



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018 EDITION



This Month:

- Events listing
- February lunch run report
- Caption Competition
- News Snippets & Things Said In Court
- My MG and I – Karon & Tim



ENJOY YOUR MG MORE WITH TVMGOC



Editorial Note



Dear all,

I must take this opportunity to thank Ade and Val for all their hard work in producing our excellent club newsletter over the last year. Now it is my turn to have a go but, just as it is with their V8 roadster, they will be hard to follow! It cannot have escaped your notice that I generate articles of various kinds for the newsletter and it seems you are happy for me to continue to do so. As always, though, I do appreciate feedback on the content of the newsletters, without which it is produced in a bit of a vacuum.

I am sure the club as a whole would appreciate additional contributions from other members, and thanks to those who have done this already. As always, we are very grateful for all those who volunteer (or are cajoled!) to write run reports, but why stop there? An article can be based on something you have heard in the news, or that has happened to you or your car, or whilst out driving, or at a show – as long as it will be of interest to club members, or will make us chuckle, then either write it up or tip me off.

Car club newsletters for all makes of cars used to include articles on technical advice, but these days as the internet is awash with model-specific tips, instructions and videos, searching Google for your needs has become the very best non-human resource (other search engines are available!). That said, if you have gleaned something technical that may be of use or interest to other club members please do share it with us. We have not forgotten that we are a car club.

This newsletter is for you, so please help me to make it what you would like it to be and don't be backward in coming forward.

Howard, Event Secretary

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



Secretary's Report



Hello Everyone,

It was lovely to see so many of you at the February Sunday lunch at the Lifton Hall Hotel. What a great run with lots of little country lanes which I do like. The weather was positively Spring-like, the snowdrops in the grass verges looking very jolly and to top it all, a fabulous meal as well. Many thanks to Alan and Alison for organising this event.

The March Sunday lunch run is to the Boringdon Golf Club and is being organised by Sally and Keith, so if you want to go, get your name down soon. At our next meeting at the Moorland Garden Hotel, we will be holding the club AGM, and your membership fee will be due. If you are unable to attend, you can send a cheque to either Sonia or myself, and please remember to complete the new membership form and send it with your money. There will be a Chat and Chill session after the AGM. Hope to see you all soon.

Best Wishes & Happy Driving

Pam



Notes from your Chairman



Hi everyone,

At last, as I write this we are having a bit of dry weather although it is accompanied with icy cold blasts from the East. The weather experts are beside themselves with excitement as they warn of snow, even in Plymouth.

The February Sunday lunch that Alison and I arranged was well attended and we had 40 sitting down for lunch. The Lifton Hall Hotel gave us a room to ourselves and we did our best to raise the roof with the usual Tamar Valley noise.

I wasn't too keen on getting my MGB wet, so left it at home but surprisingly the rain cleared and it was an opportunity missed to give it a blast.

By the time you get the March newsletter by email it will mean that the AGM is about to happen. Your attendance is not mandatory but it would be great to have a good turn-out to show your support/witness the club's committee elections and see what goes on behind the scenes.

Complete indifference, lack of participation and just being a name on the membership list is something that the committee work very hard to overcome. All we need is for you to get your MG on the road now and again to re-discover that MG-driving smile and enjoyment of TVMGOC membership.

Alison and I are looking forward to another event-filled year with the club. Where have the last 11 years gone?

Safe MG motoring,
Alan

	<h2>UPCOMING EVENTS</h2> <p>The most up to date and detailed information on all 2018 events can be found and downloaded on the Event Diary Page and the Entry Forms page. See: www.tvmgoc.org.uk</p>
---	---

MARCH 2018

18	Club Sunday Lunch	Sally & Keith / Pam & Neil organising Meet from 10am at the Dartmoor Diner to depart at 11:15 for a drive to Boringdon Golf Club, 55 Plymbridge Road, Plympton
----	-------------------	---

APRIL 2018

4	Monthly meeting	Moorland Garden Hotel. Meet in the bar for 8pm.
8	Other event of interest outside of local area	Brooklands MG Era Day – tickets now available here: https://www.brooklandsmuseum.com/whats-on/brooklands-mg-era
22	DRIVE IT DAY	With the Treasure Hunt trophy. Organised by Peter & Jan Start 09:30 to 10:30 at Mudge Way Car Park, Plympton, drive to display cars in front of Tavistock market 11:30 to 13:30, then drive to Louis Tea Rooms on Kit Hill for tea.

