

**Newsletter
January
2023**



This Month:

Committee reports

Upcoming events

Emissions – classic cars vs mobile phones

Electronic Ignition systems

More on emissions

Classic Cars and mental health

Classic MGs – an appreciative essay that might surprise you

Gallery



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Secretary's Report



Happy New Year to you all! The last report was just before the Christmas Dinner Dance, and I am happy to report that this was a great success, most of it run by Janis to whom we owe a resounding thank you! The lack of live singer did not seem to have a major impact and there were certainly smiling faces all round. I hope that the Festivities were as enjoyable for all as they were for Charlie and me, although I confess that for us there is always a slight (and no doubt unworthy) sigh of relief when the house reverts from family hotel to just ourselves!

Now with our Christmas and New Year Festivities comfortably in the Rear View Mirror, it is time to focus on the year of opportunity before us, with the open roads beckoning and much fun to be had. Planning for our monthly runs is well underway, and our Club mini-break to the Hereford/Ross-on-Wye area is proving very popular and is thus booking up fast. We are a little way before the show season, but this too is starting to book up as entries open. We are certainly looking at Powderham and Fowey this year, and others will very likely follow so it would be wise to keep an eye on the website.

As you know, our big Club run this year will be 'People and Places' on Sun 17 Sep to which all MGOC members, and other classic car friends, are welcome. Route planning is well under way with the start point in the Plymouth area and we aim to take in the South Hams and our beloved Dartmoor on a scenic and enjoyable day out. Sharp eyed readers of 'Enjoying MG' will note that although our run is correctly positioned in the September future events section, someone has pasted an August date onto ours and another. This will be sorted by next month when we start the Colour Advert.

I am grateful to you all for your updates helping me to produce the latest Car List, where readers can see that we have quite a few MGRs in our club. You might be interested to know that we have featured in the charity calendar produced by MG V8 guru, Clive Wheatley, for this year.

With all this and the club photographic competition shortly to be revealed, cameras and smartphones will be required features of all our runs! The MGR group photo attached was taken on my camera by Sylvia C and shows 5 of 'our' MGRs.



On the MGOC front there is a clear focus on the 100th Anniversary of MG, to be celebrated on 27 May at the British Motoring Museum <https://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk/whats-on/mg-centenary> which should certainly be an interesting event. It's nice to see that it is co-sponsored by all the MG Clubs (including the MGCC and MGOC) working in unison. Look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Simon

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

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Notes from your Chairman



Hello everyone,

I really hope that you have all had a great Christmas and may I wish you all a **Happy New Year!** We had a full house with our three young granddaughters keeping us on our toes, so that was fantastic. Emily and Hazel were still nursing coughs when they arrived from Surrey and did their very best to pass them on. So far, touch wood, Alison and I seem to have avoided catching whatever they had.

I was hoping for a dry day over Christmas so that I could take the two eldest granddaughters out in the MGB for the first time. Obviously that never happened as we endured torrential downpours throughout the festivities. Flooded, muddy roads are something that I do not actively seek out for my B.

Recently in the B&Q car park I got chatting to a young man in his MGBGT. He was very personable and obviously didn't seem to worry about taking his car out in all weathers. He had a good excuse for not wishing to join our club though, as he lived in Essex. It turned out that his parents actually live in Plymouth, and he regularly makes the journey down to see them in his MG. I hope he has, at the very least, upgraded his headlights for the long journeys!

Looking ahead to the club's MG activities for the next few months, apart from our club meetings we do at least have our monthly Sunday lunches to keep us active. Alison and I are already thinking about our plans for organising April's '**National Drive It Day', Treasure Hunt Trophy Run and Sunday Lunch.**

Date: Sunday 23rd April 2023. Please add this date to your diaries if you can come along and join in.

The lunch venue will be **The Weary Friar, Pillaton, Saltash, PL12 6QS.** It has changed hands since the last time we lunched there as a club and the current owners have done a fair bit of updating etc.

Obviously it is early days and we haven't sorted out the finer detail yet. I will try and have a tick-sheet available for the January meeting so that you can at least get your names down. Look forward to seeing you at the January meeting.

Happy MG motoring,

Alan



Dear Motorneers,
Happy New Year! And there's lots of MG events to look forward to.

