

**JANUARY  
2020  
EDITION**



YOU MIGHT  
**OUTRUN ME**  
BUT YOU'LL NEVER  
**OUTFUN ME**



**MGB**

**MAKING GRINS BIGGER**  
SINCE 1962

**This Month:**  
Committee reports  
Upcoming events 2020  
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Our club Christmas Party



**ENJOY YOUR MG MORE WITH TVMGOC**



## Secretary's Report



Happy New Year everyone.

I hope you all had a lovely festive season whatever you were doing. Neil and I really enjoyed the TVMGOC Christmas Dinner Dance; the food was excellent, the room beautifully decorated and the company, as usual, very convivial. Mrs Jones entertained us well, and many people were having a great time dancing to lots of tunes that we knew the words to. Many thanks to Janis, our Vice Chair, who organised this lovely evening for us all.

I am writing this prior to Christmas, and hopefully Neil and I will have had a lovely time as we are going to my daughter (she has the 3 big dogs) for Christmas Eve and Day. Then we are travelling back from Bracknell on Boxing Day to make lunch for Neil's daughters and husbands - a busy time yes, but it is always lovely to see the family.

I think we are all fed up with the wet weather. I know I have been hoping for some cold, crisp and frosty weather, but I am feeling very grateful that we haven't had the terrible fires and floods that have been happening elsewhere.

The Committee are already making plans for 2020 and the nights will be drawing out soon. I managed to get out in to the garden for a couple of hours and it is surprising what is already growing. Spring will be here before we know it and we will be enjoying ourselves getting out in the sunshine with our MG's. I can't wait.

Best Wishes & Happy Driving

*Pam*

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## Notes from your Chairman



Hi everyone.

Last year's report from me for the January newsletter was written on Boxing Day. At the moment, Christmas is still on the close horizon and eagerly anticipated.

We will be celebrating Christmas in Surrey with the family. Our granddaughters are now 4 and 20 months respectively. Having young children around you at Christmas is fabulous and to join in and be able to share their excitement is a joy.

Alison is getting a rest this year from being the hostess. Mind you she has made the Christmas cake and pudding to take with us. However, no sign of any mince pies as of yet.

Talking of Christmas cake.... We were fortunate to be able to win the one that Howard made for the Christmas Dinner's raffle.

You have been warned. If you pop in for a cup of tea you know what you will get with it. If you are on a diet then stay well away! (*I inherited my mum's Christmas cake recipe but I leave the nuts out just in case anyone has an allergy! – Ed.*)

The Christmas Dinner at the Moorland Garden Hotel was once again a fantastic evening. Thank you to all those members and guests who made the effort to attend and for helping to make it such a superb event. Janis must be congratulated for all the work she puts in to get this event off the ground and making it such a success.

On the football front.....Argyle are not struggling at the foot of the table as they were last year. However, they are now in a lower league! New players are eagerly looked forward to in January, if we are going to think seriously about promotion.

Getting into the New Year we have the club meetings and Sunday Lunches to look forward to. These will help to keep the club active whilst we wait for the end of winter. So do please try and come along if you can.

Once we actually get into the New Year, Alison and I are going to have to start thinking about ideas for Drive It Day and the club's Treasure Hunt. It is not until April but time seems to fritter away so quickly these days.

Alison and I hope you all had a great Christmas and would like to wish each and every one of you.....

**'A Happy New Year!'**

Safe MG motoring,

*Alan*



## Event Secretary keeping it wheel



Dear all,

This newsletter is being prepared a bit early as Jan and I are off skiing over the New Year with one of our daughters and her young family. I absolutely love skiing and wish I had discovered it as a young man. These days I'm too scared to try and keep up with my daughter. I'm not far of her pace, and having just watched the excellent TV series *Ski A&E*, I don't fancy breaking anything. Over the years I've had a couple of nasty tumbles but nothing too serious, though my right shoulder is still a bit stiff from a fall two seasons ago. Jan just does a leisurely half day skiing and then has fun in the snow and swimming pool with our granddaughters. Fingers crossed we will both be at the January meeting without anything in plaster

I recently (at last!) had a bit of free time to do a few things on my own to-do list rather than tackling a mountain of jobs for other people (which I don't begrudge). One chore was to tidy up all the paperwork I have acquired since joining the club. I guess I'm not alone in wanting to keep such things as run routes and receipts for work done on my MG but I'd just been stuffing them into a box and they really did need tidying. I came across the white file that we used for making entry forms available at meetings. It was literally stuffed with unused forms that together made a rather a large pile of pointlessly printed paper.

