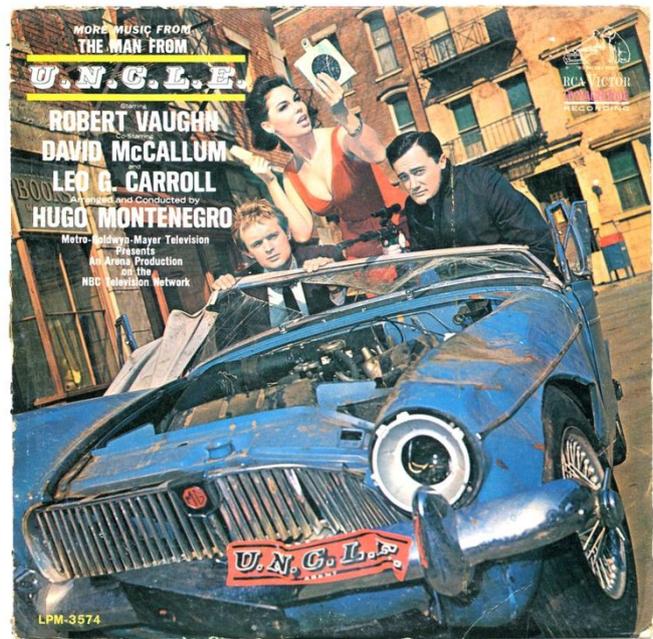


**MAY
2019
EDITION**



What the team from *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.* did to wreck the MGB on the cover of this L.P. isn't known, but who remembers the name of the cast and the roles they played?
Award yourself extra Brownie points if you also know what U.N.C.L.E. stood for.
Answers at the end of the newsletter.



This Month:
Committee reports
Upcoming events 2019
News snippets
MGTF for sale
The cost of cars
Problems with K series head gaskets
The French MGs



ENJOY YOUR MG MORE WITH TVMGOC



Secretary's Report



Hello Everyone,

I am writing this on Easter Monday and haven't we had a fabulous bank holiday weekend? The gardens are looking so bright and cheerful, and the bird song is quite deafening at times. I don't remember them being this noisy last year, but I have acquired hearing aids since then, so they probably were this noisy only I couldn't hear them.

Neil and I were planning on checking out our Drive it Day run on Easter Sunday, when at 0910 we had a phone call from the cream tea venue saying that they had double booked and had got 54 people from the Torbay car club coming for a cream tea at the same time as us, and could we change to another day. As you can imagine, we were a bit shocked, as this has been booked for months (it seems the boss keeps another diary & hadn't transferred the booking), so instead of having a lovely drive around the moors, we spent the day trying to find another venue that we wouldn't have to change the whole route for. Eventually, at 5pm, the manager at Badgers Holt, Dartmeet said they could do it, as they had just had a coach of 50 cancel, hurray!! We have had to extend the run slightly but at least we haven't had to change the whole lot. There will be a report in the next newsletter, so hopefully there won't be any more problems.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

Best Wishes & Happy Driving

Pam

1 Buena Vista Close, Glenholt, Plymouth, PL6 7JH 01752 651216 clubsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com



Notes from your Chairman



Hi everyone,

What a brilliant Easter we have just experienced. Usually we are either braving the cold weather or ducking showers. It almost made you want to go camping under canvas with the MG used as transport.

With Pam and Neil's National Drive It Day arrangements a week later I hope we haven't peaked too soon. I look forward to seeing a good turn-out of club MGs for this run.

The show and run season is here and you need to be looking at filling in the various entry forms or risk being too late and missing out on all the fun.

Alison and I are arranging the first Friday Night Supper Run of the Spring/Summer for the 10th May to the Cuddy Shack. Currently we only have 16 names for this which is a shame but maybe this venue has just lost its appeal for some of you. However, I am sure that even with our reduced numbers we will have a great evening.

I am the event leader for this year's Killerton Classic Car Day on Sunday 12th May and intend to have a convoy run from Lee Mill Tesco to the show. As the organisers like all cars to be on site by 9.30 then we will be departing from Lee Mill Tesco at 08.30. I know this seems early but there is always quite a queue to get in.

