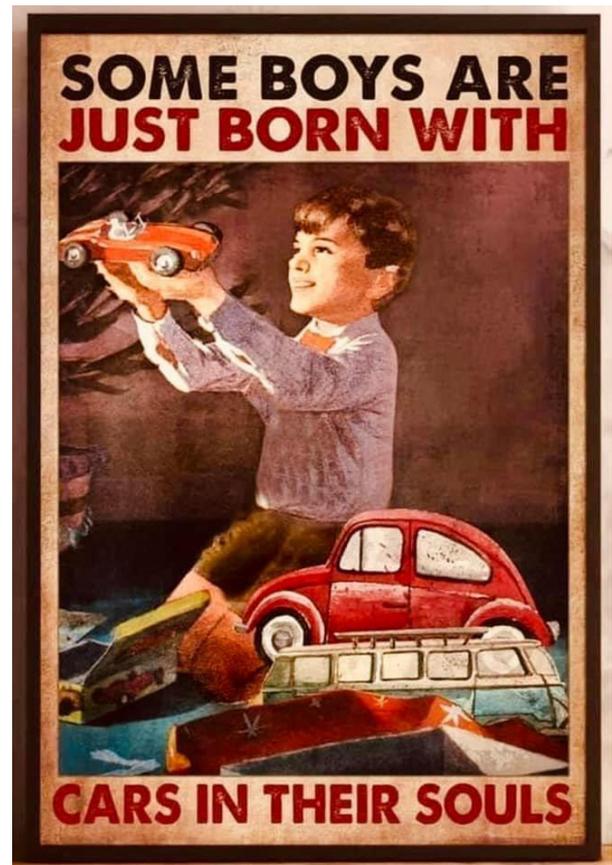


**Newsletter
February
2022
Edition**



This Month:

- Committee reports
- Upcoming events including important information
- Car shows we will attend as a club
- It's snow joke in Virginia!
- Alternative run ideas
- Creamy coolant cause
- A couple of project ideas



AND GIRLS!



ENJOY YOUR MG MORE WITH TVMGOC



Secretary's Report



As the sun pulls itself above the horizon, watery light strengthening through winter white cloud like a fluorescent bulb coming to life, the cold lays like a cloak across the land. The MGR is loitering in the garage, happy on its smart charger, waiting to break the silence with the familiar rumble of its eight cylinders, each about the same size as an MGB's.

The engine was designed by GM's Buick in the MGA era, but thought too expensive with its Aluminium construction, so it is neither new nor really British – but since its introduction in the Rover P5B it has been part of a very British success story. It always amuses me the MGR was the product of 'Project Adder' - MG's AC Cobra – and although more modest in performance, the concept of British sports car and American V8 is resonant.

(See the Gallery later in this newsletter for an unusual MG V8. Ed.)

We are fortunate in the Club to have a number of V8 powered MGB and MGRs, their sound balancing the old English crackle of their 4-cylinder brethren, and as I turn the ignition I am reminded of the simple pleasure of an MG on a winter's morning. I really enjoy driving in the cold with the top down (Charlie doesn't quite agree) – Dartmoor is as inviting as ever, and the air feels clean and fresh with a sense of peace around – quite invigorating.

We are also looking at re-invigorating our club activity, and your committee have been busy crawling over the 'Plan A' guidance to see what we need to do to stay legal and safe. Digressing a little, it is extraordinary, to me at least, to see the complete hash that the BBC and others have made of covering the message over COVID. They seem hell bent on investigating perceived controversy, finding people who are happy to spout all sorts of nonsense and everyone becoming an armchair vaccination specialist, largely without personal qualification, and people are understandably confused. Even when an 'expert' is put before us from the Government's advisors it is worth looking at who these people are - a Behavioural Scientist who is part of SAGE is no more a clinician than I am - but because he personally disagreed with the Government, on the BBC he went.

