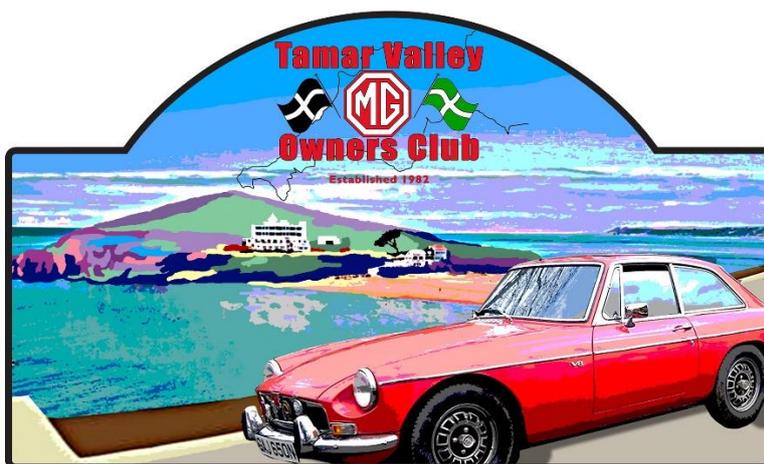


Newsletter March 2021 Edition



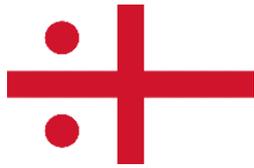
This Month:
Committee reports
Upcoming events –
How the new government
timetable affects our plans
News snippets
E10 & E5 fuel
Spring woes
TV programmes
Gallery
Caption Competition
And finally...



Gentlemen, our MG dress standards
have fallen over the years!



ENJOY YOUR MG MORE WITH TVMGOC



Secretary's Report



Most of us have found this second lockdown worse, with rather dreary weather keeping us indoors. I suppose the upside is that I am not missing many opportunities for top-down motoring. The MGR is safely in the garage avoiding the biblical wind and rain, while I have been dealing with domestic issues as our Tavy Cottage heating decided to fail in the coldest of the weather. Not that looking at the TV has brought much solace, with the constant rehashing of the impact of COVID on our News channels. I don't know whether news producers think that leading us into a succession of desperate family tragedies is necessary to remind us that COVID is bad, but someone ought to have noticed that the cumulative effect is profoundly dispiriting. Either way, TV news does not seem to feel responsibility for any of this and, more than this, seems unable to move with the times. I don't think that anyone is interested in the usual circus of trying to trap politicians with their own words – but it seems that this is what journalists think their job is.

Nevertheless, as I type there is a tangible sense of spring in the air. Birds are singing their hearts out, the sky is a strange shade of blue that I almost remember, and everywhere the trees, bushes and plants are getting more muscular by the day, with buds ready to explode with their seasonal message of renewal and goodwill.

Against this portent of recovery, all the vaccination indications are really positive and, despite the fact that we are not there yet, the Government Steps to normality at least give us something to plan on. Howard will expand on this in more detail in his piece, but the summer looks good for Club runs and a bit of ordinary life returning. I flashed up the MG yesterday and it sprung to life with gusto, so much so that I immediately used it to conduct an essential local shopping trip. Not quite a full power trial, but enough to fill the senses with the simple enjoyment of a sports car, the open road and Dartmoor on song. All of this means that I am more than ready for the forthcoming year. Every run, every trip away, and every opportunity to get together will have a very special impact this year, and I hope that we are collectively able to remember and appreciate all that we have in the simple things of life – friends, laughter and a classic car on a sunny day. Not long now.

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,

Well by now you will have seen Boris's roadmap out of the Covid restrictions. For Tamar Valley not too much is going to change for the time being. There is now at least a chink of light at the end of what has been a very long dark tunnel for us all.

(See Upcoming Events for details.)

It will be so good to get on the road once again and have a blast in the MG without breaking the 'unnecessary journey' caveat, when allowed to do so of course.

National Drive It Day may be a good time for that blast down the road but quite possibly you may have to limit yourselves to a maximum convoy of two cars (four people). It is still a good excuse though to get your MG nice and shiny.

If the time scales do not change then it looks as if our monthly meetings will resume in July.

