

Newsletter January 2026



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



Secretary's Report



Dear Motorneers,

Now is the time to fix any issues with our cars ready for another spring, summer and autumn of MG motoring. Hopefully some more of you will join us on our club mini-break to Kirkby Steven and Shrewsbury and there is more about this later in this newsletter.

You may recall that our People & Places run raised £500 which we donated to Devon Air Ambulance. At the Christmas lunch our excellent raffle of donated prizes raised £160. We were all asked to write down the name of a charity it should go to, and low and behold, Treasurer Nigel's slip was pulled out of the hat, and he had nominated Devon Air Ambulance. Consequently, our total going to DAA has now risen to £660. Well done all!

Drive It Day fundraising problems

You may recall in the last newsletter that I was hoping to make DID a proper fundraising event for Childline, which is one of the major objectives of this national historic vehicle event. I'd hoped to put on a display in Tavistock, but it turns out that the Council requires £230 for the space. So that's not feasible and it seems all other cash-strapped councils charge similarly.

So, what to do? Give up on trying to raise a charitable donation from passersby or is there anywhere else we might try that would be free to park. Any suggestions?

Toothless

I broke a tooth on Boxing Day. I mention this to advise you not to have an urgent dental problem during the Christmas/New Year holidays. Trying to get emergency treatment was like pulling teeth, but that was exactly what I needed. I've discovered the hard way that having a dental emergency between mid-December and mid-January is seriously bad timing. According to 111 phoneline there were no appointments available anywhere in the whole of Devon. I had to wait until the Monday to pay £135 for an emergency consultation with my own, previously NHS, now private, dentist and a further £205 for the extraction!

Do say, "I'm sorry for your loss.". Don't say, "Mind the gap."

Happy MGing!
Howard

To contact our club secretary,
call +44 7801 055128 or email
clubsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com



Chairman's Report



I thought that the Christmas period really delivered this year, starting of course with the excellent Club Christmas lunch where Janis, supported by Jill, did a fantastic job of putting together a really enjoyable occasion.

In terms of the weather, while cold weather isn't for everyone, I don't like the usual fare of cloud, rain and mist; so freezing, clear skies and a spot of snow was just the thing. For me it was also the first year with new granddaughter Florence, and as you can imagine all Naval reserve has been dropped as I rediscover Baby whispering skills to get her to sleep.

Enough of me: the club enters the New Year in good heart. We have just had our last committee meeting before the AGM in March and reviewed all our activity. We are in a good financial position, so can keep subs down, and we have a plan for runs where we don't have a volunteer to organise it. The big news is that Janis needs to stand down as Social Secretary, as the toll of the monthly runs has left her without her usual joie de vivre. She will still do the Christmas event – but needs a break. If you can help the club by volunteering – send me or Howard an email. The rest of the committee will continue, for which I am really grateful.

So as Top Gear used to say, on that bombshell, Happy New Year!

Warmest Regards

Simon



At our recent meeting much was discussed and we have information to pass on.

Committee nominations & Social Secretary vacancy

The committee unanimously voted for Simon to stand again for another year as our club chairman. The other committee members said they are willing to stand again for the role of Secretary, Treasurer, Event Secretary, and Membership Reps 1 & 2.

However, after much excellent work, Janis has decided she wants a break and is to step down from the position as Social Secretary. Now we need someone new to step forward in time for the membership vote at the March AGM.

The job entails being on the committee (we meet about three times a year), helping and encouraging event organisers as necessary and being the conduit between them and the club membership. The Soc. Sec. also ensures information on the club website and newsletter is up to date by informing the newsletter editor and website administrator. The rest of the committee and Janis herself can offer an incoming Soc. Sec. lots of experience.

Janis is willing to continue to organise the Christmas lunch and is already trying to find a suitable date.

Please do consider taking on this important and active role, not least because it is a way of giving something back to the club membership and getting to know everyone even better.

