

**Tamar Valley MGOC  
Newsletter  
December 2022**



**This Month:**  
**Committee reports & upcoming events**  
**2023 club dates at a glance**  
**Sunday lunch run to Wrangaton Golf Club**  
**Club Christmas party in pictures**  
**Santa on the road**  
**Booker T & the MGs – the greatest Christmas album?**  
**Dash those dashboards**



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## Secretary's Report



Writing this in the aftermath of a Christmas Dinner Dance which was great fun for those who attended, I reflect that the club is in good shape, with a robust membership base and the offer of both on road and in hostelry activity for those who wish. None of this is compulsory of course, and an individual member's appetite to take part is a personal choice, but I for one am happy if as a club we are able to provide regular opportunities to both drive and socialise. Having said that, it is always worth making the effort to attend if you can, as more certainly is merrier.

With the shortest day coming up, our thoughts are turning toward the exciting opportunities which the new year will bring. The cold and crisp days allow a view through the hedgerows not available at other times of the year, while a frosty Dartmoor brings out the rugged beauty of the landscape, gleaming gold over white in the low winter sun. For us in the Tamar Valley, the highlight of the year will be our 'People and Places' run, which is planned for Sunday 17 September (so save the date, as our roads limit us to 50 cars for a run like this).

As those of you who have been coming to these runs for some years will know, we like to rotate the direction so that frequent attenders experience the variety that our wonderful region has to offer. With the last run heading west, we are expecting to wend our way east this year, looping back up onto Dartmoor so our friends in the wider MG community will not be disappointed! It would help everyone if you could put your names down early when the list comes out, as we can only protect about half the entry places for the club for the first few months of next year and I would not want anyone to miss out.

I will leave Howard to talk about plans for club away fixtures, but the plan looks great to me. In our meetings, we are working with an evolving format as you know – balancing the 'business' with enough time to chat about cars and nice things to do with them. We seem to be getting there but do keep giving us feedback (although we won't be able to please everyone!). We have identified a microphone for the sound system, which should help counter some of the echoey nature of the place, and reintroduced some more structure for the Committee's bit which will make things flow more smoothly.

You will see the committee minutes with the newsletter, and I would highlight our approach to 'Member's Reps'. We see these as opportunities for members to see the committee work at first hand, without a great deal of additional responsibility. Member's Reps might want to move on to one of the secretary or treasurer roles in due course, with the benefit of a fuller knowledge of what these comprise. If you think you might want to give it a go, have a chat with one of us. Elections are at the March AGM.

Finally, Charlie and I wish you a Wonderful Christmas and a Peaceful New Year,

*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](mailto:clubsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com)



## Notes from your Chairman



Hello everyone,

How nice it is to enjoy a long dry spell after all that rain. Just to see a bit of sunshine raises the spirits, mind you for that we have to endure the cold snap which has come as a bit of a shock. Ideal for dog walking, and Barney being a typical Labrador still insists on having a swim in the river.

We haven't been brave enough to attempt any top down motoring for a while and we even gave the Lotus a run out for John and Bee's November Sunday lunch run, from and to Wrangaton golf club. Those of you who are made of sterner stuff and dropped their hoods for the run, were certainly wishing they hadn't when the torrential downpour started.

The Lotus was playing up a bit and wasn't firing on all cylinders properly, particularly when I wanted to bring the turbo into play. It just goes to prove that the car needs to be driven more often to avoid those little gremlins setting in.

We cut the run short just after the diversion at Kingsbridge, deciding not to get stuck on unfamiliar roads. As it turned out we didn't save any mileage by returning directly to the golf club, as those who completed the run did a similar distance. By the time we got back to the golf club the sunshine returned.

How lovely it was to sit down for lunch in the clubhouse conservatory, enjoying an excellent lunch and good company, with the sun streaming in. All in all, it was a super day out.

The club's final event of the year was the Christmas Dinner. This was superbly arranged by Janis and a good time was had by all. Her efforts certainly deserved a greater attendance by the membership, what with this Christmas Dinner being our premier event of the year.