Hopefully, you will all be able to come along to the new venue at The Moorland Hotel, Wotter and give our club a really good kick-start.

At least it seems that our club weekend to the Cotswold Caper in July should be able to take place. So that is something that those entered can look forward to.

Your online presence would be very much welcomed for the upcoming Zoom AGM meeting on the 3rd March. We will have a brief club meeting after the AGM concludes to update you all on any club activities and let you have your say.

By now, I am assuming that most of us have managed to get the first Covid jab and that those members of a younger vintage will not be too far behind. I really hope that this is the magic bullet and that our lives can return to normal.

In the meantime, I urge you all to stay safe and well, try and remain patient as members of Tamar Valley, and that you are able to come along once we open for business.

Alan



Event Secretary keeping it wheel



Dear Motorneers,
The last time our club was able to meet in person was a year ago. We had all gathered at the Dartmoor Diner where the usual handshakes, hugs and kisses were replaced by occasional elbow touching. We had no idea that even those precautions would soon be ill-advised and inadequate.



Pam and Neil had worked out a route which turned out to be lovely. On that day, the overcast, drizzly landscape was brightened up by countless daffodils and primroses that lined most of the route. Lambs frolicked in the fields.

We crossed Denham Bridge over a torrent of fast-flowing, brown water and passed lovely views of Dartmoor and especially Brentor. Our route encompassed Bridestow, where the moors loomed high above, their summits coyly hidden by cloud, before stopping for a hearty lunch at the thatched Bearslake Inn. We left well fed and happy, but concerned about what was to come.

Our fears were justified. Before March 2020 was over, we were all put in lockdown and the microscopic Covid 19 virus had the world in its grip. But back then no-one had any idea that our lives would be so thoroughly b*****d up, and in some cases ruined, for the foreseeable future. All classic car events would be cancelled, as was a lot of MG fun we had looked forward to.

But right now, it will be a few weeks before we can think about meeting up in person again, and I can't help but wonder what I'll be reporting on this time next year...

Talking of hope for the future, Simon and I heard news of a tempting trip to Brittany. I'm passing this on, not to recommend it, as you'll see, but to explain our thinking. Here's the blurb:

For some years now the MGOc has been visiting a music festival in France, called FestJazz, in a place called Chateauneuf du Faou in Brittany. The location of this festival is just 50 miles south of Roscoff, so it is really easy to get there, and it is in a very picturesque area. It includes a Rally of MG and other classic cars. The French just love our cars.

The festival has a fantastic, friendly atmosphere with a mix of generations enjoying the music and dancing, the scenery and, of course, the food and wine. The festival dates will be 23rd to 25th July 2021. It really is a full fun programme, combining driving with friends and live music - the music, by the way, is based on swing jazz but in fact there is plenty of rock 'n' roll, blues and country music too and it is ALL fun.

So, you'll see why we were tempted. However, though we can currently make plans to travel abroad in July, it may not be a good idea, and Simon and I independently came to the same conclusion. Come July, all of us might have had a second vaccination, but that doesn't mean we'd be safe to mingle in a singing, dancing, shoulder-to-shoulder boozed-up crowd at a festival.

Then there's the French themselves. I have checked various sources to confirm this: they are historically the most reluctant nation in the world to get themselves vaccinated. Specifically

regarding Covid-19, to date they simply haven't trusted the science or their government's advice. Recent polls suggest just 57% of the country intend to get vaccinated, whereas in the United Kingdom 89% want to get a shot for COVID-19.

Now President Macron is having to eat his words after his outspoken and ill-founded doubts concerning the efficacy of British vaccines, which are performing better than anyone dared hope. This week's news story is about how French GPs are frantically embarking on a vaccination catch-up programme whilst facing a shortage of supplies.

So in the light of that, if you attend JazzFest what are the odds you'll be in close proximity to someone who was spreading Covid? No vaccine can provide 100% protection. Consequently, for health reasons only, I for one want to stay well clear of La Belle France for a while to come.

As Event Secretary, I have made an executive decision not to pass on any information about JazzFest this year. If you fancy going you'll have to find out for yourself 'cause I'm not telling.

However, I am now on the organiser's mailing list and have asked to be informed about the 2022 event. Fingers crossed...

