff also asked for snacks, drinks and fruit that could be consumed quickly, often standing up and whilst still on the go. After long hours of being in PPE, heat, thirst and hunger became distracting, and sometimes overwhelming.

We made good use of my Cash & Carry card to bulk purchase soft drinks, snacks, and last, but perhaps most importantly, boxes and boxes of chocolates.



Nurses Melissa, Sylvia and Karen

As we made handover trips in our MGs to Derriford, safely meeting nurses outside - we had to keep our numbers as small as possible - we could see the strain in their faces from the horror of having to watch helplessly as, in spite of their best efforts, patients died before their eyes, without the company of loved-ones in their final hours.

We hoped our small gifts would be something of a pick-me-up needed mid-way through a shift to help them to carry on



In this hastily staged photo Nigel's Midget is hidden behind the bodies. Sorry!

Whilst the pressure on the ICU is not what it was, the pandemic is far from over, though for most the impact of Omicron will be relatively mild or asymptomatic – that is until or if a new variant emerges. The nurses said they were still busy caring for Covid patients, many of whom had come into hospital with other ailments and had tested positive on arrival.

But as I write this towards the end of March, we have club members isolating because of testing positive and it is likely we all know of others with Covid too. The infection figures locally and nationally are rising so it is not over yet and may never be.

Tamar Valley MGOC did their bit to help in this most challenging of times, and our members can feel proud of themselves.

The ICU staff had earlier posted this message on their Twitter feed:

We are overwhelmed with the generosity of Tamar Valley MG Owners Club who have delivered us these drinks and snacks today to be shared between the ICU staff. Thank you so much, we really appreciate your support!

Howard



The opening of the Tamar Bridge reaches its sixtieth anniversary this month. Whilst the signs on the bridge towers say it opened in 1961, it wasn't officially opened until April 1962.



You may be interested in these photos of the building of the Tamar Bridge c.1961 being filmed by a Westward TV cameraman from the top of an Austin Cambridge.

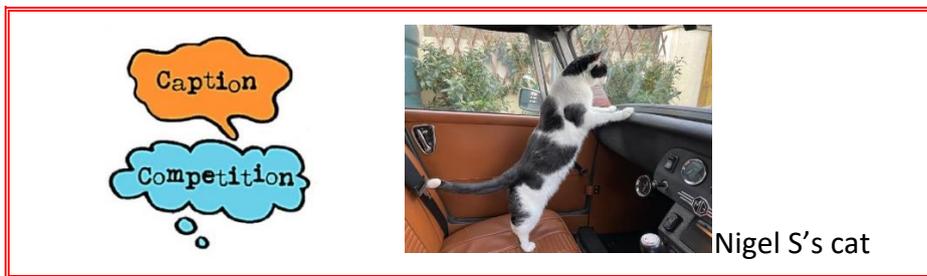
Completed after two years and three months at a cost of £1.5 million, the bridge was opened to road traffic in October 1961, but was not *officially* opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, until 24th April 1962. The initial toll for cars was 3s (15p) for a single journey across the bridge, or 4/6 (22½p) for a return, while for lorries it was 14s (70p) and £1 respectively.

The pictures of the cameraman also mark a second important local anniversary this month, as 29th April, 1961 is a day whose significance many might not remember - but it's one that saw the start of something that was considered revolutionary in how we viewed television in Devon and Cornwall.

It was the day commercial television came to the Southwest in the form of Westward Television. Television in this region was still very much in its infancy - BBC South West launched only nine days earlier and televisions were something that many couldn't yet access or afford. Westward's launch provided viewers with not just the local news, but also a range of entertainment made either locally or by the other ITV network companies.



The Westward TV car was the first non-construction vehicle allowed onto the bridge. BBC Spotlight producers must have been a bit miffed to be beaten by their upstart rival!



Received entries	From
<i>New MG problem diagnosis by cat scan.</i>	John I.
<i>I thought catalytic converter was for cars till I was taken to the vets and lost some bits.</i>	John I.
<i>Help...! Who put all those cats eyes in the road?</i>	John I.
<i>I don't care how good the money is, that's one job you won't catch me applying for!</i>	Howard
<i>I picked-up my car from the garage today after a service and the mechanic said he'd installed a cat ! I said it shouldn't have one, but then I looked inside !!</i>	Nigel S.
<i>Cat thinks, "What's this note under the wiper blade? It says, 'Parking fine'. That's odd because I think Nigel is terrible at parking!"</i>	Howard
<i>Four legs good, two legs better, as Orwell probably said...</i>	Peter S.
<i>"Hey Nigel! Where's the fluffy dice?"</i>	Peter S.
<i>"OK, when I tap the dashboard, I want you to attempt an emergency stop."</i>	Peter S.
<i>"You should ask Alan to fix those brakes, they're squeaking like mice"</i>	Peter S.
<i>"Slow down, Nigel. Officer Dibble has a speed gun"</i>	Peter S.
<i>"Mister MGstofilees is a magical cat"</i>	Peter S.
<i>Every car needs a lookout in the passenger seat if you want to avoid a catastrophe.</i>	Pam & Neil
<i>"If he asks me to put the seatbelt on, I will do what all cats do, simply ignore him!"</i>	John H.
<i>Irrespective of the destination requested, the navigator always headed for Mousehole.</i>	Simon
<i>'I thought once in Brexit, the steering wheel would be on the left', said Puss (not in boots).</i>	Sally & Keith
<i>Nigel's cat is delighted with its new mobile litter tray and cannot wait to go in the Midget.</i>	Alan
<i>In the 60's it was a tiger in your tank, now it's a cat in the cab.</i>	Janis
<i>In the new eco friendly age catalytic converters are old hat. The new trend is a cat in a convertible.</i>	Janis
<i>It must be a big cat to have that many cats eyes!</i>	Janis
<i>It's got to be purrfect. It's got to be worth it. Well it is an MG Midget.</i>	Janis
<i>"Wow! Look at all the cats eyes".</i>	Janis
<i>With the world-wide shortage of computer chips, I have resorted to CATNAV.</i>	Gavin
<i>"I must take care with my claws on the leather seats. What do you mean they are vinyl? How much does a feline emperor have to slum it?"</i>	Gavin
<i>"I am sure Ralph Nader did not have this in mind when he specified padded dashboards".</i>	Gavin
<i>"I am sharing some of my nine lives with the driver. He sure needs them!"</i>	Gavin
<i>"If that is next door's ginger tom how quickly can I claw my way out through the soft top to get at him?"</i>	Gavin
<i>There isn't room to swing a cat in this!!</i>	Clive
And the winner chosen blindly by Andrew is Janis. Well done! She will choose next month's winner.	

