

Newsletter July 2023



**Yes, it's Nigel with superstar Dawn French.
Read on to find out why...**



MGs in Mallorca

This Month

**Committee reports
Upcoming events
The Best of British
A heady brew**

**The Jorvik Run
Launceston Steam
& Vintage Rally
National Cream Tea Day
TV Progs**



ENJOY YOUR MG MORE WITH TVMGOC



Secretary's Report



Goodness, our summer weather continues with only the very occasional poor day to remind us that we have not been transported to the South of France! I am typing this, mainly one handed of course, as the club prepares to depart for its mini break to Hereford. This promises to be great fun for all who are making the trip, and Charlie and I have very fond memories of previous club breaks. I of course am ruefully looking at a neatly garaged MGR as a result of the wrong kind of break. While friends are enjoying the sweeping vistas of Hereford, I will be in the fracture clinic. Note to self – take care on ladders.

My thanks to Gavin and Rachel this month, for testing the 'People and Places' Route. With an easterly circuit this year, participants will enjoy a rather different experience of our area. I understand from Howard that take-up from the club has been slow so far. With so much work involved it really would be great if most of the club came with us on the day in force, so if you are mulling it over, please sign up and enjoy the very scenic run and of course the famous cream tea finish.*

As a previous Captain of HMS CORNWALL I was looking forward to Helen and Iain's National Cream Tea Day charity tea in Cornwall and I was not disappointed. A fantastic spread greeted weary travellers and Iain and Helen could not have been warmer hosts – thank you! The club run to get to this feast was one of the more testing, keeping true to our name and zigzagging up the Tamar Valley, crossing the Tamar some eight times through tight turns and high hedgerows. Those using their MGs appreciated the nimble handling and diminutive proportions of their cars, while those in Daily drivers wished that their cars were a foot narrower! From my personal non-driver perspective, it is very different to be a passenger/navigator, and I have renewed respect for all who do this on a regular basis. I found that one can get lulled into a false sense of security in the left-hand seat, only to find that in reading one of the interesting paragraphs about some obscure part of the route, just after this and only 0.1 miles later is a turn which you almost missed. Thankfully Kathryn was paying more attention than I, and when Charlie asked whether she should follow Richard who was turning, I quickly read on and said yes! We should all appreciate our navigators.

Looking to the future as a club we follow the Hereford break with the Powderham show, a perennial favourite and our first of the season as a club. The Rosemoor Classic Car Show and Flete House on 30 Jul follow, and then it is the Fowey Classic that has proved very popular on 16 Aug. We are delighted to welcome David and Paula to the club and look forward to more fun as the sunshine hopefully continues.

On club business, at our committee meeting we have decided to be clearer that our monthly meetings will start at 1930 (7.30pm) for a drink, with the formal meeting starting at 2000 (8pm). This newsletter will be sent out before the weekend prior to the meeting, to allow people more time to read it. We will be seeking your views on next year's events, including the mini break, so it would be good to have your views, passed to any committee member. We would be particularly interested in how far you would be prepared to travel, as there are some great roads in the Peak District and N Yorks Moors to name but two.

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 far just 16 cars from TVMGOC have entered People & Places. By comparison, 24 cars are going to the Fowey show and parade. Event Sec.***



Notes from your Chairman



Hello everyone,

With this current drought mostly continuing in this part of the country, keeping our garden and plants looking good and alive has meant that watering cans have been deployed daily, particularly in light of the hosepipe ban.

Alison's runner beans have been a source of anxiety for her, but the dry weather seems to have deterred the usual onslaught from slugs. I am hoping for a good crop this year and to be able to enjoy another batch of Alison's runner bean chutney, as stocks are getting rather low.

The June club meeting was fairly well attended and we easily met our drinks target that covers the use of the room, although we did have a bit of help in doing so, from the cricketing fraternity outside popping in for refreshments before the meeting started. If rain ever stops play we might then struggle. I know that some of you have experienced trouble finding a parking space at the venue and have either parked outside or even worse gone straight home. This is obviously not ideal, and I recognise your frustration. Please do not stay away because of this. The parking availability is very fluid, and a wait of a few minutes will usually see a space freed up.

I have also been informed that there is an area at the top of the car park (turn right when you enter the car park) where you can park on the grass. I will check this out at the July meeting and try and use this area to park, if only to free up a space for you.

The week after the June meeting, Alison and I spent a week on the edge of Exmoor. We tend to use the Caravan and Motorhome Club's certificated locations which only permit a maximum of five caravans or motorhomes. We were the only ones on site for a few days and were spoilt with our own private fishing lake to sit beside as we enjoyed our evening BBQs. Almost worth taking up the sport of angling and drown a few maggots.

We had a great time away and even managed to find sleeping room on one night for three adults, one two-year-old granddaughter and three dogs. With all the outdoor exercise our dog Barney lost a kg in weight, so now we have increased his rations to try and lose the skin and bones look.