It made me appreciate again that in this respect we have made great progress in shifting the availability of entry forms from the paper folder onto our club website, where you can download and print for yourself only what you want. I have received no negative feedback about this and must say I am encouraged and heartened that it now seems second nature for the majority of club members to go on-line to get this kind of material. Yes, I know it's really a doddle to do, but this was a big step for some and it seems it is working fine with no more mountains of waste paper! (I reuse the blank sides of discarded sheets for non-important printing).

Happy MGing in 2020!

*Howard*

Send submissions to [eventsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com](mailto:eventsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com) or [mediatvmgoc@gmail.com](mailto:mediatvmgoc@gmail.com)



## Upcoming events

The most up to date and detailed information on all 2020 events can be found and downloaded on the [Event Diary](#) page and the [Entry forms/details](#) page. See: [www.tvmgoc.org.uk](http://www.tvmgoc.org.uk)

What does Santa do, now the festivities and Strictly are over? Plan his year of MG motoring course! and now you can do the same. Lots of dates are now on the **Event diary** on our website.



So, on a long, cold January evening, what better than to download and print the diary, pour yourself something nice to drink, and settle down next to a warm fire to note the dates of lots of events you'd like to enter this coming year.

If these include some that already have entry forms available, pop over to the **Entry forms/details** tab on the website and download these too.

With skiing also out of the way now, Jan and I will now turn our attention to route planning in more detail for our Ireland trip and the People and Places run on 13 September. That should keep us good for a while.

Here is a list of club dates you might like to make note of or, better still, volunteer to organise. Please contact me if you are willing and able to do one (or two).

Dates for your diary – club events in 2020		
<b>January</b>	Lunch on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday - Vanessa	19 Jan
<b>February</b>	Lunch on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday - Ade & Val	16 Feb
<b>March</b>	Lunch on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday - TBA	15 Mar
<b>April</b>	Drive It Day + Treasure Hunt Trophy – Alan & Alison	26 April
<b>May</b>	Friday Supper run - TBA	15 May
<b>June</b>	Friday Supper run – TBA (Cars going to Ireland will miss this)	12 June
<b>July</b>	Operation Cotswold Caper – Peter & Jan S.	10-12/13 July
<b>July</b>	Friday Supper run – TBA (a week later than usual to avoid the Cotswolds)	17 July
<b>August</b>	Friday Supper run - TBA	14 Aug
<b>September</b>	People & Places – Howard & Jan	13 Sept
<b>October</b>	Lunch - Tulip Trophy – Alan & Alison	18 Oct
<b>November</b>	Lunch on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday - TBA	15 Nov
<b>December</b>	No lunch – Christmas dinner	tba

### A new run for moderns

Some of our club cars from the 80s and 90s will be eligible to enter a major new run. The inaugural London to Brighton Modern Classics Run will depart Greenwich Park on 31 May 2020. It is open to all vehicles manufactured between February 1979 and 31 December 1999.

Jan and I did the London to Brighton Classic Car Run a couple of years back and enjoyed it. It was a huge and impressive event but I will offer a caveat or two. It is a long drive from Plymouth to get there and back, and it was an expensive weekend, especially if you stay at the recommended hotel. The best parts are the start at

Greenwich and finish on Madeira Drive, but the run itself through the South Downs is nice rather than spectacular. I very glad we did it but it's far from being a priority to repeat.