It looks as if Howard and Jan's upcoming January Sunday lunch is going to be very well attended. Alison, Barney and I have already done a couple of trial runs to deliver a suitable route for the run. Hopefully Howard and Jan have picked a good day for it.

My poor MGB is also in need of a good run out and I just know that I am going to regret it if I do not take advantage of this current dry spell. The Lotus is now running better after a bit of fiddling by me of the coil and HT lead connections. That sounds very straightforward but just getting to them is very restricted and difficult. Whether that was just a coincidence remains to be seen. How is your own list of jobs on the MG going? Just because the garage is near to freezing, is that a good enough reason to put them off? Of course it is! Sitting in front of an open fire (if only we had one) with a good book seems far more sensible.

Alison and I would like to wish that you and your families enjoy **'A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'!**

Thank you for your continued support of the club and we look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting in January.

*Alan*



## Event Secretary - keeping it wheel

Dear Motorneers,

I am writing this by way of a distraction from my electronic diary, which for the last week is reminding me daily that I should be giving the chrome wire wheels on the Babe Magnet their winter clean and oil. Truth is that it's so blooming cold in the garage right now I don't fancy the four-hour cleaning session they demand.

That aside, this time of the year there's so much else to look forward to and enjoy: wrapping up snug against the crisp winter air; special seasonal drinks and food; trees transformed into things of wonder, festooned and garlanded - the holly, the ivy, the mistletoe; evening walks made magical as twinkling lights adorn buildings large and small, but perhaps best of all is that it's a time when families come together for love and a shared joyous experience. Oh, and the speed!

Yes, I am of course referring to our annual family ski holiday. For my daughter Emily and me, the busy Christmas festivities can be a bit of a distraction from looking forward to our other major winter event. You may recall that last February, after 28 years of skiing without an injury, Emily's skis slipped on some slush, her knee twisted and broke in four places. For her it's been a year of recovery and now she can bend her knee but not straighten it fully. Her consultant says she's OK to ski again - phew! - so now we are all set, although by the time you read this she may have had yet another operation.

We have each bought brand new sets of skis (well, second hand off eBay for Jan, though she has another rather nice ski-related gift for Christmas, but shhh don't say anything!) and we can't wait to get on the ferry and drive down to the Alps to hit the piste once more.

We are very much looking forward to our Mallorca-based family coming home for Christmas (strikes permitting!) and come Boxing Day we will have a house full, just as we like it.

Congratulations to Bill and Sue for winning the *Irene Williamson Memorial Trophy* for the most enjoyable club lunch/supper run of the year. It was a close-run thing, but they are deserving winners. Unfortunately, neither has been well, and I am sure you will join me in wishing them good health for the forthcoming year.

In early December the snow began falling in the French Alps (*That's enough of that! It's snow joke now! Ed.*) and I'm busy preparing for the announcement of the winner of our club MG photography competition at the January meeting. Unless anything new comes in at the last moment I'm very impressed by the leading entry...

Happy Vin Chauding, à votre santé!

*Howard*

*Our first ski trip seems such a long time ago.  
We have to wear crash helmets now.  
We're in colour too!*





**Upcoming events**

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

The local event list, complete with the names of which members are taking part in various events, has been emailed to you along with the monthly newsletter.

On our club website is the more complete Event Diary but for data protection reasons this does not list the event participants. You'll also find entry forms there on the Entry forms tab, as well as the start times and places for club lunch and supper runs.

**January and February lunch runs**

As there was no meeting in December at which we could circulate lists, on November 15 you were emailed the list for the January 22 lunch run. On 27 November you were emailed the list for the February run. Places for February are restricted to 36 people. If you have not already replied to these emails to add your names and menu choices please do so soon, not least because the November lunch was oversubscribed.

The January lunch list closes at the January meeting. We currently have 44 people attending!