The last day of June saw members of Tamar Valley enjoying cream teas and a wonderful display of cakes as we enjoyed once again the hospitality of Helen and Iain. As well as being a cream tea for our members and for family and friends of Helen and Iain, it was also used as a fund raiser for the Children's Hospice South West.

A big thank you goes to Helen and Iain for the club invite and for giving us the opportunity to expand our waistlines and also donate to such a worthy cause. Typically, we had showers of rain for this event after all the recent dry weather. Hopefully we get the chance to come along again and share some sunshine with you both.

At the recent committee meeting, I got the chance to see Simon's list of attendees for Powderham. Having been sure we had actually put our names down for this, I was amazed to find us missing from it. Fortunately, Simon managed to twist the organiser's arm and get a pass sent down in the post, whilst our cheque went in the other direction. So we will see you all on the Sunday.

At the moment we are packing for the club's trip to Hereford and the MGB is cleaned, serviced and ready for adventure. Let's go!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the July meeting and hearing David F's talk about **Everest Base Camp**.

Happy MG motoring,

Alan



Event Secretary - keeping it wheel

Dear Motorneers,
Last month Jan and I were in Mallorca again, childminding our granddaughter Sophia while her mum & dad were at a conference in Athens. This meant we had the days to ourselves while Sophia was in school. As they have a long summer break because of the heat, school days are longer than here, so we had time to drive our daughter's Audi into the Tramuntana mountains, a UNESCO heritage site.



Oh, how I wish I could organise an MG trip with you all there! For starters, we could explore the two roads down to the tiny harbours of Sa Calobra and Port de Valldemossa which, though demanding drives, are hugely pleasurable. This picture is taken from the Classic Car Club Mallorca Facebook page and shows a Porsche in action on a looping road watched over by club members. The photo above was taken from this loop.

Then there's the narrow road from Puigpunyent to Valldemossa which is one of the nicest and most captivating I've ever driven: hairpin after hairpin, with ear-popping climbs and descents through green forests with terraced olive groves clinging onto precipitous slopes.

These are a driver's dream roads, and it won't be the only time I journey along them.



Cocooned inside a quiet, air-conditioned, power-steered, automatic modern car you can appreciate the views, but compared with an open-topped MG there's no sense of journey, no sensory enjoyment from the physicality of driving. Sadly, whilst it is possible to drive to Mallorca via a ferry from Barcelona, it is not practical for a TVMGOC holiday. And I see on the Classic Car Club Mallorca Facebook page that there's an MGA with a red hood just like mine! It's in good company with a fleet of other desirable classics. I'm sure we'd be made welcome there, but I just can't see it happening.

Oh well, we can but dream...

But I wouldn't take you into Magaluf, the less lovely side of Mallorca, that is unless you value intensive hotel and apartment developments, tacky shops, sleazy bars and insanely drunken Brits making a right public nuisance of themselves. Each to their own. The beach is nice though...if you can find a space!

Happy MGing!

Howard

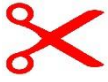


Upcoming events

The most up to date and detailed information on all 2023 events can be found and downloaded on the Event Diary Page and the Entry Forms page.

See: www.tvmgoc.org.uk

Events & Shows			
Currently listed on our website Entry forms tab – most have entry forms/details.			
Cotswold Caper		Sunday 9 July	
Powderham Historic Vehicle Gathering – TBA		Sat & Sun 8 & 9 July	
Wadebridge Wheels Royal Cornwall Show Ground		Sunday 16 July	
English Riviera Show on Paignton Green + Trewithen Country & Classics (Both clash with our Sunday lunch run)		Sunday 23 July	
RHS Rosemoor Vintage Weekend		Sat & Sun 29 & 30 July	
Boconnoc Steam Fair (now back at Boconnoc Estate)		Fri – Sun 28 – 30 July	
Fowey Classic Car Show and Parade		Wednesday 16 August	
RAF Harrowbeer 1940s Weekend		Sat & Sun 19 & 20 Aug	
Great Trethew Vintage Rally		Saturday 26 – 28 August	
Aveton Gifford Classic Car Show		Sunday 27 August	
Saltram Rotary Classic Car Show		Sunday 3 September	
Bristol MGOC Brunel Run		Saturday 9 September	
People & Places		Sunday 17 September	
TVMGOC CLUB DATES 2023			Lunch
Run start times and other details are on our website when available			organiser
July	Club mini break to Hereford, Wye Valley & Welsh Borders	3-7 July	Howard & Jan
	<i>Club 2nd Monday David F. talk about Everest Base camp</i>	<i>10 July</i>	
	Sunday Lunch run on 4 th Sunday to the Forest Inn, Hexworthy PL20 6SD. Meet Dartmoor Diner at 10 am to leave by 11am	23 July	Neil and Pam
	St Luke's Open Gardens at Flete House, Nr. Ermington 12am to 5pm	Sunday 30 July	List - Janis
Aug	<i>Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon – Chat 'n Chill</i>	<i>14 Aug</i>	
	NEW Club picnic run to Tavistock Gliding Club. If raining we can shelter in a hangar. Bring chairs and a picnic. Details TBA. (in place of a Friday supper or Sunday lunch)	Friday 18 Aug	List - Janis Route - Simon Venue - Gavin
Sept	NEW Bowringsleigh Gardens Open Day – TVMGOC invited to put on another show for St Lukes - to be decided at the July meeting if there is enough support.	Sunday 3 Sept	TBC
	<i>Club 2nd Monday Clive D. talk about HMS Britannia</i>	<i>11 Sept</i>	
	People & Places run organised by the Committee	Sunday 17 Sept	Committee
Oct	<i>Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon – Chat 'n Chill</i>	<i>9 Oct</i>	
	Lunch on 4 th Sunday inc. Tulip Trophy	22 Oct	
Nov	<i>Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon – TBA</i>	<i>13 Nov</i>	
	Lunch on 4 th Sunday	26 Nov	John & Bee
Dec	<i>Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon</i>	<i>11 Dec</i>	
	NEW Thursday Christmas lunch celebration at Yelverton Golf Club with magic! Meet there 1.30 for 2pm lunch.	21 st Dec	Janis



