

**Newsletter
January
2024**



**You can't always buy
happiness, but an MG
will at least put a smile
on your face.**

This Month

- Committee reports**
- Upcoming events**
- Sneaky parking charges**
- Taunton County Classics Car Museum visit**
- Club Christmas Lunch**



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

**This New Year, make a resolution to write your oughttobiography –
all the things you ought to be doing with your MG.**

**And who knows what an MG Spaclander is?
The answer is later in this newsletter.**



Secretary's Report



In last month's missive I wrote romantically about a light dusting of snow covering the Tamar Valley. Well, global warming or not, this clearly and swiftly transitioned into one of the most sustained periods of rain and storms that we have seen in recent times, and none of it cold enough to provide snow for Santa's sleigh. This has not of course put us off running and it is great to see that we have a great plan for the new year – always with the proviso that daily drivers can be substituted as and when required!

I have been reminded this month of the extraordinary value of the MGF/TF, consideration of which started in a rather roundabout fashion. Looking idly at the MGR V8 social media, there has been much winter-related debate on the availability of a hard top for the car. Krafthaus produced such a thing in the day, and if you can find one it costs about £5000 to buy. So – either spend £5000 on an RV8 hard top or commit rather less on a TF Sunstorm which comes with a hard top for rainy days? A pleasant debate which if nothing else underlines the value of the MG F and (ULEZ-compliant) TF today. In fact, I was so interested that, having sold my Mini to my daughter, I bought a TF160 as a



trial daily driver and sort of Christmas present to self.* It was certainly cheaper than an RV8 hardtop and I am looking forward to the contrast



between it and the very 'old school' MGR. The power, of course is in a totally different place as the V8 is all about low-down grunt whereas the 160 needs a bit of revving to show its best. Lots of fun I think, whatever the outcome of the 'group test'.

In other news from my perspective, our new-format Christmas lunch went down very well indeed at the Yelverton Golf Club, a venue which I expect us to use more as I thought that the food was excellent. We will be discussing this and our forthcoming programme at the Committee meeting later in the week – so now is the time to give your thoughts to a committee member so we can try to do the best for all.

Finally – it was great to see Val and Ade back for their Christmas break from the Canals – and we look forward to seeing them on Monday!

See you there,

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

* So please to hear of your present Simon. I got a bowl of hyacinths. Ed.



Notes from your Chairman



Hello everyone,

I really hope that you have all had a great Christmas and may I wish you all a Happy New Year! Our Christmas family celebrations were held in Teignmouth for the very first time as our son and partner were keen to play host and give their freshly decorated guest bedroom (we did help with this) some use. It was rather nice to wake up with sea views.

Speaking of sea views, the whole family went down to the sea front on Boxing Day morning to watch the annual dip in the sea for those brave enough to try. Some of them were in fancy dress which disguised the fact they were wearing wetsuits but there were quite a few sporting either bikinis or speedos. That was surely madness and yet so impressive! After some synchronised warm-up exercises and under starter's orders, approximately 500 bathers made a dash for the sea and frolicked around. The promenade and beach were full of spectators, all warmly wrapped up but also perhaps secretly wishing that they were either brave enough or mad enough to do the same. I won't tell you my thoughts.

I understand from Janis (our Social Secretary) that the club Dinner was a success, which was good to hear. Hopefully Alison and I will be able to make next year's do. This was the first time in sixteen years of membership that we have missed the club's Christmas Dinner.

Congratulations to this year's winners of our club trophies, which were presented at the club Dinner. Richard and Kathryn were awarded the 'Enthusiast of The Year' as chosen by the committee members, and Pam and Neil were deserved winners of the 'Irene Williamson Memorial Trophy' for the best Sunday Lunch/Supper Run of the year, as voted for by all club members.

Looking ahead to the club's MG activities for the next few months, apart from our club meetings we do at least have our monthly Sunday lunches to keep the club active over the winter. Your active participation is very much welcomed and appreciated in all our club activities. Alison and I are looking forward to another fun filled MG year in 2024.

Alan

**FOR THOSE TAKING PART IN OUR CLUB MINI-BREAK TO SNOWDONIA ON 24-28 JUNE
THIS EVENT COULD BE VISITED ON THE WAY HOME & IT'S GETTING A LOT OF PUBLICITY**

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

This event will be very similar to the MG and Triumph Weekend of 2021 – but this time although it is *organised* by the MG Car Club and the Triumph clubs, it is open to all marques of classic vehicles and all car clubs.

