

**Newsletter
January
2025**



This Month
Committee reports
Upcoming events
Driving to the Alps
A new role for Simon
Seat belt warning
Christmas Party report

What does this number mean to you? 18436572.
The answer is later in the newsletter.



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



Secretary's Report



Firstly – Happy New Year! Charlie joins me in wishing you all the very best for 2025.

Looking out of the window, it feels a bit 'deep midwinter' in the Tamar Valley. Sadly, for the children at least, no snow but a lot of what the Scots would term 'dreich' cold, misty and decidedly damp. Not great for roadsters I fear, but that is England for you.

It does give us time to plan for the future, and this year we have our club visit to Llanerchindda in Wales in the first week of July. For those newer to the club we, as with many other Car Clubs, have enjoyed the experience of this Hotel before. With its excellent food, engaging hosts and carefully planned route books for each day of driving this is sports car heaven, for me at least.*

Most will know that every other year we put on a run of our own for fellow clubs to enjoy. Called 'People and Places' it will be run on Sunday 7th September this year and as I have said before, we would like as full a participation from the club as possible. With two clubs already showing interest, Events Secretary Howard has kindly offered to share some other routes to supplement our main event for clubs making People and Places planning an extended visit to Devon, which is really good of him. This may encourage others and so, if I may, I would encourage you to book early!

In other news the club enjoyed a cracking Christmas Party at the Yelverton Golf Club – thanks again to Janis for the organisation. Charlie and I were very touched to have won the prize for the most enjoyed run of the year as voted by members – not least because it is one of the few that a committee member can win!

Turning to club secretary mode, with our AGM coming up in March, now is the time to think about whether you might want to take a greater part in the running of the club as part of the committee, as it's always good to know who might be interested. Have a chat with a committee member if you are. Our final committee meeting of the year is on the 21st Jan, so it would be good to know by then. The AGM is also where we look at the constitution, making such amendments as are sensible, so if you have any thoughts do raise them with me as soon as possible.

Warmest Regards

Simon

**There may still be one room left. Contact Howard for details.*

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

01822 852843

clubsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com



Notes from your Chairman



Hello everyone,

I hope you have all enjoyed a great Christmas.

Alison and I would like to wish you all a healthy and happy New Year!

We spent Christmas in Surrey and had such a lovely time, and it was just magical to see the two girls excitedly burst into our bedroom at 6.30am to show us their presents from Father Christmas. Of course, we suspect that they know the truth but just play the game to keep mum and dad happy, and the presents coming.

We then returned to Plymouth the day after Boxing Day to prepare for the whole family to descend on us and have a complete re-run of the Christmas Dinner and also see in the New Year. It was fantastic to get all the grandchildren together, along with their mums and dads of course. How empty, peaceful and tidy the house felt after they had all left to go home. Even our dog Barney seemed a bit subdued but perhaps he was just exhausted from all the fuss and attention the kids gave him.

It is great that we are still welcoming new members into the club at this quiet time of the year, with Robert and Wendy apparently joining at the club's Christmas lunch. So a big welcome to both of you! I believe we have also got another two couples who have expressed a desire to join the club but have yet to come along. I hope they do so, as they will find their ownership and driving of an MG enhanced by sharing that experience with fellow members. As I have said many times before, 'It is the best £20/year we have ever spent!'

Talking about Sunday lunches, please save the date Sunday 27th April for 'National Drive It Day' and the club's Treasure Hunt Trophy Run and lunch, as Alison and I would love it if you could come along and join us for this event that we are organising.

We look forward to sharing another fun-filled MG year with you all in 2025.

Happy MG motoring.

Alan



Event Secretary on the piste

Dear Motorneers,

Happy New Year! There's not much to write about regarding MGs at this time of the year, but as we are a car club you might be interested in our journey to the Alps as this road trip is a big aspect of our annual winter holiday. Read this and you'll also discover why I came back full of aches and pains! So, I hope you don't mind if I take up a bit of space here, and also please indulge me as I talk little about skiing. In this terrible weather you'll probably be glad of the distraction!

We spent New Year in Flaine, France, driving down from Cambridge after Boxing Day with our daughter and her family. Jan and I had not used the channel tunnel before. Unfortunately, a train had broken down in the tunnel the previous night causing a 3-hour delay. On arrival at the departure terminal, cars are given a sequential letter to define in what order they may board the trains. In the chaos resulting from hundreds of frustrated and delayed motorists, this order completely broke down and so boarding the trains became a bit of a scrum to get in the queue. Once loaded the crossing was easy and uneventful.