Taking a classic abroad

If you plan to take your classic car abroad, the DfT is encouraging owners of cars over 40 years old to have their car MoT tested first. It appears there is a 'grey area' if an exempt car is involved in an accident abroad. The DfT say there is a degree of discretion on individual member states of the EU as to what they exempt as historic. All member states may not have the same rules or application of the rules. "While it is not a legal requirement in the UK to have an MoT for historic vehicles, it may be good practice to avoid problems and provide evidence of being properly maintained." That applies to both here and abroad.

The Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs concurs about the wisdom of having an MoT certificate. They say, "The first reason is to provide reassurance that the vehicle is fit for the journey and has no obvious issues. The second reason is that in the event of an accident there is some supporting evidence that the car had recently been found roadworthy by an independent source."

Even though an MoT for historic vehicles is not mandatory, if the car is tested afterwards all the MoT requirements apply: if it fails the test the rules apply in terms of repairs and re-testing before it can be legally used.

The Best of British

Who doesn't love a list? Well, me if it's a list of jobs Jan wants me to do.

Classic Car Weekly recently published a list of the top British Sports cars as chosen by its staff writers and contributors. Naturally various MG cars appear but here's the idea behind it and it notes that sports car enjoyment isn't proportional to the amount a car is worth:

We asked CCW's experts to choose their favourite sports cars for a definitive Top 100 list. But first, Nick Larkin looks at what makes a great classic sports car



Welcome to this very special themed issue of *Classic Car Weekly*. Inspired by the glorious MG Triumph 100 event at Silverstone last weekend we now crack open the Tizer to present... CCW's definitive top 100 sports cars.

Everyone on the team submitted their favourites but there's still the eternal question – what really makes a great sports car? Something bought for fun, character, speed, looks and driving pleasure over practicality? Well, yes. A car on which the mechanical sounds and rev counter feature more prominently than the radio? Something 1950s or earlier, made in England, loud and leaking oil, open top, in red or British Racing Green, seating only two uncomfortably and potentially lethal if mistreated? Not necessarily, but some good traits there. A stylish Italian with glorious exhaust rasp? Yes, yes!

Can history help? People wanted speed in 1907 when Brooklands, the world's first racing circuit, opened. The Vauxhall Prince Henry, which competed in a 1910 German contest to find the world's greatest tourer, is often touted as the first sports car. It's renowned for its 90mph performance, lightweight chassis and excellent road manners, three of our favourite sports car traits.

Definitive sports cars don't always have to be expensive, either, since Cecil Kimber's modified Morris got MG badges from 1923. The next decade would see a huge choice from makers such as MG, Riley and Singer, or you could build your own. American servicemen took their MGs home after the war and a whole new US market for small British sportsters opened up over the next 30-odd years.

The Austin-Healey Sprite of 1958 was a mixture of BMC saloon bits under the

skin but light and deeply characterful. The Jaguar E-type changed the sports car world forever, just in time for the influential motorway age. The MGB, meanwhile, sold madly but the later GT wouldn't seat four adults.

We would learn that a sports car could still boast comfort, heaters and even electric windows as time went by. Mazda MX-5, anyone? Say no more.

To conclude, sports cars have always been for people who consider driving to be a joyful art. They needn't be expensive, exclusive or frighteningly fast. Mass-produced or hand-built from a kit. Original or modified. There just has to be that right automotive DNA and passion as well as sporting character in the design. And, we think, only two doors. Fun handling rather than a grand tourer gait.