And talking of France, during the awful weather we had in January and February forcing my MG to languish in our cold garage waiting for some sunshine, road salt and mud to wash away, another casualty of the Covid restrictions was our annual ski holiday to the French alps with one of our daughters, Emily, and her family. This is a big deal for me, though I do realise in the current situation it's an indulgent craving.

Watching *Ski Sunday* has only amplified my feeling of loss as the snow conditions across the alps look amazing this season. I think my favourite sport is downhill racing. I admire and appreciate the skill and bravery required in the face of danger to go really fast. Emily once did a season as a chalet maid and skied daily. Ever since she outpaces me because I'm just too scared to keep up. Skiing fast is easy – you just point down the slope and go. It's staying up, turning and stopping that's difficult!

That said, I accidentally came across this record on my phone's sat-nav Ski Tracks app from a day last year in Tignes, when for once I seem to have grown an extra pair of cojones. Now I know this is going to come across as a bit of a brag, but I'll risk your groans as it's something that made me smile and remember happier days.

Look on in disbelief as Ski Tracks revealed I'd hit a *vitesse* of 121kph - that's 75mph in old money - on two planks! That's faster than I've ever driven my MG...officer.

Happy MGing...if not skiing!

Howard

*PS I doubt I kept up that speed for more than a short distance, but it did register so it counts!
Most likely I was in a hurry for an après ski vin chaud. À votre santé*



Mes statistiques cumulées depuis 2019

281	25096	6
<small>DISTANCE (k.m)</small>	<small>DENIVELE (m)</small>	<small>JOURS DE SKI</small>
3169	66	121
<small>ALTITUDE MAX (m)</small>	<small>DESCENTES</small>	<small>VITESSE MAX (km/h)</small>

Points 2697 >

Journées 6 >

Challenges 49 >





UPCOMING EVENTS

The most up to date and detailed information on all 2021 events can be found and downloaded on the [Event Diary Page](#) and the [Entry Forms page](#). See: www.tvmgoc.org.uk

Boris's roadmap and how it affects our club's plans

As I have previously stated, the first event that is conceivable to take part in would be Drive It Day on 25 April. So which way does the roadmap point, and when can we fit a car run in? Well, the road ahead is not really clear until 17 May. According to Boris and Chris Whitty's caveat it will be data, not dates, that will drive the following plan:

Stage 1 – part 1 - no earlier than 8 March

Two people from different households can meet outside for recreation, which can include "a coffee on a bench".

Stage 1 – part 2 - no earlier than 29 March

People will be allowed to meet outside, either with one other household or within the rule of six, including in private gardens.

Stage 2 - no earlier than 12 April

All shops, zoos, theme parks, hairdressers, UK holidays etc will be permitted to open.

Restaurants and pub gardens will be allowed to serve customers sitting outdoors.

No additional mention is made in Stage 2 about the number of people who can meet outside, so we can only assume the "rule of six" will still apply. One could interpret this as meaning that two cars could do a run and a picnic or meet outside at a pub.

Also, if UK holidays are allowed then it must mean (it's not actually stated!) that we are no longer bound to stay within our close locality, so for Drive It Day on 25 April it is possible to do something in pairs but not all of us at the same time.

It might be a good idea to stay away from potential tourist hot spots; if you remember the stories from Lockdown 1 about gridlocked roads around places like Durdle Door and Bournemouth, you might be better off tempering expectations.

Stage 3 - no earlier than 17 May

People can meet in groups of up to 30 outdoors. Pubs, restaurants and other hospitality venues can seat customers indoors, though the rule of 6 or two households applies.

The MGOC say: "So from that date you could organise a Sunday run or similar as long as you meet up outside and your final destination is outside, e.g. a picnic in a park AND no more than 30 members attend."

In response to this, the large Exeter MGOC Moor2Sea run which some of us have entered, has been delayed from the end of May until Sunday 4 July.

Stage 4 - no earlier than 21 June

The government hopes to be in a position to remove all legal limits on social contact.

It means road trips, holidays and basically anything you had planned before last March should be good to go.

The MGCC do not expect to be able to run social gatherings until after 21 June 2021 at the earliest. This may also be the date when **MGOC** allow club organised runs to restart.

So, if all goes well, we could start on 27 June organising a Friday supper run.