Look forward to seeing you all on the road this year in your MGs flying the flag for Tamar Valley MGOC.

Happy MG motoring,

Alan



Event Secretary keeping it wheel



Dear all,



Drive It Day 2017

When he joined us on runs, even though he didn't know many of your names, you all made him feel very welcome amongst our throng of happy motorists, for which I am eternally grateful.

His body fighting pneumonia right up to the end, my dad, and sometime navigator, Ed died on 11 April, just under a month before his 97th birthday.

Knowing of dad's ambition to live to 100, his consultant gently told him that it wouldn't be old age that would finish him off but the infection, and so it was.

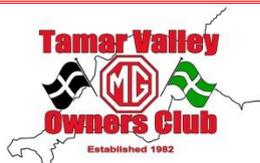
Dad was very enthusiastic about my MG, and before he became overcome by illness, whilst in hospital he asked about how the new paint job was coming along and insisted on paying for a Tracker to be fitted.

Attempting to keep on top of club duties during March and April has frankly been a welcome distraction from depressing visits to Derriford. With any luck by the time you read this Jan and I will be on the way to Scotland in our MG – now painted Old English White - touring the North Coast 500 with Sonia and Roy. At least I hope we are, as I could *really* do with a break! Consequently, we are missing our May club meeting and some shows and runs this month. To those taking part have a great time. Enjoy it all while you can.

Happy MGing!

Howard

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



Club logo embroidery



A reminder that the club logo can be embroidered onto any garment you wish. This company already have our approved artwork. Just take your garment along and ask for the club logo to be embroidered. It usually takes a couple of days.

Personalised Motifs - Barry Ashton, 50 Embankment Rd, PL4 9HY. Email: enquiries@pmotifs.force9.co.uk

For sale

Jim and Margaret have reduced the asking price for their MGTF 135 to £2250 ono.
See the February newsletter for full details. Phone 07800 904671.





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

May 2019

1	Monthly meeting	Moorland Garden Hotel. Meet in the bar for 8pm.
10	Club Friday evening run Arriving at Cuddy Shack at 19.30.	Supper run to the Cuddy Shack organised by Alan & Alison. Meeting Point: Travel Lodge (Saltash Services), Carkeel Roundabout, Callington Road, PL12 6LD Time : 18.15 for 18.30 departure.
12	Keat's bluebell woods open day for local charities	Foxhams House, Horrabridge, PL20 7QT 2pm to 5pm - Light teas provided with the proceeds as a charity fundraiser
12	Other event of interest outside of local area	Cwm To Coast Bridgend MGOC Entry form on our website - no closing date given
12	Devon & Cornwall event	Killerton House Classic Car Day (Club Stand) Cars under 25 years old can only attend if part of a club stand. Entry form is on our website – closes 22 April
12	Other event of interest outside of local area	The Mendip Vintage & Classic Tour organised by the Classic & Historic Motor Club - Entry form is on our website
19	Devon & Cornwall event	Atlantic Coast Express (ACE) Run D&C MGCC Starts Okehampton Station, Okehampton, EX20 1EJ Finishes at Petroc College, Tiverton - Entry form is on our website
25 to 27	Devon & Cornwall event	Launceston Steam & Vintage Rally Trebant Farm, Altarnun, Launceston, Cornwall Entry form is on our website - Closes for entries 1 May
26	Devon & Cornwall event	Boconnoc Gardens & Classics in aid of Marie Curie. Time 14:00 to 1700. Entry form is on our website – closes 30 April
26	Devon & Cornwall event	Moor 2 Sea Run (Exeter MGOC) Form available on our website - For 80 cars only
31	Other event of interest outside of local area	Southampton & New Forest MGOC New Forest Run TVMGOC weekend from 31 May to 3 June

