

# Newsletter September 2023



**Roy & John picked up a prize each at this year's Fowey Classic Car Show and Parade. They were worthy winners. Read all about this wonderful day later in the newsletter.**

## **This Month**

**Committee reports**

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**Fowey Classic Car Show & Parade**

**Knebworth Classic Car Show + how to get children interested**

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**Get more smiles to the gallon  
with TVMGOC**



## Secretary's Report



This monthly update from the wonderfully verdant countryside finds me atop a Cornish cliff, looking out over Watergate Bay and enjoying some late summer sun. The deep blue expanse of sea has hardly a ripple to interrupt its serenity, its panoramic picture framed by the craggy, jutting cliffs, where doughty South Coast path walkers can be seen toiling in the heat. I am sitting on the substantial front wing of my Land Rover, which provides an excellent view and works surprisingly well as a seat (I wouldn't try this on an MG...) and I am struck with the delights of our surroundings. It would of course be better enjoyed from the seat of a sporting MG, but mine at least can't tow our Swift Basecamp, so here we are.

From a club perspective we are in the final stages of preparation for our 'People and Places' run on 19 Sep. Rally plates have been received, route books printed and bound, and duties on the day allocated. We could still do with some more volunteers to marshal (hi-vis surcoat needed) which could be done whether you are doing the run or not. It looks like we will have a couple of places left, so we have decided to keep entries open this year, particularly in the hopes that more club members take part.

From an organiser's perspective, this activity reminds me of the thanks we all owe to the MGOs up and down the country who put this effort in for us so that we can enjoy our cars in such a wide variety of locations. In terms of club activity this month, the highlight was our well-attended visit to the Fowey Classic and Sports car show. This event, held on the Wednesday of the famous Fowey Royal Regatta, has a great feel to it and culminates in a parade of cars through the narrow streets of Fowey, with residents cheering from their pavements, and crowds of holidaymakers joining the throng. The club had the largest attendance, and both John I and Roy & Sonia won awards. *[See the report later in the newsletter. Ed.]* Our cars were only pipped by an immaculate Mk2 Jaguar for best in show (owned by a friend of one of the judges), but as the song goes, 'two out of three ain't bad'.

As those who were there can attest (and you can see from Howard's video) I won the 'steamiest engine bay' award as the V8 overheated for the first time in my ownership. It didn't recover so we waited for the RAC, finally getting home at midnight. It was our anniversary and so romantic dinner had to be postponed as the hours ticked by. Charlie had that long suffering look – but at least it wasn't raining!



A new shiny water pump has finally arrived (it's well travelled, having first been sent to Portsmouth rather than Plymouth) and I will look forward to trying to get the bolts undone, which is famously problematic on the alloy V8.

*[It must be bad if even Howard can see it shouldn't do that. Ed.]*

Indifferent weather later in the week caused the cancellation of our club picnic, but as most of us had been together in sunny Fowey, that did not seem so bad. I am looking forward to Clive's chat about his time in HMY Britannia at the meeting. I look forward to seeing you there!

*Simon*

Should you need to contact our club secretary, for example to send in club subscriptions, first call or email.

01822 852843

[clubsecretaryvmgoc@gmail.com](mailto:clubsecretaryvmgoc@gmail.com)



## Notes from your Chairman



Hello everyone,

Hooray! Our summer has finally been saved by the schools going back and thus ending this appalling spell of wet and miserable weather.

We have recently spent a week away in our caravan in N. Devon. We were joined by our daughter, her husband and our two eldest granddaughters. They were actually camping and were able to use our caravan as a base camp for meals etc. This base camp support, ably run by Alison, meant that they only had to use their tent for sleeping. Both girls also took the opportunity on a few occasions to sleep over in the caravan, which gave us the chance to play board games and read stories to them before bedtime.

We did manage quite a few enjoyable trips out and dodge showers at the same time. One day the daytime temperature was a lowly 13degC. Not what you would normally expect in the height of summer.

Once we arrived home, we only had a few days before we were off again. This time we were taking our MG up to Surrey before attending 'The South Downs Run' in E.Sussex and finishing the run in Eastbourne (W.Sussex). The weekend weather was looking good with plenty of sunshine promised, to raise our spirits.