Physical club meetings at the Moorland Hotel can start in July.

Rosemoor Vintage Show 1st August Currently we have five cars signed up to visit this beautiful garden and car show on the Sunday. Everything takes place outside, and so we can be reasonably confident this will go ahead. If you have entered (and if not, why not?) please let me know and I'll ask if we can have a group display for our club. The entry is free and the form on our website.

MG Live! This has been canned for the third year running. The MGCC feel they were unable to do advanced planning in time. Some racing behind closed doors might happen at Silverstone.

“Massive” new Triumph & MG Weekend 13 – 15 August

The MG Car Club have teamed up with TR Register Car Club to create a mega event. This marks a “historic collaboration” between Triumph clubs, and the MG Car Club to create the Triumph and MG Weekend at the Three Counties Showground, Malvern. Entry is not restricted to MGCC members and the link to enter is in our Event Diary.

Moor2Sea – delayed The Exeter MGOC run has been delayed until Sunday 4 July.

Cotswold Caper is going ahead as planned in July.

Friday supper runs – Volunteers please to organise these with fingers crossed in July & August. September is People & Places, October the Tulip Trophy Run, then we'll need a Sunday Lunch in November.

Picnic runs at short notice – can be arranged in addition from July, weather permitting.

Cream Tea Day run Friday 25 June can go ahead without restriction. Organiser required.

Classics for Carers 2021 – 20 March

Our collections of rally plaques haven't been topped up for eighteen months or more as we have been unable to take part in anything. This year that can change.

Following the success of two events in 2020, raising £17,500 for NHS charities and winning an RAC Historic Award (voted Motoring Spectacle of 2020), Classics for Carers is back for 2021.

Share your passion for classic motoring on your driveway and online, to give those on their permitted daily exercise a different view for the day as they stroll past!

The 2021 event is focused on NHS well-being and mental health, aiming to raise £13,000 to fund an NHS wellbeing pod – a quiet restorative space for staff. Buy this rather nice rally plaque

for £12, with profits going to charity There is also a link to Just Giving and additional donations can be made. See: <https://shop.dragonflyrally.co.uk/march-2021-classics-for-carers-rally-plate>



LOCAL EVENTS

MARCH 2021

3 TBC	Monthly meeting	To be held online via Zoom
20	Classics for Carers 2021	Park in your driveway and post photos online

APRIL 2021

7 TBC	Monthly meeting	To be held online via Zoom
25	DRIVE IT DAY - TBA	New regulations mean this cannot be a full club run

May 2021

5 TBC	Monthly meeting	To be held online via Zoom
NIA	Devon & Cornwall event	Atlantic Coast Express (ACE) Run D&C MGCC
Cancelled until 2022	Devon & Cornwall event	Launceston Steam & Vintage Rally

Delayed to 4 July	Devon & Cornwall event	Moor 2 Sea Run (Exeter MGOC)
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JUNE 2021

2 TBC	Monthly meeting	To be held online via Zoom or at Moorland Hotel, Wotter PL7 5HP
6 confirmed	Other event outside our local area	Southampton & New Forest MGOC New Forest Run
NIY	Devon & Cornwall event	Tavistock Steam & Vintage Fair Speculative planning will begin in the New Year
11	Club Friday supper run	Not allowed
NIY 20 TBC	Devon & Cornwall event possibly cancelled	Morwellham Quay Father's Day Classic Car Day
25	Devon & Cornwall event	National Cream Tea Day - TBA