Being in no hurry, we take two days to drive down to the Alps. A couple of hours or so south of Calais, our first overnight was in a city called Laon, a place we knew nothing about. Driving in the dark, our first glimpse from a distance was of an illuminated cathedral seemingly floating in the sky. As we got closer we could make out a large medieval city perched atop a giant rock plateau that rose out of the surrounding flat rural landscape. Staying here and briefly exploring the place was a very pleasant surprise. I recommend a visit to Laon if you ever pass that way.



Classic Car Tours have a package to attend a large classic car show in Laon this coming June.



Driving long distances in a foreign land is usually interesting, though this time we could see very little of the passing countryside as we spent the next few hundred kilometres driving through freezing fog. As with so many decent modern cars, wafting almost silently along at speed in the Merc is the opposite of the visceral sensory experience of driving our satisfyingly noisy and physically demanding MGA. By comparison driving the Merc is a non-event and in these foggy and monotonous conditions can be soporific. To stay engaged, I prerecord radio programmes and podcasts to listen to, particularly funny ones like *Just a Minute* and *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue*. These help the miles roll by, especially when the views are hidden. We then spent a second night near Annecy so as to be able to make an early morning start to arrive in Flaine to give us an extra day on the slopes.

I love approaching the Alps by road, as fields, woodland and hamlets gradually give way to bigger and bigger mountains until they loom above us on all sides. The excitement rises too! Eventually, we left the main autoroute and began the long corkscrew twisting climb upwards. Snow blanketed trees in the most picture-perfect way. It was beautiful, and one can only admire how well the French are able to keep the roads open and largely ice free, something our councils in the UK can only aspire to, as the recent problems on Dartmoor roads testify. My, how I love it in the snow-covered mountains! It's not just the skiing that attracts me, it's also the cold fresh air and spectacular locations. You just jump on a chair lift and within minutes arrive in the most incredible, awe-inspiring places. Descending is sometimes less easy as you'll read!



Fog in the valleys stayed stuck for days



Jan's hip replacement op being so recent, she wisely opted out of skiing, choosing instead to chill with her books. I'll not say too much about our week on the piste except to share a couple of important things I learned about myself. Both bad.

Lesson 1. Having got up early, not having breakfast or anything whatsoever to drink is a seriously bad idea if you intend to spend the day putting your body through physically demanding exercise it's not used to. In addition to the usual first day's aching legs, I became seriously dehydrated. My hip muscles were agony causing me to ski shamefully badly as my legs wouldn't do what was needed. Hunger didn't help either. This was a painfully poor start. At times I felt like a one-legged man in a butt-kicking contest.

Next day my skiing did gradually improve thanks to some rest, food and Paracetamol.

Lesson 2. My daughter Emily, a naturally elegant and experienced skier, and her husband Tom are both very fast on the slopes. I can match their pace, or at least I used to. Not so much now. For starters I'm too scared! We were accompanied by our two granddaughters. These girls are amazing and fearless on skis. They take to snow like alpine natives, but my aging legs, together with a fear of falling and my balance not being as good as it once was, mean I can no longer keep up with them as they bravely and gracefully carve down scarily steep icy pistes and plough through fresh powder. Oh, to be young again! Being so proud of their enviable skill only slightly offset my own feelings of decrepitness. Ho hum.



Emily



Susanna 10 and Isabella 13

Mid-week after an overnight dump of fresh snow and under cloudless skies I enjoyed some of my most enjoyable skiing ever, right up until a careless yooof crashed into me. I fell awkwardly twisting my already tired hips and painfully straining a muscle. It was gentle half days on the slopes for me after that, but it did mean Jan had some company as we caught the free shuttle bus into town to shop and relax. She had a pair of crutches with crampons on the end but didn't really need them.



There are cars under here somewhere!



Driving home in mostly good weather, you can appreciate how much bigger France is than England. By comparison Blyth seems compact and crowded. The autoroutes whisk you through hundreds of kilometres of open farmland and countryside. Where permitted it is easy to keep going at the maximum 130km, 81mph. The only boring bit is skirting Paris which is as uninspiring as driving on the M6 past Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

Not including rest stops and a small detour to visit Fontainebleau chateau, the most wonderful but disgustingly opulent place I've visited since the Vatican, it was an eight-and-a-half-hour drive from Flaine to Caen mostly on toll roads, some of which have to be paid online. With a full tank, our petrol Merc has a range touching 1000km, almost enough to get us all the way home from the Alps without refuelling. Try doing that in an EV with the wipers going, heater and lights on in battery-snapping cold weather. You'd have to stop to recharge at *least* three times. EVs have their place but are not ideal for long journeys if you want to crack on.

