

Newsletter May 2024



ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Debate remains as to when MG car production started, although the first cars, rebodied Morris models known as "Kimber Specials", bore both Morris and MG badges. Reference to MG with the octagon badge appears in an Oxford newspaper from November 1923, and the MG Octagon was registered as a trademark by Morris Garages on 1 May 1924.



This Month

Committee reports
Upcoming events + sharing routes
Are classics 'green'?
Drive It Day run report
Meeting up with Chichester MGOC
Wrynose and Hardknott Passes in the Lake District
The Story of the Lost Mid-Engine MG D
SAIC MG's EXE181 electric hypercar



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



Secretary's Report



Our Tamar Valley is bursting with Spring flowers from every hedgerow and byway, and it is a wonderful time to get our cars out and enjoy the unique feeling of connection to the countryside afforded by bowling along in a classic MG. All our plants seem to be competing for our senses in vibrant colour and alluring aroma (ok its probably the bees which they are after – but an open car gets the effect!).



Set against this backdrop we had a splendid Drive-it-Day, with our route taking in the open moorland, up and past the grim, monolithic presence of Dartmoor Prison and then down off the moor, around the beautiful Burrator Reservoir through Sheepstor (the unlikely resting place of the White Rajah of Sarawak) and past Dartmoor Zoo (dramatized in the 'We bought a Zoo' film) to the picturesque Welbeck Manor.

The latter is a Manor built by Brunel, who sadly died before he could live there, and it features a Golf Course and rooms. The Directors, Paul and Emily, are offering the venue as a classic car destination, and on the basis of an excellent luncheon I think that we could thoroughly recommend it to other Clubs who are considering a mini-break.

Talking of the latter, our club deployment to Snowdonia in North Wales is eagerly anticipated and our monthly run programme continues to excite, making use of the excellent pubs which we enjoy in our area. The show season is now upon us, with Andy coordinating lots of opportunities to show off our very shiny vehicles and we are also having our annual photographic competition shortly, so take your pictures now!

We continue to get welcome enquiries from those interested in joining us, so look out for Clive and Janet next month with his Old English White MGB. Sadly, Charlie and I will not be able to join you on Monday as we are in Rhodes but look forward to seeing you all soon.

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,

Well, there has been a marked improvement in the weather recently, and now we are playing catch-up as we try and get our garden weeded and tidied up.

Simon and Charlie's Drive It Day, and Treasure Hunt Trophy Run to Welbeck Manor, was fairly well attended. The weather was also pleasant for a change as we gathered at the Dartmoor Diner for coffee/teas before commencing on our treasure hunt. The decent weather had brought a few more people out around Burrator Reservoir and we enjoyed quite a good traffic jam in Sheepstor village, whilst negotiating a sharp 90deg corner near the church.

Welbeck Manor turned out to be a wonderful location for lunch and our MGs made a great display on their front lawn. The attentive staff made for a very good lunch and the food was really excellent.

The Treasure Hunt Trophy was pleasingly won by us after a tie-break question, and we managed to fight off four other couples in doing so. We are now displaying this lovely glass trophy at home. Alison and I now look forward to organising next year's Drive It Day Run and Treasure Hunt.

Recently we had the pleasure of welcoming members of Chichester MGOC to our area. They were on a five-day tour of the Southwest which had been primarily organised by our ex-members Clive and Wendy. It was so good to meet them both once again and their fellow members were a very pleasant bunch too.

I would like to thank all of our members who made the effort to greet them at the Knightstone 'RAF Harrowbeer' Archive, at Yelverton before embarking on a shared Dartmoor Tour. We managed to give them a pleasant day out which included a visit to the Moretonhampstead Motor Museum, and their feedback to Clive and Wendy was quite complimentary.

Disappointingly, the organisers of May's 'Friday Night Supper Run' have had to cancel this event due to a lack of interest from our members. This lack of appetite (pun intended), for an evening run in your MG and a meal in a lovely pub is somewhat surprising to me. A re-think on what we offer up in our programme of events is clearly needed, as these Supper Runs have formed a big part of our summer time activities for quite a few years now.