Rant over - so what does all this mean for us? Put simply, we can meet up without restriction, but if we are in a confined space in close proximity with someone we don't normally live with, common sense applies and the decent thing to do is wear a mask and keep most of your germs to yourself, so we will be encouraging facemasks in those circumstances. Otherwise, we fit into our 'new normal' in terms of pubs and restaurants, and for those who are comfortable, returning to having some fun in our cars, of which more from Howard. I look forward to seeing you tonight!

Very Best Wishes,

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,

I hope you are all keeping well and looking forward to some warmer weather, to entice your MG out of its winter slumber.

Alison and I went out the other day to check out the route and details for April's Drive It Day with the club's **Treasure Hunt Trophy Run and Sunday Lunch**. Even though we were in our daily driver we seemed to get quite cold whilst doing so and it took some time to get warm once back indoors. Please make a note to join us **Sunday April 24th**. Hopefully we will have a tick-sheet for this to pass around at the February meeting.

This Covid pandemic has seen the committee making decisions that keep us all safe whilst adhering to all the government guidelines. With the great surge in the Omicron variant infections after Christmas, along with tighter controls being issued by Boris, decisions were made to limit our club activities until it was deemed safe to kick start our club programme of events. This meant that the January and February planned Sunday lunches were postponed. We hope these lunch runs to their planned venues can go ahead later in the year.

However, in what seemed like just a few days later these decisions of ours were blown out of the water by government U-turns and a major relaxation of some of the guidelines. Unfortunately, these came too late for us, as venues had already been cancelled. At least we can now return to our normal club programme, starting with the club meeting on **Wednesday 2nd February**.

The club's **AGM** is not too far away (March meeting) and I really hope you will make an effort to come along and oversee the club's due processes. One of these processes is the election of your committee for another new club year, March 2022 to March 2023.

At the January committee meeting all of the current members with the exception of the Treasurer, were willing to stand for re-election. I really wish to thank them for giving me and Tamar Valley that commitment once again!

Losing Sonia as Treasurer at the March AGM will be a sad day as she has given us all, 6 years of good service. The committee post of Treasurer is a very important one as the club is unable to function without one.

Alison and I are looking forward to **Nigel and Naomi's Sunday lunch run on 20 March** and a tick-sheet will be available at the February meeting.

Amazingly in all my years of being a member of the MGOC, I had never logged on to read the forums. Richard M mentioned them to me and I am now an avid reader of the MGB forum. I can highly recommend them to you if you tackle your own car maintenance, as there is so much useful information based on members' personal experiences etc.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon. So please! Do not just become a name on the membership list! Alison and I soon found out all those years ago (2007) when we joined, that the more we put in, the more we got out of our membership.

Happy MG motoring,

Alan



Event Secretary - keeping it wheel

Dear Motorneers,

It's been a bit of a head-banger of a month behind the scenes for the club committee in one way or another. But as far as Covid is concerned, whilst restrictions have now been loosened up, we should still take care.

We are being reliably informed that the current wave of Covid, whilst being very transmittable, doesn't lead to so much serious illness, but that's not the experience of our young plumber who came to chez Perks to fix a gas fire. He and his brother, both in their late 20s, were horrendously ill over Christmas and stuck in their rooms isolating. He said he could barely get out of bed to get to the bathroom and couldn't rest, sleep or use his hands. It was terrible. They had had their jobs.

Mid-month Jan and I went to Cambridge to visit our daughter and her family. Jan came home with Covid caught from our 10-year-old granddaughter. This is the second time Isabella has brought home the virus from school, where Covid continues to cause great disruption. A couple of days later and her mum tested positive too. Jan's symptoms are mild but significant, our daughter has been feverish. At the time of writing my own Lateral Flow Tests remain negative.

Although the Government has removed virtually all Covid restrictions, this thing has not gone away, if it ever will, and many businesses are insisting that people continue to wear masks indoors.

So, what does this mean for our club? Well, I think in all respects we can almost get back to normal. We should continue to take sensible precautions, but most importantly respect the well-being of our fellow members. Please see the note we have produced in the Upcoming Events section of this newsletter.