The drive up on a Friday (on the last weekend of the school holiday) was a hot and miserable affair, with the traffic frequently at a standstill. In all, it took us 7½ hours. We kept the hood up but air-con would have been a nice extra to have on our 51-year-old MGB.

The actual run on the Sunday was attended by approximately 200 cars, mostly MGs, and the W. Sussex MGOc handled the entrant numbers seamlessly.



Alison and I were able to meet up with our old friends and ex Tamar Valley members, Clive and Wendy, once again. They had done this run on numerous occasions and we deferred to their experience and let them lead us around by the nose. It was just like old times. Alison still route checked as we drove though, as habits die hard.

The route was really well thought out and the views of the S.Downs were superb. The hang gliders were out in force and their colourful wings stood out against the backdrop of green, as did the chalk figures of 'The Long Man of Wilmington' and the 'Litlington White Horse' outlined on the steep slopes of Windover Hill and Hindover Hill respectively. The run through the S. Downs culminated at Beachy Head before we dropped down into Eastbourne.





The cars all parked up on 'The Lawns' at the seafront and made a splendid sight. We were made honorary members of 'Chichester MGOC' as we parked up on their stand and enjoyed our picnic tea in good company.



We were parked immediately beneath Eastbourne's answer to the London Eye and had a worm-eye view of each pod as they passed above us.

All too soon we were bidding our farewells to Clive and Wendy, although we are soon to meet up once again, at the club's upcoming People and Places Run.



During our time up in Surrey, I was able to give our granddaughters Hazel and Emily a drive in the MGB for the very first time. Fortunately, they loved it, so that's something I will look to repeat again.

The run back home to Devon on the Monday was certainly a lot quicker than the trip up, and this time we were able to have the top down all the way. This was quite possibly the longest journey that we have ever made with the top down on the MG.

The only club event that we have taken part in during the last month was the Fowey Classic Car Show. Unfortunately, having taken Barney with us, we discovered that dogs were banned from the school field. This meant we had to keep a very low profile as we entered, not easy with a Labrador who was eager to see where we were going. He stayed secreted in the club's gazebo for the afternoon and behaved himself impeccably.

The convoy procession through the narrow, people lined streets of Fowey was a delight and was the absolute highlight of our day. Barney also drew lots of compliments from the waving and cheering onlookers.



Alison and I hope to see you all at the September meeting, where we can enjoy a talk by Clive D about his naval service on the Royal Yacht Britannia.

Happy MG motoring,

*Alan*



## Event Secretary - keeping it wheel

Dear Motorneers,

The mixed bag of August weather affected our club's carefully laid plans, forcing the Flete Show to be cancelled. Our summer picnic also had to be scrapped due to the foreboding and unwanted arrival of Storm Betty. As Frank Spencer said, "Oooooooh Betty!"

Fortunately, earlier that week the weather stayed fine for the Fowey Classic Car Show and Parade where our club did itself proud as you'll read later.

As usual, last month Jan and I were away from home on child-minding duties. After our sweltering visit to Mallorca and the warm Med, Sophia and her mum Katie returned to an initially cool and rainy Blighty with us for three weeks.

During this time Katie flew to a conference in Washington DC, so we took Sophia over to Cambridge to spend a week with her two cousins. The weather improved and we were able to take them paddleboarding on the River Cam at Grantchester. The trees on the left are part of Jeffrey Archer's garden. I met Baron Archer of Weston-Super-Mare along the riverbank, and he returned my greeting. He's looking rather wrinkled these days.



This month's meeting features Clive's long-awaited talk about his time on HMY Britannia (not HMS – Britannia is a yacht not a ship). As I helped Clive compile his PowerPoint presentation I have had a detailed preview, so am well placed to urge you not to miss the talk. Clive had frequent and personal contact with all the senior Royals including Princess Di and the young Princes.

As Simon has written, most of the committee have been busy finalising the details of our People & Places run on the 17<sup>th</sup>. As I organised the route for the previous P&P in 2021, I am aware how much effort Simon & Charlie have put into this year's route planning. This year I have been in charge of admin, collating all the entries and sending out confirmation letters, working in conjunction with Nigel who has been banking the entry fees. But there has been much more to do, what with organising the catering (Janis) and putting together the rally packs containing food order tokens, rally plaques, route books and one or two freebie goodies. Then there's all the signage and marshalling at the start and finish to plan and organise. Alan's in charge of that.