JUNE 2019

3	Devon & Cornwall event	Darts Farm CCS near Topsham. To enter call 01392 789009. Or email info@dartsfarm.co.uk
2	Devon & Cornwall event	Rotary Club of Saltram Classic Car Show, Lyneham Estate, Yealmpton Enter online here: https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/page.php?PgID=719107&ClubID=1501 This link is also on our website - No closing date given
2	Devon & Cornwall event	Tavistock Steam & Vintage Fair Entry form on our website – closes 15 May
5	Monthly meeting	Moorland Garden Hotel. Meet in the bar for 8pm.
9	Other event of interest outside of local area	MGs in the Park - Oxfordshire MGOC – over 500 MGs with national stands and stalls. Cotswold Wildlife Park, Bradwell Grove, Burford, OX18 4JP. Free entry & pre-booking not required
14	Club Friday supper run	TBA organised by Peter & Jan S.
15-16	Other event of interest outside of local area	MG Live At Silverstone http://www.mgcc.co.uk/mglive/
16	Devon & Cornwall event	Morwellham Quay Father's Day Classic Car Day Entry details on our website.
30	Other event of interest outside of local area	Cotswold Caper – Gloucester MGOC Entry form on our website – closes 1 June



News snippets



Inflatable car bubbles

It's doubtful that any TVMGOC members keep their car inside an inflatable bubble tent. However, if you do, take care as a husband and wife were killed by toxic carbon monoxide. The husband was backing his car into the tent when he was overcome by exhaust fumes. His wife tried to rescue him but she too inhaled the noxious gases and died two days later from heart failure. The advice for using these bubbles is to make sure the area is well ventilated whilst running the engine and not enclosed.

Oldies

Both *Enjoying MG* and *Safety Fast!* carried pieces that are likely to be of interest to any one of us who owns any type of 50s or early 60s MG. It's about what the cars cost when new compared to what a similar car would cost today, in relative terms. *Safety Fast!* arrived before the MGOC magazine arrived so this is a précis of that article. The author manages to string this out across three pages making it read more like something in a scientific journal than a car magazine. It delves into purchase tax changes, different on the road prices, inflation rates, options etc. To keep it simple for us mere petrol heads, an MGA roadster in 1958 would cost you about £1,000 to drive away.

£100 in 1958 is worth about £2,350 today, suggesting the MGA would now cost around £23,500, which is comparable to a Mazda MX5. But that's not the full story. In 1958 the MGA would cost 1.5x the annual average salary which was £675py. Today it's £27,500py making the cost of an MGA about 0.8x the average salary, so now a new MGA today would in real terms cost a bit over half what it would have done in 1958.

However, things do get a bit shocking. In 1958 our £1,000 MGA was worth half the price of the average home. Today an MX5 represents just 10% of the cost of an average home which is £215,000!

The MGA article featured a fairly astounding graphic to illustrate all this, which I have replicated.



Not so oldies

Classic Car Weekly featured a list of 100 cars to buy now. By that they meant a list of good value 'modern classics'. In the roadster and sports car category the list included a Chevrolet Corvette, BMW Z3, Daihatsu Copen (really?), Fiat Barchetta, Honda S2000, Lotus Elise S2, Jag XK8 and Mazda MX5. But to top the list CCW chose an MGTF 160 as "the market's smartest buy". They said, "It's fun, easy to drive, simple to maintain and won't put a dent in your bank account....The little pocket rocket enhances the MG legacy and will surely be a desirable car for years to come."

If you'd like to see their buying tips and what else they said, when I bring in my usual stash of CCW back issues to a club meeting (in June) grab the 10 April one, or email me for a scan.

Overdrive or 5-speed?

Older MGs simply weren't designed for fast long-distance motorway driving. Consequently many people restoring cars think seriously about fitting either a gearbox with overdrive or a 5-speed. A letter to the Technical Q&A page of the Spring *MG Enthusiast* magazine asks specifically which is best for a 1500 Midget. The answer – I've read up on this and it's also applicable to post-war MGs right up to MGBs - comes down firmly in favour of a Ford Type 9 gearbox. They are more reliable, bolt-on kits are available and generally they can be fitted without modification to the gearbox tunnel etc. By comparison, overdrive gearboxes are weaker and a new clutch and propshaft may also be necessary. If you want to know more, ask and I'll send you a copy of the CCW page.

My MGA has a Ford Type 9 gearbox and I think it's bloomin' excellent. Whilst I have no experience of driving an A with an original 4-speed box, I have now followed such cars for many miles. Most MGAs restrict themselves to 60mph on a motorway or dual carriageway due to noise and the high revving engines consuming a lot of fuel. Mine is a MkII with a 1622 engine, and a combination of a little more power and the fifth gear means I can keep up with modern traffic doing 70 all day long (or until it needs to cool down a bit!). Howard

Head trouble

I thought I might share with you a cautionary tale about the K series engine which may be of interest to other Club members, many of whom own F/TF models and saloons with the K series fitted.



