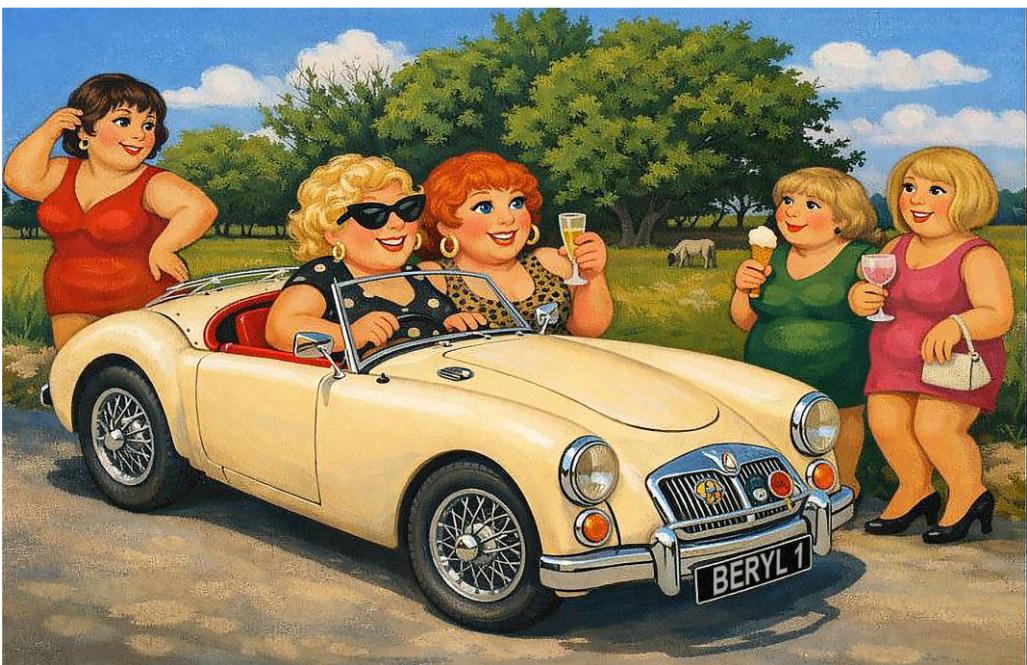


Newsletter February 2026



The Beryl Cook exhibition called Pride and Joy has opened at The Box in Plymouth and is a virtual sell-out. But might this have been one of her paintings if her actual pride and joy had been an MG?

As imagined for us by ChatGPT*

This Month

Committee reports & Upcoming events

Gerald Williamson – sad news

A Moderately Interesting new feature

January Sunday Lunch Run to The Hunting Lodge

MGTF 1.6 for sale



Get more smiles to the gallon
with TVMGOC



Secretary's Report



Dear Motorneers,

The weather has been truly awful. We were recently battered by Storm Ingrid and after she moved on it was only to make room for Storm Chandra (such nice names for very unwelcome visitors!). Who will be next to the party, I wonder?

The photos of the A379 at Slapton Ley washed away, the damage done to homes in Torcross and flooding elsewhere tell the story of the ferocity of the weather and explosive power of the sea. The damage to this iconic road is so extensive, even after steel barriers were sunk to help protect it, that one can only guess when or if it will ever be fixed and, judging what was said at the public meeting last week, it seems unlikely that a huge amount of money will become available to fix it. It might be abandoned to its fate at the elements.

If you're suffering from low mood or post-festive blues it might be a symptom of seasonal affective disorder. But fear not. This article recommends that getting behind the wheel can be just the tonic any SAD sufferer needs. Being out in the open air, ideally in nature, driving with the roof down, surrounded by beautiful scenery can, a clinical psychologist suggests, benefit our physical and mental health and improve our overall mood. Nice weather would help too!

Unfortunately, the five drives the article recommends are far away from our region, being in Wales, The Yorkshire Dales, Sussex, Suffolk and Scotland. See:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cars/advice/great-drives-grumpy-this-winter/>

But we don't need to go that far to enjoy a nice MG outing! In January, Janis, helped by Sue, organised a lovely scenic route along the highways and byways of the South Hams to The Hunting Lodge where we enjoyed a truly excellent Sunday lunch carvery. This Sunday 8th February we have a tried and tested route over t'moor to The Dartmoor Lodge to enjoy (though I don't think the paint will be dry on my MG so I'll be in the daily driver), and March will see us visiting another favourite lunch destination, Welbeck Manor. So, driving your MG is not only fun, but it can also improve your mental health!