Firstly, you may have noticed that this newsletter has a new header rally plate, this time featuring an MG Z. Since 2019, changing the featured car each year has been a bit of a newish tradition of mine. It began with a TF like Tom's, 2020 featured an MGB, 2021 a BGT V8 (actually Gerald's) and last year, after realising all so far had been red cars, a white Midget driven by a woman. Now for 2023 you'll see I've gone a bit more modern and placed a Z car like Neil & Pam's Yellow Peril in a suitable sunny landscape which I hope you like. What will it be next year? You have 12 months to bribe me regarding model and colour!



Secondly, thanks must go to those who have volunteered to organise a run next year. We now have just two months of this new year to fill. Our website will feature details of the start times and locations for club runs (so you no longer have to keep asking me!)

The full list of club event dates is below. In addition, our website and the Event Diary will include details of shows and runs organised by other clubs. I'll also flag these up as details appear. Some are there already.

It is pleasing that our club mini-break to East Wales and the Hereford area has been so quickly taken up by 13 club cars. Making a group booking with most hotels needs to be done well in advance - if you can find a block of rooms available roughly when you'd like. I know not everyone can commit yet to summer dates, but part of my reasoning to visit this area, apart from not being too far away and promising lovely scenic drives, is that anyone who wants to join us at a later date could probably find alternative accommodation nearby. As it happens, just 3 miles down the road from our hotel near Hereford there is a Travelodge. Anyone staying there could join us at The Pilgrim for dinner and take part in the runs so, if later on you'd like to join us, it's likely that will be possible.

Finally, I just want to clarify the change in my role now that Janis has become the club Social Secretary (to be confirmed at the AGM). The committee propose that club events such as Sunday Lunch, Friday Supper and the Cream Tea picnic are to be designated social events (which they are anyway). So it is planned that the management of these falls off my shoulders to land on Janis's. She will organise the organisers.

As Event Sec., I will continue to provide details of car shows and runs organised by other clubs, e.g. The Rut. In addition, and outside of this role, I will continue to produce the newsletter and administer our club website.

Happy MGing!

Howard

PS My New Year resolution is to start growing my own food. Where can I get bacon seeds?



Upcoming events

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

See: www.tvmgoc.org.uk

The local event list, complete with the names of which members are taking part in various events, has been emailed to you along with the monthly newsletter.

The more complete Event Diary is on our club website but for data protection reasons does not list the event participants. You'll also find entry forms there.

TVMGOC DATES 2023			Lunch organiser
Jan	<i>Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon – Chat & Chill + winning entries of our photography competition with PowerPoint talk + how to organise a club run</i>	9 Jan	
	Club committee meeting	11 Jan	
	Lunch on 4 th Sunday starting Tesco Lee Mill to Dartmoor Lodge	22 Jan	Howard & Jan Run organiser – Alan & Alison
Feb	<i>Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon ‘Quiz Night of the Year’</i>	13 Feb	
	Lunch on 4 th Sunday	26 Feb	John & Bee TBC
Mar	<i>Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon – club AGM</i>	13 Mar	
	Lunch on 4 th Sunday	26 Mar	Nigel & Naomi
Apr	<i>Club Monday meeting at Manadon (not 10th as it’s a Bank Hol.) Peter Stabb talk on WWII 2 & Coronation medals</i>	3 April	
	Drive It Day inc. Treasure Hunt – lunch at The Weary Friar, Pillaton, Saltash, PL12 6QS.	23 April	Alan & Alison
May	<i>Club Monday meeting at Manadon – There are now three Bank Holidays in May so the 15th is the only one left.</i>	15 May	
	Supper run – Friday a week after the club meeting to The Old Inn Widecombe	19 May	Richard & Kathryn
June	<i>Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon</i>	12 June	
	National Cream Tea Day – last Friday in June to Iain & Helen’s barn nr. Launceston	30 June	Iain & Helen
July	<i>Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon</i>	10 July	
	Supper run – Friday a week after the club meeting or Sunday Lunch on 4 th Sunday lunch	21 July 23 July	Neil and Pam
Aug	<i>Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon</i>	14 Aug	
	Supper run – Friday a week after the club meeting or BBQ TBA or Sunday Lunch on 4 th Sunday lunch	25 Aug 27 Aug	Required
Sept	<i>Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon</i>	11 Sept	
	People & Places Organised by the committee	17 Sept	Committee
Oct	<i>Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon</i>	9 Oct	
	Lunch on 4 th Sunday inc. Tulip Trophy	22 Oct	TBA
Nov	<i>Club 2nd Monday meeting at Manadon</i>	13 Nov	
	Lunch on 4 th Sunday	26 Nov	John & Bee
Dec	<i>No meeting</i>		
	No lunch or meeting – Christmas dinner	TBA	Janis