Enjoy the list. See where your personal favourites are and of course, we'd love to hear your comments.

Of course, the list includes a variety of expensive exotica including Ferraris, Aston Martins, Pagani Zonda and Jags, and also muscle cars such as AC Cobras, TVRs etc. Then there's Triumphs, Fiats, Morgans and more. The full 100 is far too many for me to bother typing them all, so I've just noted the MGs and the top 5 cars. You may not agree with this ranking. I don't.

97	MG RV8 (1993-95)	14	MGB (1962-81)
92	MG K3 (1932-34)	5	Mazda MX 5 NA (1989-97)
81	MGB VT V8 (1973-76)	4	MGA (1955-62)
63	MGC (1967-69)	3	Lotus Elan (1962-73)
47	MGF & MGTF (1995-2011)	2	Austin Healey 300 (1959-68)
25	MG T-Series (1936-1955)	1	Jaguar E-type (1962-74)
19	MG Midget (1961-79)		

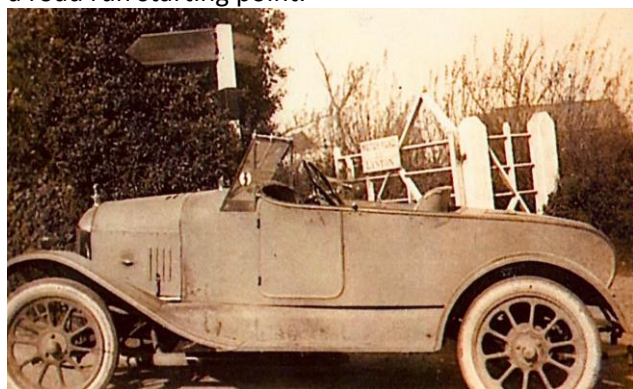
Howard

A heady brew

Arkell's Brewery have created a limited-edition beer to mark the centenary of MG.

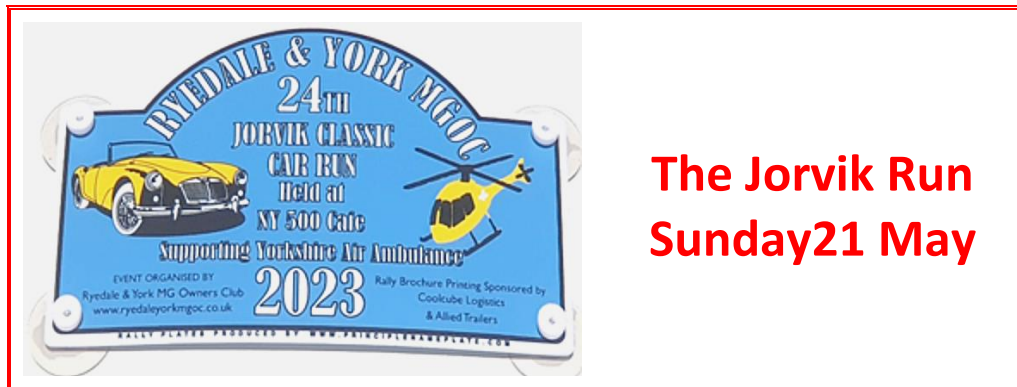
'Petrol Head' is a 4.5% ABV pale beer brewed using traditional Norwegian Kveik yeast which adds a unique orangey flavour to the beer.

Alex Arkell, Head Brewer, expressed, "It seems only fitting that we produce a beer for the centenary, given that our brewery ancestor is recognised as the first person to have bought an MG sports car, and we are thrilled that MG enthusiasts have chosen our beautiful and historic steam brewery as a road run starting point."



In 1923 brewery ancestor, Oliver Arkell, was the first person documented to purchase an MG – a Raworth-bodied MG Super Sports model, hence Arkell's have brewed this commemorative beer to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of MG in 2023. This one-off brew is available on draught or in bottles at participating Arkell's pubs and will also be on sale at Arkell's Grape & Grain Wine & Brewery Warehouse, as individual bottles, in a six-bottle carry case or a pack of 8 X 500ml.

Order from www.grapeandgrainwarehouse.co.uk



The Jorvik Run Sunday 21 May

Where to go for a mini holiday? Why not spend a week in the North Yorkshire Moors and take in the 2023 Jorvik Run organised by the Ryedale and York MG Owners Club? Why not indeed...so cottage for two duly booked on Airbnb in the market town of Pickering and the MGF prepared for a long journey of nearly 400 miles each way. Then panic set in, can we drive 400 miles in one day at our advanced age and on packed motorways? Answer – probably not advisable! So a snap decision was made to leave the day before planned, stay en-route, and take a circuitous route across country to avoid as much of the motorway network as possible. The journey went well with an overnight stop at Gloucester and then following the A49 across the Evesham Vale, Stratford and Leicester, to the A1 and then north via York. A small hold up on the A1(M) just North of Doncaster and again at York were the only traffic problems encountered. The weather was brilliant, as it was to be all week. We arrived in good order, the MGF went very well and averaged over 50 MPG. The cottage exceeded expectations and was a stone's throw from the centre of town, with its own private parking.