Committee nominations

With Simon continuing as Chairman, it's time to get nomination forms ready for the rest of the committee in advance of the membership vote at the March AGM. No-one has yet come forward offering to be our social secretary which is disappointing. However, it is not too late to do so. The club and committee will be greatly disadvantaged if the position remains unfilled.

Happy MGing!
Howard

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

PS *I uploaded a photo of my car to ChatGPT and requested, "Please make this look like a Beryl Cook painting and add some of her female characters." After thanking the programme for a job well done, it replied, "Glad it hit the mark — that was a fun one." It could almost be human! But is this the end of art as we know it?

PPS Go and see Hamnet.



Chairman's Report



Well, having lauded the clear dry weather over Christmas in the last missive, our roads are reminiscent of a scene from 'Waterworld' and I have been quite glad that my other classic, the Land Rover, has been available for wading duties. Nevertheless, I can't really complain about the MGTF 160, with its winter hard-top, as with good tyres I have been very impressed with its wet-weather roadholding, and I have yet to invoke the mid-engine nervousness that some talk about. I think that this may be due to the aforementioned tyres as this model seems particularly sensitive to tyre type.

In other news I have been scouring the classic car market and considering what I need to do to the RV8 to prepare her for sale (to clear the garage for an MGA). While it's slightly depressing to look at part-exchange prices, I could do with an easy sale and, with the market as a whole being a bit depressed, the price of an MGA is also coming down so I can't complain.

On club matters I for one found Howard's presentation excellent and thought provoking, and I look forward to part 2 of his article in the MGOC magazine. It certainly whetted my appetite to try something similar at some stage.

On the subject of trips and looking forward to our next club mini-break, I was visiting St John units in the Northwest last weekend and I was reminded of the cracking countryside which awaits us around the Fat Lamb – it should be great fun all round!



On a more sombre note, Gerald Williamson's passing will have saddened all who knew him. A great stalwart of the club, I was delighted to see that his MGBGT V8 was staying in his family in Plymouth. I don't know about you but whenever I see an episode of Bangers and Cash where the deceased's pride and joy is being auctioned off it seems a bit sad. I'm glad that some of us will be able to attend Harford Bridge Park on the 16 Feb.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting!
Warmest Regards
Simon



Event Secretary – The show must go on

A belated Happy New Year to you all!

Well, what a January! It's a good job there were very few events on our calendar as the liquid sunshine has been overwhelming.

However, the show season (or at least, the planning and applying season) is upon us again. I won't bang on about many events at present because they are all on the club website and will be added to and kept up to date by our editor, Howard.

The annual RAF **Harrowbeer weekend** (22nd-23rd August) will be a club event this year and yours truly will be accepting applications from today, through the event website which is on our calendar.

Those who went last year will tell you that it is a great event run over two days but our official club day is Saturday. Do, please, feel free to go on both days, as many did last year. It's well worth it!

Darts Farm (21st June) Applications will open on March 1st as will Fowey (20th August). Both are club events this year.

Truro Classic Car Show, which fills the city centre streets with all marques of car, is on Sunday 2nd August this year. I went last year and can highly recommend it

A new addition to our calendar is **Sticker Vintage Rally** Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd August. This clashes with Truro so I shall go on the Saturday only.

We are proposing a club visit to the **Royal Navy Museum in Portsmouth** in April. This will be a mid-week event, staying overnight, as the various areas of interest will take more than one day to see. A more detailed email will be sent to you soon.

See you at our next meeting on Monday 9th February.