News snippets



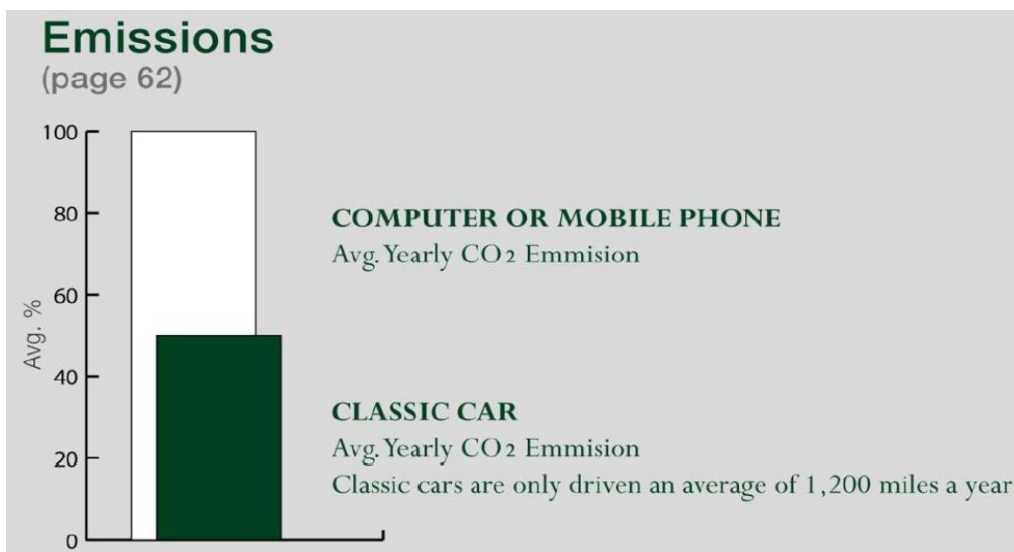
Quite a claim

Yes, the Hamster really did say this on the right. But is this extraordinary claim true? Time for your scribe to do some digging.

The extrapolated claim is based on a report by the Association of Heritage Engineers' report on the economic impact of the historic motor Industry in the UK. To reach this conclusion many factors have to be taken into consideration. For example, the manufacturing emissions for keeping a classic car on the road can be said to be zero when compared with making a new car. The old engines pollute more but the average mileage is so small at 1200 miles per year that their overall emissions are very low.



The ecological footprint of a typical classic car is a total of 563 kg of CO₂ emissions per year. This is equivalent to around half of the emissions from smartphone use every year taking into consideration manufacturing, battery materials, recharging etc. Electronic components contain lithium, cobalt and zinc, all of which must be extracted from the earth in open-pit mines, which can lead to toxic wastewater, not to mention further transportation. In addition, interiors and many components are often made of plastic, and plastic waste poses a serious challenge to the environment.



<https://www.associationofheritageengineers.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Economic-impact-of-the-HIstoric-Motor-Industry-in-the-UK-final-Dec-10-3.pdf>

MG Cyberstar

News of a planned MG electric sports car was reported in a club newsletter back in early 2017. Since then, various designs have been teased and there was a name change from E-motion to Cyberstar.

Finally, it was announced that this long-promised soft top would go on sale in April of this year. But guess what? Yes, MG is now predicting first deliveries in the first half of 2024. Don't hold your breath. Covid is blamed.

Classic Cars and your mental health

The link below will take you to a rather wonderful article from the Car and Classic website inspired by Mental Health Awareness Day back in October. I do hope you'll read it as I've seldom come across a better endorsement for the many and varied benefits of classic car ownership.

The author suffered with mental health issues, and he explains eloquently how his 1999 Rover 800 Vitesse has greatly improved his mind set. After working on and improving the car he says, "I look at it, and I see me. I see a physical representation of my personal progress and increased mental wellbeing."



Whilst I am glad to say that I do not suffer from mental problems (*I'll be the judge of that! Ed. Me too! Mrs Ed.*), the benefits outlined in the article of owning a classic car completely resonated with me.

Please read this with your own car and indeed your membership of our club in mind.