JULY 2021

4 July	Devon & Cornwall event (moved from May)	Moor 2 Sea Run (Exeter MGOC) Starts and finishes in Tiverton
7 TBC	Monthly meeting	Possibly to be held at Moorland Hotel, Wotter PL7 5HP.
Friday 9 to Monday 12	TVMGOC Club weekend away incorporating Cotswolds Caper Date Clash	Friday 9th July - Drive up to our destination. Probably Gloucester or Cheltenham area depending on choice of hotel. 3 nights stay. Saturday 10th July - Our own tour of the Cotswolds. Sunday 11th July - Cotswold Caper Run. Monday 12th July - Return home.
11 confirmed	Other event of interest outside of local area	Cotswold Caper – Gloucester MGOC
10-11 confirmed	Devon & Cornwall event Date clash	Powderham Castle - The Crash Box Classic Car Show All TVMGOC entries to go via Club Secretary.
16	Club Friday supper run	TBA
18 TBC	Devon & Cornwall event	Re:Fuel car meet at Mansell Raceway, Dunkeswell EX14 4AH. On third Sunday of each month. Pre-book for am or pm here: https://www.re-fuel.co.uk/
18 confirmed	Devon & Cornwall event	Wadebridge Wheels Royal Cornwall Show Ground Entry online from 1 March
23 – 25 confirmed	Devon & Cornwall event	Boconnoc Steam Fair – Liskeard (The Boconnoc Motorsport Carnival is in August)
24 – 25 confirmed	Other event outside our local area	MGF25 at the British Motor Museum at Gaydon
25 TBA	Devon & Cornwall event No Longer Confirmed	English Riviera Show on Paignton Green - Torbay Old Wheels Club.
30 – 1 confirmed	Other event outside our local area	Coast to Coast across the North Pennines see: http://www.frenchblat.com/

AUGUST 2021

30 July – 1 Aug confirmed	Devon & Cornwall event TVMGOC members going on the Sunday	VINTAGE WEEKEND RHS Garden Rosemoor Great Torrington EX38 8PH 2021 entry form is on our website
4 TBC	Monthly meeting	Moorland Hotel, Wotter PL7 5HP.
Thurs 12 confirmed	Devon & Cornwall event	Okehampton Show Stoney Park Showground, EX20 1SW
13 TBA	Club Friday supper run	TBA
13-15 confirmed	Other event outside our local area	Triumph & MG Weekend - Malvern
15 TBC	Devon & Cornwall event	Re:Fuel car meet Mansell Raceway, Dunkeswell EX14 4AH.

25 27 confirmed	Other event outside our local area	MGA REGISTER GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY TOUR H&J booked
NIA	Devon & Cornwall event	Great Trethew Vintage Rally August Bank Holiday whole weekend
29 confirmed	Devon & Cornwall event	AVETON GIFFORD SHOW 11A, TO 3PM

SEPTEMBER 2021

1 TBC	Monthly meeting	Moorland Hotel, Wotter PL7 5HP.
17 – 19 confirmed	Other event outside our local area	Goodwood Revival
12 TBC	TVMGOC Event	PEOPLE AND PLACES 6 The Tamar Valley MG Owners Club invitation run organised by Howard & Jan
19 TBC	Devon & Cornwall event	Re:Fuel car meet Mansell Raceway, Dunkeswell EX14 4AH.
24 – 27 confirmed	Other event outside our local area	MGCC MGA Register Golden Anniversary tour of East Yorkshire.

OCTOBER 2021

6 TBC	Monthly meeting	Moorland Hotel, Wotter PL7 5HP.
NIA	Devon & Cornwall event	The Rut – this year organised by D&C MGCC
17 TBC	Devon & Cornwall event	Re:Fuel car meet at Mansell Raceway, Dunkeswell EX14 4AH. On third Sunday of each month. Pre-book for am or pm here: https://www.re-fuel.co.uk/
17 TBC	Club Sunday Lunch	The club Tulip Trophy run by Alan and Alison

NOVEMBER 2021

3 TBC	Monthly meeting	Moorland Hotel, Wotter PL7 5HP.
21 TBC	Club Sunday Lunch	TBC
21 TBC	Devon & Cornwall event	Re:Fuel car meet at Mansell Raceway, Dunkeswell EX14 4AH. On third Sunday of each month. Pre-book for am or pm here: https://www.re-fuel.co.uk/

DECEMBER 2020

TBA	Club Christmas Dinner	
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News snippets



Government decision on E10 petrol

Richard M. has been in dialogue with MGOC's Roger Parker and received this:

In line with the feedback received to this consultation, we can confirm that we'll introduce legislation as soon as possible to require fuel suppliers and retailers to introduce E10 petrol in the standard 95-octane petrol grade by 1 September 2021. We'll also require the higher-octane 'Super' grade to remain E5 to provide protection for owners of older vehicles.

Subject to parliamentary approval, the introduction of E10 at forecourts will occur during summer 2021 supported by a comprehensive communications campaign.

