

Newsletter March 2026



To commemorate International Women's Day on 8 March, here is a picture of female police drivers from Lancashire in their MGAs in 1957, and the "Dancing Daughters" at an English Channel dock as they set off to compete in the 24 Hours of Le Mans in June 1935. All three MG P-types finished the event.

This Month

Committee reports

Upcoming events

Drive It Day update

Sunday lunch run report to The Dartmoor Lodge

The story of Ed's luxury MG Rover limo



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



Secretary's Report



One of the many good things about our club runs is that we get to enjoy these lovely counties of ours in a way and at times that perhaps we wouldn't otherwise. The February run over Dartmoor is a case in point. Even in winter the moor is lovely – we were lucky the rain kept off during the drive and though we had to wade through a shallow flood, even that didn't spoil the enjoyment of this familiar route.

Dartmoor Lodge has been improved - it is lovely and, as you'll read later, we had a scrumptious carvery. Outside they have built, controversially, a new event building which is open in the summer. It might be worth us trying out one day, though the food served there is more of an al fresco type menu, but that could be OK.

I realise older MGs were not built to last six decades or more, but some aspects of their construction beggar belief. On an MGA it seems the front wings were deliberately designed to throw water inside the enclosed sill so that they might rust internally. A rubber seal is glued onto the inner wing to prevent this but there was still a large gap, rendering the flap useless.

Removing the old sill, which was shockingly rusted inside, and welding in a new one was a bigger job than I anticipated and thanks to Roy for helping me to with the grinding and welding. I have taken extreme care to waxoyl the inside and permanently seal up all the gaps where water can ingress. The other side seems OK for now and though I have bought another replacement sill I can't face doing it all again until it becomes necessary. A job for next winter perhaps.

Later on, you can read about Ed's limo (it's a near as damn it an MG!). I asked him to do a write-up about the car as it is highly unusual and interesting. He'll be bringing this to the Royal William Yard on Drive It Day.

See you Monday for the AGM I hope.

Happy MGing!
Howard

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



Chairman's Report



In my contribution this month I bring you a cautionary tale of IT misfortune. It concerns our last Annual General Meeting (I know, you can't wait for Monday!) which is the most formal meeting we have. After the excitement last year, we conducted a handover from secretary to secretary, including the saving of the file containing our minutes. Except that...while the file name was correct, I had managed to save an early draft and delete the finished version. Gawd. Anyway, no problem I thought, Alan can resend his chairman's bit and we can reconstruct things. Except that...Alan has bought a new computer and in the associated housekeeping has deleted that file. There is apparently no record in our emails either - a possible casualty of transferring files from one computer to another.

So the minutes which you will see are reconstructed from eye-witness accounts (thank you Richard!) and from my own recollection and notebook, together with Nigel's original Treasurer's piece. I have a good record of the 'apologies' but we are less convinced of the attendees so if you were there and missed, or recorded as there and were not, my apologies and feel free to amend the record!

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Monday...when Howard will try to keep a better record than I did (not very difficult).

Warmest Regards

Simon



MGs – a pictorial history



Event Secretary – The show must go on

WANT TO COMPLAIN !!!

Well, don't we all?

It's only just stopped raining and is due to start again, some stupid idiots have started another war and my computer woes are getting worse.

All the advice on the internet is useless and confusing, and I am thinking of buying a carrier pigeon to deliver my mail! I've just crushed a grape so feel a lot better.

Application forms are springing up everywhere now. Howard is forwarding some to you and others are out there on the infernal internet.

Drive It Day on 26th April is our first event and Howard is overseeing it.

Our visit to the **Portsmouth Dockyards**, April 16th-17th, is going ahead and more members can go if they let me know quickly because I must order the tickets very soon.

May 10th is Exeter **MGOC More To See**. I have applied and paid but, as yet, have not heard from anyone else who is going.

June 21st is **Darts Farm**, a Club Event. Entry forms are available now on our website and I have let them know that we are expecting good numbers from our club.

11th-12th July is **Powderham**. I am aware of 8 cars going on the Saturday and 5 on the Sunday, including myself.