In all it has the making of a grand day out and I am looking forward to it. It's a shame we only have 39 entrants instead of the usual 50+ though.

Apologies as Jan and I are won't be at the September meeting.

It's that life thing getting in the way again.

Happy MGing!

*Howard*

PS Covid ain't gone away. Son-in-law Tom and his mother caught it, ironically probably from her visit to a health spa, and our other daughter Katie caught it the same week in Washington DC.




## Upcoming events

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

[www.tvmgoc.org.uk](http://www.tvmgoc.org.uk)

### Events & Shows

Currently listed on our website Entry forms tab – most have entry forms/details.

People & Places		Sunday 17 September	
<b>NEW</b> Autojumble at the Duchy College, Stoke Climsland opens 9.00 pm finishes around 1.00 pm. Help from members always appreciated. Contact Dave Fry on 01579-351177 or Phil Cuming on 01579-384232.		24 September	
<b>NEW</b> Antique, Salvage & Decorative Fair, Classic & Vintage Vehicle Rally, Port Eliot in St Germans. Details now on our website		Sat & Sun 23 & 24 September	
<b>NEW</b> Exmoor Rut - list organised by Howard		Sunday 8 October	
<b>MG100 at Beaulieu</b> will celebrate 100 years since the first MG model was produced and is open to all MGs of any age.		Sunday 30 October	
TVMGOC CLUB DATES 2023			Lunch organiser
Run start times and other details are on our website when available			
Sept	<i>Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Clive D. talk about HMY Britannia</i>	<i>11 Sept</i>	
	People & Places run organised by the Committee	Sunday 17 Sept	Committee
Oct	<i>Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday meeting at Manadon – Chat 'n Chill</i>	<i>9 Oct</i>	
	Sunday lunch inc. Tulip Trophy run to Strawberry Fields, Lifton during their Pumpkin Fest.	15 Oct	Sally & Janis
Nov	<i>Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday meeting at Manadon – TBA</i>	<i>13 Nov</i>	
	<b>NEW</b> Sunday lunch run to Bovey Golf Club	26 Nov	John & Bee
Dec	<i>Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday meeting at Manadon</i>	<i>11 Dec</i>	
	<b>NEW</b> Thursday Christmas lunch celebration at Yelverton Golf Club with magic! Meet there 1.30 for 2pm lunch.	21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Janis

### Tyn Y Cornel Hotel in South Snowdonia 2024 bookings & Llanerchindda Farm in 2025

Further to my emails last month, you will know about our planned club mini- break to North Wales in June 2024. Currently 16 of the 20 rooms available are taken, leaving four vacant. That means we already have the makings of a really great club outing. The best time to secure a booking with the hotel is on a Monday or Tuesday before 3pm when Cara is there, though anytime is also OK.

For 2025 I have also pre-booked all 13 rooms in Llanerchindda Farm for Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June for 3/4 nights. Please make a note of the date but do not try to book a place yet. I have arranged with the farm that we will not open a list until I agree with them a date to do so next year. Why?

It's great that some members simply can't wait to put their names down for these trips, but jumping the gun, even in some cases when they are not sure if they can actually take part, thinking "book first, cancel later", disadvantages others who don't regularly look at their emails, resulting in them missing out and giving me grief, which I don't deserve.

So, to put everyone on an even playing field, I will give all club members two weeks' notice of the opening of the list. Llanerchindda will not accept bookings before that date. However, this will not happen for at least another year. There will be one exception to this, and that's me. As the trip organiser, I have to have a room and will arrange my booking first. It's one of the Perks of the job!



## News snippets



### Driving in France

Low emission zones are now in force across more parts of France than ever before, and drivers can face fines of up to £154 if they don't plan ahead. At least 14 areas across the country are now requiring motorists to display an emissions sticker on their windscreen. Drivers who fail to abide by the rule face a fine of up to £58 (€68), which rises to £154 (€180) if not paid within 45 days. Fines are set to increase to £640 (€750) from next year when camera-based enforcement begins.

Plan ahead as the stickers must be ordered in advance from the French government website at a cost of £4 (€4.61). The RAC has urged drivers to avoid third-party websites which charge up to six times as much.

There are six different types of stickers, based on a vehicle's air pollutant emissions. The cleanest electric and hydrogen vehicles require green "0" stickers, while at the opposite end of the spectrum the most polluting diesel vehicles need "5" stickers.