Happy MG Motoring

Alan



Event Secretary - keeping it wheel

Dear Motorneers,

Thanks to Simon and Charlie for organising a splendid Drive-It Day. The weather was lovely for our scenic run over the Moor. It proved that we don't need to do the near impossible – find roads never travelled before – and that familiar routes can be highly satisfying, especially if the weather cooperates. The same held true for Alan and Alison's Dartmoor route for the visit of Chichester MGOC. After a drizzly start the views were magnificent. More on both these runs later.

What's more we have a lovely new destination to add to our list of lunch venues. After enjoying a pre-meal drink on the patio overlooking the golf course, Welbeck Manor put on a fine lunch for us. Without doubt we will visit again.

Thanks also for the many photos sent in by Peter A. and Simon to add to my own and to Nigel's, whose well-observed picture here neatly summed up Drive It Day.



I was spoilt for choice of what to include in the run report that you can read later in this newsletter.

Talking of photos, I will be announcing the winners of this year's photo competition at tonight's (May) meeting. Here's last year's winner taken by Simon. This year's overall winner is somewhat different...

In response to feedback that my previous talks about car photography have been of interest, I have produced a short slide show of other photos that have caught my eye in recent months and will explain why these are impressive and inspirational, and sometimes less so!

Just as an aside, Roy & Sonia, Jan & I are taking part in the MGCC MGA Register Spring Weekend in East Anglia which we are extending it to become a week-long trip. This is why we did not put our names down for the Friday evening supper run which has been cancelled due to lack of support. But though I have a good excuse for not taking part, as Alan says we wonder if a Friday evening outing rather than a Sunday lunch is losing favour. Feedback would be helpful please.

Finally, thanks to Neil and Roy for helping me with a problem with my wipers. Yet again I have been victim of crap new parts, in this case a wiper wheelbox assembly. We still can't get them to work properly. Hopefully a new £390 wiper motor will fix it! Moss had the last one in stock for an MGA while MGOC Spares wanted 6 to 8 weeks to refurbish mine. Even in winter I wouldn't want the car off the road for that long. With trips to East Anglia, Wales and Norway planned for this summer I need the wipers fixed fast. Time to throw money at the problem!

Happy MGing!

Howard



- **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 some events outside our region see the Event Diary on our website

*List kept by Howard – others by Andy and Janis

May	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon - Photo competition winners	13 May
	Friday evening run to Church House Inn, Rattery - organised by Richard & Kathryn CANCELLED	17 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 and Vintage Fair – entry details on our website.	2 June
	Newton Abbot Classic Car Show – entry details on our website.	8 June
	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon – Nigel S talk "The Extra Factor" on his work as a TV Extra	10 June
	Morwellham Quay Father's Day Car Show. Entry details on our website.	16 June
	Friday picnic run to Dartmoor Gliding Club nr Tavistock – bring your own picnic.	Friday 21 June
	St Merryn Steam and Vintage Rally. Near Padstow, Cornwall.	22 & 23 June
	Totnes Rotary Classic car and motorcycle show with auto-jumble Enter Here: https://www.totnesrotary.co.uk/classic-car-show	23 June
*	Club 4-night mini-break to southern Snowdonia. We have 20 cars going and the hotel has JUST ONE ROOM LEFT! Organised by Howard & Jan.	24 to 28 June
July	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon	8 July
	Powderham Historic Vehicle Gathering – organiser Andy	13 & 14 July
	Wadebridge wheels – Entry details on our website.	21 July
	Trewithen Classic Cars & Country Show. Entry details on our website.	28 July
	Rosemoor Vintage Weekend. Entry details on our website.	27 & 28 July
	Boconnoc Steam Fair. Entry details on our website.	26 – 28 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
	Club day out to County Classics Car Museum, Taunton. Organised by Andy	TBA
*	Fowey Show and Parade. Entry link on our website	Thur 22 Aug
	Aveton Gifford Show 11am to 3pm. Entry link on our website	25 Aug
	Great Trethew Vintage Rally. Entry link on our website	26 to 28
Sept	Rotary Club of Saltram Classic Car Show – organiser Andy	8 Sept
	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon	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	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 - Hereford

You may recall that after our highly enjoyable club mini-break to Hereford last year, I wrote an article in *Enjoying MG!* suggesting that the national club starts a data base of run routes around the country so that clubs such as ours can benefit from the experience of others. Nothing came of it!