Attractions will include autojumble, specialist traders, crafts and fashion sellers, bar with live music day and night, concours, show and shine, autotest, live action arena and more. Camping facilities will be available on site.

It will take place at the 3 Counties Showground at Malvern, WR13 6NW (an excellent venue).

More details at www.interclubweekend.com

Tickets will be on sale from January 2024, and there will be discounts available for members of participating clubs (like MGCC).

As the organisers say – **“The classic world is stronger together, so let's collaborate!**



Event Secretary - keeping it wheel

Dear Motorneers,

I sincerely hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and New Year in spite of some terrible weather. Our Club Christmas lunch was excellent. More on this later in this newsletter.

Earlier in December Jan and I flew over to Mallorca to see our daughter and family. We travel lightly with just carry-on luggage, though it's not the best of that film franchise.



We went this time primarily for the Christmas lights and markets in Palma, and boy do they celebrate in style and scale. The whole city and hundreds of trees were emblazoned with festive lights.

We visited five different Christmas markets on the island, all putting Plymouth's to shame. One was German where we enjoyed gluhwein and goulash. Nearby is Portals Nous where the super-rich berth their superyachts. At the up-market market there, as well as Jan and daughter Katie, there were many other highly glamorous women dressed in expensive, showy and sometimes revealing finery. It made me think it can only be a matter of time before someone makes a TV series called *Palma Housewives*.

Stopping at one stall selling leather goods, a pair of grotesque crocodile shoes caught my eye, priced at €2100. My Crocs didn't cost anything like that much!



Perhaps the best thing about our trip was a week of mild temperatures, blue skies and sunshine. I sincerely wish you could get away for a bit of winter sun too. After all the storms here, that trip was like a shot in the arm. Lucky us.



For Christmas itself, Katie and family flew over to us here and we were also joined by our daughter Emily and family from Cambridge. So, we had a festive house full – the best kind!

Happy MGing!

Howard



**Don't lose focus. There's still time
to take that winning image**

for our club photo competition please.





Upcoming events

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

TVMGOC LOCAL & CLUB DATES 2024

Run start times and other details are her & on our website when available

For events outside our region see the Event Diary on our website

Jan	Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon - Chat 'n Chill	8 Jan
	Sunday lunch Meeting point: The Dartmoor Diner 10:30 for tea & coffee before the start at 11.30ish. Then drive to Dartmoor Lodge, Pear Tree Cross, Ashburton TQ13 7JW. Meal served from 1:30	21 Jan Organiser: Janis
Feb	Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon – Annual quiz night	12 Feb
	To The Crooked Inn, Saltash PL12 4RZ Meeting point: Travel Lodge, Saltash - timings to be confirmed later. Cost £15 for choice of carvery or nut roast and extra for dessert chosen on the day.	18 Feb
March	Club 2nd Monday Meeting & AGM	11 Mar
	Sunday lunch run to Cornwood Inn organised by John & Bee	24 Mar
	Vintage Vehicle Rally, Rayle Farm. Near Redruth TR16 4QP	30 & 31 Mar
April	Club 2nd Monday - Talk by Tim Hipwell, MGOC regional Rep.	8 April
	Drive It Day	21 April
May	Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon - Photo competition winners	13 May
	The Mendip Vintage & Classic Tour. Enter from 1 Feb	19 May
	Launceston Steam Rally. Entry form on our website.	25 -27 May
	Exeter MGOC More To See Run. Entry form on our website.	26 May
June	Tavistock Steam & Vintage Fair	2 June
	Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon	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	24 to 28
	National Cream Tea Day – Friday picnic? TBA	28 June
July	Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon	8 July
	Powderham Historic Vehicle Gathering	13 & 14 July
	Wadebridge wheels – Entries from Easter	
	Boconnoc Steam Fair	26 – 28 July
August	Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon	12 Aug`
	Fowey Show and Parade – Entry link on our website	Thursday 22
September	Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon	9 Sept
	Rotary Club of Saltram Classic Car Show	TBA
October	Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon	14 Oct
November	Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon	11 Nov
December	Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon	No meeting?

SHOWS WE WILL ATTEND AS A CLUB

At the last committee meeting we discussed which shows we should attend as a club.