Here's next month's photo requiring a caption.
Entries by email by the 23rd of the month to:
mediatvmgoc@gmail.com



Forthcoming attraction - a new club competition

There's just enough space here to trail the May club meeting where I will be launching a new competition for club members to participate in during their own time. I'll not yet reveal what it is but there will be a PowerPoint presentation – this time without any mention of a car chase! – which will hopefully inspire you to look at your MG anew and take part in the competition. The overall winner will receive a bespoke trophy too! So please make sure you attend our meeting at the Moorland Hotel on 4 May.

Howard

Club website photo gallery

I have been adding new member's cars to our club website photo gallery. There are 43 pictures in total, and I think it's up to date, but if your car isn't featured and you would like it to be then please drop me a pic or ask me to take one next time I see you in your MG. See: <https://www.tvmgoc.org.uk/gallery/>



Howard

Catch 'em young

I bow to no-one in my admiration of Roy's restoration of his, now stunning, MGA. But he's not the only one with coach-building skills.

How about this car I hand-built for the aforementioned Sophia back in 2014? I was reminded of the project when it popped up as a Facebook memory. It's an MG Boxster. She drove it very fast.

Howard (aka grandad)





**And finally...
FUEL PRICES SPECIAL
(If you don't laugh you'd cry)**



(Yes OK, Mr S. has reduced fuel tax by 5p per litre, but that's not all been passed onto us motorists, petrol is still bloomin' expensive and with the cost of living rising, these jokes stand! Ed.)



The Rotterdam police stumbled on 56 drums of petrol today. The estimated street value is over 12 million euros. The drums were hidden in a shipment of Venezuelan cocaine.



I used to only be able to fill my tank with £70 of fuel. Now I can fit in £90 worth! I don't know why everyone's moaning!



'I've done the sums and we can either fill the car with petrol, or buy Chelsea Football Club'

Personally, I don't think the increase in fuel prices will affect me as I only ever stick 20 quid in 🤔



mmm... that smells expensive, what are you wearing?
Him: petrol



Popped into the garage earlier to get some petrol and the bloke at pump 3 only put £10 in. Where's he driving to? Pump 4?



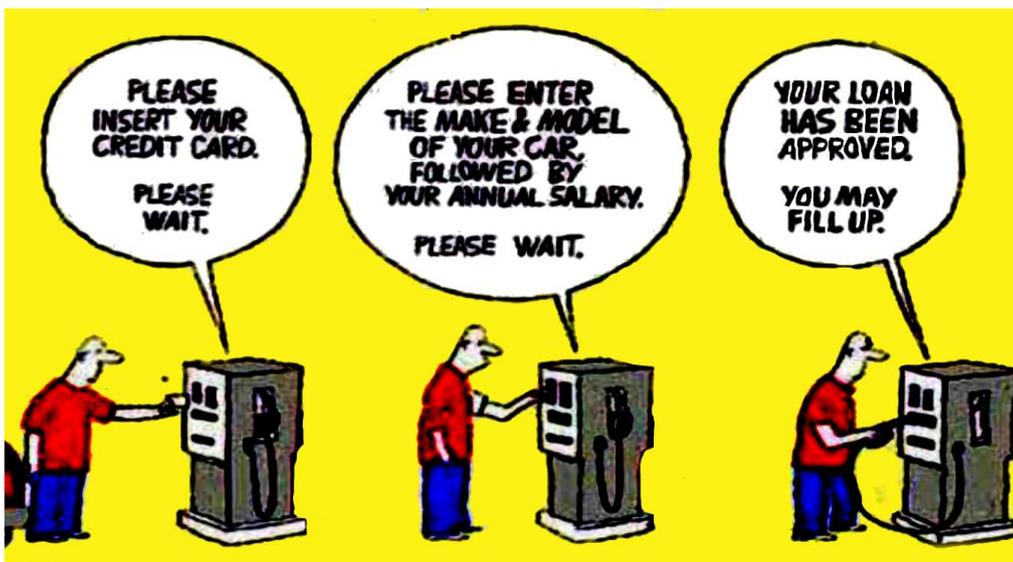
With today's gasoline prices, more and more men are dependent on their wife's vehicle

Grab a valuable prize at the games arcade.



Petrol prices are now so high that a company is selling a fuel that is derived from insect urine. It is called BP.

Shell have a new pricing strategy



I ran out of petrol this morning, so I rang my insurance breakdown service. They wrote my car off!