MAY 2018

2	Monthly meeting	Moorland Garden Hotel. Meet in the bar for 8pm.
4 – 6	Bluebell Run in Cornwall & South Devon	Bristol MGOC organising. Closed for entries
6	Keat's bluebell woods open day for local charities	Foxhams House, Horrabridge, PL20 7QT 2pm to 5pm – just turn up.
11	Club Friday evening run	Alan & Alison organising to The Cuddy Shack nr Looe
13	Devon & Cornwall event	Killerton House Classic Car Day (Club Stand) Cars under 25 years old can only attend if part of a club so tell Event Sec if you enter. Forms available on TVMGOC website.
13	Devon & Cornwall event	Boconnoc Gardens & Classics in aid of Marie Curie nurses. Date confirmed. No forms yet. Clashes with Killerton
13	Event of our local area	The Mendip Vintage & Classic Tour. Public forms available on our website
20	Devon & Cornwall event	Atlantic Coast Express (ACE) Run by D&C MGCC (moved from June in 2017 to May for 2018). Forms available on our website.
25 – 29	Club Weekend away	Llanerchindda Farm in Mid Wales.
26 to 28	Devon & Cornwall event	Launceston Steam & Vintage Rally, Launceston, Cornwall Forms available for cars over 30 years old on our website.
27	Devon & Cornwall event	Moor 2 Sea Run (Exeter MGOC) Entry forms available

Which car, now in its 44th year of production, is one of the best selling cars in the world and, though it's not green, is by far the most environmentally-friendly car ever produced?

It was also number 4 in *Top Gear's* list '20 cars that changed the world'.

Clue: The Land Rover Defender was number 1, the Audi R10 TDI race car was number 2 and the Toyota Prius was number 3. So, what came next in the *Top Gear* list?

(Answer at the end of the newsletter)

February Sunday Lunch Run to Lifton Hall Hotel

We drew back the curtains to reveal a fog-bound River Tamar which did not bode well, but luckily there was a hint of sun as we set off into England and the coffee rendezvous at Knightstone Tea Rooms. We were pleased that we had made the decision to drive the MGB, albeit hood up, unlike some who preferred not to spoil their pristine chrome and bodywork.

After refreshments and a chat, Alan gathered us all together and, armed with route directions and advice not to attempt driving through floods (on a last minute reconnoitre of their planned route Alan and Alison had encountered a flooded section which would have pleased the submariners amongst us) we were off in the direction of Walkhampton.



With Walkhampton church tower and its ornate pinnacles dominating the hill,

it was down through the village and up the steep wooded hillside, with heavily mossed trees and banks, before out onto the open moor. It was nice to see all sorts of folk out and about enjoying the fresh air despite the soggy, muddy ground and grey skies. At one point the car in front of us turned left instead of going straight ahead but we continued on and out onto the A386, pleased to see the sky much lighter with blue patches ahead.

We turned left off the A386 by C.J. Downs Coaches, remarking on what a sad, run-down, derelict area it is on both sides of the road at that point. On this stretch of the road with Brentor Church high on the Tor ahead, if you look to the left, hidden from sight is a gliding club on the crest of the hill, where you can see the gliders being towed up into the sky and others landing one after the other. It is a good spot for a picnic.



Sue & Bill's MGB

We passed the beautifully maintained Brentor Station, now a private residence, and also Chicks Moorland Retreat which, once home, I googled to discover is run by the charity Chicks, offering respite for disadvantaged children. We then dropped down into Lydford with low-lying cloud scudding over the hills ahead. Deciding it was safe to cross the 'weak bridge', as surely Alan would never knowingly endanger us or our beloved MGs, we wondered what decision drivers with a heavy load would make.

Before reaching the ruins of Lydford Castle we drove under a bridge where there was such a plethora of road signs, which amongst other things advised us of width and height restrictions, that we just closed our eyes and hoped for the best! We headed on down into the valley by the old A30 and were met with a lovely panoramic view of typically classic Devon countryside...beautiful.

Out onto the A30 we were able to pick up speed a little driving past Alder Vineyard, Jethro's Ardoch Lodge and the Ambrosia factory in Tinchay before arriving at our destination. I was glad that we weren't behind anyone taking the opportunity to 'blow a little soot', as Alan had put it. Parking was not an issue and we were soon enjoying a drink, joined by those who had not been on the run, and looking forward to lunch.