Andy



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

Feb	8	Sunday lunch run to Dartmoor Lodge – organised by Howard
	8	International MG and Triumph Spares Day Stoneleigh Park
	9	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge – Quiz night
	28	Auto Jumble Hatherleigh Market 9am - 1pm
Mar	1	Register for Fowey (on 20 Aug) https://www.foweyclassiccar.com/ And for Darts Farm. Entry information TBA
	9	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge – club AGM
	22	Sunday lunch run – organised by John & Bee to Welbeck Manor
	20-22	The Practical Classics Classic Car & Restoration Show @ NEC https://necrestorationshow.seetickets.com/content/ticket-options/?src=DM
Apr	2-5 TBC	Vintage Vehicle Rally, Rayle Farm. Near Redruth TR16 4QP. https://www.raylefarmevents.co.uk
	13	Club 2 nd 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/
	7	MGs in the park – Cotswold Wildlife Park OX18 4JP http://www.oxfordshiremgoc.co.uk/
	8	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge
	21	Darts Farm Classic Car Show (Typically on Father's Day) We will attend as a club so lots of entries please. Open for entries from 1 March.
	26 TBC	Cream tea run Janis + Helen
	20-21	Plymouth Motor Show, Newnham Park Adam 07776281740 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/
	5 or 12 TBC	Truro Classic Car Show https://www.trurobid.co.uk/projects/eventsmarketing/truro-classic-car-show
Date clash	11&12	Powderham Castle - The Crash Box Classic Car Show We will attend as a club so lots of entries please
Date clash	10 - 12	Club holiday to The Fat Lamb, Kirkby Stephen - organised by Howard & Jan
Date clash	13 - 15	Club holiday to Albright Hussey Manor, Shrewsbury - organised by H & J
Date clash	13	Club 2nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge (clashes with Shrewsbury)
	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	1 & 2	Sticker Vintage Rally. www.stickerrally.com for exhibit entry form. Andy goes on Saturday to he can also attend Truro on the Sunday.
	2	Truro CC Show
	10	Club 2nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge
	14-16	Car Club Fest - Three Counties Showground Malvern. This is a follow-up to the 2024 Inter-Club Weekend that attracted 2000 classics. carclubfest.com
	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. Enter via Andy who is the car show organiser once more https://www.rafharrowbeer1940s.com/2026-event/
	26	MG Fest '26 comes to the iconic Brands Hatch https://www.mgcc.co.uk/mgfest/mgfest-2026/
	TBA	Friday supper or Sunday lunch run – organiser required
Sept	14	Club 2nd 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	18	Club Christmas lunch at Yelverton Golf Club

Powderham – 11 & 12 July

Whilst it has not yet been decided, it may be that because of date clashes we do not have a club stand at Powderham this year. Whether the numbers stack up to have a decent display on both days will be the deciding factor. However, you can always enter as an individual. Let Andy know if you plan on going.

Flete House

We have not yet been invited to show again, but this might happen.

Drive It Day

Howard is awaiting what could be an exciting new opportunity.

MGTF 1.6 solar red for sale
By a Chap from Torbay MGOC. It looks nice.

See: <https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/257342972984>



Gerald Williamson RIP



ACE Run 2008 Gerald and Irene



Riviera Run 2016 Gerald and daughter Lydia

It is with great sadness that we learned that long-time TVMGOC member Gerald passed away on 26 January. New members won't know him, but those who do have fond memories of both Gerald and his wife Irene. In her memory he donated to our club the Irene Williamson Memorial Trophy for the best Sunday lunch run of the year as she loved these regular gastronomic outings. Below is a message to the club from his son Paul. Please let Janis know if you wish to attend.

For information Gerald will be interred at a private committal with Irene Williamson on Tuesday 17 February 2026 at Peter Tavy Churchyard. Thereafter the family will celebrate his life privately.

We are aware Gerald and Irene were involved with Tamar Valley MGOC and other associations in Devon. So, if you have members who wish to mark his passing with the family we would be pleased to share some memorabilia and light refreshments on Monday 16th February between 12.00 noon and 2.00 p.m. at Harford Bridge Park in the Games and TV room near the main entrance to the holiday park.

For information his MGB GTV8 has been passed to a family member who lives in Plymouth and may well be on the circuit again

*Paul Williamson
Son of Gerald Williamson
07469 241 451*



For the New Year* we have a new feature inspired by the QI TV series. Hopefully you will find these monthly snippets about motoring if not quite, then at least moderately interesting.

* I'd have started this in January, but I only just thought of it!

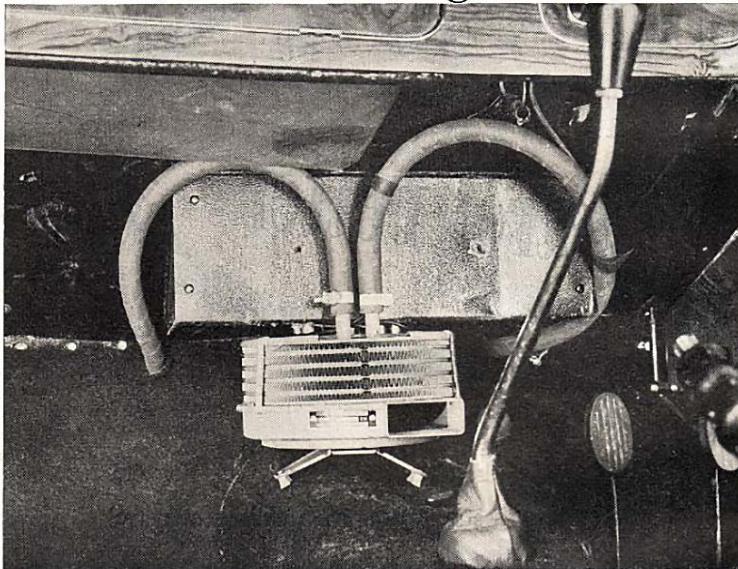
British motorists would feel the chill until the 1960s when car heaters became commonplace. But they were invented far earlier than that. Margaret Wilcox patented an engine-heat-based system in 1893, and Canadian Thomas Shearn, often referred to as the "Edison of Canada" and the "King of Electricity" in Ottawa, was a pioneering inventor who developed one of the world's first electric car heating systems. One could also buy smouldering charcoal foot warmers for toasty toes!