**CHANGE OF START – Our January run no longer starts at the Dartmoor Diner. Meeting point & time is now Tesco Lee Mill 11:00 before the start at 11.30.**

**The Tesco cafe will be open for drinks etc if you want to arrive earlier.**

**After setting off, we should arrive at Dartmoor Lodge 12:30 for 1pm.**

**This is at Pear Tree Cross, Ashburton TQ13 7JW Tel: 02364 652232**

**Friday supper runs - a change**

There's been a small change to the thinking behind our summertime Friday night supper runs. Some people prefer Sunday lunch runs and so this has become either Friday supper or Sunday lunch option, to be decided by each organiser.

TVMGOC DATES 2023			
Jan	<i>Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday meeting at Manadon – Chat &amp; Chill + winning entries of our photography competition with PowerPoint talk + how to organise a club run</i>	9 Jan	
	Club committee meeting	11 Jan	
	Lunch on 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday starting Tesco Lee Mill to Dartmoor Lodge - See above	22 Jan	Lunch organiser - Howard & Jan Run organiser – Alan & Alison
Feb	<i>Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday meeting at Manadon 'Quiz Night of the Year'</i>	13 Feb	
	Lunch on 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	26 Feb	John & Bee TBC
Mar	<i>Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday meeting at Manadon – club AGM</i>	13 Mar	
	Lunch on 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	26 Mar	Nigel & Naomi
Apr	<i>Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday meeting at Manadon (not 10<sup>th</sup> as it's a Bank Hol.) Peter Stabb talk on WWII 2 &amp; Coronation medals</i>	3 April	
	Drive It Day inc. Treasure Hunt – lunch or tea	23 April	Alan & Alison

May	<b>Club Monday meeting at Manadon – There are now three Bank Holidays in May so the 15<sup>th</sup> is the only one left.</b>	<b>15 May</b>	
	Supper run – Friday a week after the club meeting or Sunday Lunch on 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday lunch	19 May 21 May	Possibly sorted
June	<b>Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday meeting at Manadon</b>	<b>12 June</b>	
	National Cream Tea Day – last Friday in June to Iain & Helen's barn nr. Launceston	30 June	Iain & Helen
July	<b>Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday meeting at Manadon</b>	<b>10 July</b>	
	Supper run – Friday a week after the club meeting or Sunday Lunch on 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday lunch	21 July 23 July	Neil and Pam
Aug	<b>Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday meeting at Manadon</b>	<b>14 Aug</b>	
	Supper run – Friday a week after the club meeting or BBQ TBA or Sunday Lunch on 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday lunch	25 Aug 27 Aug	Required
Sept	<b>Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday meeting at Manadon</b>	<b>11 Sept</b>	
	People & Places Organised by the committee	17 Sept	Committee
Oct	<b>Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday meeting at Manadon</b>	<b>9 Oct</b>	
	Lunch on 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday inc. Tulip Trophy	22 Oct	TBA
Nov	<b>Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday meeting at Manadon</b>	<b>13 Nov</b>	
	Lunch on 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	26 Nov	John & Bee
Dec	<b>No meeting</b>		
	No lunch or meeting – Christmas dinner	6 Dec?	Janis


News snippets


### Carbon capturing

You may recall from previous newsletters that I joined the Tree-V carbon capturing scheme to help mitigate the fuel burned by my MG. I have no idea if any other TVMGOC members also joined but for £48 I have just bought another year's subscription that will offset a further 3000 miles of motoring by planting more trees on my behalf. That's probably enough to cover me for all the trips I have already planned for the Babe Magnet in 2023. The subscription cost is a drop in the plastic-filled and effluent polluted ocean compared to the amount I spend each year insuring, maintaining, and using the car.



Instigated and promoted by the FBHVC's carbon capturing scheme, in this first year of operation enough trees have been planted to mitigate over 1.4 million miles driven by individuals, clubs and events in all kinds of classic and historic vehicles. Tree-V plant new forests and peatland across the UK from the south coast to the Scottish Highlands. These new woodlands bring a host of benefits, including biodiversity, recreational space, flood mitigation, soil and water protection and cleaner air.

Does it make me guilt free? Not really, but I do feel a lot better about the fuel I burn in the MGA simply for pleasure.