In view of the numbers attending, 40 altogether, the hotel had decided to serve one table at a time rather than by meal choices, a good decision as it turned out. Unfortunately we made a bad choice of table to sit at, not because of the company, of course, but because we were the last to be served and it was 13.45 before our meal arrived. By this time the first table had actually finished their main course. On the positive side, the food was excellent and I believe everyone enjoyed their choices. It was one of the best in my opinion and not just because I was starving. Howard thanked Alan and Alison for finding such a nice venue which many of us had not been to before and for the lovely run which had taken us through a mix of valleys, woods and narrow lanes, moorland and open road, all complete with snowdrops and smartly cut hedges.



Lifton Hall Hotel. More photos can be found on our Flickr page. On the club website click the link on the Gallery Tab. Once on Flickr look at Albums.

On saying our goodbyes, some made their way to the nearby Lifton Farm Shop, which I understand is really excellent, but others simply tootled off home. On the Callington to Saltash road we saw Roger and Sylvia several cars ahead and all credit to them ending the day as they started with the hood still down. They must be made of sterner stuff than many of us.

Sue

SNIPPETS

Plymouth is in the news...for all the wrong reasons.



The Bayeux Tapestry might be coming to Britain.

The actual origin of the tapestry is unproven, but some experts believe it was woven in Kent. If so, the weavers had a keen interest in British sports cars and they included the name of a favourite in the design.



Globetrotting John I. sent in two items. First he found this on eBay.



BEWARE



MG CAR ENTHUSIAST DISEASE

HIGHLY INFECTIOUS TO MALES OF ALL AGES

THE SYMPTOMS : The sufferer becomes confused and bewildered when not driving an MG . Will be observed wandering around with a blank expression, muttering strange words. Rapid rise in temperature at the sight of any type of MG. Behaviour then becomes very erratic : much rushing about and waving of arms. Foaming at the mouth is not unusual. The patient spends much time and money on MG magazines and books and constantly polishing their MG. Seems not to notice "normal" people.

THIS CONDITION IS NOT FATAL

THE TREATMENT : The patient must be kept well supplied with items of MG interest . Should be encouraged to go on as many MG rallies as possible and to MG gatherings where he can meet lots more victims of the illness and exchange ideas with them . Friends and relations can aid recovery by talking constantly about MG cars . In case of an emergency take the patient to the nearest MG spares day or MG owners club meeting.

But do women suffer similarly?

John also sent us this interesting picture and asks, "Ever seen an MGB with aircon? This is my friend's car in Thailand. He has also taken out the heater and put the battery there!"



On the subject of globetrotting...

PLYMOUTH MAN COMPLETES 20,000-MILE PUB ADVENTURE

You may have seen this in the local press but it's worth sharing. Ben Coombs, 38, from Plymouth in Devon, drove 20,000 miles across three continents and through 21 countries for a pint. The idea came to him in a Dartmoor pub. His pub2pub adventure saw him driving from the world's most northerly pub to the most southern.



In his green 20-year-old TVR Chimaera, called Kermit, he began in the Arctic Circle, just 700 miles from the North Pole, on the Norwegian island of Svalbard in an abandoned mining settlement called Pyramiden, which has a population of four. Ben said, "The residents all live in the only building still functioning - the town's old hotel - which happens to have a still-functioning bar."



The most southerly pub in the world

20,000 miles later - the TVR car only needed servicing and a clutch change along the way - Ben found the southernmost settlement outside Antarctica, Puerto Williams in Tierra del Fuego, Chile, where he arrived on 12 February at the world's southernmost bar. "It's a bit of a dive actually," he said, "We're talking plastic patio furniture inside, Chilean line dancing on the TV, and a menu which consists only of lager and cheap whisky."

"There are probably more appealing places to travel 20,000 miles to get to, but that's not really the point. It's the journey that matters, not the destination." It took him seven months to complete the challenge. That's quite a pub crawl!

BIG CATS

Someone on the excellent Facebook group *British Classic Cars* posted this picture of a painted, not wrapped, E-type. There were a few comments along the lines of 'it's his car and he can do what he likes with it'. However, the majority said how appalled they were. What do you think?



