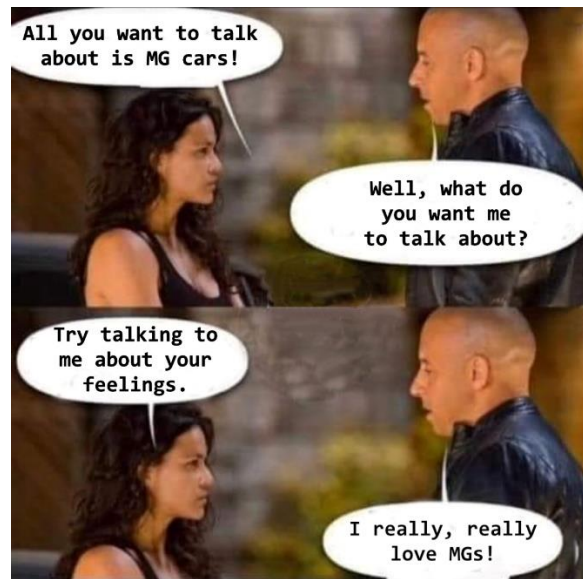


Newsletter April 2024



This Month

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



Secretary's Report



I wrote in my piece for Enjoying MG last month about the crystal ball nature of writing a month behind publication. I confidently predicted that Spring would have sprung by now (which it has of course – not a difficult prediction), but I was reflecting on this when I arrived back from London into our snowstorm – the first proper snow of the year in the Tamar Valley I think. I picked up the TF160 from Plymouth Railway Station and headed out for Dartmoor, rather thinking that my Land Rover 90 might have been the better choice as I induced a slide around the 'Plessey' roundabout before the Moor. I have to say that the handling was excellent in the snow for a relatively powerful small car with wide wheels, reminding me what excellent cars these are – even better (and significantly faster) than my old MX5 1.8 Sport. This is not to say that everything is perfect about the car. The original radio had certainly seen better days, and with so much on DAB I had intended to do a simple upgrade, as I had done with the MG RV8, of an in-line DAB aerial adaptor behind a



DAB radio. Browsing Amazon I came across a different solution which I thought I would share. Some of you may have new cars which are compatible with either Android Auto or Apple Carplay, which essentially turns the car screen into an extension of your smartphone, complete with up-to-date satnav, radio channels and hands-free calling etc. It turns out that a version is available which is a direct replacement for your car radio (DIN) slot and plugs into the standard plug for speakers etc behind. The entire installation took 15 mins, the device has its own basic FM radio if required, and it's working pretty well for a cheap and cheerful (£60) device. There is even a reversing camera (which I have not yet fitted), and USB power outputs. You will note that I went for one with a proper volume knob rather than up and down buttons which are easy to miss in a sports car.

Turning to business, I was pleased we had a successful AGM, and perhaps even more delighted that the Committee all volunteered to stay for another year. It was good news that we were able to keep club subscriptions the same for the year, even though our venue has started to charge for the room.

Thanks to all of you who responded quickly to Nigel's call for subscriptions, but for those who have yet to get around to it we would appreciate it if you could pay by BACS, with your name and AS as a reference (SPWilliamsAS) so that Nigel can take the correct action. Our bank is: **TAMAR VALLEY MG CLUB Sort code 56-00-63 Account no. 82795800**. In the unlikely event that you are intending to leave us it would also help enormously if you could tell me.

And finally, as many of you will know, our daughter is getting married on the 6th. With all the family about there is a good chance that I won't be able to join you on Monday – have a good meeting!

Warmest Regards,
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



Notes from your Chairman



Hello everyone.

My report last month commenced with me moaning about the lousy weather for the start of spring and how the winter had just been one wet dog walk after the other. Well, I am able to tell you that nothing has changed throughout the whole of March. Indeed, as I write this on the Thursday before Easter, we have endured heavy rain, snow, as well as hail and thunder and lightning in the last 24 hours. To top off my bad mood, Alison and I had to get our ladder out yesterday to clear a blocked gutter. I have seen less algae and vegetation in some ponds, so that took some clearing.