Waiting for the midnight ferry from Caen we dined at a favourite restaurant. My week away skiing had been eventful but great. Ok I got hurt which was partly my own fault, but just like Emily who broke her knee skiing three years ago, it seems nothing can put us off. We love the mountains and snow too much and can't wait to go again next winter. Note to self – get fit first!

The road trip was long and tiring but interesting and enjoyable. With a car crammed full of snow chains, a shovel and tow rope (none of which I've never needed to use), suitcases, skis, boots, helmets and food – we even took our new air fryer along as we were self-catering – driving down is the best option for us. Especially since fog on both sides of the journey disrupted flights and resulted in some travellers missing one or two days of their holidays.

Arriving in Portsmouth at 7am on a Monday morning, on the M27 past Southampton we spent mile after mile in a crawling gridlock of traffic and roadworks. In the past 12 months I've driven long distances in 5 foreign counties as well as Mallorca, all of them with roads better maintained and less congested than here in the UK. It was pouring down too. What a welcome home. At least Ski Sunday is back on the box!

Happy MGing!
Howard

2025

Upcoming events

The most up to date and detailed See: www.tvmgoc.org.uk

OTHER SHOWS YOU MAY WISH TO ENTER AS AN INDIVIDUAL ARE ALSO LISTED ON OUR WEBSITE

TVMGOC LOCAL & CLUB DATES 2025

Run start times and other details are here & on our website when available. Contact:

Howard re runs by other clubs, mini-break & Fowey Show & Parade: eventsecretarttvmgoc@gmail.com

Andy re all other shows: reptvmgoc@gmail.com

Janis who helps the organisers of Sunday lunches, picnics + Xmas lunch:

socialsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com

Jan	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge – Chat & Chill	13 Jan
	Sunday lunch run to Bearslake Inn, Sourton organised by Neil & Pam	19 Jan
Feb	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge – BLOOD BIKERS TALK	10 Feb
	Sunday lunch run – John & B	23 Feb
Mar	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge – CLUB AGM	10 Mar
	Sunday lunch run – Nigel & Libby	TBA
Apr	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge	14
	Drive It Day – Treasure Hunt Trophy and Sunday lunch organised by Alan & Alison	27 Apr
May	Sunday lunch run – Peter & Jan	18
June	National Cream Tea Day is on Friday 27 June – picnic in Ian & Helen’s barn organised by Janis	27
	Club mini-break to Llanerchindda Farm Monday 30 June to Thursday 3 July	30
July	Sunday lunch run - Sally and Keith	TBA
	MGF30 at Gaydon. Details on our website.	5&6
	RHS Rosemoor Vintage & Classic Weekend	26 & 27
Aug	Sunday lunch run	TBA
	Fowey Classic Car Show & Parade. Registration now open. Details on our website. Howard is looking after the list not Andy S.	Thurs 21
Sept	People & Places – organised by the committee	7 Sept
Oct	Tulip Trophy Run - Nick Clegg	TBA
Nov	Sunday lunch run	TBA
Dec	Christmas Lunch	TBA

MGF30 – Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th July 2025

The 30th anniversary of the launch of the MGF in 1995 will be celebrated in July next year with a 2-day event based at the British Motor Museum at Gaydon, near Warwick. The event organised by the MG Car Club’s MGF Register is open to all MGFs/TFs and hundreds of cars are expected to attend (over 600 at MGF25!). Other MGs are welcome to attend. Details on our website.



News snippets



Seat belt fines

You may have read about the introduction of AI powered cameras designed to catch motorists flouting various laws, especially the use of phones and not wearing seat belts. Pre-1965 classic cars that did not originally have belts fitted, could be issued with Notices of Intended Prosecution by forces using this AI technology. Seat belts are not on the DVLA register of vehicle details and so a driver of an older car not wearing one could face prosecution. Owners are encouraged to contact police if they feel an NIP was issued incorrectly due to the age of their vehicle. However, the idea that it is safe to drive a car of any age without fitting seat belts is questionable and potentially dangerous. Sacrificing a little bit of originality is surely worthwhile to stay safe.