Sat 25th July is **RHS Rosemoor**. I am going on this day only as we are going to Flete House on Sunday 26th, if weather allows. As always, we are limited to 20 cars so please sign up early for this one.

Truro car show on 2nd August. I shall be going again and will let you know more about it in the April newsletter.

20th August is **Fowey** and, by the time you read this, I hope all is well with their registration site and we can, at last, apply.

22nd-23rd August is **RAF Harrowbeer**. Don't bother applying through the site, it only comes to me anyway. I have reserved 20 spaces for the club in our own area as last year. Just let me know you want to go on which day/s and I shall confirm it.

Now I am going to go another three rounds with my printer/ scanner and see if it submits.

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

March	9	Register for Fowey (on 20 Aug) https://www.foweyclassiccar.com/ And for Darts Farm call 01392 879009
	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
April	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!)
	16/17	Club visit to Portsmouth. Contact Andy for details
	26	Drive It Day & Walking Treasure Hunt @ Royal William Yard organised by Jan & Howard. Details TBA
May	Cancelled	Launceston Steam Rally & Vintage Rally – cancelled until 2027 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 with a talk by John I. entitled Keep Bug Free on Holiday! He's always interesting
NEW	17 confirmed	Sunday lunch run to Bearslake Inn – organised by Pam & Neil
	22-24	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. Closes 12 June. Entry form from here or from our website: https://www.flow.estuaryleague.org/index.php/car-show
	20-21	Plymouth Motor Show, Newnham Park Adam 07776281740 Steve 07781156128 theplymouthmotorshow@gmail.com
	26 TBC	Cream tea run Janis + Helen
	27 & 28	St Merryn Steam and Vintage Rally - Entry forms at https://stmerrynrally.com/entry-forms/
July	4	Totnes Classic Vehicle Show https://riverdartrotary.co.uk/totnes-classic-vehicle-show-2026/
	5	Cotswold Caper https://glosmgoc.co.uk/the-cotswold-caper-2026/
New date	6	Club meeting on the FIRST Monday at The Hunting Lodge
Date clash	11&12	Powderham Castle - The Crash Box Classic Car Show We will attend as a club so lots of entries please via Andy
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
	19 TBC	Possible club picnic organised by Sonia

	19	Wadebridge Wheels https://www.wadebridgewheels.co.uk/
NEW	26	Flete House club display fundraiser for St Lukes. Contact Andy if you can take part
	25-26	Rosemoor Vintage weekend – entry form on our website
August	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 https://www.trurobid.co.uk/projects/eventsmarketing/truro-classic-car-show
NEW	9	Sunday lunch to Widecombe organised by Andrew H
	10	Club 2 nd 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 9 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 on the Saturday so lots of entries https://form.jotform.com/250797361540359
	26	MG Fest '26 comes to the iconic Brands Hatch https://www.mgcc.co.uk/mgfest/mgfest-2026/
September	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	18	Club Christmas lunch at Yelverton Golf Club

Club holiday to Kirkby Steven & Shrewsbury

FYI we have 8 cars going to The Fat Lamb and 9 to the Albright Hussey Manor Hotel. There are still rooms available. Details are in the January newsletter or email Howard.

Darts Farm.

Please note that they have now produced an entry form which is noted above.

Fowey

After the usual chaos, we are told the entry system should now be up and running properly on the 9th.



The Law of Unintended Consequences states that actions often have unforeseen, unanticipated, and sometimes opposite effects. Such is the case with the Gatso speed camera.

Maurice Gatsonides was an Italian racing driver who wanted to accurately check and measure his track speeds to help improve his car's performance.

Police saw how this new gismo could be useful to them too, though with an altogether different aim.



Update



After a few dead ends, our club has finally found a welcome at The Royal William Yard to put on a car show there on Drive It Day, Sunday April 26. I have a feeling it's going to be an excellent and memorable occasion and hopefully a win-win-win for TVMGOC, the Yard itself and for Childline.