Everything you need to know if you do travel abroad.

See: <https://www.hagerty.co.uk/articles/green-card-international-driving-permit-and-gb-sticker-everything-you-need-to-know-about-driving-in-france-spain-and-the-eu-from-2021/>

Classic car owners will face Brexit 'watershed' in 2021, paying large sums to travel abroad

Some of the true impacts of Brexit and coronavirus are now hitting home. Historic motoring enthusiasts, such as some of the TVMGOC members, love international travel in their old steeds. Hagerty warn that classic owners will need a range of new documents when travelling abroad and it is still unclear whether historic vehicles are exempt from EU emissions zone regulations.

Many owners travel abroad to show off their machines at international race meetings and car shows and it's the so-called 'trailer queens' - those cars that are rarely if ever used on the road but instead kept pristine just for showing (*Groan! – Ed.*) - that could fall foul of new regulations.

Hagerty warns that drivers may need to obtain an Access/Temporary Access (ATA) Carnet if they ship their car on a lorry or trailer. This acts as a passport for goods, with each pass costing drivers hundreds of pounds. In this case a returnable bond payment is also due, valued at up to 40 percent of the total goods. (*Ouch! – Ed.*)

Bonham Christie said: "When you load a car onto a trailer or into a lorry, it becomes 'goods'. You need a 'green card' from your insurer for each element – the car, the towing vehicle, and the trailer – and as you're transporting goods, you also need an ATA Carnet. It's not as if we haven't done this before – the system has been the same for entry to Switzerland for years – but it adds a new layer of cost and complexity to the process."

Black and Silver number plates

...are now only legal on cars built before 1 January 1980 despite being recorded in the DVLA's historic class. In addition, from 1 January 2021 it is no longer legal to fit a new number plate which displays the Euro symbol. Plates already fixed to vehicles are unaffected.



Spring woes - Nigel S. writes about his Midget:

I recently replaced the faulty Moss rear springs I'd only just fitted for the re-bushed originals, and what a difference!! The car is about 3 inches higher and doesn't scrape on uneven ground or go up onto the bump-stops now when going over 'speed bumps!'

The ones supplied were clearly not tempered properly and I had doubts about even fitting them, which were confirmed when I did! Fortunately, I supplied them with fully documented pictures of them fitted to the car showing the springs lying horizontal with no arch at all, under just the weight of the car. Something they couldn't dispute, so I got a full refund, even though I ordered them back in April 2019. I wonder if anyone else has had problem with weak springs supplied from Moss (Europe)? I remember they were in short supply when I ordered them and I had to wait, so perhaps they were sourced from a 'dodgy' manufacturer! It turns out the originals were fine, just benefiting from cleaning-up, re-painting and re-bushing. So, she's all ready for day trips now.

Strangely enough, when I checked on 'YouTube' re. the fitting of the rear springs on the Midget, the guy in America mentioned that the springs he had bought under 18 months before, also came from Moss (Europe), and he wasn't impressed with their quality and how long they'd lasted either! Just putting pressure on them prior to fitting, and comparing the two sets, I realised the newly supplied ones were much more easily compressed under foot, and the arch wasn't as pronounced as the

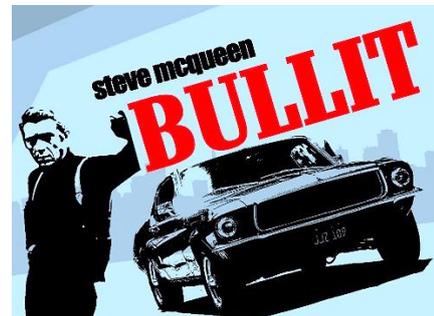
original ones I'd just removed. I think deciding to keep the originals was the right decision, as I only thought I'd change them because I'd renewed the rest of the front and back suspension and brakes and wanted peace of mind that everything was either new or refurbished.

Has anyone else had similar issues, from whichever supplier, of sub-standard, weak springs?

April Zoom meeting

Unless someone begs me not to, I'm to be the turn at the April meeting giving a PowerPoint talk and movie show about stories behind the exciting car chase from Bullitt. Please ensure you Zoomers know how to change from Gallery View to Speaker View and plug in some decent sound speakers if you can, to get the full effect of screaming V8s and screeching tyres.