Simon's new position

Recently our Club Secretary Simon informed your Committee that he would be occupied with a new prestigious and demanding position in London. Fear not, Simon will still be an active member of TVMGOC, but he will be away more than at present.

In my time at the BBC I had the good fortune, or sometimes misfortune, to meet numerous people in positions of power and authority. Some liked to stamp their authority and let you know how important they were. I also met a one or two senior military types who, even in retirement, chose to brandish their rank and assume seniority even in civvy street (and I'm not referring to anyone in our club!). I say this because one of the many things I greatly admire about Simon is how lightly and modestly he wears his achievements and impressive positions. So, to save his blushes, I am delighted to be the one to pass on news of Simon's new role.

The St John Ambulance Service has published a news update with the headline, "*Rear Admiral Simon Williams CB CVO OStJ to lead health charity*". To add to Simon's already long list of honours he can now include Prior of the Priory of England and the Islands of the Order of St John, and Chair of St John Ambulance.

The Prior is the most senior volunteer and acts as an ambassador for both the Priory and St John Ambulance across the country and internationally. Here I quote from and precis their press release:

Following a rigorous external selection process, where the final decision was approved by HRH The Duke of Gloucester, The Grand Prior of the Order, Simon will succeed Stuart Shilson LVO GCStJ DL from 6 January.

Simon has been a Trustee of the Priory and of St John Ambulance since May 2023. He is currently the Chancellor of the charity in England, a Crown Order of Chivalry, where he leads governance and strategic oversight of the Priory of England and the Islands, and the St John Ambulance Transformation Committee. He also takes Appeals for Royal Navy Service Complaints and is Chairman of the Royal Fleet Club Charity.

Simon has a wealth of senior experience in both the Ministry of Defence and Royal Navy, including multi-agency civilian and military operations, strategic people-change management and the leadership of Reserve volunteers. In his role as the Defence Services Secretary to Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, he oversaw policy for Orders of Chivalry, while he has also commanded the Royal Navy Leadership Academy and Training Establishments in addition to three Royal Navy Ships.

Shona Dunn CB, CEO of St John, says: "I'm so pleased Simon will be our next Prior... I know he will lead our talented Board of Trustees with distinction and continue to champion this wonderful charity with great care, compassion and commitment as we deliver our important work across the country."

Simon responds: "It is a huge honour to lead the Priory of England and the Islands and St John Ambulance, as we move forward on our journey of renewal. I will continue to serve St John to the very best of my abilities...and to support our wonderful volunteers and staff across the country. We are absolutely committed to ensuring a sustainable future for our charity, and a platform for St John people to enjoy a rich, meaningful experience in delivering life-saving capability to our communities."

On behalf of all our club members, congratulations Simon. I am sure it's fair to say we are all proud of you.

Howard



Following the success of our Christmas lunch in 2023, this year we returned to Yelverton Golf Club and again it all went very well. Something like 46 members attended and everyone was in a suitably jolly mood. Dress code was, well, whatever you fancied coming in, so there was a mixture of smart suits, Christmas jumpers and shirts and some lovely glittery ladies' outfits. I was annoyed that the battery in my illuminated reindeer jumper had gone flat, likewise with Neil's potentially flashing tie!

Janis had placed a couple of quizzes on each table which are always good ice breakers. Unfortunately, she had forgotten to bring the answers to the Christmas song emoji competition, but we all worked it out OK. Lunch was soon served with generous portions.



As we rested our full bellies, Noel passed on news of John H. who is now home from hospital, but rather unwell. We were reminded that John was a founding member of our club and for some years ran it almost singlehandedly. We all owe John our gratitude and send him our love and best wishes.



Janis got everyone to their feet for a game of heads or tails which Roy won. The prize was a bottle of bubbly rosé. Then it was time for the raffle. A table was packed with assorted prizes so thanks to all who brought something along. Clive won four times, and he wasn't the only one with multiple winning tickets. I won nothing (as usual). Huh!



Simon & Charlie picked up the Irene Williamson Award for the most popular lunch run of the year, to Welbeck Manor.

Simon thanked everyone for supporting TVMGOC and looked forward to a New Year of MG runs and companionship. Hear, hear.

Lesson learned: We don't want background music as people just want to natter.