You won't see me at the next two meetings as we have a couple of foreign trips arranged. Firstly, in an embarrassingly first-world, middle-class problem, Jan and I took a bit of a gamble as we had to pay for our upcoming ski holiday a few days *before* it was announced that the French would finally allow us back into their country. The macho power-play between Johnson and Macron has caused no end of problems for the French ski and wider tourist industry, which has been in uproar. The ban was finally lifted two weeks ago.

To keep largely to ourselves, we are driving down to the Alps in the Merc, prudently packed with snow chains, shovels and more, to self-catering accommodation where we'll meet our daughter and her family. I'm counting the minutes. There's a black run that needs conquering and just as with our Christmas turkey, I'll be the one doing the carving. The snow awaits!

We'll miss the March meeting because we'll be in Mallorca to look after our other granddaughter during the Spanish half term. The beach awaits!

Yes I know – it's alright for some, but anyway, I'll see you on the March Sunday lunch run, and in the meantime I am standing again as the club Event Secretary. Any votes at the AGM for my re-election will be gratefully received. I'm a sucker for punishment.

Happy MGing!
Howard



Upcoming events

The most up to date and detailed information on all 2022 events can be found and downloaded on the [Event Diary Page](#) and the [Entry Forms page](#). See: www.tvmgoc.org.uk

Whilst there is no longer a legal requirement to wear a face covering, for club meetings like ours where we gather in a crowd in an enclosed space, coming into contact with other people we do not normally meet, the Government recommends that we should wear facemasks. Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test result should stay at home and self-isolate.

Note: I usually update the Event Diary on our website once a month just before a meeting. At this time of the year various dates and entry forms become available in dribs and drabs. Consequently, the Event Diary may not be completely up-to-the minute in all aspects. However, by the time of our Wednesday club meetings it will have been revised. If anything significant and urgent comes up, such as something being cancelled at short notice, you will be notified by email ASAP.

2022 CLUB SUNDAY LUNCH RUNS & SUPPER RUNS	
20 February	Lunch on 3 rd Sunday – to be organised by Iain and Helen Cancelled
20 March	Lunch on 3 rd Sunday – to be organised by Naomi & Nigel
24 April	Drive It Day + Treasure Hunt Trophy + lunch/picnic or tea to be organised by Alan & Alison
13 May	Supper run – Friday a week after the club meeting - to be organised by Simon & Charlie, probably to the Cuddy Shack near Looe for fish & chips
12 June	Lunch on 3 rd Sunday organised by Howard & Jan to The Dartmoor Lodge
24 June	National Cream Tea Day – last Friday in June - Repeat of a previous run to end with a picnic, probably in Iain & Helen's barn near Launceston.
15 July	Supper run – Friday a week after the club meeting - Organiser needed
12 August	Supper run – Friday a week after the club meeting - Organiser needed
11 or 18 Sept	Possible Club run (in place of P&P) - Organiser needed
16 October	Lunch on 3 rd Sunday inc. Tulip Trophy to be organised by Sarah
20 November	Lunch on 3 rd Sunday – organised by John and B.
7 December	Christmas dinner TBC

2022 SHOWS WE PLAN TO ATTEND AS A CLUB – see over page

The last couple of years have been very lean regarding attending cars shows, with the vast majority of them being cancelled. So, let's try to make amends this year!

The following shows are ones we'd plan to attend as a club and put on a display. Please don't procrastinate. Probably none of us know all our other summer commitments yet, but I'd rather you put your name down sooner and cancel later if necessary.

Three of the four require us to enter *en bloc*. I will let members know when the forms become available to download from our website.

This is important! After completing them, tell me as Event Secretary that you have entered. That way we know how many cars our display will have, and the organisers how much space to allocate to us.

All entries for Rosemoor must go via me.

All entries for Powderham must go via Simon.

2022 SHOWS WE PLAN TO ATTEND AS A CLUB	
Powderham	Sunday 10 July Forms available February. Enter via Simon, Club Sec.
English Riviera Show	Sunday 24 July. Entry forms available from March but the whole show is currently TBC
Fowey Regatta Parade & Show	Wed 17 August. This is a bit different and involves a classic car parade through the town before assembling for a show in the top car park. Entry form is on our website now
RHS Rosemoor	Sunday 31 July. Entry form is on our website now. See below.

