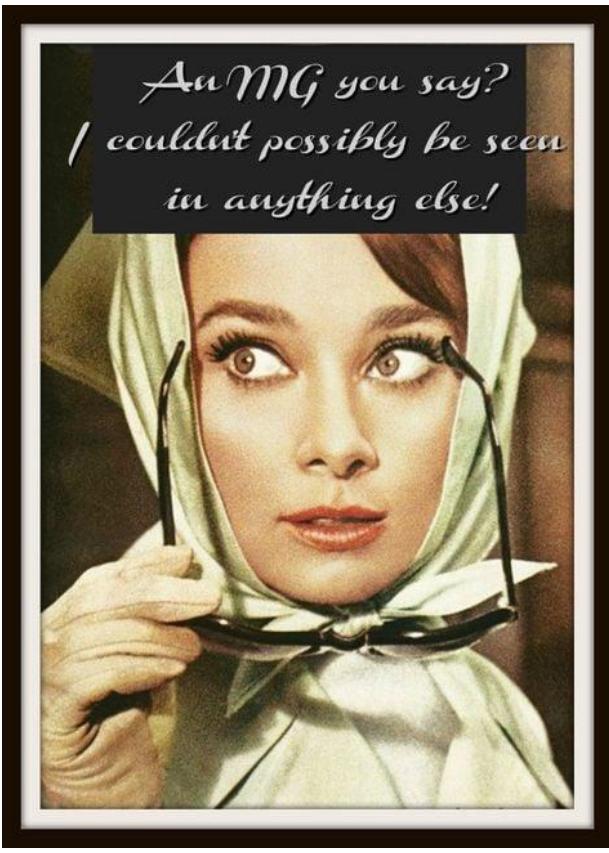


February 2020 EDITION



Audrey Hepburn

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Sunday lunch run to
The Cheesewring at Minions
Caption Competition
Car art





Secretary's Report



Hello Everyone,

I hope you are all still sticking at any New Year resolutions you made. We have finished all the cake and chocolates, so now it's time to try and get rid of that extra $\frac{1}{2}$ stone we've put on. Unfortunately the dismal weather doesn't inspire us to eat lots of salads, so roll on spring. I have noticed that the sparrows are investigating my nesting boxes already, snowdrops and daffodils are coming up, I have flowers open on my camelia so hopefully spring is on its way.

Unfortunately, Neil and I missed the Sunday lunch run to the Cheesewring, as we were sitting for Neil's daughter and husband (they had gone skiing). We looked after their two gorgeous Ragdoll kittens, white and fluffy with blue eyes and very affectionate. The house was full of cat toys but they seemed to prefer two cardboard boxes and my dressing gown cord. I understand that Vanessa, Joe, Paddie and John organised a great run to the Cheesewring and 30 people sat down for a fabulous lunch. Many thanks to them for organising this event.

I am sure you are all aware that I am stepping down as secretary at the AGM, but it has been a pleasure to be your secretary for the past 4 years.

Just a reminder that the AGM is on the 4th March when your yearly subscription will be due.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Best Wishes & Happy Driving

Pam

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Notes from your Chairman



Hi everyone,

If you have a good memory, you will recall that in my last report I mentioned that we were going to be away in Surrey for Christmas. Best laid plans and all that...we ended up staying at home as our youngest granddaughter Hazel had caught chicken pox. As Alison has never had chicken pox we thought it best not to tempt fate as it is a nasty disease to catch as an adult.

After all the excesses of Christmas we are now getting back to normal eating and the gym. However, we are still spoiling ourselves with Howard's Christmas cake raffle prize. I have to say that it is lovely and we are really enjoying it. We look forward to winning another next December.

The club members have just enjoyed a Sunday lunch and run to the Cheesewring pub at Minions on Bodmin moor. An excellent run and lunch and the glorious sunshine was just perfect too. Thanks must go to Vanessa, Joe, Paddie and John for putting this event on.

Please keep an eye out for the lists going around for the next few Sunday lunches as they do tend to fill up quite quickly these days.

Alison and I have booked the Moorland Hotel at Wotter for our National Drive It Day and Treasure Hunt Sunday lunch. This is on Sunday 26th April so please put this date in your diary. We are still planning the run so haven't finalised all the timings yet. However, we will get a list out with menu choices for the February meeting. Your support for this is eagerly anticipated along with good weather of course.

The club's AGM will be held at the March meeting (in the lower ballroom), I really hope that you will be able to come along for this and to be able to oversee the club's due processes.

One of these processes is the election of the committee (with the exception of the Chairman) for the new club year, March 2020 to March 2021.

At the January committee meeting apart from our current club secretary, all other members were willing to stand for re-election. I am thankful for their continued support in helping to keep Tamar Valley functioning and thriving.