Pickering is a pretty market town with a wide variety of pubs and restaurants and is a great centre from which to explore the North Yorkshire Moors and the East coast resorts. It is also the southerly terminus of the North Yorkshire Moors Railway. This is a preserved steam railway run by volunteers operating a daily schedule of trains to and from Whitby and all points in between. Our youngest daughter had given us train season tickets and a Pullman dining experience (not to be missed!), so the railway took centre stage in our holiday when not driving the MGF.

Sunday took us to the start of the Jorvik run two miles south of Pickering at a quirky transport café with a small museum of classic cars and motorbikes, clearly a place to be seen for the biking and motoring community. A great reception from the Ryedale and York Club who quickly guided us to the dedicated parking area. 140 cars were expected: lots of MGs as expected but also a variety of other marques. With route book issued and raffle tickets, in aid of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, purchased we set off on a 98-mile circular tour of the moors. The well-



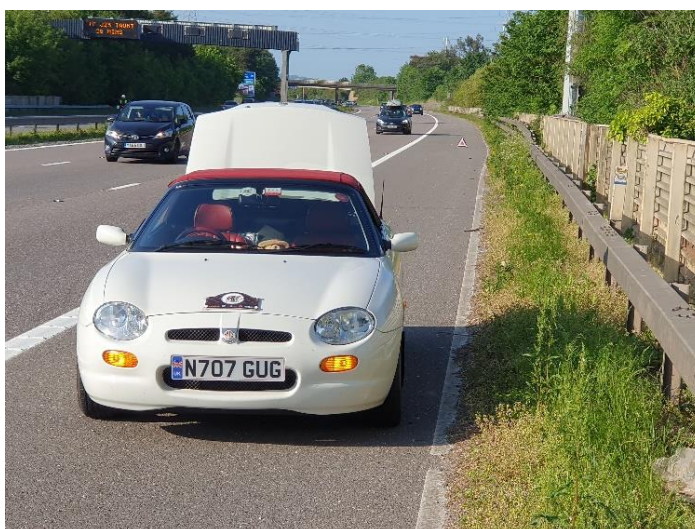
presented route book guided us on a very pretty route with plenty of open moorland and sea vistas and pretty villages. No tour of the moors would be complete without a visit to Goathland, the village where *Heartbeat* was filmed: we stopped by the "Aidensfield Arms" and "Bernie Scrip's Garage"! Having missed this gently paced soap the first time around we have been avid watchers since stumbling across it on Irish TV just after lockdown. The weather was sizzling and it was top down all day. At the finish we were pleasantly surprised to have won a prize in the raffle – car polish and dusters! Even more surprised to find that we had also won the cup for travelling the furthest distance. The cup was presented by none

other than Derek Mathewson, the avuncular star of *Bangers and Cash*. He was just as he is in the programme, full of Yorkshire wit and good humour. His garage in Thornton Le Dale, where the majority of *Bangers and Cash* is filmed, is only two miles east of Pickering and we had to visit (sorry I will rephrase that...Peter had to visit) and buy the T-shirt! The run raised a total of £3,500 for the Air Ambulance which flew in for a fleeting visit at the end of the rally. Coffee and cakes in the sunshine ended a great day out.



The week was soon over, and we retraced our route back as far as Warwick, where we stayed overnight in an unusually nice Premier Inn adjacent to a fantastic pub, “The Cape of Good Hope”, on the side of the Grand Union Canal. Very busy but excellent food! Next day we

motored bright and early down to Gaydon for the 100th MG Birthday Party, meeting up with Howard & Jan and Simon & Charlie, both couples having arrived from all points after their own motoring adventures. Howard reported on the event last month, but the highlight for us was talking to the guy who had brought his 1969 MG1300 to the “100 cars” line up (our first car was a 1969 MG 1300); also Paul who exhibited his early red MGF VVC that he had owned from new in 1996. We left early to get back for evening Grandson duties. Still intent on avoiding motorways we went South via Stow and Cirencester then crossing the jam-packed M4 on to Bath, Glastonbury, Taunton and home. Well, very nearly home! The MGF suddenly and completely conked out in the centre lane of the M5 just West of Exeter Services and 200 metres short of the Exe Estuary bridge. Traffic everywhere! Nearly 900 miles without missing a beat only to break down 40 miles short of home. A kind Aussie driving a big campervan stopped and helped us push the car to the hard shoulder. Standing by the motorway waiting for recovery was nerve racking to say the least! Help soon arrived and after expertly lifting the MG on to his low loader we were whisked back home just in time for child minding duties! The problem was a failed fuel pump which Peter replaced the following week but, alas, not in time for our planned visit to our favourite hotel on the edge of the New Forest and participation in this year’s Southampton and New Forest MG Owners Club run. There is always next year...