I hope it will help you to look forward to a brand-new New Year of MG adventures.

<https://www.carandclassic.com/magazine/mental-health-and-classic-motors/>

Howard

Electronic ignition

MGOC technical guru Roger Parker has produced a detailed article about various types of electronic ignition systems that could be fitted to our MGs. It also discusses the advantages and disadvantages of points and compares performance vs. cost of various electronic units.

This article is now in the technical section of our website along with many other articles.

More on emissions

It is noteworthy that the organisation behind some of the world's toughest rallies including Lejog (Land's End to John O'Groats) has said more needs to be done to help the environment.

The Historic Endurance Rallying Organisation, HERO, says Lejog is to be completely carbon-neutral by buying carbon credits that contribute to environmental projects to reduce greenhouse gases.

The organisation says, "We are committed to protecting our motoring and engineering heritage, a precious industry that is enjoyed by many. To ensure we do so effectively we must protect our environment as well."

So are there signs that there is a backlash against classic car owners making journeys and burning fuel purely for pleasure? A Classic Car Weekly headline suggests there is concern: 'International experts say that our hobby needs wider public acceptance to prevent it being caught out by environmental legislation'

The accompanying article reports on concerns of the Federation Internationale des Vehicules Anciens that EU legislators may turn their attention to historic vehicle use and their emissions.

The aim must be to ensure these vehicles are accepted from an environmental perspective.

The only way to do this is by reducing our carbon footprint and to be seen to be doing it.

Sir Greg Knight MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Historic Vehicle Group, says successive Governments have been supportive of classic vehicles but adds, "We will clearly have to fight our corner."

The only way to do this will be for organisations and individual owners to act to reduce the effects of their vehicle emissions. One easy way is via the Tree-V scheme, as mentioned in the previous newsletter.

MG – an appreciation by Jeremy Clarkson

“If you're a fan of classic cars, you've probably heard of MG. And if you're a fan of British engineering, you've probably heard of MG. And if you're a fan of tiny sports cars that look like they were designed by a madman, you've definitely heard of MG.

“Now, I know what you're thinking: "MG? Isn't that the car company that went bankrupt in the 1980s and has been dormant ever since?" Well, you're half right. MG did go bankrupt in the 80s, but it was resurrected by a Chinese company in the early 2000s. And let me tell you, these guys are not messing around. They've been cranking out new MG cars left and right, and they're all as mad as a box of frogs.

“But enough about the new stuff. Let's talk about the good stuff: the classic MG cars. These are the ones that have been delighting gearheads for decades with their quirky styling and fun-loving personalities. Whether it's the tiny MG Midget, the sporty MG B, or the elegant MG TC, these cars are a joy to behold.

“But don't just take my word for it. Go out and find an MG for yourself. Take it for a spin on a twisty mountain road or take it to a car show and watch the crowds go wild. Trust me, you won't be disappointed. And if you are, well, at least you'll have a great story to tell your grandkids.”

MG – an appreciation...not by Jeremy Clarkson

There has been much written recently about a prototype chatbot called ChatGPT. "What's that?" I hear the uninitiated ask. It's an AI - Artificial Intelligence - computer programme that that can often, though not always, write plausible text in response to a prompt. Jeremy Clarkson didn't write the above accolade to MGs, he had nothing to do with it. ChatGPT penned it, every word.

For fun and interest, I asked the programme to write something 'in praise of a classic MG car, in the style of Jeremy Clarkson' and the above is what it came up with. Were you fooled? Are you impressed?

ChatGPT has become wildly popular almost overnight, going from zero to one million users in its first five days. It can usefully do something that we personally might find difficult.

My daughter Katie, who is highly intelligent and articulate in her own right, has used ChatGPT to improve some of the articles she writes for her web-based business. ChatGPT, by drawing upon thousands, perhaps millions of published articles and research on similar subjects, understands the complex technical aspects of their company software and can help express its workings, explaining in clear and simple terms to those seeking to understand how to use it. Katie says it has improved her written output, and that's saying something. Most recently she used it to write a variety of kindly rejection letter templates for the 900+ job applications she received for a web designer with her company.

Now educators are terrified that this programme heralds the end of essay-based academic assessments. It's a cheater's gift.

I think that the vast majority of people reading the above article wouldn't think twice about believing Clarkson had written it. Whilst not being particularly funny it does have his distinctive style and voice, but thank goodness the AI didn't try to include an insult about Meghan Markle as well!