The club's AGM was fairly well attended and takes us into the new club year. Thank you to all those who attended and also to those who tendered their 'apologies of absence'. Let's make this year a great one for Tamar Valley MGOC!

John and Bee actually managed to pick a reasonable day for their Sunday Lunch and Run to the Cornwood Inn. Some of the hardier members even dropped their hoods down and enjoyed some open air motoring. The lunch was very pleasant as was the car run. Well done to John and Bee once again for giving us all a good day out.

My MGB, although it had been started a couple of times over the winter, had not actually turned a wheel. The run up to the Dartmoor Diner (the meeting point for John and Bee's lunch run) from our house is probably only about 1½ miles, and I found that it took a while to blow out all the cobwebs before the car started purring once again, proving what I wrote last month: These old MGs of ours seem to run better with the more use they get, and they are certainly more reliable.

Alison and I are both looking forward to Easter and a chance to get all the family together once again. Even better, we get to see our four grandchildren together for the first time, as our three granddaughters line up with our latest family arrival...a grandson! Alison's knitting needles haven't stopped clicking as she just adores knitting baby clothes.

Amazingly, we will soon be celebrating 'National Drive IT Day' on Sunday 21st April, along with the club's Treasure Hunt Run and Sunday lunch at Welbeck Manor, arranged by Simon and Charlie. Hopefully, they have also booked some nice weather for this event.

Happy MG motoring

Alan



Event Secretary - keeping it wheel

Flashing in public

I'll share this with you because I want us all to be safe. Whether you feel what follows would be a sensible and expedient addition to your own MG is entirely up to you.

It was all going so well...until it wasn't. I do the very best to keep my MGA in tip-top mechanical condition as I need it to be reliable and above all safe. If a job needs doing, it gets done. I've written before, urging all club members to get hazard warning lights fitted. I am very relieved to have them on my car as you will see.

I'd been having a few problems with my MG's aging battery, so I took it down to Plymouth Battery Centre to test it properly. As I have a few long trips planned this year a new battery seemed a good idea. Job done, the reinvigorated MGA burst into life, and I set off for home. Three hundred yards later it conked.

With all the electrics present and correct I immediately recognised fuel starvation. On an MGA the fuel pump sits alongside the battery and so I assumed something had been disturbed when the new battery was being fitted.

The car had stopped on a tight bend on the slip road from Faraday Mill onto Embankment Road. It's a seriously dodgy place to grind to a halt and no place to crawl underneath to check connections. I instinctively turned on my hazard warning lights and was able to BECAUSE I HAD THEM FITTED! Passing vehicles could see I was in trouble in a hazardous place because of my flashing indicators.

I got home safely with help from our club treasurer/TV star Nigel who just happened to be passing, and from an AA man who helped me quickly fit the spare pump and fuel pipe I always carry.

No matter how well maintained, our cars can conk at anytime, anywhere, and it's better to be safe and seen than sorry. This is the second time I've needed to use the hazard lights, the first being on last year's People & Places run when I almost drowned the car on a deceptively flooded road. On neither occasion was the breakdown because of anything I had or hadn't done.

All is now well with my MG, especially as I wasn't rear shunted. In my opinion, hazard warning lights should be a legal requirement on all cars, irrespective of their age.