The organisers are genuinely excited to have us there and couldn't have been more helpful with the planning for our visit. They recently hosted an RNLI fundraising event that was a great success, so when I approached them with the idea of a classic car show they jumped at it.

This is a show for our club only and we will park up here where the cones are opposite the marina. The RWY is usually busy on a Sunday. Lots of eateries will be open and we will have a walking Treasure Hunt around this historic site for our members.



There is space to erect our gazebo, and also a building we can use if the weather is not kind to us. We will arrange a table with collecting tins, flags, balloons, Childline posters and NSPCC badges to sell and I have also arranged for a QR code so that members of the public can make donations on-line. It would be nice if we could all take turns manning the fort.

In addition, classic car owners are encouraged each year to buy a rally plaque, like the one in the header above. The plaques can be ordered from here with a proportion of the cost going to Childline: www.driveitday.co.uk.

I suggest that we all meet up to depart at 9:30 at the bottom end of the Argyle car park – don't drive past the Life Centre, turn left in front of the football ground. We will drive up Royal Parade and around the Hoe aiming to arrive in convoy at RWY by 10am. We can start to wrap up from around 3pm. We currently have 21 cars taking part but a few more would be welcome.

Howard



January Sunday Lunch Run to the Dartmoor Lodge

It is always exciting to see our beautiful MGs lining up in preparation for a club lunch run despite the rain we've been having recently and a somewhat cool ambient temperature. We had a super trip, with one or two brave souls participating with the hood down!



It is said that on Dartmoor you can experience four seasons in one day, thus despite initial grey, winter skies, as we travelled north through Yelverton towards Princetown glimpses of blue sky began to appear and the joy of Dartmoor came through. We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful area, with many people also enjoying the day, walking, playing golf, cycling and training for Ten Tors. It was good to see the sheep and ponies looking well, if a little damp, with many of the mares preparing to foal in the coming months. Spring is coming.



Our route took us through the rugged countryside of Postbridge with beautiful stone walls (and terrible potholes), past coniferous forests. By the time we reached Manaton, the sun had come out and catkins, snowdrops and gorse in flower continued to lift the spirits.

Having successfully negotiated one or two flooded roads we passed through the appropriately named hamlet of Water. Becky Falls and Haylor Tor followed, although the mists surrounding the tor prevented a good view. From here we took the A38 to Ashburton, finishing with an excellent meal at the Dartmoor Lodge.



Thank you, Howard and Jan, for organising the run, which was interesting for both driver and navigator, with the lunch providing an excellent opportunity to chat and relax.

Chris B

The Rover 75 and MG ZT: Classic British Saloons **The story of Ed's luxury limo**

An unexpected but thrilling twist in the MG Rover story.

The Rover 75, along with the MG ZT, stands as a testament to British automotive ingenuity, blending sophisticated styling with refined engineering. Launched in 1998, the 75 marked a significant moment for MG Rover, as it sought to revive its reputation amidst a rapidly modernising car industry. Conceived during a turbulent period for Rover Group, the 75 was developed under the ownership of BMW, which acquired Rover in the mid-1990s. BMW brought an approach that was more concerned with the design and quality of the car, rather than the economy. The collaboration brought German engineering precision to the British brand, resulting in a car that was both luxurious and reliable. The Rover 75 made its public debut at the 1998 Birmingham Motor Show and was manufactured at the Oxford and later Longbridge plants.

Designed to evoke classic British elegance, with flowing lines, chrome accents, and a prominent grille reminiscent of earlier Rover models, inside, the car featured plush leather upholstery, wood veneer trim, and an ergonomically crafted dashboard, creating a comfortable and opulent driving environment. The attention to detail in its build quality was widely praised at the time.

The MG variant was designed to give a sportier ride and performance, with uprated power output, lower suspension and a firmer ride to improve handling.

Estate versions, The Rover 75 Tourer and MG ZT-T, were added to the range, and have proven to be very popular, which was the variant that I was initially interested in.