*Howard*

## SUNDAY LUNCH RUN TO WRANGATON GOLF CLUB 20 NOVEMBER 2022

It was a lovely sunny autumn morning, not too cold but 'fresh', as we all met at the golf club for a pre-run coffee. The bar area was very pleasant, and Neil & I enjoyed a very nice cappuccino.



*David & Teresa demonstrating their TDs suicide doors*



*Geoff & Terri set off following Nigel & Naomi*

We left to start the run at approximately 11am after a briefing from John. I was driving with Neil as my navigator, pleased to hear that there weren't too many NRPP's, as it was quite hard to spot any big potholes at the side of the road with all the leaves and mud. As we headed out and passed by the sign for Moorhaven Village it reminded me of the time my first husband worked there when it was a psychiatric hospital. They used to have a summer fete and I would take the children up to the hospital. They really enjoyed it until a little old lady (patient) decided she was going to hit my husband on the head with her walking stick (he was only slightly bruised). I also had a placement there for 6 weeks while a student nurse: it was a mixture of scary and boring and I inhaled a lot of cigarette smoke. Needless to say, I realised very quickly that mental health nursing was not for me.



We carried on towards Ivybridge, which has seen a tremendous amount of growth. The surrounding countryside is so beautiful it is not surprising that people want to live there.

As we entered Modbury there were a lot of people wearing Hi-Viz jackets. Initially we thought there had been an accident and then realised they were putting up the Christmas lights (which is great after all the dire warnings that councils wouldn't be able to afford to pay the bills to power them).

As we headed towards Kingsbridge it started to rain (again). The fields were lush and green, with plenty of sheep, and as the grass seems to be still growing, the sheep must be really enjoying it. As we entered Kingsbridge there was a small diversion, but we were soon back on track.

We continued onwards and eventually went through Totnes. As we were driving towards Plants Galore I saw a big cow peering over the hedge and it took me a few seconds to realise that it was a model, not a real one. They had Christmas trees and fairy lights too looking very festive (not sure about the cow though). It was a great run, beautiful countryside and pretty good roads made it a very enjoyable journey.



We arrived back in plenty of time for lunch, and a lot more chatting went on, prior to & during the very nice Sunday lunch. We really enjoyed the Banoffee pie as well, with the added bonus of an included coffee. The staff worked very hard & were very helpful and friendly. Many thanks to Bee & John for all their hard work in organising this for us.

*Pam*







A jolly Yuletide time was had at our annual Christmas dinner. Boringdon Golf Club served up a prompt and pleasurable dinner and Janis provided lots of fun and games – especially the pass the polo mint game - and there was dancing to Christmas music. Thanks to everyone who helped organise this and who came along. (The photos don't really do the evening justice.)



**Facebook friends**

Here's another example of the positive benefits of social media. For those not familiar with the story, my MGA was ordered new by a Brit, Roy O'Neil, who worked in Lagos, Nigeria. When built, he came home to collect it, registered it here where it was given the reg 858DGF, and then he exported it to Lagos. It needed to be re-registered there, and as revealed by the photo below it was designated LG8261 for its sojourn in Africa.



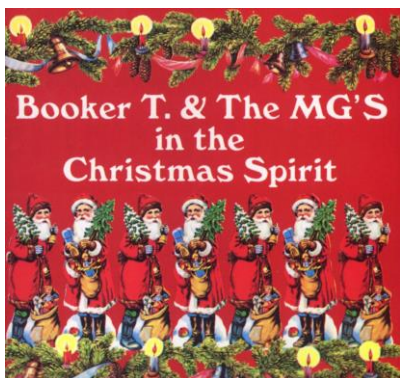
*Roy O'Neil & his friend Malcolm Ashworth in Lagos and 858DGF, as the car was in 1962, painted red. Malcolm's Austin Westminster is parked behind.*

A Nigerian company posted on Facebook a full list of the country's vehicle registration numbers, which somehow found its way into my Facebook feed. Each state has its own alphabetical sequence, but none of these modern prefixes was a simple LG. So, via Facebook, I asked if LG8261 might be a local Lagos number dating from 1962. A young chap called Vin Martin, a graduate from the Godfrey Okoye University in Enugu, replied confirming the age of the LG plate and said he was sad as he's never actually seen one that old.