Entry forms now available on our website:

Launceston Steam and Vintage Rally 28 - 30 May

Moor 2 Sea Sunday 29 May (Howard & Jan have entered)

Southampton and New Forest MGOC New Forest Run 12 June 2022

Boconnoc Steam Fair 22 - 24 July - only vehicles 30 years and older

RHS Rosemoor Vintage and Classic Weekend 31 July (see below)

Fowey Classic Car Show and Parade Wednesday 17 August 2022 - Eligible Vehicles are: Classic cars and motor bikes first registered before 1990, and ALL sports cars.

Great Trethew Vintage Rally 27 - 29 August

RHS Rosemoor Classic and Vintage Show - Sunday July 31

Our visit last year was a great success. As well as the beautiful gardens to explore, there was a fine display of vintage and classic cars. However, a few eyebrows were raised as some fairly new cars were on display - so new that they couldn't even be termed 'modern classics'.

The organisers initially responded for their 2022 show with some pretty Draconian stipulations, so strict that only a few of our TVMGOC cars would have been able to attend. Fear not though - your Event Secretary has been helping the Rosemoor staff draw up an appropriate set of requirements to keep new cars away from this 'vintage & classic' event whilst allowing in proper 'modern classics' (define as you see fit!) This year, all cars must be over 20 years old.

During this dialogue with Rosemoor, which was appreciated by Carrieane the organiser, I was asked once again to co-ordinate all our club cars and to arrange for them to all arrive at the show at roughly the same time. I will do this, though sadly we cannot attend this year as we will be away on holiday.

The Rosemoor entry form is on the club website with this note:

ALL TVMGOC MEMBERS MUST ENTER VIA THE CLUB EVENT SECRETARY, NOT DIRECTLY TO ROSEMOOR FOR 31 JULY ONLY (NOT SATURDAY 30).

Jazz-Fest 2022 July 28 to 31

For many years Fest Jazz has become a focal point for a superb rally of MGs and other Classic cars from the UK and France.

Nestled on the banks of the Aulne river, in Centre-Finistère, the Fest Jazz is an explosion of music and dance, with 4000 spectators in one of the most beautiful corners of inland Brittany. A rising festival that favours dynamic and family jazz. Here, no "intellectual" jazz, but top-flight musicians selected for their festive and dancing jazz.

See: <http://www.fest-jazz.com/mgs-and-classic-cars>

See: <https://www.fest--jazz->

<com.translate.google/? x tr sch=http& x tr sl=fr& x tr tl=en& x tr hl=en& x tr pto=sc>

Reminder – 25 September

If you want to go to MGB60, which promises to be a huge jamboree, and want priority parking, get on and book your place ASAP.

They hope 2000 to 3000 cars will attend. The first 400 to buy a rally plaque will be given pride of place to park right outside the museum. Tickets should now be available at:

<https://mgb60.com/news/>



News snippets



Classic car values are set to rise

Dealers and market experts believe that because enthusiasts are buying cars for the first time during these, hopefully, later stages of the pandemic, this has led to strengthening values, particularly in the sub-£30k bracket.

The renewed interest is fuelled by such factors as a reluctance to book foreign holidays and poor rates of interest from savings. People want to cash-in and enjoy touring the UK in classic style. MGB coupes and roadsters are said to be seeing a price revival and that extends to other marque models too.

Car theft

Because of the above development, Classic Car Weekly headlines with the vulnerability of classic cars to theft which do not, as standard, benefit from modern security measures.

The recovery rate for stolen vehicles in the UK is just 8%. Car theft is said not to be a Police priority as people are covered by insurance. However, for many owners, their classic car is worth much more to them than its monetary value and they feel their car is emotionally irreplaceable.

As reported in our club newsletter last year, the MGOC is one of ten national clubs to have released a tracker app offering discounted hardware, all based on the same My Car Club software.