Amazon's *Grand Tour* recently featured some old dogs driving big cats. I refer of course to Clarkson, May and Hammond who bought five ~~clapped out~~ classic Jaguars to drive around America. Surprisingly, they only completely wrecked two of them. Equally surprisingly, they came up with an

interesting and rather disheartening statistic. In the five years leading up to 2016, Jaguar sold 200,000 cars worldwide. In the same period, Audi, Mercedes and BMW sold over 8 million cars each.

BIG SNAKES AND BIG MISTAKES



British Classic Cars also had a disturbing post that led to the story headlining in *AutoClassics*, *Classic Car Weekly* and even the national press. In case you missed the story, it has a lesson for all of us.

A former racing driver, 75 year old Julian Seddon, purchased what he thought was a 1964 AC Cobra for £250,000. A court heard that at that time the DVLA was investigating the car's history. Only after Mr Seddon bought the car did the DVLA reclassify it as having been built in 2002 using 'old

and new parts'. Now the owner is attempting to sue DVLA for changing its logbook after he bought it and stripping his AC Cobra of its historic status, causing the car to lose £150,000 in value. But the DVLA is fighting the case, its lawyers disputing that the car's logbook could be taken as hard proof of its age and provenance. He decided to sell the car as it was no longer considered an historic vehicle, which also meant it was not subject to road-tax exemption (surely the least of his problems!). He received only £100,000 for the car following the ruling, and is now claiming that the DVLA failed to warn him.

Seddon's barrister, John Black QC, told the High Court that Seddon believed the Cobra's now-void logbook – which listed the car's tax status as historic and a first registration date of 1964 – 'confirmed that the DVLA must have been satisfied as to the provenance of the car in order to register it as an historic vehicle'.

Black also alleges that the DVLA 'made a conscious decision' to delay an investigation into the car's history until after the vehicle has been sold to Seddon. Two months before he purchased the Cobra, the DVLA already 'had reason to suspect that the integrity was in doubt', Black added. In response, the DVLA argues that it does not owe a 'duty of care' to buyers, and that the car's logbook cannot be taken as proof of its age and provenance.

Experts are recommending that buyers pay more attention to a car's history before exchanging money. Some sellers themselves may not be aware that the vehicle they are selling has been repaired, restored or altered in a way that could have changed its provenance and thus its value. A ruling will be made at a later date.

On the subject of court proceedings...

DISORDER IN THE COURT

THESE ARE THINGS PEOPLE ACTUALLY SAID IN COURT, WORD FOR WORD

(I was going to only use car-related quotes but these are just too funny not to share - Howard)



Q: What is your date of birth?

A: July 15th

Q: What year?

A: Every year.

Q: And where was the location of the accident?

A: Approximately milepost 499.

Q: And where is milepost 499?

A: Between milepost 498 and 500.

Q: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

A: Gucci sweat pants and Reebok trainers.

Q: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?

A: Yes.

Q: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

A: I forget

Q: You forget. Can you give us an example of something that you've forgotten?

Q: How old is your son, the one living with you.

A: 38 or 25, I can't remember which.

Q: How long has he lived with you?

A: 45 years.

Q: You say the stairs went down to the basement?

A: Yes

Q: And these stairs, did they also go up?

Q: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

A: The autopsy started around 8:30pm

Q: And Mr. Dennington was dead at the time?

A: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy.

Q: Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people?

A: All my autopsies are performed on dead people.

Q: You were not shot in the fracas?

A: No, I was shot midway between the fracas and the navel.

Q: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

Q: Were you present when your picture was taken?

Q: She had three children, right?

A: Yes.

Q: How many were boys?

A: None.

Q: Were there any girls?

Q: When he went, had you gone and had she, if she wanted to and were able, for the time being excluding all the restraints on her not to go, gone also, would he have brought you, meaning you and she, with him to the station?

MR. BROOKS: Objection. That question should be taken out and shot.

Q: How was your first marriage terminated?

A: By death.

Q: And by whose death was it terminated?

Q: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

A: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

Q: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

A: No.

Q: Did you check for blood pressure?

A: No.

Q: Did you check for breathing?

A: No.

Q: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

A: No.

Q: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

A: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

Q: But could the patient have still been alive nevertheless?

A: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practising law somewhere.

Next time – car insurance claims

Thanks for your captions for the February picture of a Bugatti.