## News snippets



### **Petrolheads welcome**

A website has been created to help car enthusiasts find car-friendly places to stay in the UK. Their blurb says, *"We are a bunch of dedicated sports, classic, prestige and supercar fans who like to plan trips out and holidays with our cars. Having had to cobble together information from various sources to do so, we thought why not create a site that provides all of this information in one place? Thus Petrolheads Welcome was born. We aim to bring together petrolheads and venues that really appreciate and support special cars. We also suggest good places to visit, good driving roads and good places to stop en route."*

### **Zed's At The Lakes**

A nice trip for MG ZR/ZS/ZT cars is being advertised in *Safety Fast* but you don't need to be an MGCC member to join in. *Zed's At The Lakes* will tour The Lake District on 11 to 14 September and will include a visit to the Lakeland Motor Museum.

The 4 day, 3 night package including accommodation, breakfast and dinner will cost somewhere between £399 and £499 pp and is being staged by Scenic Car Tours. Email [admin@sceniccartours.com](mailto:admin@sceniccartours.com) or call 01732 879153.

### **Losing the spark**

In recent times there have been a range of classic cars modified to be powered by batteries to make them more 'green'. However, The Fédération Internationale des Véhicules Anciens (FIVA – the international federation of historic vehicles) says it cannot promote the use of modern electric vehicle components to replace a historic vehicle's powertrain to either owners or regulators. As a result, the organisation says classic cars converted to run with electric motors will not comply with its definition of a historic vehicle.

See: <https://uk.motor1.com/news/377299/classic-ev-conversions-not-classic/>

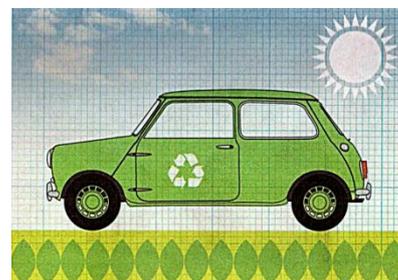
Some UK motoring organisations are up in arms about this. It will be interesting to see how our own DoT officially classifies such conversions.

Insurers *Footman James* publish a free news sheet and website blog which recently carried the article below which is worth reading as it is certainly food for thought for any owner of an historic car. Make of it what you will, but this does illustrate that none of the arguments for or against electrification are clear cut:

### ***Eco-friendly classic cars?***

*Imagine a world with no new cars. A utopian existence where everybody can balance a pair of carburettors, a welder is on every street corner and nobody makes it to work on time the morning of winter's first frost. The question is, if we all drove classic cars, could the world be a greener place?*

*Reducing emissions has become about more than simply cutting tailpipe gasses and it is the lifecycle figures of new cars that have had us thinking.*



*According to independent reports, a standard petrol-powered car generates 23% of its lifecycle CO<sub>2</sub> during production, while a battery electric vehicle (BEV) produces 46% of its share before it has rolled a wheel. Over the course of their lifecycle, based on usage of 150,000 kms, a mid-sized petrol car will produce 24 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> compared to 18 for the BEV. This takes into consideration fuel and vehicle production, use and end of life.*

*So, what if we were to eradicate the emissions produced during manufacture by instead relying solely on classic vehicles? Obviously, we need to indulge our imagination by putting to one side the financial implications of effectively ending the multi-billion-pound global automotive industry...*

*It's possible to view classic and heritage car ownership as the very definition of sustainable motoring. It is an often-quoted estimation that around 70% of the Land Rover Series and Defenders that rolled off the line during their 68-year production run remain on the road today. A good chunk of the remaining 30% live on by nobly giving up parts to keep their siblings on the road while themselves resigned to a life of decay.*

*Too utilitarian for many, perhaps, but the global success story of Land Rover is testament to the usability and lasting legacy of many older vehicles. While tailpipe emissions of classics will, in the main, be higher than those loaded with efficient, modern technology, reliance upon classics would encourage more efficient utilisation of public transport. This would help slash commuters' carbon footprint. In 2017 the average UK commute grew to 1 hour. For even the most ardent classic car fan, the thought of 2 hours driving a 40-plus-year old car either side of a day's work, 5 days a week, would diminish the original satisfaction derived from classic ownership. In short, the car would become a less convenient choice.*