Details of the offer to MGOC members are here: <https://www.mgownersclub.co.uk/news/new-mgoc-members%E2%80%99-benefit-%E2%80%93-mgoc-tracker>

Old ads. worth remembering





Gallery

An unusual MGB GT RV8



When MG introduced the MG RV8 in 1992, there was only a roadster version available. This prompted the Maidstone Sports Car Company to embark upon their own conversion of a 1.8-litre MGB GT that had been stored unused for some years.

The conversion took place over a period of five years, using a new Heritage body shell and a 3.5-litre Rover V8 engine, built to fast road specification and fitted with a five-speed manual gearbox.

Info from the company's website states, "The first GT RV8 Coupe we produced is still in daily use on the roads of Kent and East Sussex but now with a 4.6 litre, stage II engine producing nearly 300 BHP on its injection system.

The response from MG enthusiasts has been truly amazing and from all over the world we have received enquiries on all aspects of the vehicle. We have now produced four of these vehicles, mainly for abroad, and have helped with information and parts for the building of another two".



An idea for your next project



Honey, I shrunk the car

No this does not prove that those who think classic cars shouldn't be taken out in the rain are right. They do not shrink in the wet.



A chap called Mark Tin from Melbourne, Australia, hand crafted this incredible half-scale replica of his MGA. It's made from fibreglass. Apparently making this kind of mini-me replica is a bit of a thing for those with time on their hands down under. If you thought getting into an A requires a bit of contortion, just try getting into this little one. Impressive work.



Creamy coolant cause

Back in 2019 on our way home from touring the North Coast 500 with Roy and Sonia, when checking my coolant level, I noticed it looked a bit creamy.

Most car owners' first reaction to this is to assume the worst and that oil had seeped in, a sign of a potentially serious problem. As at the time we were hundreds of miles away from home, we called Tim Kelly in St Agnes for advice. He said carry on driving but get it looked over once back.



Oil in the radiator

Researching after the event, oil in the radiator looks like this. Whatever the stuff was in my radiator looked different. It was creamy.

A week or so later Tim could find no problem or cause of the creamy liquid. After flushing the system and a refill with fresh antifreeze the coolant has remained clear ever since.

I relate all this because an article in *Enjoying MG* suggests a cause. Other owners have noticed a similar coolant discolouration and it may be caused by mixing different types of antifreeze that react in some way. To remove any such deposits, it was suggested to drain and fill the radiator with a 5% vinegar solution. Run the engine for ten minutes, drain and then refill with a single type of antifreeze.

That's snow joke! Coming to a motorway near you.

From Stateside, Ian C. sent us this

Just a thought raised by a friend who was stuck on Interstate 95 in Virginia. That interstate runs the whole length north to south of Virginia and was closed just south of DC (Washington?) due to heavy snow.

Many dozens of drivers were stationary for up to 30, yes THIRTY hours. How many private vehicles were electric is unknown, but to be stuck in snow for thirty hours with no heat and a rapidly depleting battery certainly does not give me the warm fuzzies.

How many totally useless vehicles which could not move and had no way of getting a charge in order to move, thus adding to the traffic jam once ICE vehicles were able to move, is mind boggling. Tow truck operators must have had a mega payday.



Would I ever consider purchasing an electric powered vehicle? Absolutely positively no way. All the best for 2022. I hope the season is a good one.

All the best to you too, Ian, and take care in your MGB driving it on the wrong side of the road. Ed.

"You were only supposed to blow the bloody door off!"

That famous quote from the star of the first and best *The Italian Job* movie, Sir Michael Caine. Many members will remember (I hope!) the talk I gave in 2019 about the back story to the film's robbery and subsequent car chase. Now there is a chance to grab an actual piece of the action as treasured memorabilia of Sir Michael Caine is to go under the hammer.



At the age of 88, the star's thoughts have turned away from acting towards maintaining his health, but with the ongoing trials and tribulations of the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as his difficulty with walking, Caine has confessed that he has made some drastic lifestyle changes in order to maintain his health for as long as possible. He has also decided that the time has come to downsize his home and dust off a lifetime's worth of keepsakes – but don't expect to find any missing gold bullion in the loft.