As you may remember, I bought my 2002 TF back in 2013. It was high mileage (around 70,000) and hadn't always been looked after by an enthusiast. However, I purchased the car from an MG specialist near Reading in Berks' that is a recommended outlet by the MGOC.

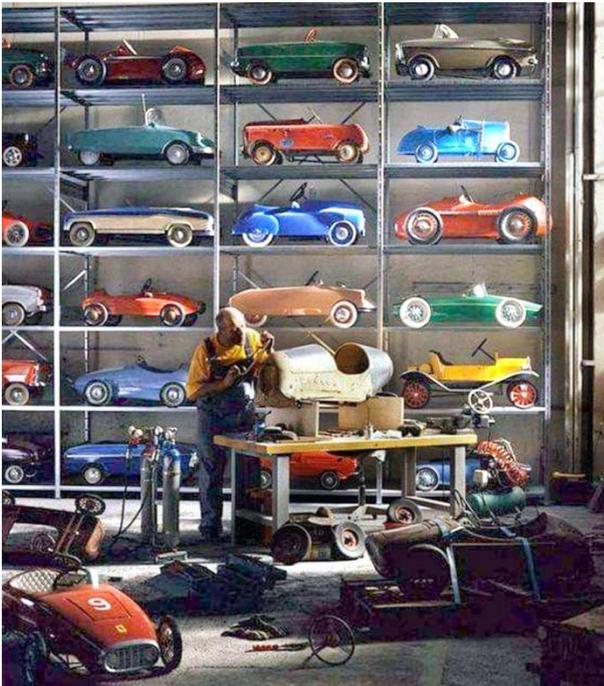
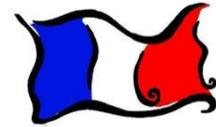
Before I took ownership of the car they replaced the head gasket with the Land Rover designed and modified version. This apparently, should neutralise the problem and avoid any future replacement.

I had been concerned about the condition of my engine for some time. Although the engine itself had been running sweetly enough, I found the tell-tale mayonnaise-like deposits on the dipstick and a notable absence of coolant in the reservoir. Having consulted the technical advisers at the MGOC who thought the gasket probably needed replacing, I asked Rodgers in Brixton to conduct a proper examination. Worst fears confirmed and another replacement gasket fitted for around £1,000.

So, to put this account into perspective: the car has racked up around 12,000 miles since the last head gasket was fitted. Although my driving skills leave something to be desired I really don't give the old girl a hammering. It has been a sobering experience as I have now spent around £6,500 on a car that is probably only worth around £1500 to £2000. Of course I realise that is simply the nature of old car ownership, nevertheless, hard to keep smiling!

Tim P.

Ooh la la! The French MGs



British MGs are no strangers to France, both as export cars and as visitors. But did you know that the French had their own car manufacturer that was also known as MG? No, me neither.

Facebook recently featured this charming picture captioned, "Several MGs, aka Morellet Gureineau, a French pedal car manufacturer." Searching Google reveals some of these toy cars on auction websites but it doesn't have a lot to say about the company itself.

It seems that 1875 saw the creation of Morellet-Guerineau, a toy-making company run by the artist Francois Morellet's family.

By the 1950s MG, as it was known, was the manufacturer of high quality pedal cars up until the 1970's, covering most French cars of that era. They were originally built in metal with no lights or detailed engine bay.

Today one of MG's rarest and most sought after pedal cars is the Citroen DS Decapotable, featuring an opening bonnet, pretend engine and working lights. Period options would have been a rear view mirror, and an air horn, present here on this model. Unsurprisingly the cost of producing such high quality children's toys proved prohibitive. In the late 1960's and 1970's MG were reduced to producing plastic versions.



Today an original MG metal pedal car can fetch well over €1000.

Anyway, *mes amis*, this French stuff is all well and good, but how could I turn this story into something about me? Well it took me a nanosecond to come up with the answer.