Here are our thoughts, to which we welcome members input:

- i. **Fowey** would remain a fixture.
- ii. **Powderham** Noting that we were now required to attend for two days and thus were spread more thinly – we would continue to attend both days.
- iii. **Flete** We would continue to support St Lukes at Flete House and possibly an additional event.
- iv. **Rosemoor** Against the backdrop that not many cars this year – we would drop this as a club, but of course members can enter as individuals.

The Club would consider the following shows, testing them with members for interest:

- v. **Morwellham Quay**
- vi. **RAF Harrowbeer**
- vii. **Gt Trethew** – Bank Holiday Monday
- viii. **Boconnoc**
- ix. **Saltram**

Of course, you are free to go to any show you like when you like.
This is just about when and where we might put on a club display.



Fowey Classic Car Show 2024

This show and its parade through the town seems to have become a hugely popular club fixture. Previously held on the Wednesday of Fowey Regatta week, the day has been changed to Thursday, 22 August but in every other aspect the event remains the same.

You will have received an email to say that entries can be done now online. This is the link to the registration form:

<https://www.foweyclassiccar.com/registration/>

On the form there is a heading 'Category'. Scroll down to Tamar MG Owners which I assume is us. I found the form very simple to use.

As always, I need to know who has entered, for a variety of reasons for your benefit, so please let me know!

In the meantime, mark the date in your new 2024 diaries.



WD40

We have all grown up with this stuff and have probably used countless spray tins of it during our lifetimes, but actually we know almost nothing about this magic elixir. To find out the surprisingly interesting history of WD40 follow this link:

https://www.ironmongerydirect.co.uk/blog/the-history-of-wd-40?utm_campaign=Blog-18102023&fbclid=IwAR0MBTiDHRRGwvqi6pU_Twor6TjvPotX9Gqe1gGN8ACdepnbbqRLB1vIYDw_aem_AWORiGu0r67LuakbRSAgdrsJhYbj3DXxjBbf6a7_oKWdnW8yBW_WTzpxU9sXs7kVZmA8P0NB_vn7iCKdMzbQWAinc

Get baking!

For some, the most important upcoming event will be Saturday 27th January which is National Chocolate Cake Day!

It will be love at first bite. Whatever your favoured cake style, each will reveal what happiness tastes like.

But there's more for you chocoholics.

31st January is National Hot Chocolate Day, and after this you can look forward to World Chocolate Day, which is a relatively new event, first celebrated back in 2009. The date July 7th was specifically chosen, because it was on this day in the year 1550 that chocolate arrived in Europe.



Keat

Just before Christmas we received a message from our long-standing member Keat who recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

He wishes to be remembered to everyone at this time of year and as he can no longer drive, sadly will no longer be able to join our runs etc..

Keat, you are fondly remembered and greatly missed. Take care.



Keat presented with the Enthusiast of the Year trophy in 2018

The 2024 MG Owners' Club calendar

This A3 wall calendar features the winning photographs of cars submitted by MGOC Members as part of their calendar competition.

To order yours, please visit the dedicated Club Shop website:

<https://mgshop.co.uk/shop/gifts/mg-calendar/>

or call 01954 234008 to order.

THE 2024 MG OWNERS' CLUB CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE NOW!
ORDER YOURS FROM THE CLUB SHOP:
mgshop.co.uk/shop

Sneaky parking charges

Many classic vehicles are allowed to enter Ultra Low Emission Zones without having to pay the daily charge. However, some of these councils are charging older cars and diesels more to park there. Bath was the first city to introduce variable parking fees as a method of reducing CO2 emissions. The DVLA produced a Vehicle Enquiry Service app to check a vehicle's emission standards. Older cars emit more CO2 and diesel particulates than modern ones.



Even though an historic vehicle is unlikely to do many miles per year, Bath council is only concerned with the emissions within the city itself while it is being used on any given visit. Increased parking charges aim to reduce tailpipe emissions by discouraging older and more polluting cars from entering the city. So even if your car is compliant with the Clean Air Zone, you may be charged more for parking.

Presumably, speculating how this might work, when you enter a car registration number into a parking ticket machine it will check a vehicle's emissions using the app and charge accordingly. But see below about my MG.

More cities with ULEZs are following suit, which can increase parking fees by up to 50%. The FBHVC has taken up the issue with Bath council to no avail and forecasts that schemes such as this will spread. Needless to say, this was introduced without consultation and with very little publicity. It's a classic stealth tax.