As for the content of our club newsletters, I'll probably not use it again...or will I? How would you know? *(It might make my proofreading easier. Ed's wife).*

Howard



Gallery

This is not your everyday MGA being offered for sale. It has a supercharged 1.8 ltr 5 bearing MGB engine with billet crankshaft, Arco conrods and pistons, ported alloy head, roller rockers, extractors and custom fabricated air intake, mated to a 5 speed Supra gearbox and limited slip diff.

The car underwent a complete nut and bolt restoration in 2003, costing over \$150,000 at the time. Since then, the car has hardly been used. It's being sold in Australia but there's no mention of price. In all likelihood the owner is going to take a big hit.



It's great to see that the Daily Telegraph has chosen this image from MGB60 at Gaydon as one of their top images from 2022.

The engine of the 1965 classic MGB GT edition, nicknamed the "divorce model" because it is separated, is polished for the 60th anniversary of the sports car at the British Motor Museum in Warwickshire.



Mille Miglia Team 2022

I'm green with envy! How I'd love to take part in the Mille Miglia alongside this Hungarian MGA, captured here climbing the Italian Alps. Sadly, you have to have an eligible car, specifically: *Vintage documentation attesting the (car's) participation in a 1000 Miglia between 1927-1957 and chronological history of the car.*

Oh well. The Babe Magnet will just have to content herself with our planned trips to Hereford and the Welsh borders this year, as well as her entry into the MGA tour of the Lake District! BTW, this MGCC Register trip has something like 70 MGAs taking part with many coming over from abroad. That will be a sight to behold.

But to cap 2023 off, who needs the Italian Alps when we have in September our very own People & Places extravaganza!

Howard



THE DAYS BEFORE GPS





Received entries	From
<i>I'm worried about Roy as he said he'd love to strip down a midget next!</i>	John I
<i>Sonia is telling Kate, "Roy thinks he's getting carbs for the MGA for Xmas. But he's going on a carb free diet."</i>	Janis
<i>He said it was how long?!</i>	Howard
<i>Roy always says 70 is the new 60. Now he's been banned for speeding!</i>	Howard
<i>Roy's been trying to make a car without wheels. He works on it tirelessly.</i>	Howard
<i>Now, now girls don't fight over Roy... just share him</i>	Bee
<i>Now ladies, I want a clean fight, following WWO rules. Two pins, two submissions or a knockout will decide the winner.</i>	John H.
<i>Howard's Christmas Colour Supplement arrives with the club.*</i>	Simon
<i>Does Roy's waistcoat do up? Not when he laughs...</i>	Simon

**And the winner of last month's cliff-hanger chosen by Peter is Bee. Well done!
She will choose next month's winner**

****I wish it did get that much reaction! Ed.***

Here's next month's photo that requires illuminating with a bright caption. Don't hide your light under a bushel. Send your entries by email to: mediatvmgoc@gmail.com





And finally...



A 10-year-old girl is walking home, alone, from school one day, when a big man in an open topped sports car pulls up beside her.

After following along for a while, the driver turns to her and asks, "Hey there little girl, do you want to go for a ride?"

"NO!" says the girl as she keeps on walking.

The driver again pulls up beside her and asks, "Hey little girl, I will give you £10 if you hop in."

"NO!" says the girl again as she hurries down the street.

The driver pulls up beside her again and says, "Okay kid, my last offer! I'll give you £20 and a big bar of chocolate if you will just hop in the car and we will go for a ride."

Finally, the girl stops and turns towards him and screams, "Look, Dad. You're the one who bought a Triumph Spitfire instead of an MGB. I wouldn't be seen dead in that thing!!"

Thank goodness that's all over with for another year!



A guide to the seasons:

Jan - Winter
 Feb - Winter again
 Mar - Winter but one day of sun then more winter
 Apr - Warm winter
 May - Winter but with shorts
 Jun - NOT YET
 Jul - NOT YET
 Aug - SUMMERFORABIT
 Sept - Autumn
 Oct - Winter again
 Nov - Yes winter
 Dec - Expensive winter

Dave

I've been promising to take the Mrs away on a cruise for years. I can't wait to see the look on her face when she opens her eyes...



**And now an important announcement for drivers travelling to Cardiff on the M11.
 The M11 doesn't go to Cardiff.**

Engineering at it's finest.