Putting my money where my mouth is, in the article I offered to share our Hereford routes, and five other clubs took me up on the offer. I recently received this message:

Good evening Howard

After receiving the details of your trip to the Pilgrims Hotel, we put the idea of a trip to Herefordshire to our group. The response was very positive and 18 of us made the trip on 20th April, staying 5 nights. It's approx 200 miles from here and after suffering the M25, we travelled across country, with the whole journey taking approx. 5.5 hrs including stops.

The Hotel was excellent and very accommodating. The weather could have been warmer, but we did manage the Gospel Pass and Forest of Dean with the tops down which, given the amount of rain we've been suffering, was an achievement. Most of the group did most of the runs, although not necessarily in the right order!!

From the feedback we have received, it was a great success, with 'where are we going next year?' being asked already.

We've read in Enjoying MG that your club will be visiting Wales shortly. We do hope that goes well and, if possible, would like to receive details once you return.

Once again thank you very much for sharing your experiences, it's an excellent idea.

*Kind regards
Gillian and Roger*

Very nice, but note there was no reciprocal offer to share any of their routes with us!

Howard

PS Talking of this summer's trip to Wales, the lakeside Tyn y Cornel Hotel will be offering six routes to choose from – three shortish and three longer. They might charge for the route books but that is common practice. I have a rough idea of each route and will share these nearer the time.





Enabling Hazard Warning Lights to be Operated in a Way that Does Not Involve the "Standard Pull Out Switch"

Following on from my comments regarding hazard warning lights in the last newsletter, Richard sent in some wiring diagrams that he successfully used. These are now item 43 in the Technical tab on our website.

Different from what Richard sent, here is how I mounted the black illuminated pull-out hazard warning switch on my MGA that came with the kit from MGOC Spares.

The two silver and red illuminated switches operate the electric fan and the bilge blower fan used to blow cold air over the carbs on hot days to minimise fuel vaporisation, which has at times been a problem. However, now all petrol contains ethanol I don't know how much of a bother vaporisation will continue to be. This summer may be revealing in this aspect as I have MG trips planned that will put plenty of miles beneath the car's wheels.

Howard



MG's EXE181 electric hypercar revealed ahead of Beijing motor show

As controversy continues to grow regarding the importation of Chinese made cars, SAIC MG are continuing to exploit the marque's British heritage with the reveal of the EXE181 concept – an electric speedster inspired by Sir Stirling Moss's classic MG land-speed record vehicle.



The original EX181 was used throughout the late 1950s to try and push speed records, with racing drivers Sir Stirling Moss and Phil Hall both taking to the wheel at various times. Moss would hit 245.6mph in 1957 with this car, only for Hall to achieve 254.9mph on the Bonneville Salt Flats two years later. The EX181 was MG's last attempt at a land speed record.

SAIC MG calls the concept its new 'electric supercar' and says it's a tribute to the 'roaring raindrop' land-speed record cars. It is said to have a 0-62mph time of 1.9 seconds, and 1000bhp.

Following its reveal in China, the EXE181 concept will be on show at this year's Goodwood Festival of Speed. SAIC MG is displaying this as part of its centenary celebrations. However, SAIC MG is not 100 years old this year. The company only took possession of the marque's name in 2007.



It will also mark the launch of MG's new electric Cyberster sports car. They cost £55,000 and up.

Are Classics 'green'?

MGOC members may have already seen this in the club's recent newsletter but it's worth us all taking a look at the arguments:

<https://www.mgocspares.co.uk/blog/1282/are-classics-green-a-look-at-carbon-footprint>



National Drive-It Day was created by the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs in 2005.