*With fewer cars on the road, driving could become more pleasurable once again. Parking spaces would no longer be too small and pedestrians would be safer: the sound of a V8 breathing through stainless exhausts would provide far more warning of an approaching vehicle than the near-silent hum of a BEV.*

*A world reliant on classics would invigorate traditional engineering and mechanics' skills. Oily rag maintenance could replace plug-in diagnostics and a specialist's tools could once again feature a feeler gauge and a selection of hammers. At the very least, the dreaded call into work to explain your tardiness would follow a lift of the bonnet and a visual inspection of the powertrain, rather than an internet search of common fault codes through a furrowed brow.*

*Ultimately all of this is a bit of a daydream but, who would want to live in a world that's being saved by a Rover V8?*

### **The everyday story of country folk**

Dum ti dum ti dum ti dum, dum ti dum ti dum dum... Exciting news from the Archers! The world's longest-running soap now has not one but two MGs in the cast. Rarely mentioned is Tony Archer's red Midget that he's owned since at least the early 70s\*. Now there's a friend for it. A new character, Joy, the Geordie chatterbox, also drives a Midget. Class casting I'd say, and the actors are pretty fine too.

Tony's wife Pat recently bought him a sheepskin flying jacket for their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary specifically for wearing to drive his Midget. As someone said in an MG/Rover blog, there's a common link between The Archers and MG's - their great Britishness. Who wouldn't raise a pint of Shires\*\* in The Bull to that!

*\* A few years ago there were complaints that Tony's car didn't sound right. The programme producers pointed out that it had Osseli not SU carbs and that was how it would sound!*

*\*\*Non-Archers fans can skip this bit. The imaginary beer that features in The Archers has been served in the Bull, in Ambridge, since 1951. Shires is cask real ale produced by an unnamed local brewer. In 1994 Sid Perks RIP (no relation!), former landlord of the Bull, told his temporary barman not to touch the Shires because it needed real expertise. The barman ignored Sid and, of course, the beer was undrinkable, but that's radio drama for you.*

*Members of the Grundy family drink it by the barrel, while the Archer family and the rest of the everyday country folk take it in moderation. A pint of Shires is still the quintessential English countryside. There is no doubt about the ale's deliciousness, though Tony only sups in moderation when driving his Midget.*



Everyone looked fabulous darling. There were slinky little black numbers, colourful glad rags, at least one flash of tantalising thigh, makeup done to perfection, hair beautifully coiffured. And that was just the blokes. The ladies looked quite nice too.

Yes it was party time for TVMGOC!

We had a great turnout once again, with a welcome sprinkling of guests brought along by some of our members.



The evening began with the usual chattering as everyone caught up with their latest news and the first drinks got everyone in the right mood.

With everyone seated, Janis had provided a quiz for each table with a prize to be won for each round. There were also balloons for everyone to fire across the room. However Pam decided to do a bit of balloon sculpting instead, and created a dog that Janis then took for a walk. Nothing strange about that.

Sadly though, the jollities were tempered with the news that earlier in the day Libby had fallen whilst out walking she and Nigel's real dog. It must have been one hell of a tumble as it resulted in an arm and shoulder broken in several places. They were greatly missed at the party, but their places were taken by their two gorgeous granddaughters. In spite of being surrounded by a load of people old enough to be their grandparents, Nigel told me the teenagers had a great time and want to come again next year!

Poor Ade was absent too as he had succumbed to flu. John and B also had to drop out as she is recovering from a knee replacement operation.

Once again the hotel put on a lovely meal (the second Christmas meal of the day for Jan and me, as we had also been out to lunch!).



As coffee was served, Chairman Alan gave a short speech, firstly thanking Janis, who was looking gorgeous, for all her hard work organising the evening. She rightly received a huge round of applause.