Happy MGing!
Howard



Upcoming events

The most up to date and detailed information on all 2024 events can be found and downloaded on the Event Diary Page and the Entry Forms page. See: www.tvmgoc.org.uk

TVMGOC LOCAL & CLUB DATES 2024

Run start times and other details are her & on our website when available

For events outside our region see the Event Diary on our website

*List kept by Howard – others by Andy and Janis

April	Club 2 nd Monday - Talk by Tim Hipwell, MGOC regional Rep.	8 April
	Drive It Day – run organised by Simon & Charlie. To Welbeck Manor, Plympton PL7 5DF - 12:30 for 13:00 lunch Meet Dartmoor Diner 10:00-11:00	21 April
May	Social meet with friends from Chichester MGOC at Knightstone tearooms Yelverton 10:30 for coffee & tea followed by a run over the moor for all - organised by Alan & Alison. Lunch will be informal, and participants can stop anywhere en route, but will be encouraged to stop at Widecombe. Please add your name to a list at meetings and/or let Janis know.	Thur 2
	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon - Photo competition winners	13 May
	Friday evening run to Church House Inn, Rattery	17 May
	Launceston Steam Rally. Entry form on our website.	25 - 27 May
*	Exeter MGOC More To See Run. Entry form on our website.	26 May
June	Tavistock Steam & Vintage Fair	2 June
	Newton Abbot Classic Car Show – entry details on our website.	8 June
	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon	10 June
	Morwellham Quay Father's Day Car Show. Entry details on our website.	16 June
	St Merryn Steam and Vintage Rally. Near Padstow, Cornwall.	22 & 23 June
*	Club 4-night mini-break to southern Snowdonia. We have 20 cars going	24 to 28
	Friday picnic run to the Dartmoor Gliding Club nr Tavistock – bring your own picnic.	21 June
July	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon	8 July
	Powderham Historic Vehicle Gathering – organiser Andy	13 & 14 July
	Wadebridge wheels – Entries from Easter	21 July
	Rosemoor Vintage Weekend. Entry details on our website.	27 & 28 July
	Boconnoc Steam Fair. Entry details on our website.	26 – 28 July
August	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon – a talk from a member? Any volunteers?	12 Aug
	Club day out to County Classics Car Museum, Taunton. Organised by Andy	TBA
*	Fowey Show and Parade – Entry link on our website	Thursday 22
September	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon	9 Sept
	Rotary Club of Saltram Classic Car Show – organiser Andy	8 Sept
	Rerun of 2023 People & Places (a shortened route) hopefully in better weather – organised by Simon. Likely to be called PP7½	22 Sept
October	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon	14 Oct
	Annual Tulip Trophy Run organised by Gavin & Rachel	TBA
November	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at Manadon	11 Nov
December	Christmas Lunch at Yelverton Golf Club (no club meeting this month)	Thurs 19 Dec

This from Andy, our Members Rep 1, who looks after organising all the car shows - those which we visit as a club and where we have a stand (needing MGOC insurance even to fly the flags) - and listing other shows you may wish to enter as individuals.

Unfortunately, the car show at Rayle Farm, Redruth on Saturday and Sunday, 30th and 31st March was cancelled due to a waterlogged pitch, hence no report.

However, I did go to the Good Friday (29th) Auto Jumble at the Duchy College, Callington. Although the sun and the rain could not agree who was king for the day, the event was well attended with visitors coming from as far as Sidmouth to peruse the 'junk' on offer.

I found an old 1960s AA badge in good condition which now adorns my MGC.

Apart from the auto spares there was an area to park and display classic cars, and around 30 cars of various marques were ogled by the punters and exhibitors alike.

The greatest trade of the day was done by the refreshments trailer, and it seemed that most people had a bacon bap or beefburger welded to their hand.

Not the biggest or best event of the year but it makes a good start.

Andy S



News snippets



"MG is easily outselling Jaguar, Land Rover and Bentley combined"

The Autocar article below takes as it's starting point the news that Chinese MG car sales are easily beating the might of Jaguar, Land Rover and Bentley combined in the UK.

As these cars flood the market it is causing much concern in the UK, EU and USA about the impact these cheap, yet well-built imports will have on European and American car manufacturing and jobs. This is an article well worth reading as it is rather sobering:

<https://www.autoexpress.co.uk/opinion/362614/mg-easily-outselling-jaguar-land-rover-and-bentley-combined>

In other Chinese-related news, Vospers of Plymouth has just been appointed as an MG main dealer and our Government has accused China of cyber hacking the UK Electoral Commission.