Out of interest I entered my MGA's details into the app: <https://vehicleenquiry.service.gov.uk> and this is what it said about the car and its emissions:

Vehicle make	MG
Date of first registration	April 1962
Year of manufacture	1962
Cylinder capacity	1622 cc
CO ₂ emissions	Not available
Fuel type	PETROL
Euro status	Not available
Real Driving Emissions (RDE)	Not available

Quite where that leaves me regarding parking charges in ULEZs I have no idea! I tried another search, this time entering Roy's MBG registration and again with Simon's 3.8 ltr V8. For both cars the app came up with similar results, i.e. no information about those car's emissions. So, I guess we have little to worry about...for now. It seems these cars are maybe too old to have emission figures available. Ha!

This might make you smile – a great way to travel in style!





I visited the museum on Tuesday 19th December to do a recce and to ascertain whether it would make a good club outing. It is 80 miles to Taunton and takes roughly one and a half hours each way.

On arrival there are three nearby car parks:

The Whirligig car park, which is very small but is directly behind the museum. On my visit it was full of vehicles of men working on nearby shop premises.

The castle car park is very convenient but is a pay by app only and is the most expensive of the three.

Canon Street car park is large and the cheapest at £4 for 3 hours which is about the time needed for a visit.

The walking route between the car park and museum takes 5 minutes and goes past Taunton Cathedral, which is open to the public and has a very nice café inside which is open 9am to 2pm daily.



An entry ticket for the museum is £12 per adult. The cars exhibited are mainly from the period 1965 to 2000 with many models that we all recognise as something we or our parents owned, and are all in excellent condition. It is amazing how many cars (and about 30 motorcycles) can be shoehorned into the available space, but they are still well displayed.

There is a café to seat around 40 people and the toilets are very clean.

Directly across the road and through an old archway is Taunton Castle which houses a free museum with an art section and a display of the timeline of Taunton area from prehistory to the present. There is also yet another café.

Being in the centre of town, the high street shopping area is busy with most of the usual stores.

All in all, a visit is highly recommended, if not as a convoy of MGs then at least as a coordinated trip, taking as few cars as possible with the maximum passengers.

Andy S



Club Christmas lunch at Yelverton Golf Club

December's Club Christmas celebration was a departure from previous occasions as we decided to have a Christmas lunch rather than an evening diner dance. This seems to have worked well judging by the number who attended, and comments made. What's more, everyone scrubbed up nicely! Yelverton Golf Club put on a splendid meal that arrived promptly and hot, and the service was very efficient. Magic Mark performed at each table in turn and did some mind-boggling close-up tricks.



Thanks must go to our Social Secretary, Janis, for having organised the event and also to those who helped her make the lunch so pleasurable. Thanks too for all the raffle prizes that were donated.

It was also a special occasion for John N. who was celebrating a birthday, and of course *Happy Birthday to you* was sung by all.

Two awards were presented by Club Secretary Simon. First up was for the Irene Williamson Memorial Trophy for the best food run of the year, as voted by the club membership. This went to Pam and Neil for their lunch run in July to The Forest Inn at Hexworthy. The Enthusiast of the Year award is chosen by the committee and this year it deservedly went to Richard and Kathryn.

There's not a lot more to say, so here is a selection of photos taken by Nigel S.





The birthday boy



Bring on the food!



Announcing the winners



Calling out winning raffle tickets



*Richard & Kathryn-
Enthusiasts of the Year*



*Pam & Neil –
Irene Williamson Memorial Trophy*



Neil & Clive pick raffle tickets from Jill



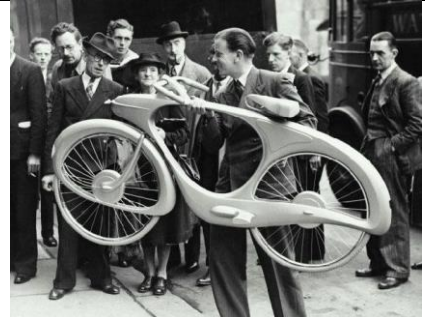
MG Spacelander AKA the Bowden Spacelander

British born Benjamin Bowden originally designed the Spacelander bike way back in 1946 as part of the “Britain Can Make It” Exhibition. It was quite a hit there – largely thanks to the way it looked. The design was positively space aged.