Howard



Bangers & Cash, eee by gum!

Fans of this lovely series will be pleased to hear that the fourth series returns on Yesterday channel on 4 March at 8pm. It features nice people, lovely stories and interesting cars.

If you've not seen this, it follows the family-run Mathewsons Auction House in Thornton Le Dale as they unpretentiously sell classic and vintage cars and memorabilia. It's as unpretentious as Yorkshire itself.



Car SOS

Experts Tim Shaw and Fuzz Townshend have zoomed into action to help restore an MG Metro 6R4 rally star back to its former glory. The spanner-wielding duo were called in when the owner of a rare MG Metro 6R4 couldn't complete the renovation due to ill health. It was then discovered this was the very car used by Scottish rally legend David Gillanders.

Tim said, "It took longer to complete the work on the 6R4 because of lockdown but we got there and it's one of the most amazing projects we've ever had in the workshop. It's been a real privilege to bring this car back to life."

A special 50-minute extended episode of Car SOS covering the MG Metro 6R4's restoration will go out on March 11 at 8pm on the National Geographic Channel. It kicks off the new series, which also includes renovating a Jensen Interceptor, Fiat X1/9 and Rolls-Royce 20/25 Doctor's Coupe

Young woman inherits an MGA

A grandfather left his granddaughter his cherished car, and now it is transforming her life. This smashing video reveals through fresh eyes what classic car ownership can mean.

See: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/5094864969/permalink/10151576929249970/>



Gallery

Here's a red beauty, but perhaps all is not quite what it seems. I saw this parked in Morrisons at Plymstock. I'm sure I've spotted it a couple of times before driving around the South Hams.

Jaguar XK120s were built from 1948 to 1954 and 80% of them were exported.

While assembled in Coventry, the Jags were more at home cruising along the sun-kissed Sunset Strip in LA.



The 120mph car debuted at 1948 Motor Show and cost £1263 8s 11p. Country Life magazine noted that in terms of potential sales, the XK was "probably the most important car to be shown by British Industry". XK120s were supplied with a body panel that encased the rear wheels, but many owners remove them as they can't fit over the protruding hub spinners needed for wire wheels. However, after posting the above photo on the Classic British Cars Facebook page, some eagle-eyed experts pointed out that this is not a real XK but a kit car.

The giveaways apparently are the bonnet hinges, bumper and the windscreen. At the time I took the photo, my untutored eye thought the seats didn't look quite right. It's a nice ride anyway.

Examining this picture of a beautiful and genuine XK120 the differences are just about noticeable - and see the enclosed rear wheels.



On the subject of Jags: frankly, dear reader, I drooled over this immaculate XKR spotted in Mannamead. It sports a supercharged V8 that puts out 370hp. If I was in the market for a V8 gas guzzler saloon, I'd be really, really torn between one of these or a Jensen Interceptor.

On my travels I also saw a Mini Cooper. She was making brandy barrels for Saint Bernard dogs. Her name was Minnie Driver. *(It's too soon in the newsletter for jokes, especially these! – Ed.)*



Tim P. spotted this MGB and a two-tone Magnette as he drove past a garage in Staddiscombe. If anyone sees them again, please pop one of our club flyers under a windscreen wiper. I'm sure we all carry a few in our car's glove boxes for just such an eventuality. You *do* have a few don't you?

Safety Fast! carries an article about Paul Rigby MG, a dealership that is based in the old art deco MG Conference Centre in Longbridge, Birmingham.



As well as selling new MGs there, the main hall hosts a collection of classic British cars including this unique concept, an MG TF Coupé.

Known as MG4, had it been put into production it would not have been offered for sale in the UK since it could have been deemed to be a distraction from MG's then core offering. Shame.

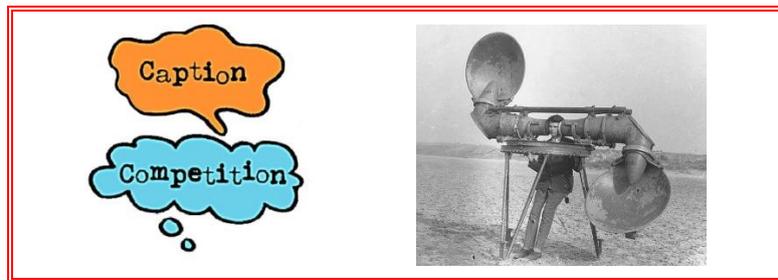


Making the most of a break in the weather, this visiting Stag was spotted in Thorn Park. It was immaculate.