A whole decade after the first enclosed cabins, the aftermarket option of circulating hot exhaust gases, fed into car interiors by metal piping, began appeared in the USA, often resulting in the driver and passengers being overcome by noxious exhaust fumes – not ideal!.

The modern, integrated hot-water heater system which wouldn't gas you to death appeared in the 1930s, with Nash introducing the first fresh-air heating/ventilating system in 1937.

But dedicated in-car heating remained a luxury or aftermarket accessory (e.g. Smiths heaters) until becoming mainstream in the 1950s/60s. Note the appropriate name of this advert's author!

With winter looming ahead — now is the time to fit



The heater unit is mounted horizontally beneath the battery box. No connection is made to the demister take-off, since the fitting of discharge nozzles to the screen lower rail would necessitate considerable structural modification.

The
Smiths
INTERIOR
HEATER
for the M.G.
1½ litre Saloon

suggests

W. E. BLOWER



Sunday lunch and run to the Hunting Lodge, Ivybridge

We left our house near Holsworthy on a rather dreary January morning and hit a bank of fog by Callington, which fortunately cleared before we arrived at Tesco's at Lee Mill for our run meeting venue.

Everyone was in very good spirits and seemed pleased to see each other and get the first Tamar Valley MG event under way for 2026.



My navigator (Keith) has been known to be a little erratic with his navigation skills, sometimes blamed on lack of glasses, the road being too shaky, or he has even on occasions been known to blame the driver for missing turnings or similar!

But today we followed Pam and Neil, and all went very well. The route took us through Ivybridge town centre and on to Bittaford, a new road to us and a very pretty little village.



From here we went to Ugborough where my distant family (the Giles's) have farming roots in this area. In fact there is a family vault outside the front door of Ugborough Church for the Giles family, but I have no desire to be planted there, thank you very much!

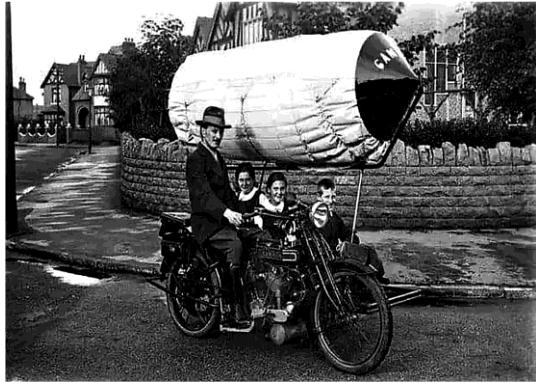
We followed a scenic route through Loddiswell, Aveton Gifford, Modbury, back through Ermington and past the church with the well-known landmark of a crooked spire.

Along the narrows back to Ivybridge, over the A38 flyover, then at the mini roundabout Pam took the second exit (correctly as I checked later) but my navigator insisted we took the first exit, so further along the road we came face to face with Pam and Neil. Fortunately, we were all on the right track, but from opposite directions. We took a right turn and down the narrow lane to the Hunting Lodge. This round trip took an hour and very enjoyable it was too. There were no 'domestics' within our MGF, so all was well!

We found our way to the Hunting Lodge carpark, which was surprisingly busy and so was the pub, but we had our own room for lunch, which was a help yourself carvery and very pleasant it was too.

Many thanks to Janis for organising, ably helped by Sue. I'm sure I can speak on behalf of all who attended in saying that it was a very enjoyable lunch and run.

Sally



This is a Campion motorcycle and sidecar, manufactured in Nottingham, in 1916. It was converted to run on gas primarily because of severe petrol shortages and strict government rationing during World War I which limited the supply of petrol to military vehicles, forcing civilians and essential non-military services to seek alternatives. But what did you think it was?