Alan then awarded the Enthusiast of the Year award to Jim and Margaret. The committee unanimously chose them because of the sheer effort they make to support and be involved in club activities, in spite of living down in darkest Cornwall - well St Austell is a long way to come on a cold winter's night to attend meetings, or for a lunch run to somewhere in Devon.

The Irene Williamson Memorial Trophy for the best club dining run was won for the second year running by Jan and me. We did put a lot of effort into it, but so did everyone else who organised runs throughout the year. Perhaps the difference was that ours was designed for a whole day out rather than a shorter morning or supper run. Either way, thanks to all who voted for us and for voting for everyone else too. FYA, second place was a split between three other runs. These events are the lifeblood of our club so please, if you possibly can, do organise one yourself next year. Your efforts will be greatly appreciated. But back to the plot...



A table groaned under the weight of raffle prizes which included a homemade cake, alcohol, chocolate, MG goodies, pictures and more. It was noted that winner James didn't hesitate to head straight for the booze. As a plasterer by trade, one can only hope that with the bottle of Tia Maria he chose he doesn't end up being too plastered himself. It was lovely that he was accompanied by his grandma Andrea again.



Sally and Keith were in Vietnam, lucky things, but they still had our club in their minds. They had asked me to buy a £10 bottle of wine on their behalf to donate as a raffle prize. It cost £9.99 so I kept the change as a tip. Out of the ten raffle tickets Andrew had bought, five came up trumps. Not a bad result!



Next it was Mrs Jones's time to shine and her selection of great oldies soon got people up and dancing. Once again, Keat whizzed Janis around the dance floor putting nearly all the other men to shame.

However, I thought his chandelier hat was a bit ostentatious.



It was a truly enjoyable evening but it eventually became a bit too much for me, I'm afraid. I spent much of the evening in tears and had to cut the night a bit short. Was it a result of the drops I'd been given at the Eye Infirmary that morning, or tears of joy of watching everyone have such a great time in the company of friends? I suspect it was a bit of both.

*Howard*



Caption Competition



Received entries	From
<i>He should have gone to Specsavers.</i>	Howard
<i>Typical bloke. He didn't read the assembly instructions first.</i>	Howard
<i>Car designed by Ikea, assembled by an idiot.</i>	Howard
<i>I saw it coming and then it was gone. I think!!</i>	Roger G.
<i>"Wow," said Constable Grace, "Plenty of Construction and Use regulation offences there, I'll get my numbers up this month!"</i>	Roger G.
<i>"When I asked for a Sidecar, I meant the cocktail!"</i>	Andrew
<i>"When I said I wanted the car "crab-like" I meant with a shellac finish"</i>	B
<i>The new Pontiac has brilliant cornering but is not so good on straight roads...</i>	Peter S.
<i>"Since the last refurb, I don't know whether I'm coming or going."</i>	Jan P.
<i>"I asked the mechanic to sort out the leaning round bends..."</i>	Jan P.
<i>Not so much a U-turn, more of an L-turn.</i>	Jan P.
<i>Turn right for Cornwall, left for Devon...</i>	Margaret C.
<i>"I know that I said make it go sideways safely..."</i>	Simon W.
<i>An interesting modern version of what the "rally" chaps might have referred to as "sideways motoring".</i>	Richard M.
<i>"It must be Brexit: even Mercedes aren't sure which way ahead"</i>	Keat
<i>"Every which way and hope for the best".</i>	Keat
<i>I've heard of central locking, but this is ridiculous! Either that or my new prescription for glasses is hopeless.</i>	John H.
<i>A new invention for parallel parking.</i>	Janis
<i>Who put those CV joints on?</i>	Janis

And the winner of last month's cliff-hanger chosen by John I is Jan P. Well done!  
She will chose next month's winner

Here's next month's photo requiring a caption.  
Finger's crossed your entries arrive by email to [mediatvmgoc@gmail.com](mailto:mediatvmgoc@gmail.com) by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month please





And finally...



And for your next big shop at Tesco...