EVS – the flip side of dash to electric

Whilst this is a club for MG enthusiasts, we are also regular motorists driving a variety of cars. The government is encouraging us to switch to electric vehicles, at least for our daily drivers, but we need to be fully informed about all aspects of them.

Below is a link to a video that explains in detail why EV ownership is likely to be expensive and problematic, especially with high-end, expensive EVs. It goes into many real-world aspects of running these cars. The knowledgeable presenter starts by explaining why, after having first-hand experience of EVs and hybrids, he has recently leased a diesel Range Rover Sport. The facts and figures presented are both interesting and illuminating.

It also crystallises my own doubts and explains why, when I bought a new Mercedes a year ago, I opted for petrol rather than go electric or hybrid. I am not against EVs in principle, though taking everything into consideration their environmental credentials are debatable, but I had uncertainty about the practicalities of running one, the accuracy of advertised performance data and I was

concerned by stories about horrendous depreciation and trade-in values. Another consideration is that the majority of our journeys in the Merc will be very long ones. We just did 1507 miles to the Alps and back. Driving at speed on French autoroutes we would be lucky to get 200 miles of range in an EV. Having to stop, probably at an expensive rapid charger that would refresh the battery to just 80% of capacity, at least four times each way just isn't on.

The comments below the video are worth reading too. See: *I'm back in a diesel after 4yrs running both EV & PHEV. What needs to change to get me to go back?*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZysvgm2_Aw

I am less sure that all this holds true for small inner city commuter cars and, of course, these observations are about the current generation of EVs, though I like the look of the new Renault 5 due out next year. In the past Jan and I owned three Renault 5s. Future technological developments may change the situation. What do you think?

And I wish this chap luck with the Range Rover. After a Lexus RX, three of the top five most stolen cars are Range Rovers or new Land Rovers - 1 in every 100 gets taken – and owners have found the cars to be effectively uninsurable, being unable to get quotes from the Jaguar/Land Rover's own insurance firm and being offered quotes of £14,000 a year from others.

Howard

A new article on our website technical page

Entitled *Your SU Carb Companion*, this useful and detailed article is item number 42. It adds to a number of other related articles that reside there. The full list of archived articles is listed first.



The best kind of Spring morning is surely when you take the MG out for a spin. Be sure to smell the flowers along the way.



March Sunday Lunch Run to Cornwood Inn



John and B's choice of start venue this month was the Dartmoor Diner.

It's a convenient watering hole with ample parking, a decent cup of coffee and a good starting point for a drive, particularly if it entails Dartmoor. The views from our upstairs meeting room are quite panoramic.



The route instructions were duly distributed and John announced our final instructions / warnings before we hastily headed for our vehicles.

Unfortunately one of our members had the first and I think the only motoring hiccup of the day, Nigel and Libby had a flat tyre to greet them. Club members to the rescue and the tyre was soon "pumped up" and they were on their way.

By the time we left the car park and made our first wrong turn (due to a communication error) and rejoined the route we were the tail end charlies of the run, hey ho. On the bright side, this was the first run for some considerable time when we and many others went "topless" on a beautiful spring day. Although some clouds threatened, it remained dry all day.

The route took us down through Clearbrook and onto Cadover Bridge, where many other folks were enjoying the spring weather, then as we crested the hill we had an excellent view of Plymouth Sound and the English Channel. We continued down to Wotter and along the road to Cornwood. Just before Cornwood the route took a diversion to direct us on a not so obvious path around the village. As we approached the lane for our intended route we were greeted by a farmer driving a large flock of sheep in our direction. After quickly assessing the impending delay, not to mention the sheep deposits on the car, we took a diversionary tactic (sorry, John) and headed to the village centre whereupon we were greeted by B – puzzled, thinking that we had finished the run already. Definitely not.