We also have a volunteer for the post of Club Secretary. So, I am now not actively looking for someone to fill this post. This means that you can all relax for another year. Phew!

It is worth stating that any member can put themselves forward for one of the committee posts via a nomination form but in the interests of club harmony, please can you let me know of your intention before actually passing in a form.

Best regards to you all and happy MG motoring,

Alan



Event Secretary keeping it wheel



Dear all,

I have been asked again by more than one person why the lists of names for supper and lunch runs can't be put onto our website. Here's a reminder that there are two reasons for this. Firstly, data protection doesn't allow this as by definition it is a list of names, phone numbers and dates when it can be assumed homes will be empty.

Secondly, these events, including this year's Operation Cotswold Caper and our holiday trip to Ireland, are for TVMGOC members only and are not eligible for entry by non-members, so we don't publicise the details outside the club. I do publish the rally point and start times for lunch and supper runs on our website as I keep being asked, even though these are always printed on the lists that are circulated at meetings and by email.

Staying on the subject of communication, club members will know that I use Facebook a lot and have mentioned before that in 10 years have yet to encounter any problems.

By joining various dedicated MG and classic car groups I get a lot of information and items of interest that often end up in our newsletters. Whilst some in our club remain sceptical, suspicious and even scathing about Facebook, I am getting the occasional 'Friend' request from other club members. That's lovely, flattering even, so you might think it odd then that I politely decline them. Here's why.

I post very little on my own Facebook page, and when I do it will be non-sensitive family stuff. Frankly, it contains nothing of interest to club members so there's no point in following my posts. Many millions of people like to amass as many Facebook 'Friends' as possible but that doesn't float my boat. My family set up a private closed group where photos of our grandchildren are shared along with family news etc, so that reduces even more what goes on my own page.

So please don't take offence if I decline your offer to be my Facebook friend. However, as a club we could/should have an active presence on social media. Since club activities already take up a lot of my time, I'm not in a position to do more. Any volunteers?

Happy MGing!

Howard

Send submissions to eventsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com or mediatvmgoc@gmail.com



Upcoming events

The most up to date and detailed information on all 2019 events can be found and downloaded on the Event Diary Page and the Entry Forms page.
See: www.tvmgoc.org.uk

Club & show dates

This must be a record. So many dates for 2020 are already available that there are too many to list here! The full list is available in the Event diary on our website. I usually update this each month in the days leading to a meeting so it will change monthly.

Some entry forms and details are now available on the Entry forms tab on our website from where they can be downloaded.

As always, lists and menus for club lunch and supper runs will be available at meetings and emailed to members afterwards.

May is a busy month. It kicks off with **Keat's 'Walk in the Woods'**, a bit earlier than usual on 3rd May, 2:30 to 5pm with refreshments provided. This is a fund raiser for local charities and usually features an incredible display of bluebells. This year the date may be a bit early for them, but Keat's woods are a lovely to wander around at any time. Come in your MG if possible, to Foxhams House, Horrabridge PL20 7QT.

Choices, choices on May 17 when things get really mad. Will you go to Killerton Show or take part in one of four runs on the same day, including the ACE? See the diary for details.

MGF25 at the British Motor Museum - 25 and 26 July FYI we have five cars attending this noteworthy event and you don't have to be in an MGF or MGTF to take part. You may like to know that those going so far are Noel & Kate, Roger, John & B, Tony & Del, and our old friends Clive and Wendy. Details on our website.

Sunday Lunch & Friday supper runs - we need organisers for the highlighted events please

Dates for your diary – club events in 2020		
February	Lunch on 3 rd Sunday - Ade & Val – closed for entries	16 Feb
March	Lunch on 3 rd Sunday – To Bearslake Inn, Lake, Sourton, Okehampton, EX20 4HQ organised by Pam & Neil	15 Mar
April	Drive It Day + Treasure Hunt Trophy – Alan & Alison to Moorland Hotel at Wotter	26 April
May	Friday Supper run - TBA	15 May
June	Friday Supper run – TBA (Cars going to Ireland will miss this)	12 June
July	Operation Cotswold Caper – Peter & Jan S.	10-12/13 July
July	Friday Supper run – TBA (a week later than usual to avoid the Cotswolds)	17 July
August	Friday Supper run - TBA	14 Aug
September	People & Places – Howard & Jan	13 Sept
October	Lunch - Tulip Trophy – Alan & Alison	18 Oct
November	Lunch on 3 rd Sunday – John & B	15 Nov
December	No Lunch run – Christmas dinner	2 Dec



One hundred years ago

In 1920 there was one car for every 22.6 people. Today in the UK there are 471 cars per 1000 people, which equates to almost one car for every two citizens. In this list the UK comes in at number 35. San Marino tops it at 1,263 followed by Monaco, New Zealand and in fourth place the USA with 838 cars per 1000 people.