Artwork, film posters, pairs of personal spectacles and even a gold Rolex wristwatch form part of the collection to be sold by Bonhams. Other items include directors' chairs and travel posters that Caine said he would be "reluctant to sell."



It is often 1969's *The Italian Job* that ranks highest in public opinion polls when trying to settle which is the nation's favourite Michael Caine film. Original one-sheet posters advertising the hit film are highly prized by collectors, as are signed scripts, props and signed photographs.

Two other standout lots show original posters from two of his most famous films – *Zulu* and *Alfie*. The former is expected to sell for up to £1500, while the latter could fetch £700.

Ideas for runs as cribbed from the QI Book of General Ignorance

Your Event Secretary, always on the lookout for new routes for our club to explore, took great interest in reading about the following.

Fancy cruising in your MG down the Avenue des Champs-Élysées? Don't we all? Sadly then, the Paris Dakar race isn't for us, as it neither starts in Paris nor ends in Dakar (*the capital of Senegal, but you knew that - Ed.*).

It is now held in South America misnamed as The Dakar Rally. Perhaps our ageing MGs might struggle a bit with this one. In 1986 79% of cars pulled out before the finish and seven competitors died. At 9,300 miles it was then the longest course ever set. This was the race when Maggie's son Mark Thatcher got lost for six days. (*Make up your own joke here - Ed.*)

Perhaps we could take inspiration from India. At just 40 miles long this run concept would suit us admirably before a nice lunch somewhere. It's called the Blind Man's Rally, in which blind navigators use a Braille map and give instructions to the sighted drivers, who are not allowed to use their own instincts at corners. We could use Covid facemasks as blindfolds.

(*Blindly moving on...Ed.*)



If you are one of those who hate to be confined to a particular route and want the freedom to explore new horizons wherever your whim takes you, then the Mongol Rally is the one. It starts here in England with Mongolia as the final destination taking any route you like. The organisers say providing a route book would cramp the driver's style. Mongolia is about 10,000 miles away but just think of the fun, the adventure! (*It would have that all right, but perhaps a bit too much excitement. Moving on...Ed.*)



The Baja 1000 Rally in Mexico is much shorter but not without a challenge or two to keep things interesting. The course traverses 930 miles over very rough terrain made even worse by locals who amuse themselves by placing booby traps, such as hidden holes and diverting rivers along the way to flood the track and create mud pits. The organisers say a likely sign of an impending trap is the presence of a large crowd holding video cameras.

(*Having watched YouTube videos about this rally, I think our MGs might need a modification or two thousand first. Search Baya Rally traps. It's quite shocking. - Ed.*)

On reflection perhaps we should stick to what we know best, such as our March Sunday lunch run through the South Hams, but look out for crowds of onlookers...you never know...

(*Blindfolds optional. Ed*)

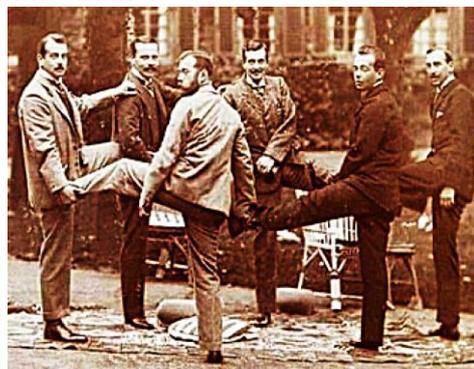


The caption competition tusk-force answered the call of the wild to come up with this lot.