Held each year on a Sunday in April, it is the day when historic vehicle enthusiasts and the public at large have the opportunity to celebrate the 'One Thousand Mile Trial'. This was an 11-day round-Britain public test that started on 23 April 1900 to "prove the viability" of the then new-fangled invention - the motor car.

Today, Drive-it Day is an opportunity to raise awareness and support amongst the public for the historic vehicle movement, as part of our ongoing campaign to keep transport heritage on UK roads without restriction.

20 Club MGs met on a beautiful sunny Sunday morning at the Dartmoor Diner in preparation for this year's Drive-it Day run. Teas and coffees were enjoyed before Simon ran through an overview of the run that we were about to undertake. This included a warning about potholes on the narrow road running to and alongside Drake's Leat (a good job he did warn us because some of these were horrendous).



2 B's in a pod waiting to start the run.

At 11am we all departed in various small groups of cars; it was nice to see so many different types of MG being used. The route took us through an unusually dry Dartmoor landscape, via Crapstone, Horrabridge and then up Pork Hill to Princetown, down the hill and along Drake's Leat to Burrator, around the reservoir and out through the village until we went through Wotter, ending up at the Welbeck Manor in Sparkwell. A well-earned roast meal was served by the Manor and I think we would all agree that the food was excellent.



Roy & Sonia traversing Norsworthy Bridge

The route included a questionnaire on some of the sights and landmarks on the route. After Charlie marked the answer sheets there were four members tied, and the tie breaker was won by Alan and Alison - well done.

All cars behaved themselves well except for one minor problem for Gavin which was a blown fuse, easily and quickly fixed on the roadside with the help of fellow members.

It was nice to see other clubs out on Drive-It Day, I saw the Mazda MX5 club and a Ford club driving through Princetown, there was a classic Mini enjoying an ice-cream at Cadover Bridge.



TVMGOC assembled at Welbeck Manor

A big thank you to Simon, Charlie and Janis for arranging the annual Drive-it Day run, a lovely little route and a good venue to finish off at.

Peter A.

We always include a quiz for the navigators on Drive-It Day where they have to spot things along the way (without distracting the driver!). After a nail-biting tie-break to decide the winner, Alan and Alison emerged as the victors.

Simon awarded them our Treasure Hunt Trophy and in addition they get the honour of organising DID next year (unless anyone else fancies having a go!).



Here is a small selection of other photos taken on the day.



David R.



Nick C.



Peter crosses Drake's Leat



Round 'em up, head 'em out!



Chas



Welbeck Manor and the view from the terrace



Meeting up with Chichester MGOC

Our friends and former TVMGOC members Clive and Wendy organised a visit to Devon and Cornwall for their current club, Chichester MGOC. Whilst down here they were keen to meet up with some of our club members and it was arranged to get together for a pre-run get together at Knightstone Tea Rooms. Clive chose this because he thought his band of merry MGers would be interested in the display there, as this is also home to the RAF Harrowbeer Archives Educational and Heritage Centre.

After perusing the exhibits, downing tea and coffee and indulging in a good old chinwag, we all set off on a run across the moor organised by Alan and Alison which included a lunch stop at Widecombe. In Moretonhampstead most cars stopped to visit the Motor Museum.

After a damp start the weather improved somewhat and the views over Dartmoor and into the far distance were stunning. Here's a selection of memories of the day.





Drive with Moo Care



Lunch at Cafe on the Green, Widecombe



Fording the River Webburn at Ponsworthy



Wrynose Pass and Hardknott Pass in the Lake District

After tipping you off about the BBC1 Countryfile TV feature on these two famous passes, it aroused interest, and I received replies saying that some members had themselves tackled this famous route. The Hardknott and Wrynose Passes should be on everyone's MG bucket list.