In 1920 the AA opened Britain's first petrol station at Aldermaston. Motorists were complaining about the cost of petrol and almost a million and a quarter disgruntled people signed a petition of protest. They had a point. Adjusted to today's prices, a litre of petrol back then cost £2, the highest it has ever been.

UK road numbering

You may know this already but perhaps the genesis of our system will be new. We have André Michelin of the tyre and map company to thank. Around a century ago our Department of Transport, highly impressed by the French road numbering system clearly shown on well-designed Michelin maps, decided to copy it.

Differently numbered spokes radiated out from London. These would be numbered in a clockwork direction. From Roman times, the transport backbone of Britain ran from London to Edinburgh and became known as the Great North Road. This was numbered the A1. The London to Dover road was labelled A2. All the roads in between the two were numbered A1x or A1xx.

The A2s were between Dover and Portsmouth, the A3s ran right to the end of the West Country, the A4s took in a giant wedge that included the Midlands and Wales. A5s encompassed roads between the line from London to Holyhead and Carlisle, and the A6s filled in the remainder back to the A1.

Scotland was designated A7, A8 and A9 centred on Edinburgh. The most important roads were accorded the shortest number. It's a system that has worked well for over a century now.



While we're dwelling in the past, let's spool forward a little to 1934 when there were 7,343 people killed on the roads.* Something new was needed to cut down the losses. Enter the **Belisha Beacons**, those large flashing orange globes on zebra crossings. Belisha - an odd name, so where did it come from?



The 1934 Transport Minister was Leslie Hore-Belisha and in his determination to make roads safer for pedestrians he almost became part of the accident statistics himself. He devised 'foot passenger crossings' with a set of black and white lines painted on the road with a sign displaying the letter C.

To demonstrate the crossing's effectiveness, he staged a press call on Camden High Street (this was long before the beard and check shirt uniform of today's Camden hipsters). As Hore-Belisha proudly crossed the road a sports car shot past without stopping and nearly flattened him. Back to the drawing board!

Crossing design mk2 had metal rumble studs set into the road and flashing orange globes on black and white striped poles. The press swiftly christened them 'Belisha beacons' and the name stuck.

*Today we have 15 times as many cars but only about a quarter of the fatalities.



Flaming hell

Posted on the MGCC Facebook page, this is a heart-warming but sad story from the bush fires crisis in Australia.

Volunteer firefighters couldn't save a family's house, but heroically put their lives at risk to ensure this MG Midget was safe. The note on the window reads, "Sorry that we could only save this car and your boat. The CFA." Everything else the family owned went up in smoke.



Note the strange colour tinge to the photos. Much of Australia now has orange skies, not blue.

Animals suffering for human car safety

More bad news. The MGCC MGA newsletter carried a link to a true news story with the warning that the images it contained are disturbing. I'll spare you those. The story headline reads 'Live pigs used as crash test dummies and slammed into walls in China.'

Fifteen pigs between 70 and 80 days old were starved for 24 hours before being strapped into children's car seats and placed in high-speed simulations. Seven of the animals were killed on impact while the others only survived six hours after the test, scientists wrote in a study published this year. The terrified pigs suffered a range of injuries including 'abrasion, contusion, laceration, bleeding and fractures'. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) have written to the Institute for Traffic Medicine in China in a bid to stop the practice from happening.

PETA say, "Letting intelligent and sensitive animals like pigs crash into walls in high-speed tests in China is simply cruel. It leads to broken bones, internal bruising, lacerations and horrible deaths."

"Their anatomy is also very different from that of humans, so the data obtained from these horrific animal experiments aren't applicable to human car-crash victims. Car companies figured out years ago that this kind of experiment is worthless and tells us nothing about a human experience in a car crash."

Pigs were previously used in American crash tests, but pressure from animal right groups brought the practice to an end in the 1990s. Writing in the International Journal of Crashworthiness, scientists in China claimed they followed US guidelines for the use of laboratory animals.

A favourite car show

The charming and interesting Bangers & Cash TV series is about to return on Yesterday channel on 6 February at 8pm. Following on from the entertaining first series, the programmes follow the buying and selling of classic cars of all types at Mathewson auction house in Yorkshire. As each car goes under the hammer, we hear the story of the current owner and discover why it's time for them to part company with their pride and joy. Since the first programmes were aired, Mathewson report that attendances at their sales has shot up, with an extra 500 potential bidders turning up each time, which doesn't surprise me in the least. Series two will feature more modern classics.

Babe Magnet



On a lighter note, members teasingly refer to my car as 'the babe magnet' because MGAs do sometimes grab attention. I'd like to think this phrase also applied to me but apparently not.