Club stands at shows

We have chosen the four events we plan to attend this year with a club stand – Powderham, Darts Farm, Harrowbeer and Fowey. These are highlighted green in the event diary, but not all dates are available yet. In addition, we may be invited to go to Flete House again to support St Lukes Hospice.

Club awards

We discussed the club awards and decided to possibly rename the Drive It Day Treasure Hunt to enable it to fit various scenarios and avoid any suggestion of a competitive element whilst driving.

The Tulip Trophy will be renamed and relabelled The John Hunt Tulip Trophy.

The Irene Williamson Trophy for the best club run will be awarded at the AGM. Janis will draw up a list of the previous year's runs from January 2025 to February 2026 and this will be sent out to members to vote on after the February lunch run.

The Enthusiast of the Year will also be awarded at the AGM.

Club subscriptions

Next year's subs will remain at £10 for a year and £5 for a half year.

Sunday lunch/Friday supper run organisers

The committee continues to be frustrated by the unwillingness of newer members to play their part and organise runs.

We agreed in future to pay organisers of lunch/supper runs the cost of their food as encouragement and thanks, and also to cover their fuel expenses in planning the route.

2026		
		Upcoming events – for the most up to date and detailed information see: www.tvmgoc.org.uk
SOME OTHER SHOWS YOU MAY WISH TO ENTER AS AN INDIVIDUAL ARE ALSO LISTED ON OUR WEBSITE		
Jan	12	Club 2nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge Howard talk on their MG trip to the Pyrenees and Mallorca
	18	Sunday lunch run to The Hunting Lodge – Janis
Feb	8	Sunday lunch run to Dartmoor Lodge – organised by Howard
	8	International MG and Triumph Spares Day Stoneleigh Park
	9	Club 2nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge – Quiz night
Mar	1	Register for Fowey (on 20 Aug) https://www.foweyclassiccar.com/
	9	Club 2nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge – club AGM
	15	Sunday lunch run – organised by John & Bee
	20-22	The Practical Classics Classic Car & Restoration Show @ NEC
Apr	2-5 TBC	Vintage Vehicle Rally, Rayle Farm. Near Redruth TR16 4QP. https://www.raylefarmevents.co.uk
	13	Club 2nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge Possible Howard talk on The Long and Winding Road (not the Beatles song!)
	26	Drive It Day & Walking Treasure Hunt organised by Jan & Howard Details TBA

May	2-4	Launceston Steam Rally & Vintage Rally https://steamrally.bravesites.com/
	10	More To See Run – Exeter MGOC https://exetermgoc.com/2026-more-to-see/
	11	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge
	TBA	Friday supper or Sunday lunch run – organiser required
	24-26	Port Eliot Motor Show https://www.facebook.com/p/Port-Eliot-Motor-Show-61578798916894/
June	7	S'ton & New Forest MGOC - New Forest Run start & finish at Exbury Club. https://www.1009mg.org.uk/new-forest-run-2026/
	8	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge
	21 TBC	Darts Farm Classic Car Show (Typically on Father's Day) We will attend as a club so lots of entries please
	26 TBC	Cream tea run Janis + Helen
	20-21	Plymouth Motor Show, Newnham Park Adam 07776281740 Steve 07781156128 theplymouthmotorshow@gmail.com
July	4	Totnes Classic Vehicle Show https://riverdartratory.co.uk/totnes-classic-vehicle-show-2026/
	5	Cotswold Caper https://glosmgoc.co.uk/the-cotswold-caper-2026/
	TBA	Powderham Castle - The Crash Box Classic Car Show We will attend as a club so lots of entries please
	5 or 12 TBC	Truro Classic Car Show https://www.trurobid.co.uk/projects/eventsmarketing/truro-classic-car-show
	13	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge (clashes with Shrewsbury)
	10 - 12	Club holiday to The Fat Lamb, Kirkby Stephen - organised by Howard & Jan
	13 - 15	Club holiday to Albright Hussey Manor, Shrewsbury - organised by H & J
	19	Wadebridge Wheels https://www.wadebridgewheels.co.uk/
	TBA	Friday supper or Sunday lunch run – organiser required
	25-26	Rosemoor Vintage weekend – entry form on our website
Aug	10	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge
	20	Fowey Regatta CC Show note 1 March when entries will be open We will attend as a club so lots of entries please https://www.foweyclassiccar.com/
	22-23	RAF Harrowbeer 1940 show We will attend as a club so lots of entries please https://www.rafharrowbeer1940s.com/2026-event/
	TBA	Friday supper or Sunday lunch run – organiser required
Sept	14	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge
	TBA	Sunday lunch run – organised by Janis & Nigel S.
October	TBA	John Hunt Tulip Trophy Run – organised by Gavin
November	TBA	Sunday lunch run – organiser required
December	4 or 18	Club Christmas lunch at Yelverton Golf Club