We continued on our revised route through Cornwood in the direction of Lee Mill and rejoined the intended route. No sign of any fellow members, but we must be on the correct route surely? We passed through Ivybridge, headed for Wrangaton then Kitterford Cross, then on the A379 towards Yealmpton. At Yealmbridge and the toll house we took a right turn and headed cross country to cross over the A38. At this point we caught up with three other of our members - we were on the correct route after all, or were we all lost? We passed through Sparkwell and past the Zoo, through Lutton and back to Cornwood again, arriving at the Cornwood Inn for a well-deserved pint of ale. We had an excellent meal and obviously corrected the world's problems in the process.



Just as a point of interest, the previous owners of the Cornwood Inn put the inn on the market for sale in November 2018. To prevent the inn from falling into the hands of developers, an action group was formed in April 2019 and 300 benefactors loaned the finances for it to reopen as a community pub and village hub in September 2019



Many thanks to John and B for arranging the run.

Noel and Kate

PS Jan and I got off to a bad start. According to our satnav tripmeter, all the distances on John and Bee's route were wrong and becoming steadily more wrong. We drove about 7 miles until I noticed that whilst my speedo was saying I was doing 40 mph the satnav was saying 65. Then it dawned on me. We had last used the satnav whilst driving through France. Its units were set to read in kilometres. In the words of that great philosopher Homer (Simpson) D'oh!

Howard



Photo competition

At our May meeting on the 18th your photographer in chief will be announcing the winners of our photo competition. Just like a condom, a camera captures that special moment. I'm looking for 'that special moment' when all the elements for a great car photo come together – your MG, the light and the landscape, which could be anything, anywhere, urban or natural. It's not too late to capture that winning shot. Spring is almost here with early sunsets, new growth and wildflowers, and it doesn't have to be sunny. Light comes in all shades from dark to bright. Just get out there! C'mon. Focus. You can do this. Submissions no later than 8 May please.



World's largest supermarket garage

Trust me – you gotta watch this. It's utterly amazing – classic car heaven!
Search YouTube for WORLDS LARGEST SUPERCAR GARAGE NEEDS MCLAREN TO EXPLORE
Or click/ cut & paste: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxgtdhGYllg>
Just do it!

Baring it all - Saturday 4th May

Here's something to look forward to – Naked Gardening Day.
Perhaps we should start a new movement.
Fancy 'Nude MGing Day' anyone?
Would you die of embarrassment or die laughing?
Is that a gear stick or are you please to see me?



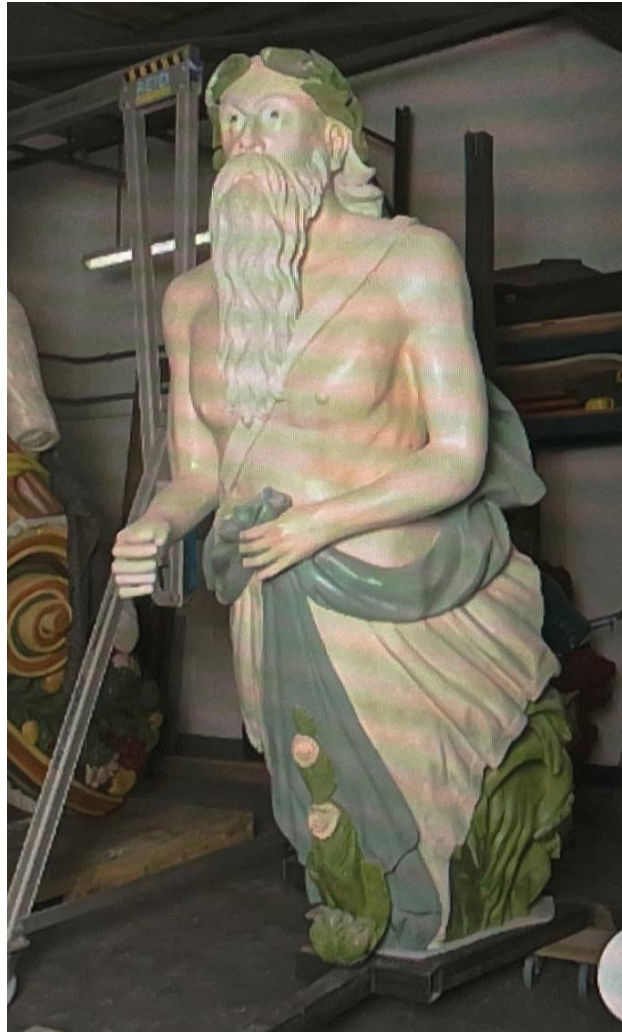
Tamar Valley MG Owners Club figurehead?