The prototypes for that exhibition were actually made by the MG car company here in the UK. But there was an obvious problem.

The Spacelander was extremely expensive to make and would not be produced in volume until 1960 – and that was not in Britain but in Muskegon, Michigan, USA. The prototype had a dynamo that stored energy going downhill and released it going uphill.

It was the first bicycle to have a frame made from fibreglass and also featured built-in front and rear lights and an electric push-button horn. It sold for \$89.50 making it one of the most expensive bicycles in America. One appeared in the American TV series *Pawn Stars* and the owner was looking to sell it for \$20,000 but eventually settled for \$8,700.



The Bowden Company went bust in 1961 with only 522 Spacelanders ever made, so this black example at the Lakeland Motor Museum in Cumbria is very rare... and valuable! If you are in the area this is a very nice museum to visit with a collection that contains many stunning vehicles including a few MGs, one of which is a Police MGA.



**And you thought tyres were expensive?
Feel the pain of multi-millionaire car collector
Jay Leno. He needs 1200 of them!**

You may have seen videos on YouTube and TV programmes about denim-wearing TV host Jay Leno’s incredible and vast collection of classic cars. It includes this 1952 MGTD powered by a 6.3-litre V8 that’s claimed to do the quarter mile in under 11 seconds with a squirt of nitrous.

After some dangerous blowouts on some of his rare motors, he’s realised that you can’t run them on old tyres. That’s left Jay with a massive bill to replace them all.

He’s written an article that’s worth reading, not least because he talks about tyre quality. See:

<https://www.hagerty.com/media/opinion/jay-leno-needs-about-1200-tires/>





Received entries	From
<i>"Try landing that on a roof, Santa!"</i>	John I.
<i>"This means I'll have to put Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Cupid, Comet, Donner, Blitzen & Rudolph on a 'no hours' contract or into early retirement !!"</i>	Nigel S
<i>At least it's not yet another photo of Howard's Babe Magnet!</i>	Howard
<i>"If my magic flying fairy dust works on that MG, Rudolph and his mates are history"</i>	David F
<i>A wheely horrible looking car</i>	Roger
<i>"Sorry to upset you Rudolph, but I promise that I will still need you, if it rains"</i>	Alan
<i>"Rudolph, I got us a new sleigh but with those wheels I hope it does not rain dear"</i>	John I.
<i>Stick a red nose on the front and I'd drive it alright!</i>	Howard
<i>Plenty Horse Power in that, no need for Reindeer. Will beat "Evri" every time too.</i>	Richard M.
Dear Santa, I asked for my MGB to handle like a roller skate, not look like one...	Simon

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

Sorry Janis but it had to be done!
Your captions please by the end of
the month.

Send them to:

eventsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com





And finally...

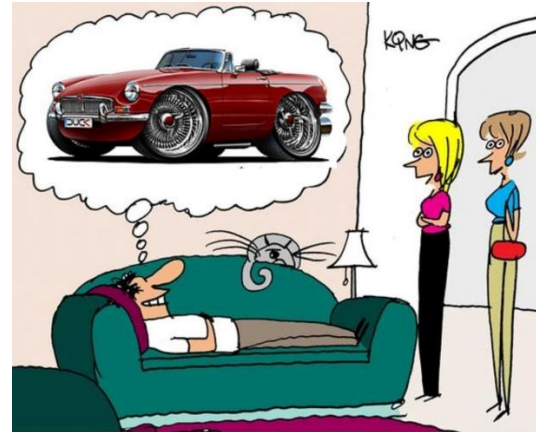


A mechanic slept under his MG each night. He needed to wake up oily.

**FIRST DAY
OWNING A
PROJECT CAR**



**ONE YEAR INTO
OWNING THAT
PROJECT**



"How sweet, he's smiling. He must be dreaming about me."

WORKSHOP LABOUR RATES
55.00 PER HOUR

EXCEPTIONS

IF YOU WATCH	60.00 PER HOUR
IF YOU OFFER ADVICE	70.00 PER HOUR
IF YOU HELP	80.00 PER HOUR
IF YOU OR YOUR MATE HAD A GO FIRST	90.00 PER HOUR
IF YOU OR YOUR MATE HAD A GO FIRST AND DIDNT TELL US	100.00 PER HOUR
IF YOU SAW IT ON THE INTERNET AND ITS EASY	120.00 PER HOUR

All prices are dependent on customers attitude