News snippets



2026 Photo competition

You must all be aware by now that I get a lot of pleasure from taking photos of my MGA. For the third year running, one of my pictures has been chosen for the MGOC Calendar. It's not exactly like winning the lottery but it makes me happy.

More of my photos appear in the January *Enjoying MG*. They illustrate two articles I

have written about the MG trip Roy & Sonia, Paul & Lesley and Jan & I did to the Pyrenees and Mallorca last autumn. I expect part 2 will be in the February edition. Before then, I'll be giving a little illustrated talk about this journey at the January meeting so do try and come along.

Regarding photos, Richard has asked if there will be a club photo competition this year. I'd love there to be one, but it depends on whether enough of you send me in your best pictures.



Club calendar
Featuring winning photographs of MGs submitted by
MGOC members as part of our calendar competition.

£14.00
Code: MG CALENDAR

2026 MG OWNERS' CLUB CALENDAR
FEATURING BARRY HURST'S MG MGA

I have mentioned before that sometimes the right location and the right light come together serendipitously at a time when you have a camera to hand to capture the moment. Other memorable images have to be planned in advance, just as this picture outside the Union Inn in Saltash was. I waited weeks for the space in front of the pub to be empty, for the morning light and then for the pub to be repainted before I got my shot, which is the one chosen for the 2026 Calendar. There's nothing clever about this image, and I don't think it's the best in the calendar, but it does scream Best of British which explains why I took it and perhaps why it was chosen. The 11 other monthly photos are all excellent, very different from mine, and the calendar is well worth having.

Here's my thinking: we may have a club photo competition in late autumn, depending on whether I get enough entries. Therefore, you have most of the year to take a memorable shot of your beloved MG or submit one from last year. So, to paraphrase Claudia and Tess, "Geeeeet clickin'!"

Howard

Club holiday 2026

This is a good time to remind you of our club trip up north this summer. It is in two parts, and you are welcome to do one or both. The Fat Lamb in the Lake District provides routes and Shrewsbury MGOC have given me three of their favourites, though I've yet to check them out. They know and like the hotel and I also have some routes from the MGA Register which I'd modify, so we'll be spoilt for choice.

The names below are of those who have confirmed to me they are going and have made a booking. A number of others also expressed an interest and so if you decide to join us let me know. Both places look lovely. Nearer the time I will find out how those travelling up to Kirkby Stephen plan to do so, as some might like an overnight to break the journey.

FAT LAMB PARTICIPANTS Friday 10 – 12 July 2026

		Number of nights
1	Howard & Jan	3
2	Roy & Sonia	3
3	Simon & Charlie	3
4	Alan & Alison	3
5	John & Bee	3
6	Sally & Keith	3
7	Richard & Katherine	3

Fat Lamb, Crossbank, Kirkby Stephen

<https://fatlamb.co.uk/> enquiries@fatlamb.co.uk 01539 623242 – Angela or Paul

3 nights 10 to 12 July 2026. Pre-Christmas they had 5 rooms left for these dates.