Howard

Who wouldn't have liked this for
Christmas?
It's a 1948 MG TC Special.



GB roadster and SU carb for sale

A chap in Blackburn has a nice looking 1976 MGB roadster and an SU carb for sale at £8,600 and £19 respectively. He says of the car, "Been well maintained to a very good standard and in very good condition with a few extras plus loads of paperwork." And of the carb, "Classic car carburettor suitable for mini, mugs, Austin and many British cars. It is in good useable condition." Presumably "mugs" is a typo for MGs!

If you are interested, here's his Facebook page.

If you are not on Facebook contact Howard to be put in touch.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100014723644288>



Come fly with me

This photo is from December 1955 and shows a British Silver City Airways charter plane. Their service was to transport motor vehicles between southern England and continental Europe. The aircraft is a Bristol 170 at Basel-Mulhouse Airport. The most noticeable element of the cargo aircraft is the folding airplane nose, through which the motor cars, here an MGA, drive into the cargo compartment.





Received entries	From
<i>Fred misunderstood the suggestion he should keep a Logbook in his car recording his regular burn ups.</i>	John I
<i>The wife tried the new heated front seat and that was the last I saw of her...</i>	John I
<i>Electric car owner finds a way of keeping warm without flattening the battery.</i>	Howard
<i>Full steam ahead</i>	Richard M
<i>Can anyone smell petrol??</i>	Tom E
<i>At least the heater works.</i>	Richard M
<i>The latest creation, a steam powered car. There's no back seat though because that's where the stoker sits, and the boot is full of coal. Apparently you can fry bacon and egg on the hot shovel as you drive along, so who needs an air fryer?!</i>	Howard
<i>Perhaps I should have chosen an all-electric car after all!</i>	Jill H
<i>Low tech high reliability</i>	Richard M
<i>Hot Hatch?</i>	Kathryn M
<i>Lambda not looking so good just now</i>	Richard M
<i>When I recommended you investigate the heat range, I meant of your spark plugs!</i>	Simon
<i>Alan's attempt to beat the new LEZ regulations was a failure but his roast chestnuts were excellent.</i>	Peter S
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Elon Musk test drives his Mars Rover.</i> 2. <i>The Dartmoor Community bus has been modified for the current wintery weather.</i> 3. <i>Local man works out how to avoid the ban on wood burners.</i> 4. <i>When you said you had a hot rod this isn't quite what I pictured.</i> 5. <i>Vorsprung Durch Indoor Picnic</i> 6. <i>A Cornish alternative to EVs.</i> 7. <i>When you said it had a great range...</i> 8. <i>Wooden dashboard, near mint condition, one careful owner.</i> 	Group effort from Gavin's family

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

January Caption Competition

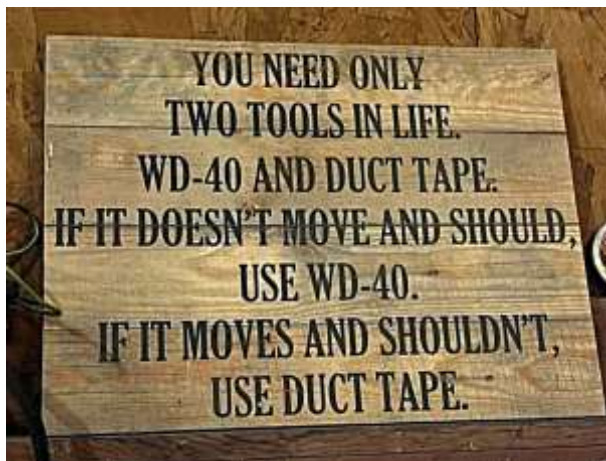
Please send your entries by the end of the month and title your email
Caption Competition* to:
eventsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com

**Then I can find them more easily amongst a load of other club stuff. Thanks. Ed.*



**What does this number mean to you? 18436572.
It's the firing order of an MG V8.**

Grease monkey corner





And finally...



After Howard & Jan took their new air fryer skiing with them, it seems only right to share these.

ONE MINUTE YOU'RE YOUNG
AND HIP....
THE NEXT YOU'RE INTO
AIR FRYERS!



How do you know if someone owns and adores their air fryer?
Don't worry, they will tell you multiple times.

Santa bought me an Air Fryer for Christmas, though my first attempt didn't go so well. Apparently, I should have removed the instruction manual before pre-heating it!



What is an air fryer's favourite TV show?
Game of Thrones