Received entries	From
<i>It's Jumpin' Jack Flash, with his gas, gas gas!</i>	Howard
<i>The Zeppelin family picture circa 1901</i>	Ade
<i>I find at Christmas time I can run my bike quite cheaply, if the whole family eats their brussels sprouts</i>	David
<i>The children always suspected their dad was a bit of gas bag.</i>	Gavin
<i>I've told you he's full of hot air.</i>	Nigel V.
<i>And he wonders why they call him a gas bag!</i>	Howard
<i>France exports their latest weapon to Iraq.</i>	Rachel
<i>The kids were thrilled that the school-run took seconds.</i>	Nigel S.
<i>Sadly, stopping was a problem their father still had a problem with!</i>	
<i>Are you sure this is a good idea Dad? You haven't got this from Donald J have you?</i>	Richard
<i>"Now I know why mum gives us Brussels sprouts for dinner every day!"</i>	Steve W.
<i>Attempts to conceal the rocket which Dad had liberated left something to be desired.</i>	Simon
<i>"No more traffic jam worries then!"</i>	Andrew H

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

He will choose next month's winning caption.

A slight departure from our normal caption competition this month as we have two for the price of one on a vaguely similar theme. Could you please suggest a caption for one or both pictures and send your entries by the end of the month and title your email Caption Competition to: clubsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com



Picture A



Picture B



And finally...



Continuity announcers come up with bad ideas for TV shows:

Sue Perkins and Pru Leith get bronchitis in the *Great British Bad Cough*.

Sandy Toksvig and Alan Davies discuss the news whilst naked - *Have I got Nudes for you?*

The Reverend Richard Coles presents *Have I Got Pews for You?*

At 8pm *The Best of Robson Green*, followed at 8.02 by...

A new news show - *Pressing Matters* with Jeremy Irons.

For hungry Londoners, the new cooking show *Feastenders*.

Artisan craft workers in a barn restore broken relationships in... *The Affair Shop*.

Boris Johnson and Jacob Rees-Mogg discuss their love of maintaining Oxford river craft. Don't miss *The Care of Punts* tonight after the watershed.

Blocked Hospital drama in Yorkshire Dales - *Enemadale*.

Four pairs of jellyfish compete in a quiz...yes, it's *Jointless*.

The Pope is handing out miracles to kids in Liverpool. Billy walks on stage and asks him, "Can you help me with my hearing" ...? The Pope says, "Yes" and puts his hands on Billy's ears and prays, he removes his hands and says, "How is your hearing now" ...? Billy says, "I don't know, it's not until next Wednesday" ...

If you ever think your job is pointless, just remember there is a bloke in Germany who puts indicators on BMW cars.

TIP OF THE DAY

If you have a Reliant 3-wheeler, don't drive it over a service pit.



An MG Midget pulled alongside a Rolls-Royce at a traffic light. "Do you have a car phone?" its driver asked the guy in the Rolls.

"Of course I do," replied the haughty deluxe-car driver.

"Well, do you have a fax machine?"

The driver in the Rolls sighed. "I have that too."

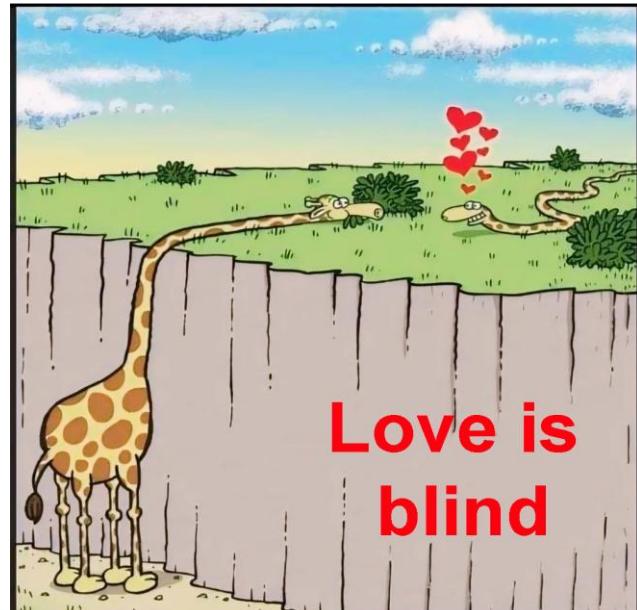
"Then do you have a double bed in the back?" the Midget driver wanted to know. Ashen faced, the Rolls driver sped off.

That afternoon, he had a mechanic install a double bed in his auto.

A week later, the Rolls driver passes the same MG Midget, which is parked on the side of the road - back windows fogged up and steam pouring out.

The arrogant driver pulls over, gets out of the Rolls and bangs on the Midget's back window until the driver sticks his head out. "I want you to know that I had a double bed installed," brags the Rolls driver.

The Midget driver is unimpressed. "You got me out of the shower to tell me that?"



My driving instructor told me to pull over somewhere safe.

After 10 minutes he asked me why I hadn't pulled over. I said we are still in Manchester.