The rate for 3 nights for 2 people sharing, B&B only = £424 excluding dinner which can be chosen from their menu and paid for separately.

Then on 13th we travel down to Shrewsbury. We would go through the Yorkshire Dales, which should be a nice day drive in itself. Others will meet us having made their own way there.

ALBRIGHT HUSSEY HOTEL, SHREWSBURY PARTICIPANTS Monday 13 – 15 July 2026

1	Howard & Jan	
2	Alan & Alison	
3	Simon & Charlie	
4	Pam & Neil	
5	Roy & Sonia	
6	John & Bee	
7	Sally & Keith	
8	Richard & Katherine	

Albright Hussey Manor, Ellesmere Rd, Shrewsbury SY4 3AF

<https://www.albrighthussey.co.uk/> info@albrighthussey.co.uk 01939 290 571 Lucy if she's there.

3 nights 13 to 15 July 2026 leaving on Thursday 16th. 12 rooms reserved – more available

£135 per single occupancy DBB per night

£190 per double occupancy DBB per night

Howard



Club Christmas lunch at Yelverton Golf Club

Once again, we enjoyed a splendid Christmas lunch at Yelverton Golf Club. Janis has already thanked all those who helped her organise the event and I would like to once again thank her as well on everyone's behalf.

The club's cellar had flooded, ruining all the power to the beer pumps, but that didn't put a dampener on our enjoyment. Everyone is so careful about not drinking and driving, and zero alcohol bottled booze is perfectly drinkable these days.

We were sad to learn that Peter & Jan and Chas were ill and had to cancel at short notice. As usual much nattering preceded the meal.



Janis had a story about Elves. We had to listen carefully as each time the story contained the words left, right or cross we had to pass a parcel around the table in that direction until eventually the parcel ended up in one person's hands. Inside were chocolate sticks to share around the table.



I was pleased to have found a Christmas emoji quiz complete with an answer page, so each table had a couple of sheets to peruse during the meal. As I looked at the emoji puzzles, I feared I had made a terrible mistake. They were really hard, bordering on the unfathomable. I assumed that out of 24 emojis perhaps someone might have guessed five right. I'd reckoned without Helen, though. Somehow, she'd deduced all but four correctly. How, I don't know!

The prize - glory in victory.



Our raffle table was awash with donated items, so many that it took a while to dish them all out. Some people won four or more prizes, resulting in jocular cries of "Fix!". Statistically, it's odd that one sequential strip of five tickets can win four times, but it happened.

Well done, Clive & Iain!

Having heard no complaints about the food (though service was a bit slow) I have every reason to believe the lunch was an unmitigated success, topped off by a beautiful sunset for our drive home.

Next we have the January lunch run to look forward to.

Howard





It is unknown what this book actually is, but the original joke caption is:
Man reads Volume 1 of How to understand women.

But what did you come up with?