Received entries	From
<i>Do you stop at Oxford Circus?</i>	John I.
<i>Excuse me. Any room on top?</i>	John I.
<i>Can we use the trunk road please?</i>	Howard
<i>This bus need new rear shocks!</i>	Howard
<i>They wouldn't let me on a jumbo jet or an ellie-copter, so I'll just have to travel by bus.</i>	Howard
<i>Sorry, Sir. You need an 18 or 189 to Regents Park, London Zoo.</i>	Andrew L.
<i>Sorry, Sir. You need a 68 or 136 to Elephant & Castle.</i>	Andrew L.
<i>Talk of attention seeking. You can't deny 'He's the elephant in the bus'</i>	Keat
<i>Does this go to the Elephant and Castle? My trunk can go in the luggage area.</i>	Simon
<i>He's obviously got a 'ticket too wide !!'</i>	Nigel S.
<i>Trunks must be stowed correctly</i>	Roger
"Does this bus go to the Elephant and Castle?"	Janis
<i>The elephant in the room is old hat: let's discuss the elephant on the bus.</i>	Janis
<i>The passengers on route 56 complained about the large trunk in the luggage compartment.</i>	Janis
<i>Question: How many elephants can you get in a bus? Answer: More than the 4 you can get in a mini.</i>	Janis
<i>For the unions, conductor-free buses were "the Elephant in the room".</i>	Gavin
<i>Nelly always suspected that riding on the top deck was going to be a challenge.</i>	Gavin
<i>All feet must be on the platform before the bus can proceed.</i>	Gavin
<i>"Chalk Farm please clippie. I could do with balance & spaciousness." (Chalk Farm lies directly north of Camden Town and just west of Primrose Hill. The neighbourhood offers the perfect balance between the hustle and bustle of inner city London and the relaxed, spaciousness of suburbia - a rare state of living in the capital.)</i>	Richard M.
<i>Does this stop at the elephant and castle?</i>	Sue L.
<i>A single to the Castle, please.</i>	Tom E.
<i>This is the only way I know to convince the driver that his rear, nearside damper has gone!</i>	John H.
<i>Surely there's room for one small one upstairs. My MG Midget is in for service and I need to get to Piccadilly Circus.</i>	Andy S.
<i>That's right, just put my trunk in the luggage rack.</i>	Andy S.

And the winner of last month's competition chosen blindly by Alan is Janis. Well done!
She will choose next month's winner

Here's next month's photo that requires a caption to explain what on earth these blokes are doing.
Your entries by email to:
mediatvmgoc@gmail.com

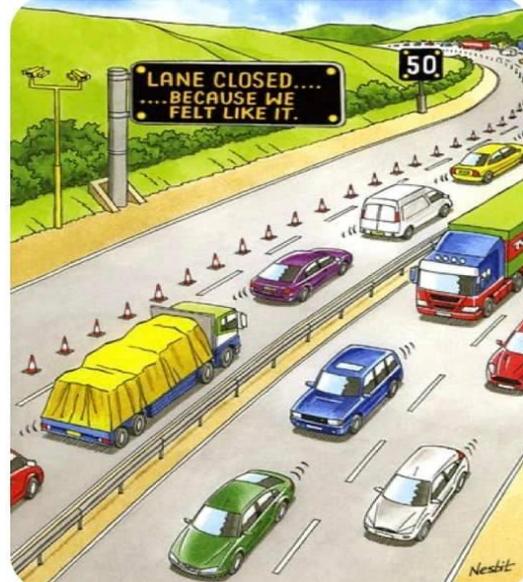




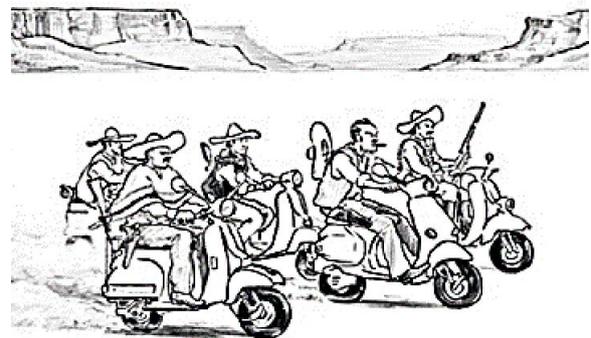
And finally...



Beware of a scam. I ordered jewellery for my wife, and they sent me MG parts.



Personally, I'm fine with the prospect of self-driving cars.



The Vesparos



How Man Learned to Swear.



It does clearly say 'Tow-away Zone'.