Peter and Jan



Launceston Steam & Vintage Rally 27-29 May

This Rally is arguably the first of the season in East Cornwall, often beset in the past with 'iffy' weather from Bodmin Moor. This year, however, it enjoyed perfect wall-to-wall sunshine which ensured it was well supported by classic vehicle owners and eager punters alike. The field is approached via the A30 some five miles west of the town. Viewed at a distance from the speeding carriageway, it looks every bit like a medieval encampment intent on laying siege to the ancient Cornish capital. Countless tents, siege engines (fairground helter-skelter) and a wealth of streaming flags and smoke support the illusion.

Over recent years I have been the sole representative of TVMGOC but was delighted to be joined by Andy Slapp (Members Rep 1) on this occasion in his impressive MGCGT. Believe it or not, he cleaned his wire wheels in the field especially for my photo! There were in excess of 100 classic cars on display, ably supported by dozens of old commercials and military vehicles including a WWII German armoured car, still in its wartime livery! Not sure that I would be brave enough to drive it on public roads. Steam issued from Showman's traction engines down to the tiny versions, still capable of giving rides to the lucky few.



I was particularly taken by two classic cars: a rare 1990 Nissan Figaro, parked next to me, one of only 2000 manufactured and, at the other end of the scale, a ginormous black Cadillac produced in 1960 and exported to Saudi Arabia. It was purchased by a Sheikh who needed it to accommodate his seven wives.

The display ring was busy all day, with classic motorbikes doing their stuff, more tractors than I could count, some tuned to out-accelerate a Ferrari! and used for the ignoble art of tractor pulling. As the day wore on I managed two circuits of the 25-acre site in search of 'stuff' I didn't know I wanted from the many shops and impromptu outlets. My main pleasure came from just people-watching and nattering to those that fondly recall riding in their father's MG Magnette some 60 years ago.

However, all good things come to an end and by 4pm I drew stumps in order to beat the mass exit. A good day, enjoyed by all. The next one for me will be Boconnoc 28-30 July. See you there maybe.

John H

The stars are out for Nigel

We can always rely on our Treasurer to take some interesting photos, and these are definitely worth sharing. So, here's the story, which starts at Bangers & Cash HQ...



I met Derek back on 16th March when I went up to visit a friend in Yorkshire. Thornton-Le-Dale and Pickering were only about 30 miles away, so we made a day of it and had a breakfast in Baldersons (a family-owned business just 30 metres down the road from the Thornton-Le-Dale garage of Mathewson's).

When we arrived at the garage I was surprised to see Derek behind the office counter with a film crew setting up to film yet another programme for the 'Yesterday' channel.

After purchasing a 'Bangers for Cash' mug, cap and T-shirt (yes, I've got the T-shirt too), we enquired at the counter about the auction and were told that if we visited the Pickering warehouse there was a 'viewing' as it was a Friday. So we popped over and managed to get a free viewing entry ticket and were interviewed by one of the two film crews wandering around inside. Altogether it was lovely to see the auction lots coming up in the next sale.

Following-on from the 'B' being used on an episode of 'Beyond Paradise' last year, the guy who arranges 'action cars' for film/tv companies contacted me about a week ago to ask if my car and I would be available today for a 'small shoot' at Pentillie Castle. Fortunately, the date didn't clash with anything else, and frankly, if it had, I'd have tried my best to re-arrange the other commitment, especially when I was told that Dawn French would be driving my car from the entrance road down to the main house and I would need to provide instruction with the gears, etc. I could already see comic possibilities just adjusting the driving seat position (given the large steering wheel), so she could reach the pedals, as she is only 5ft tall, so before setting off I made sure the forward/backward seat adjustment was working properly!

I was instructed to arrive at 11am, and that we'd be 'wrapped' by about 5pm. I arrived about 25 minutes early as you never know if there will be any hold-ups en route! I drove down to the main house and met the Australian team from Channel 9. They'd just flown in the day before! The sound man needed more space in the boot for his digital radio mic/recorder and so I removed the spare wheel, which gave ample space.

The camera crew then attached several suction cup holders to the quarter-light windows and windscreen to rig for Go Pro cameras, and I drove up and down the road several times with the producer for the drone shots prior to the main 'takes' with Dawn French, who was due at 2pm. The distance shot from the drone meant I could wear a brightly coloured shawl and double as the driver, while the producer sat beside me wearing the same red beret that Dawn French would be wearing.