Received entries	From
<i>Now where are the tyre pressures in the Haynes manual?</i>	John I.
<i>He's reading "Welsh Made Easy" by Dai Abolic.</i>	Howard
<i>MG Haynes manual, first edition!!!!</i>	Rob B.
<i>Howard, busy archiving his magazine articles... (sorry about that one)</i>	Peter S.
<i>Mr Small said he's not going to be reading this book in bed.</i>	David F.
<i>The big book of MGs was rather larger than expected.</i>	Simon
<i>OMG, it's the past records of the TVMGOC trips and meetings.</i>	Andrew H
<i>Now let's check the service book as to when the last oil change was done....</i>	John I.
<i>Now where did I read about setting the distributor timing?</i>	Richard M.
<i>He should have gone to Specsavers. Then he wouldn't need such large type.</i>	Howard
<i>The route map for the Sunday run seemed a bit too detailed.</i>	John I.
<i>Searching the Bodleian for the origin of MGs had revealed little more than a couple of spelling mistakes and an ink spot so far...</i>	Simon
<i>He's reading volume 12 of " Little things that annoy your wife."</i>	Andy S.
<i>The author is now on volume 33 and sees no end to this series!</i>	
<i>How far back do I have to go to find when the first MG was produced?</i>	Richard M.
<i>These TVMGOC rule books are getting bigger every day!!!</i>	Dave F.
<i>Our new webmaster is busy looking for bugs... and spiders.</i>	Peter S.
<i>Ahh! that's how you set up the timing!</i>	Clive
<i>The Secretary for Transport checks the new Traffic Regulations for 2026.</i>	Tom E.
<i>"How to repair your MG"!</i>	Nan
<i>Honey, I shrunk Grandad!</i>	Simon
<i>I know I've seen an article somewhere on how to bleed the air out of an MGF.</i>	Peter S.
<i>Before reading glasses were invented, the large print workshop manual was the only way!</i>	Tony S.

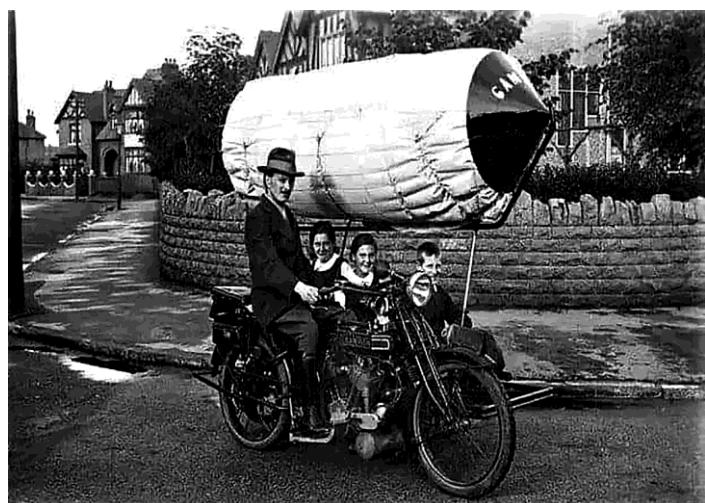
And the winner chosen by Maddie is John I. Well done!

He will choose next month's winning caption.

What on earth is this contraption?
 Please send your suggestions by the end of the month and title your email

Caption Competition to:

clubsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com





And finally...



The true definition of an " intellectual " is anyone who can listen to the William Tell Overture without once thinking of the Lone Ranger!

A woman's husband had been in and out of a coma for months, but she never left his side. Day after day, she sat by his bedside, holding his hand, her love and hope unwavering.

One afternoon, to her amazement, his eyes fluttered open. Slowly, he looked around the room and then motioned for her to come closer.

Her heart raced with relief and joy as she leaned in, tears welling up in her eyes. His voice was frail, but he managed to whisper, with a glint of emotion in his eyes,

"You know something? You've been there for me through every tough moment in my life."

She smiled, her heart swelling with love as he continued,

"When I lost my job, you were there to support me.
When my business failed, you stayed by my side.
When I got shot, you were there in the hospital, holding my hand.
When we lost the house, you stuck with me.
And now, with my health failing, you're still here."

Her eyes brimmed with tears, and she whispered back, "Oh, darling, that's so sweet. What are you trying to say?"

He took a deep breath, looked her straight in the eye, and said,

"I think you're bad luck."

Dad (smiling) - son, I don't mind you borrowing my car but please bring it back clean.



An RAF Typhoon pilot, has been arrested and is being questioned following a suspected friendly fire incident in Afghanistan. He was directed onto two unidentified primary radar contacts, the RAF pilot spotted two flying carpets, somewhere near Lashkar Gah and decided to engage them. Both carpets were shot down and destroyed, but initial crash investigations have revealed them to be Allied Carpets.....