Received entries	From
<i>"Three wheels on my wagon and I'll keep rolling along" Glad there's no Cherokees following</i>	Roger
<i>Mr Morgan has an inspirational moment for his new model</i>	Ade
<i>"Guess I'm back on Skid Row again!"</i>	Howard
<i>"That's wheely funny"</i>	Howard
<i>He was looking to win by a wheel but had forgotten that it still had to be attached to count!</i>	Alan
<i>"I'm going to kill that mechanic. I clearly remember telling him to 'Knock the knock-on', not knock it off!"</i>	John H

This month's winner chosen by Noel is Ade. Well done!

The picture for March is:

Your entries by email to:
mediatvmgoc@gmail.com
by 23 March please



MY MG AND I

<i>Names</i>	Karon & Tim.
<i>Occupation</i>	University Lecturer: I'm a Senior Lecturer in Criminology and Policing. I was a serving police officer for 30 years before becoming an academic in 2010. My main areas of interest are community policing, radicalisation and violent extremism. I also do some consultancy, advising police academies in other countries on their structure, organisation and curricula.
<i>Where are you from?</i>	Surrey. We moved to Devon in 2015. My daughter studied at the University of Plymouth and then stayed down here after graduation. She married a Plymouth boy and is now expecting our first grandchild. She lives just around the corner from us in Hooe.
<i>Your MG history</i>	I've only owned one MG, my current car an MGTF 135.
<i>Why MGs in particular?</i>	They are a famous British marque with a wonderful history.
<i>What was your best trip in your MG?</i>	Trip from Bisley in Surrey to Plymouth.
<i>Any other cars?</i>	Currently a BMW 1 series sport
<i>What are your other interests?</i>	Good food and wine. Art galleries and theatre. Travel, current affairs, politics, history, history of religion, religious architecture.
<i>What is your ideal Sunday?</i>	Get up late, read the papers and then a long walk in the afternoon.
<i>What was or is your holiday of a lifetime?</i>	Our last family holiday (plus our kids) in Cuba.



???

QUICK TEASER - ANSWER

???



The best-selling, most environmentally-friendly car in the world is The Little Tikes Cozy Coupe, the red and yellow plastic toy that gave kids their first fix of driving, and most likely their very first crash. The car's design, that includes a horn which honks like a clown's nose, is described as "a cross between a Volkswagen Beetle and Fred Flintstone's vehicle" and has now resulted in well over 13 million sales. For the toy's little driver it gives a view of the winding road ahead to be covered with joy, wonder and wanderlust. Whilst its MPG is astounding, sadly its 0-60 time is rubbish.

Although the Cozy Coupe was number 4 in the *Top Gear* '20 cars that changed the world' list, there is no mention of an MG. However in James May's '10 cars that changed Britain' he highlights the MGA, saying, "Not a radical car but a

departure for MG, the A was named – the story goes – for its change from a pre-war upright look to a modern, curvaceous form. The A was a massive export success, especially to the US. In many ways it is responsible for nurturing the long love affair of the Americans for the small British roadster. It was a template of sorts; modestly powered, small and light, and immense fun to drive. Successive cars from MG and the Triumph and Austin-Healey would follow a similar pattern. Ironically, the MGA is rare in Britain. Under 6% went to the home market, making it one of the most exported cars Britain has ever produced."



Elvis in the MGA featured in the movie Blue Hawaii. He loved the car so much that he bought it and it is now on display in Graceland. What good taste in cars he had. Fit for a King!



AND FINALLY...



A man buys an MGB V8 and is really beginning to enjoy it when he sees flashing lights in the rear view mirror. He floors it and is rapidly up to 100mph when he realizes the foolishness of what he is doing. He slows down, then pulls over and soon the policeman pulls up behind him.

The lawman comes up to the window and asks, "What were you thinking, taking off like that?"

"Well," the man replies after thinking about it for a bit, "a few years ago a traffic Police Officer ran off with my wife."

"What does that have to do with anything?"

"I thought you were bringing her back."

A man walks into a car parts store and asks, "I need a gas cap for a Kia."

"Okay," said the sales person, "That sounds like a fair swap."

Devon & Cornwall Police announced that they wish to interview a motorist wearing high heels and frilly knickers, but the Chief Constable said they must wear their normal uniforms. *(with apologies to the Two Ronnies)*