This is what I like about Facebook. If you join an appropriate specialist group, you find yourself in a friendly and helpful community of fellow enthusiasts across the globe.

If you would like to learn how I tracked down the early history of my car from Lagos to Yorkshire via some helpful input from Ireland, a golf club and a local newspaper, I could send you an article I wrote for *Enjoying MG!* back in 2016.

*Howard*



**Could this be the greatest album of all time?**

Having heard it, the answer is no.

However, it's so bad it's almost good. I listened to this for the hell of it. It has all the soul of a bent starting handle. It's a bit like ordering a hamburger, and only getting the bun. If the three wise men had given this album to baby Jesus he'd have thrown up all over the donkey. It made me wish Silent Night would stay silent. If you are wanting an antidote to the Yuletide jollity of Mariah Carey, Slade, Roy Wood, Cliff and his b\*\*\*\*y Mistletoe etc. or just want to *really* annoy the kids by pretending to love it, you can find it on YouTube.

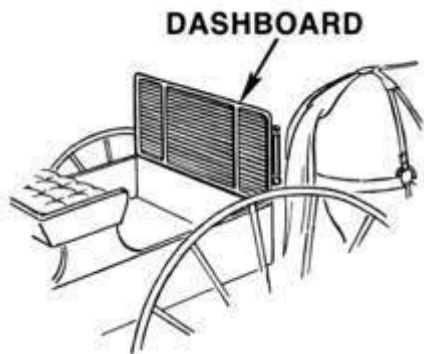
Perhaps Alexa will also find it if you ask nicely. Fortunately, she can also turn it off!

*Howard*



It looks like Santa's given the reindeer a rest as he borrows Lucy, Janis' Midget.

BTW in an unrelated incident - this isn't a joke - Janis was called by a pal who had broken down with Santa's sleigh in tow...yes, really! She was phoning around to ask if anyone had a car trailer they could borrow to save the sleigh and so Christmas. It made us wonder if anyone in the club has such a trailer that a member might be able to borrow on occasion. If you have one please let us know.

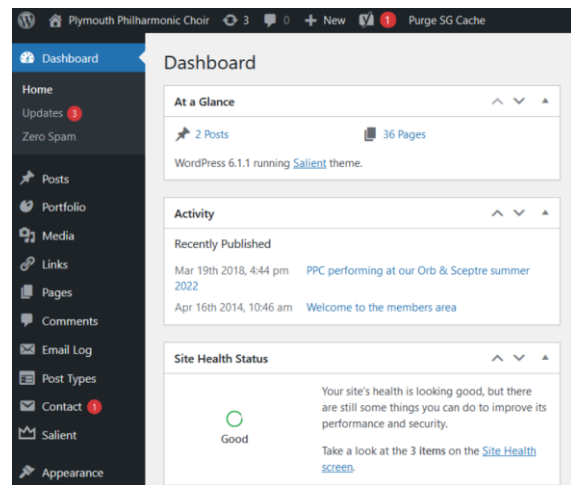


Originally, the word dashboard applied to a barrier of wood or leather fixed at the front of a horse-drawn carriage or sleigh to protect the driver from mud or other debris 'dashed up' (thrown up) by the horses' hooves.

The first known use of the term (hyphenated as dash-board and applied to sleighs) dates from 1847 - *Wikipedia*



Sadly, I spend more time looking at dashboards like the one below than the one opposite!