A recent visit to 'The Box' in Plymouth revealed an imposing array of figureheads from ships of the past. One in particular was of notable interest. Apparently, there was an HMS Tamar (1863 to 1941), and according to the accompanying description at The Box she was "a barque rigged ship, meaning she had two sorts of sails – fore-and-aft-rigged and square rigged. The Tamar with its bulrushes on the trail board, is clearly meant to be a river-sprite – beings that can breathe water or air and sometimes can fly".

Perhaps quite appropriate as a mascot for Tamar Valley MG Owners Club considering the weather we are enjoying at the moment and have enjoyed over the last few months.

The Box also records that "in the 1870s HMS Tamar fought in the third Anglo-Ashanti war, where the King of Ashanti was opposing colonial rule". It goes on to say that this figurehead was removed and replaced by that of a female head, stored in Devonport and restored by The Box years later.

Richard



Dream Car Fixers

Are you watching this series on Yesterday? Apparently the TV schedules needed another 'do up a classic car' series. Actually, this is OK and in the first programme they fix up an MGB and convert it from rubber bumper to chrome.

MGB Roadster 1972 for sale

Owned since 1992, restored and regularly serviced/MOT'd, garaged. BRG with overdrive, tan leather seats, mohair hood. Chrome wire wheels, electronic ignition, K&N air filters. Condition 2/3. £11,750.

Tel 07761 283990 (Plymouth)



XX Rally Classico Isla Mallorca – cars to the left, yachts to the right



I'm hoping that you will indulge me a little here as I share a few words and pictures of this fantastic classic car event. I hope you find it of interest. Each time Jan and I drive through the Tramuntana mountain range that runs along the western/northern side of Mallorca, I sincerely wish I could share some of these incredible routes with you. Here are a few photos I took of the XX Rally Classico Isla Mallorca, mixed in with sunnier shots from the event press pack.

The landscape is awe-inspiringly dramatic, as are the mountain passes as they snake, hairpin after hairpin, through rocky forests, up and over numerous cols. The precipitous views of the wild and rugged coast are world class. Sadly, I doubt that I'll ever get the chance to drive my MG here, let alone in your company. However, I did have the chance to get a classic car fix this time as our visit coincided with this huge motoring event.



For the last 19 years, the Rally Classico Isla Mallorca has been taking place during the second weekend of March. Rally drivers from all over Europe enter, with more than 90% returning to participate year after year. For three days the cars compete over more than 500 kms, of which 170 kms are on closed roads. Jan and I have driven these fantastic routes numerous times in our daughter's Audi, and the idea of doing them at great speed gives me the willies. It's a hugely popular sporting and social event and I went along on the final rainy afternoon to ogle at the cars as they arrived back at Portals, where the super-rich park their little-used superyachts.

Quite a lot of Brits were taking part in a variety of motors, and it was interesting that there were more British and German than Spanish entries. Sadly this, the last day, was the wettest in the event's long history and the organisers wisely cancelled the afternoon stages for safety reasons. It was a deluge the like of which I'd not seen since our own People & Places Run in 2023!