I should explain that it was subsequently decided that Dawn was to be the passenger and the reporter for Channel 9 the driver. After the Go Pro and sound man had captured what they needed, it was finally time for Dawn to appear and get into the car with the reporter.

I briefly explained to the driver the gear shift and lack of power steering, and prayed that all would go well once out of sight and earshot!

Dawn appeared from the main house and headed for the car and was told I was the owner. She liked the car, and we had a brief conversation about MGA's & MGB's. I mentioned I started with an MG Midget, and she said that a certain friend of hers, Jennifer Saunders, had owned one!



They set off, drove up and down the entrance road a few times, and all was done! I managed to take these pics! Well, she took the ones of herself and me on my mobile phone. The rain threatened but stayed away fortunately. The filming continued inside after I left. I believe it was a documentary about Dawn's life.

Nigel S.

A word from one in the know, Nigel. Never lend your car to The Grand Tour mob.

Watch the latest series to see why. Ed.



**National Cream Tea Day
on the last Friday in June**

In spite of the weather forecast being correct – rain pretty much all day – we still enjoyed a good turn-out of cars at the twin starts in Saltash and Callington. Our MGs were accompanied by a few daily drivers, and new members Dave and Paula joined us. They have an orange Midget but the battery was playing up so they came along in their Mini.

The route was based on one Ade and Val produced a few years ago which criss-crossed the Tamar on many of the old bridges. The route book gave an interesting potted history of each bridge, some of which were many hundreds of years old.

We travelled along avenues of lush green trees and through a patchwork of fields, with some crops almost ready for harvesting. However, there were few wild flowers adorning the hedgerows as in mid-summer they were past their colourful best. Also, this is the time of year when hedges and narrow lanes become opaque due to abundant growth. It was a lovely drive, though some sunshine would have improved the views.

We have no photos to share of the run itself due to the inclement weather, though the tea party in Iain and Helen's barn was well worth recording. The home-made cakes and scones on offer - jam first! - were first class and I think very few of us would have wanted any supper afterwards, stuffed as we were (after making a generous donation, as this was a charity fundraising event for Children's Hospice South West).

Thanks must go to Iain and Helen and their friends for all the hard work they put in to make the afternoon so enjoyable and worthwhile.



The field was leaning to port! Spot the usurper.



Helen, Alice from Children's Hospice SW, Iain with his mum and a baker friend



Jam first ✓



*Howard with additional photos from Nigel S
(See also this month's caption competition. Ed.)*



Spot the distressful mistake!

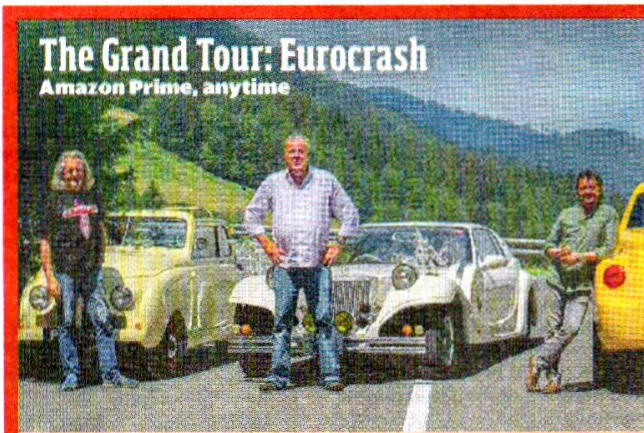
Classic Car Garage

This unassuming series on the Yesterday channel offers 'tinker sessions' where classic car owners turn up to the garage with small problems with their cars that they need help with.

The mechanics there offer their advice and tools. Unlike most other car fix series, this one doesn't do complete bare metal *Car SOS*-style rebuilds, but instead tackles those annoying little problems that can drain pleasure from your motoring. They tinker, and very satisfying it is too.

The Grand Tour – Amazon Prime

The review in CCW below tempted me to give the three eejits another go. The first feature-length programme in series 5 sees them traversing the Arctic Circle across Norway, Sweden and Finland and doing the usual stupid and dangerous things (May smashes an Evo inside an old underground submarine base and ends up in hospital...then there's the frozen lake...what could possibly go wrong?). However, whatever you think about the presenters and their dubious, vandalising antics, it's worth viewing for the utterly amazing route and beautiful frozen landscape. It has to be said it's a great watch. The scene at a ski resort as they tow their accommodation behind the cars on sledges is one of the most stupid yet funniest things your ski-obsessed Event Sec has seen in a long time.



Clarkson, Hammond and May are back but don't get the latest iterations of *The Grand Tour* mixed up with earlier shows. It ditched the studio format in 2019 in order to concentrate on big money roadtrips and this latest programme takes the formula and turns things up a-notch.