Some areas of France restrict vehicle movements based on their sticker. Paris has the strictest regime with some roads at specific times only open to cars bearing "0", "1" or "2" stickers.

### How are vehicles classified ? \*



- ✓ All gas vehicles and all plug-in hybrid vehicles
- ✓ Euro 5, 6 petrol vehicles
- ✓ Euro 6 petrol HGVs
- ✓ Euro 6 Biodiesel HGVs
- ✓ Euro 4 2 wheels



\* If the Euro standard is not indicated on your registration certificate, please consult the vehicle classification table. [↗](#)

As a guide, my 2022 Merc is classified on the registration document as Hybrid Electric. This is a bit odd as the car has a 2-litre petrol engine and the battery is there just to give a power boost under extreme acceleration. It can't be driven solely under electric power. The car has a Euro 6 rating and so is eligible for a "1" sticker, as on the above chart. But Jan's 9-year-old diesel Audi A1 is not compliant.

You need to check where the zones are and what Euro rating your car is and then apply for a sticker here: <https://www.certificat-air.gouv.fr/>

### Can I drive my classic car in France?

Before 2009, cars classed as classic cars could not drive in certain areas but **now they can drive anywhere in France**. Classic cars are even exempt from both existing and incoming rules on low emission zones. That's because the numbers of classics being driven at any one time are so low their emissions are miniscule.

#### Classic car: French criteria

A vehicle that is at least 30 years old (first registration)

A car that is not produced anymore.

A car that is in its original state (no heavy modifications, such as a modern engine under the hood)

#### Caveat

The current situation may be fluid. Do not rely on any of the above without checking the latest regulations. For example, although cars over 40 years old are allowed into London's ULEZ without paying the entry charge, TfL's camera software thinks they are not exempt.

Some classic owners facing an incorrect penalty fine are having to appeal.

*Howard*





## Fowey Royal Regatta Classic Car Show and Parade

Thankfully the fickle weather this summer behaved itself for our club outing to Fowey. For those who attend it's usually an MG highlight of the year, and 2023 was no exception. The showground doesn't open to the public until 3pm and we all arrived in good time to set up our flags and gazebo. With 23 cars on our stand, TVMGOC was the largest club entry, and frankly we deserved a prize for it in my opinion.



On the way to the show two cars had problems. Roger's lovely Gentry seemed to be plagued by fuel gremlins causing him to temporarily conk on the way. Then Simon's RV8 arrived with steam coming from beneath the bonnet. Clearly it had some kind of overheating issue.

Alan used a length of my spare fuel hose to replace a perished piece on Roger's car for a potential quick fix. However, both cars had more problems ahead of them.





After arriving in style, with Vanessa chauffeuring John in his gleaming Magnette, our unsung club mascot Tamar Bobby took up his usual pride of place on the car roof. Then we all had time to wander around to admire the variety of vehicles on display.



*A Singer Junior delivery van*



*Cars I'd like to take home. Sadly, only the Porsche 360 would fit in my garage, if I could afford it!*



*Two very different French beauties - a Citroën DS and, arriving in a Citroën 2CV ...*

*...more beauties, the winners of the best costumes. Ooh la la!*



*A VW beach buggy and an original Moke, but apparently someone has begun making new ones.*



With so many fine vehicles and such variety on display, the show judges must have faced a difficult job to choose winners in various categories. But, as you will have seen on the newsletter header page,



Lo and behold, two of the TVMGOC cars picked up prizes! Firstly, Roy's beautiful MGA was deservedly awarded a rosette and trophy for the best MG in show. I am second to no-one in my admiration of Roy's lock-down project, and it was no surprise that his skill and effort was recognised by the judges. However, as a result of this I have banned Roy from ever parking his A next to the Babe Magnet ever again!

John I. also won a rosette and trophy for having the best engine bay in the show. It was just as well that he'd decided to give it a clean that very morning. The GT's engine was spotless. Well done John! Another worthy winner.

Excellent as the show is, the highlight of our visit to Fowey is the parade. At 6pm the classics lined up to proceed down the hill towards the narrow streets along the town harbourside. As crowds of well-wishers line the route clapping and cheering, waving and drinking, the atmosphere is terrific.