1957 MGA – a British entry



This Spanish MGF wasn't in the entry list



1973 MGB – a British entry

Over a hundred race-prepared cars were taking part and amongst them I spotted four MGs. Earlier in the day, this MGB had been suffering from an overheating alternator. While I was watching, a mechanic touched it whilst the engine was running and received a fierce electric shock. In the rain he must have earthed himself! It looked like the fan belt was a bit too tight, causing the alternator's bearings to overheat.

The cars made one hell of a racket as they revved up for the crowd, though one or two sounded as though they had a bag of nails in the engine. They needed a bit of fettlin' after a hard drive I think.



1958 MGA – a Canadian entry



Received entries	From
<i>Lord Failsham`s son was pleased with his birthday present other than the position of the silencer as it got hot.....</i>	John I.
<i>When Rick Stein`s recipe called for a mini squash that`s not what he had in mind.</i>	Howard
<i>"Roller out the barrel"...latest Mini Cooper beats Rolls Royce to last parking space under Admiralty Arch... First Sea Lord not amused!</i>	Peter S.
<i>Where is the HGV that rear ended that Mini?</i>	Roger
<i>"I've cut out all the rust as you said, Dad".</i>	Gavin
<i>It is a cut and shut case.</i>	Richard
<i>It's a Mini Ha Car!</i>	Howard
<i>Lady Diana was most pleased with her micro mini, provision of which allowed Countess Spencer to use the old banger in the garage.</i>	Simon
<i>The original one-off stunt car from the movie "Honey I shrunk the Mini".</i>	Ade
<i>Advertisement. This unique Roller comes with its own lifeboat, cleverly concealed in the boot</i>	John H.
<i>When Johnny asked for a Dinky Mini for his birthday, he didn't think he would get this!!</i>	Ade
<i>The designers of the new Mini/MG built in China forgot the size difference in Europeans.</i>	John I.
<i>Bet you can't get 17 people in this mini.</i>	Richard
<i>Honey, I shrunk the car!</i>	Howard
<i>No back seat, so I wouldn't take my girlfriend out in it.</i>	Roger

And the winner of last month's competition chosen blindly by Tom is Howard.
(Thanks Tom. Ed.)

He will choose next month's winner.

Here's next month's photo requiring a
who, what, where, why caption.

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





And finally...



Surely anyone interested in classic cars must also be a fan of the greatest band in the world, The Beatles.

Apparently Paul McCartney brews his own organic beer.

The Beatles legend named the ale Old Stinkhorn after a phallic-shaped mushroom which also grows on his farm.

The concoction is bottled on his land in East Sussex and given as gifts to colleagues and friends.

But here are some alternative Beatles names for his brew and other booze products:



Twist and Stout

Lucy in the Sky with Double Diamond

Hey Brewed

When I'm 6.4%

For the benefit of Missed a Pint

Pissed and shout!

Why Don't We Brew It In The Road

Good Day Moonshine

Band on the rum

She loves brew, yea, yea, yea

She's Leaving Foam

We can work it stout

An Octopus's beer garden

Love mead do

Hey Brewed

Help! I need some Boddy's, help!

Shandy on the Run

Eight pints a week

Let it Beer

Norweigan Woodpecker Cider

Beer, there and everywhere

Martha my beer

Eleanor Ruddles

The Grog Chorus

Oh, Oh Carling

Beer comes the sun

Ale my loving

Got To Get Brew Into My Life

All Things Must Pass Through

Inn, my life

PS Sir Paul McCartney has been reunited with the Höfner bass guitar he bought in 1961 and used on Beatles hits including Love Me Do and She Loves You, 51 years after it was stolen from the back of a van in London in 1972. The Höfner was found in a family's attic in Sussex thanks to a search by a project called the Lost Bass.



A spokesperson for the former Beatle said he was "incredibly grateful" for its return. Once it was back in his hands Paul felt very plucky.

Apparently the bass is worth an estimated £10 million. Yes you read that right! I read that Paul gave the family whose possession it was in a 'thank you' gift that ran into six figures. Very generous of him as, having been stolen in the first place, it was still Paul's property.