It's an hour and 45 minutes long with as much production value as a film that you'd see in the cinema. It sees the three travel from Gdańsk in Poland to Lake Bled in Slovenia via the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary.

The car choices are nothing short of inspired. Hammond drives a Chevrolet SSR convertible pick-up truck, Clarkson

has a Mitsuoka Le-Seyde and May chooses a 1940s 26.5hp Crosley CC Four convertible.

History lessons about Slovakia's car industry and the Soviet Bloc's answer to F1, Formula Easter, are entangled with farcical and fun mucking around with horses and a terrible waxwork of F1 star Nigel Mansell.

This latest episode impresses for pushing things further into classic car show territory and further away from prime time TV. **Murray Scullion**



Little Big Mans - Mini MGs at Le Mans, and you've got to admire their taste in cars!



Caption
Competition



Simon chose John I. as the winner of last month's competition (yet again!). He just happens to be good at it. As judge of this month's competition, John can't enter, though he did still send in some suggestions, despite not being eligible. Yes, that's how keen he is!

Received entries	From
<i>Unfortunately, there was a difference of opinion about which direction to go on the monthly run.</i>	John I.
<i>Fred regretted taking the seller of the MGB GT to the pub and saying "I'll just have a half".</i>	John I.
<i>I was driving down the road and this idiot in a BMW cut me something awful.....</i>	John I.
<i>The car was split 50/50 in the divorce settlement.</i>	Howard
<i>He took the high road, and she took the low road.</i>	Howard
<i>When the dealer offered two for the price of one...</i>	Howard
<i>New version of a classic MGB G and T with a slice.</i>	Janis
<i>When it came to divorce the couple couldn't agree so they each had half. He was happy because he got the bit with the steering wheel, she was happy because it ruined his favourite toy.</i>	Richard
<i>Do you think that's carrying a divorce a little too far?</i>	Tom E.
<i>"It was my ex-wife's solicitor's idea, and even he wanted a cut! I knew it would be a non-starter!"</i>	Nigel S.
<i>Didn't the B's always have a split personality?</i>	Keat
<i>A new concept for ease of servicing devised by a Chinese crackpot.</i>	Keat
<i>"I only narrowly missed that lamp post!"</i>	Roger
<i>That guy with the chainsaw didn't like me parking there.</i>	Roger
<i>"The divorce settlement was finally agreed only when I gave her the half with the steering wheel".</i>	Peter S.
<i>(This one for the true "B" techies)</i>	Peter S.
<i>This is the only easy way of replacing Uncle Tom's Rubber Nob.</i>	Peter S.
<i>The route book said, "SO at the Sawmill".</i>	Peter S.
<i>Dodgy dealers have found a new way to "Cut and Shut".</i>	Peter S.
<i>"I told you not to overtake that hedge cutter."</i>	Douglas
<i>They always said that the MGB was a car with a split personality.</i>	Douglas
<i>"I told you to cut the celebratory cake in half, not the ***** car!"</i>	John H.
<i>The relationship break-up between Joe and Mo (the bacon slicer at Tesco) wasn't exactly amicable.</i>	Alan
<i>How is your staged payment MGBGT? Not half bad!</i>	Simon
<i>"I only said cut the damaged panel off..."</i>	Simon
<i>"Look Hilary, I've got the plasma cutter working again!"</i>	Keith M.

And the winner of last month's competition chosen by John I. is Nigel S. Well done! He will choose next month's winner.

What on earth could have happened to elicit this reaction from Howard as he collects his tea?

Send your entries by the end of the month to: mediatvmgoc@gmail.com



And finally...



With 76-year-old Elton John brilliantly headlining at the Glastonbury Festival, it's been noticed that some other bands are now a bit long in the tooth (Blondie being one.) Perhaps they should consider changing their names to something more age appropriate...

The Rolling Gall Stones
Deep Purple Veins
The Grateful not to be Dead
Iron Granny
Bob Zimmerframe
The Bad Back Street Boys
Jefferson Stairlift
Cream Cracked with Eric Clapped Out
The Grandmamas and Grandpapas
Siouxsie and the Hasbeens
The Pet Shop Grandads
Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick & Deceased
Dead Leppard
The Bonzo Dog Doolally Band
S Club 70
Shed Zeppelin singing Stairlift to Heaven
Wrinkly Red

Wet Wet Wet Myself
Depeche Commode
Death Row Tull
Hair Transplant 100
Grey Sabbath
Geriatrics and the Pacemakers
The Moody Sods
Canned Deep Heat
Curiosity Killed the Catheter
The Commodes
Fleetwood Knackered
UB well over 50
Dexys Midnight Running to the Toilet
The Detroit Spinsters
Stone Def Leppard
The Pretty Ugly Things
Frankie goes to Hospital



"Here's a song about a girl that seemed a lot less creepy when we wrote it 34 years ago."