I used my new Insta 360 video camera attached to our windscreen to capture panoramic video of the parade. You can see the result here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBkSiQyjPR8>

Other people were also filming. Here some of our cars come in at 8':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbhwTjt2YHo>

And TVMGOC cars appear at 6'15" in this one:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1\\_YZ4TFOfEQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_YZ4TFOfEQ)



It was an excellent event and I'm already looking forward to next year's parade. However, the joy was tempered for some of us. On the outskirts of town, Simon & Charlie pulled to the side of the road with their car overheating once again. I felt pretty awful that there was nothing any of us could do to help in such a restricted place, so we had to leave them to it. They had to call the RAC and didn't get trailered home until 10pm. The RV8's water pump had packed up.

Roger managed to make it through the town but then broke down again a couple of miles further on. He too needed assistance to get home. C'est la vie.

*Howard*

**Knebworth House  
Classic Car Show  
+  
how to get children  
interested**



Whilst Jan and I were in Cambridge with our three granddaughters we decided to visit Knebworth House where there are lots of attractions for children. The clincher for me, though, was that there just happened to be a classic car show on at the same time. The challenge, then, was how to interest two 12 and one 7 year old girl in old cars, or any cars for that matter. But their dad Tom and I had a plan as cunning as a fox who's just been appointed Professor of Cunning at Cambridge University! \*

Firstly, a few words about the show itself. As usual there was an array of truly impressive motors on display, with some rare MGs including an immaculate MG Maestro (just 50 left on the roads), an SV, one of only 80 made, and an unrestored Y-type. I also searched all over the showground for an MGA .



Usually at shows there are at least a handful of As, but here I could find only one single example. I chatted to the owner of this black one, as you do. He attends lots of shows in the South East and East Anglia, and his is usually the only MGA on display. I told him that was certainly not the case in the West Country, and he was surprised to hear that our club alone has 5 MGAs - 4 roadsters and 1 coupe belonging to our friend Beth.

Another difference at the Knebworth Show was the relative absence of club stands. In fact, I counted just two. Almost all of the hundreds of entries were private and there was no attempt to categorise them into groups, so wandering around this eclectic mix was all the more intriguing.



But what about the girls? How to engage them in this display of automotive antiquities? We did it by making it fun. Tom and I devised a car spotting quiz. Along the way we could explain a little about different models and how cars work. And you know what? It bloomin' well worked!

The list of things for them to find included:

A car older than Grandad

*(The girls didn't think this would be possible. Huh! Cheek! Here Emily shows Isabella and Sophia a Model T Ford from the 20s to put them right on that score)*

An old Mini

A car with three wheels

A German + French + Italian + American car

A car with more headlamps than windows

*(This Panther ticked that box, and look at the air horns!)*

A car more beautiful than Emily

*(The girls decided this was too subjective and controversial, and refused to do it. They're not daft!)*

A can of WD40

*(We thought this would be easy, but there were none on the stalls and I had to ask a guy to get a can out of his boot. He thought I was mad until he saw the girls tick it off their list)*

Animal badges - a horse + a big cat + a snake

*(Susanna finding a Jaguar. For horses they found a Ferrari and a Mustang. And it's not just a Ford Cobra that has a snake logo. They also found one on the Alpha Romeo and Dodge Viper badges.)*

A radiator + a brake master cylinder + a battery + carburettors

*(Isabella and Susanna learning the parts of an engine bay. The owner, who was listening, said he'd learned a thing or two as well)*

A left-hand drive car

Mr Bean's car *(see the header above)*

A car with go-faster stripes and one with flames painted on

A car with a Goodwood sticker

The girls already have expensive tastes. They loved this immaculate early E-type and it ticked their box for a car with more wheels than seats (that'll be six then – go figure).

*(While Tom and the girls chat to the owner, Sophia makes a note of what it is. Perhaps she'll ask her dad to buy one to drive around sunny Mallorca. Then I could borrow it. Yea!)*

*Howard\* An adapted quote from Blackadder, but changed from Oxford to Cambridge – it had to be done!*







## Our MGs at Bowringsleigh Open Gardens Day in aid of St Luke's Hospice

On one of the hottest and sunniest afternoons of the year, we had 16 cars on display, a few more than the organisers expected but that was fine, the more the merrier it seemed. Many thanks to all club members who came to provide an additional attraction for the few hundred people who arrived to admire the estate and gardens. The MGs were obviously a popular addition judging by the numbers of people who came up to us for a chat.