And while we are in gallery mode, here's a smashing and rare photo of MGAs, probably Twin-cams judging by the Dunlop wheels, arriving in Los Angeles c.1959.

The cars look really tiny, but perhaps the men were tall!





Received entries	From
3rd = <i>This lets me hear who is dishing the dirt on me!</i>	John I.
5th <i>Early Sky broadcasts were not easy to receive.</i>	John I.
<i>Wimbledon banned the new tennis racket proposed.</i>	John I.
2nd <i>Specsavers new hearing aid range was not well received.</i>	John I.
<i>Man invents a new propulsion system for a paddle steamer.</i>	Howard
1st <i>The lengths some people will go to tune into the Archers!</i>	Howard
<i>I still can't hear Simon & Garfunkel's first UK hit.</i>	Howard
<i>"What do you mean 'I never listen to a thing you say'?"</i>	Howard
<i>1920s Test by Sony of prototype for their Walkman</i>	Andrew
<i>NHS hearing aids, I think I'll go private.</i>	Roger
<i>"Hark! Peter's Green Devil is not far away...I can hear his brakes squealing"</i>	Peter S.
<i>That's an old joke - I corrected the squeal in lockdown.</i>	
<i>"Yes, Alan, you are right, the tappets are knocking"</i>	Peter S.
<i>Still waiting to hear some good news on interest rates, it's a long time coming!</i>	Richard M
<i>Straining to hear the Brexit benefits</i>	Richard M
<i>I'm sure I heard an MGA a moment ago but it was just a dream.</i> <i>(PS this should get me a bonus point)</i> <i>(Good try to ingratiate yourself Richard, but Gavin's judging this month and he's an MGC man – Ed.)</i>	Richard M
<i>The latest defence device being demonstrated for socially distanced Boris but so far "nothing heard"</i>	Richard M
<i>I hope Julian washes his hands well after playing with South West Water's new effluent dispersal machine.</i>	Alan C.
<i>The ants are busy this weekend.</i>	Margaret C.
3rd = <i>The original twin horn system.</i>	Janis
<i>A Cornish Twitcher on Par Sands, determined to be the first in 2021 to detect the call of the illusive Chuff, as it crosses the Channel.</i>	John H

**To choose the winner of last month's competition, Gavin put it to a family vote.
They chose one of mine.**

**Many thanks, so I get to choose next month's winner - whoever comes up with the best caption for this picture.
Your entries by email to:
mediatvmgoc@gmail.com**





And finally...



What's the difference between a kangaroo and a kangaroot?
One is an Australian marsupial and the other is a Geordie self-isolating.



How come there's enough tarmac to make speed humps
But not enough to fill pot holes?

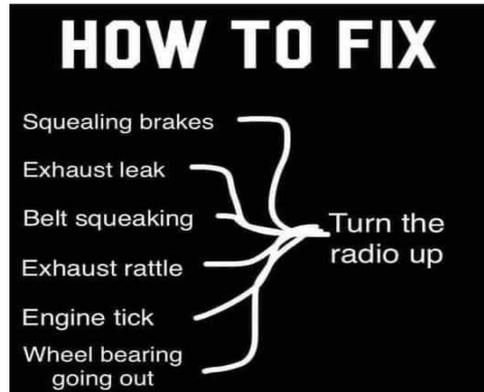


THINGS CHANGED FOR BATMAN WHEN HE GOT MARRIED AND MOVED TO THE SUBURBS.

GO AND FETCH THE ROLLS, PARKER



ANDREX OR KLEENEX, MI'LADY ?



Good news beer gardens are open in April



Have you noticed how many F1 drivers have names linked to Scottish towns?

Stirling Moss

Lewis Hamilton

Eddie Irvine

.....Ayr Town Centre.

I've just been barred from the local petrol station for playing The Who's greatest hits at full volume. Looks like I Won't Get Fuelled Again!