Anyway, we MGA owners do have to accept strangers wanting in on a slice of the glamour, but one chap in the USA had a big surprise when a friend forwarded a Facebook picture of his car taken unbeknown to him while it was parked up.

As you can see, a mysterious leggy blond had a photo taken of herself draped all over his lovely red roadster.

Ho hum...it's a cross some of us just have to grin and bear.

A 'new' MG

The latest new car to be built in Scotland since the Hillman Imp in the Seventies – and the first ever to come from Dundee – has been revealed.



Called the ADO Coupe, it brings to life a concept from 1964 which was intended to be a replacement for the iconic MG Midget.

Although an early version was built as a prototype by BMC, it never came to fruition, but now Dundee enthusiast Douglas Anderson, along with designer Richard Oakes and engine specialist Clark Dawson, has remodelled the original design and created a fibreglass coupe based on MG running gear and retaining the Midget's doors, sill and scuttle.

The high-performance, lightweight fibreglass-bodied car is aimed at today's growing retro market. It will be available as a road-going version or as a competition shell and can be supplied either as a kit or ready-assembled.

The final sale price has yet to be confirmed but it will be very much a bespoke machine, with the owner specifying the choice of engine, suspension and internal fittings.



Howard



Sunday Lunch Run to The Cheesewring



Keith and I set off from Chilsworthy along lanes white with wonderful frost formations. The sun was shining and there wasn't a cloud in the sky, as we made our way through Launceston and down to Saltash Travelodge.

Here we joined the other members and their 16 cars, some with their roofs down to take full advantage of the crisp morning.



Keith and I were among the first to leave as we headed up towards St Mellion and through the Golf Club resort, which we had never done before. This took us to Callington New Bridge and through some very pretty villages with thatched cottages, and daffodils that were budding in the hedgerows.

On through Pensilva and up onto Bodmin Moor which gave us spectacular views across to distant Dartmoor. Once through Upton Cross we encountered riders in abundance, also enjoying the scenery on the backs of their horses.

As we approached Henwood we came down a sun-clad lane carpeted with moss either side, as well as a small waterfall which found its way onto the road.



We continued up to Higher Stranbear and skirted along the edge of the moor up towards Minions where we had Caradon Hill and several Engine Houses to look at on our left.

Finally, as we approached the village of Minions, we saw our friendly car park attendants (John and Paddie) who directed Keith and me to the last space behind the pub, for which we were grateful.



Vanessa and John organised the run and, to add to the interest, they added some questions on the direction sheet with numerical answers. Once the numbers were collected a numerical equation had to be calculated, with 19 being the final answer! Fortunately, Alison was on our table and had no trouble at all in finding the answer!

Vanessa gave us all a bar of chocolate just for trying! The meal was served and our waitress (who John H nicknamed Heidi (as she had plaits)) worked like a Trojan* getting all our meals out to us.

So many thanks to Vanessa, John and Paddy for a beautiful run and a delicious Sunday lunch, it was lovely.



Alison, Chas and Janis doing their sums

Sally and Keith

*Trojan....hmm, is that racist? Ed.



This was taken in the Picos when an MGA from Bristol broke down on the top of a mountain.

After some time, a failed electronic ignition module was diagnosed, and the gals have their fingers crossed hoping a replacement would work. It did!



Received entries	From
<i>Let us hope that we get home without the MG breaking down!</i>	Richard M.
<i>Local natives doing traditional ritual before entering an MG.</i>	John I.
<i>The lack of power steering in the MG's causes arthritic problems.</i>	John I.
<i>Fingers crossed that the boys will put the roof up for the journey home!</i>	Alan
<i>The Tamar Valley MGOC ladies embodying the traditional virtues of faith, hope and charity, with the emphasis on the first two as an MG is restored to life.</i>	Simon
<i>"Hi John, could we trouble you for some Super Glue remover from your first-aid box?"</i>	John H.
<i>"Oh no, Alan's got the bonnet up again..."</i>	Peter S.
<i>Fingers crossed we can find reverse to get out of this Car Park</i>	Andrew L.
<i>"Karim could easily win Strictly this year, but we're hoping it's Kelvin, and fingers crossed he'll rip his shirt off again!"</i>	Howard
<i>The three 'Bomb Shells' are hoping the Lotto is kind this month!</i>	Keat

And the winner of last month's competition Jan P. has chosen this month's winner who is John Invest.
Well done! He will choose next month's winner.

Here's next month's photo
requiring a caption.
Your entries by email to:
mediatvmgoc@gmail.com





And finally...



This month two very different works of art you may enjoy seeing.
Sadly, the VW pictures are fake made by someone with advanced Photoshop skills, but it is a lovely idea.

Mechanicangelo 😊