Yes folks, that's your Event Secretary in the picture opposite, circa 1955 driving a shiny red Triang Duke from the early 1940s (see - I was into classic cars even back then!) and I know what you're thinking – I looked great as a blond and don't I cut a dash in that dicky!



I wish I still had this bright red pedal car as it would have made a lovely family heirloom. One was recently on eBay for £1,250 and it didn't even have its windscreen! I looked and wept. You can buy a real MG car for that kind of money.

If any other club members have similar motor-related photos of themselves from the days of black & white or Kodachrome do send them in. We all need a good laugh!

Howard



Received entries	From
<i>I am sorry Miss I am going to have to take your details down!</i>	John I
<i>Look here Mr Perks, I know you wanted a complete makeover to your MGA but that didn't have to include you!</i>	John I
<i>Allo Miss, I think your left suspension leg has gone.</i>	John I
<i>Honestly Officer all I wanted was to get the colour code so I can get a lipstick in this colour...</i>	John I
<i>What a lovely pair of Marigolds you have Miss.</i>	Howard
<i>A serious case of distraction when being booked by the Old Bill'.</i>	Keat
<i>Beautiful colour co-ordination but displaying pins of that nature is a bookable offence'.</i>	Keat
<i>'If the car needs a co-driver 'I'm free.'</i>	Keat
<i>"So that's a garage dolly"</i>	Richard
<i>I'm afraid I will have to make a note of your particulars miss.</i>	Janis
<i>Madam You really should be using a jack.</i>	Janis
<i>"Hands up all those wearing next week's washing"</i>	Richard
<i>Hello Hello Hello, caught you red handed!!</i>	Pam
<i>"Really madam? You live on Letsby Avenue ...?"</i>	Tim S.
<i>"Excuse me, madam, but are you not taking things too far in your Concourse De Elegance preparation by using a tooth brush to clean the grooves of the sump?"</i>	John H.
<i>"Allo, allo, what have we here? Caught you red handed in matching shoes and panties... you are knickered!"</i>	Peter S.
<i>The rookie PC was so eager to take down the mechanic's particulars that he hadn't yet noticed that she had stopped breathing.</i>	Alan C.
<i>So you say your name is 'Barbie' and you're just drying your hair?</i>	Tom & Christine

And the winner of last month's caption competition chosen by Jan P. is Peter S. Well done!

Here's next month's photo requiring a caption.

Your entries by email to:
eventsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com





And finally...



The Man from U.N.C.L.E.



The TV series ran from 1964 to 1968. Robert Vaughn played Napoleon Solo and David McCallum played Illya Kuryakin. The series also featured an amazing array of 1960s stars in various cameo roles.

The music from the Man from U.N.C.L.E. album is now a valuable collector's item; however, the woman in the cover photo was not credited.

Originally, co-creator Sam Rolfe wanted to leave the meaning of U.N.C.L.E. ambiguous so it could refer to either "Uncle Sam" or the United Nations. Concerns by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's legal department about using "U.N." for commercial purposes resulted in the producers' clarification that U.N.C.L.E. was an acronym for the United Network Command for Law and Enforcement.

Go out on a groan

My wife is so negative. I remembered the car seat, the buggy, AND the nappy bag. Yet all she can talk about is how I forgot the baby.

Apparently I snore so loudly that it scares everyone in the car I'm driving.

I gave up my seat to a blind person in the bus. That is how I lost my job as a bus driver.

A dad is washing the car with his son. After a few minutes, the son asks his father, "Do you think we could use a sponge instead?"

Two fish are sitting in a tank. One looks over at the other and says: "Hey, do you know how to drive this thing?"

My sister bet me I couldn't make a car out of spaghetti. You should have seen her face as I drove pasta.

With the rise of self-driving vehicles, it's only a matter of time before we get a country song where a guy's truck leaves him too.

Two dogs are walking along a street. They are passed by a third dog driving a lorry load of logs. One turns to the other and says: "He started fetching a stick and built up the business from there."

My girlfriend tried to make me have sex on the hood of her Honda Civic. I refused. If I'm going to have sex, it's going to be on my own Accord.

Two cheese trucks ran into each other. De brie was everywhere.