*Howard*



Received entries	From
<i>Do you know we have added 0.001 HP to our cars this way</i>	John I.
<i>We decide that as our cars go faster in reverse.....</i>	John I.
<i>I wonder which one of us will win the Alvin (Last of Summer Wine) lookalike competition</i>	John I.
<i>There are no words</i>	Gavin
<i>If either one of this pair is nominated to be our next Prime Minister, they will get my vote</i>	Keat
<i>Anything that raises a smile has to be a bonus these days</i>	Keat
<i>Two would-be rappers whose peak is definitely behind them !!</i>	Andy S
<b>Peakless Blinders...</b>	<b>Peter S</b>
<i>'Compo &amp; Clegg' are clearly happy that, at last, they've lost 'Foggy' on the way back from the pub lunch run</i>	Nigel S
<i>Come on guys, smile! We need this photo for our recruitment poster.</i>	Alan
<i>Benny Hill lookalike competition only attracts two entrants (Huh! Ed.)</i>	Jan P
<i>TVMGOC dudes keeping it wheel, man</i>	Ade
<i>Just the two of us</i>	Janis
<i>Guess who won the easter bonnet parade</i>	Janis
<i>Let's hear it for the boys</i>	Janis
<i>Little and Large don't stand a chance</i>	Janis
<i>Has the person who took this photo responded to treatment?</i>	John N
<i>Billy &amp; Jonny looking well pleased after winning the over 70s break-dancing championships!</i>	Clive
<i>Howard and Richard are feeling rather pleased with themselves after proving that by putting your caps on back to front the top speed of an MGA is faster by 1mph.</i>	Noel & Kate

**And the winner of last month's competition, John H. chose Peter's entry. Well done!  
Peter will choose next month's winner**

What's so funny? Here's next month's photo that requires a caption.  
Your entries by email to:  
[mediatvmgoc@gmail.com](mailto:mediatvmgoc@gmail.com)





## And finally...



Your committee are just the tip of the administrative iceberg that keeps the club's wheels going round and round. But behind the scenes doing much of the hard work there is another team, a small army of helpers, unknown to the membership and unsung.

As a year of hard work nears the end and we drive towards Christmas, now is the time to give credit where credit is due.



TVMGOC Newsletter Response Analyst	Luke Warm
MG Car Seat Testers	Wilma Butfit & Fitz Matush
MG Emission Air-Quality Monitor	Carmine Dioxide
MG Parts Ordering Manager	Will Price-Randomly
Club Arbitration Expert	Viola Fuss
MG Car Art Critic	Phyllis Stein
Assertiveness Training Coach	Lois Steem
Membership Customer Care Representatives	Kurt Reply & Upton Leftus
Run Route Leader	Hugo First
Assistants to the Treasurer	Candice B. Rittenoff & Emma Chizzit
Chief of Tyre Technology	Yessir Itsafat
Chairman's Speech Writer	Gladys Overwit
Curator of the MG Car Collection	Rex Galore
Armed Forces Co-ordinator	Major Error & Ewan Whadarmy
Director of Japanese Cooling Systems	Emperor Overhito
Director of Photography	Len Scapon & F. Stop Fitzgerald
Car Electronics Technician	Sammy Conductor
East Asian Used Car Expert	Alexander Soldyernissan
Evasive Driving Instructor	Vera Bruptly
Exhaust Manifold Specialist	Manny Burns
BBQ Picnic Chef	Howard M. Burgers
French Mascot Dogwalker	Poupon Degrasse

French Holiday Run Co-ordinator	April Lynn Parris
Petrol Tank Welder	Stan Wellbeck
Howard's Head of Car Maintenance	C. Howie Run
Christmas Party Co-ordinator	Aretha Holley
Sixties Revival Dance Instructor	Tristan Schaut
International Lubrication Experts	Fidel Castrol
Club Membership Subscription Rebate Manager	Wendy Pigsfly
MG Race Team Driver	Andy Zoff
Manadon Facilities Facilitators	Trudy Door & Donna Hall
Devon & Cornwall Route Planner	Oliver D. Map
Romanian Emissions Tester	Vlad the Inhaler
Senior Citizen Driving Instructor	Tonya Blinkeroff
Activities Coordinator/Social Secretary	Dewey Hafta
Newsletter Editor	Adeline Moore
Car Insurance Broker	C.F.I. Care
Roy & John H's Beard Cleaner	Emile Initsself
Windshield Wiper Replacement Team	Ike and Zeke Leerly



**Who remembers this from 52 years ago?!  
It's John Noakes getting in the festive spirit  
when he famously made the Blue Peter  
advent crown out of coat hangers.**