It was really good to see Tom & Christine again and their red TF attracted a lot of attention.



Paul and Lesley, who live nearby, (Paul had fitted a kitchen here) had been first to arrive. A chap came up to them and said they couldn't park in front of the house. They explained they were part of the MG display. The chap replied, "No-one told me about it and I only live here!" However, all was well, and soon the rest of our fleet began to arrive, shortly followed by members of the public.

Peter's great grandfather Sam Stabb was the estate gardener for 30 years, living in the lodge at the end of the estate drive, and his grandfather lived there as a boy. Also, Peter's Great Uncle John was a farm labourer and resided in the other lodge on the main road with his widowed great great grandmother. Peter had never been to the estate before and was delighted to meet and reminisce with the current gardener who has tended Bowringsleigh for the last 40 years.



We had a splendid afternoon, sitting in the sunshine, wandering around the grounds, eating excellent cake and chatting to visitors. In addition, we were supporting a very worthwhile local charity and I am sure the afternoon would have raised a lot of money thanks to all who attended.

*Howard*

Caption

Competition



Just what is Roy up to with the tree? Here are your suggestions.

The Great Oak at Eardisley stands 14m high and has a girth of almost 10m.

Received entries	From
<i>Lacking a mobile phone, Roy attempted a trunk call.</i>	John I.
<i>"Please help me - is this the way to the Beech?"</i>	John I.
<i>"Is that you, darling?" Sonia finally accepted that Roy needed to go to Specsavers.</i>	John I.
<i>"It's 900 years old. I was just a boy when it was planted"</i>	Howard
<i>"Just think how many tables I can make out of this"</i>	Howard
<i>"I'm gonna need a bigger chainsaw"</i>	Jan
<i>Roy caught having a private moment with his bit of tree on the side.</i>	Alan
<i>"Oh come on Sonia! Use your imagination... this would make a lovely oak table!"</i>	Alan
<i>"I really love yew. Hic!"</i>	Clive
<i>900 years old...and so is the tree.</i>	Howard
<i>Roy measuring up the Royal Navy's newest sustainable aircraft carrier</i>	Peter S
<i>"Just one cut here and Sonia gets a new oak dining table..."</i>	Peter S
<i>Never would have put Roy down as a tree hugger!</i>	Nan
<i>Roy chooses a challenging partner for the oakey-coakey!</i>	John H.
<i>"I think I'll need a bigger saw!"</i>	Jill
<b><i>"OK, I've hugged the tree, now can I drive into the ULEZ?"</i></b>	<b>Simon</b>
<i>He's just measuring up the timber ready to build a new boat</i>	Roger

And the winner of last month's cliff-hanger chosen by Roger is Simon. Well done!  
He gets the chance to choose next month's winner.

Pete A's grandson Archie is an early reader.  
Here he is with Enjoying MG magazine?  
What do you think he makes of it?

Send your entries by the end of the month to:  
[mediatvmgoc@gmail.com](mailto:mediatvmgoc@gmail.com)





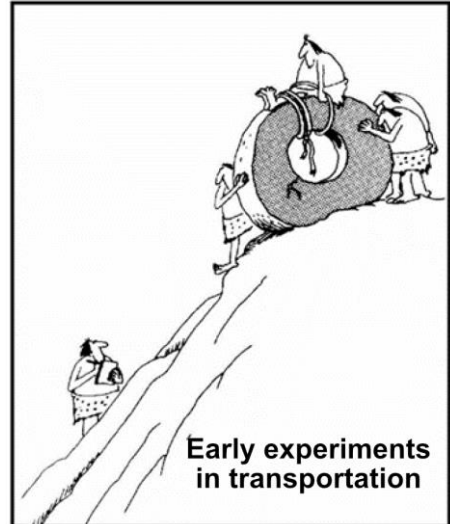


And finally...



I just spent a few days driving my MG in Wales.  
We went to Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch.  
Sorry.....just had a hair in my throat. It was Rhyl.

**In The Repair Shop they keep fixing things with a poxy resin. You'd think they'd use good stuff.**



One of the great mysteries of my time.  
What kept that back wheel on?



How Frankenstein's monster  
gets a jump start