I've done them twice in the Babe Magnet and the March photo in this year's MGOC calendar is of us ascending the Wrynose Pass. Apart from the fantastic scenery, these roads are OK as long as you take care and don't meet anyone coming the other way, as passing places are almost non-existent, steep and inevitably you'll meet on an extremely tight bend. But whilst the passes have a reputation for being challenging today, they are a four-lane motorway compared to how they were in the past. I thought you might be interested to see what these 'roads' were like back in Black & White days. I photographed some old pictures on display in the Lakeland Car Museum. They are from 1910-1930s. The roads were unpaved, and I wonder if the horses ever had to tow cars up the steep inclines. For at least a couple of these I think the photographer tilted his camera to make the road look steeper than it really is.



Howard

MGB Roadster 1972 for sale

Owned since 1992, restored and regularly serviced/MOT'd, garaged. BRG with overdrive, tan leather seats, mohair hood. Chrome wire wheels, electronic ignition, K&N air filters. Condition 2/3. £11,750.

Tel 07761 283990 (Plymouth)



The Story of the Lost Mid-Engine MG D

The lost MG D GT was a British Leyland concept from 1970, replacing the evergreen MG B with a radical mid-engine, rear-drive coupe with a wedge-shaped body, an Austin Maxi-based engine, and Hydrolastic suspension.


Had it been launched it might have been the world's first truly affordable mid-engine sports car.


Sadly, it wasn't to be.



Watch a video about this car here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&si=yWaCjrvE771ATRa8&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR1_bIXvN8w4PBgJThNVi7SajEJNFngAuBhgP_wFB-QBi4j54buc0XeNJ0A_aem_Aaaerk1cW7IKPP1TIXF3mwnr_APeqAtI9LE9fgEN5wvVLL79js6u4jZFvEo_v7cczTMD_Re7yXGQ350-lhUyAT34-&v=MLqE8IWoi88&feature=youtu.be





Apparently this won the Best Public Art of 2023 in New Zealand. It “draws inspiration from the Danish TV police drama *The Killing*, deconstructing the production of a scene where a car is pulled from a river. The art work was quickly embraced by the citizens of Christchurch, as it utilized an otherwise abandoned site to become a thing of intelligence and style. Plus, it was dead funny.”
(It sez ‘ere on’t web. Ed)

Received entries	From
<i>Unfortunately, the funds for the new Tamar Bridge ran out early on</i>	John I
<i>MK1 IKEA Lightship begins sea trials</i>	Ade
<i>Fred was paranoid about getting water in the electrics</i>	Jan P
<i>Prototype parking solution destined for Dubai, post recent flooding</i>	Alan
Trinity House announces new partnership with the ailing Rover group to replace the Goodwin Sands lightship. If the underseal holds then maybe the Eddystone next.	Peter S.
<i>“So that’s what they meant by ‘Jack all’. No wonder it was phased out from up-market early 50’s British car production”</i>	John H
<i>Mercedes-Benz solves the urban parking problem</i> <i>You take the low road and I’ll take the high road!</i>	Sally & Keith
<i>"Like the song says I bought my girlfriend a Mercedes-Benz, but with a twist as she is now my ex-girlfriend"</i>	Gavin
<i>The Torpoint ferry operators were told to raise their game</i>	John I
<i>Recommended for an elevated driving position?</i>	Tom E
<i>“Are you sure you used the right Plip?”</i>	Christine E
<i>Family car finds itself re-purposed as coastguard station as flood waters recede after bridge collapse</i>	Nigel S
<i>Could be high rise parking for high rise flats!</i>	Roger
<i>I do which they’d hurry up and finish the rest of the bridge</i>	Howard
<i>One car has a lucky escape in Baltimore</i>	Howard

**And the winner of last month’s competition chosen by Howard is Peter S. Well done!
He will choose next month’s winner**

Here’s next month’s tyresome photo which requires a caption.
Park your entries by the end of the month to:
eventsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com





And finally...



I'm sick and tired of people telling me to turn off my lights to save the environment.....
I tried it once and I hit a cyclist.....!!!



A new footbridge opens using recycled materials in Tirana, Albania.

The door the middle opens for wild swimmers.



How to electrify your classic!

Tom Jones. Great singer.
Terrible at parking.



Pothole season is open!