Despite its initial success, MG Rover became embroiled in the financial difficulties that ultimately led to Rover's collapse in 2005. Nevertheless, the car has since gained a cult following, with many appreciating its classic design and understated charm. In the UK and Ireland, the 75 is often regarded as a symbol of a bygone era of British motoring, representing the end of an illustrious chapter in Rover's history.

75 Vanden Plas, LWB and Limousine

The Rover 800 range was succeeded by the new Rover 75 in 1999. MG/Rover (as the parent company was now called) decided to add a stretched long wheelbase limousine version to the model range in 2002.

A normal wheelbase, top of the range 'Connoisseur' model was converted by specialist coachbuilders S. MacNeillie & Son of Walsall, West Midlands (identified by the etching on the rear windows). This model was titled the Rover 75 Vanden Plas. It had a 200mm wheelbase extension over the standard saloon giving much improved rear legroom. It was powered by either a quad-cam 24-valve, 2.5 litre light aluminium V6 engine which produced 177PS mated to a JATCO 5-speed automatic gearbox or a turbodiesel 2 litre and manual transmission was also on the options list.

For whatever reason the Rover 75 Vanden Plas was a very short-lived model as only a few months after launch, the model's name was changed to Rover 75 LWB. (Long Wheelbase) and in 2004 changed again to Rover 75 Limousine. That model lasted until the sad demise of MG/Rover in 2005.

The Rover 75 Vanden Plas has proven to be a very rare car and the last 'Vanden Plas' badged car to be sold in the UK. The cars proved popular as Ministerial and dignitaries cars, (including the Royal

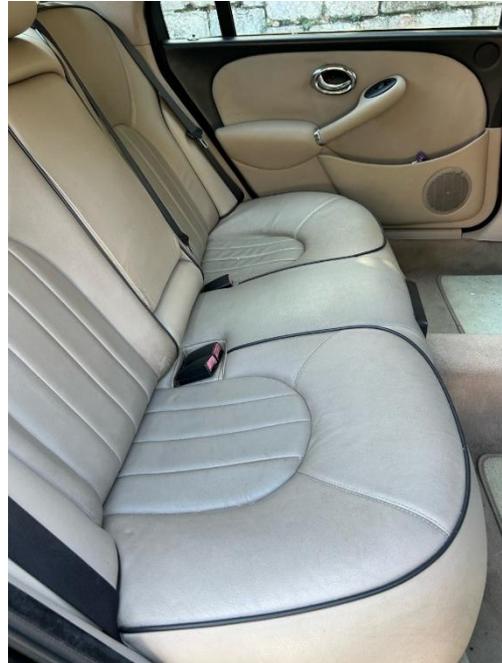
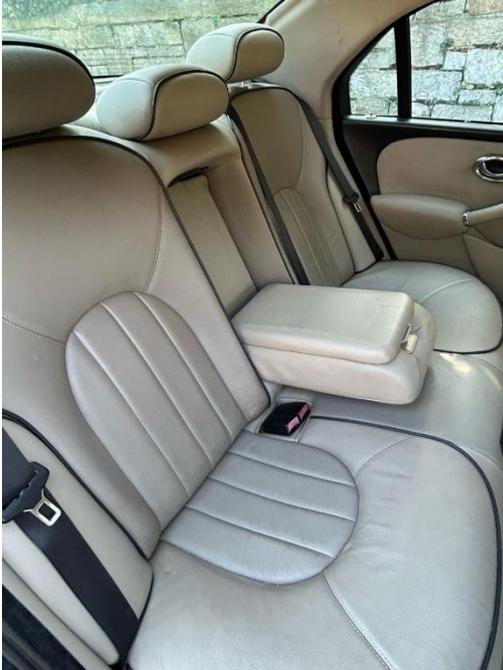
Family), and although exact figures are not known, it is estimated that less than 100 of all the variants were produced in total.

RoVeR”, or “Triple 7”

Originally registered as “RBK 1”, this car was official car of the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames and frequently praised for its comfortable ride, spacious interior, and affordable running costs. Built in 2002 as a standard Rover 75 Connoisseur, with the uprated 135HP BMW 2.0 ltr. diesel engine, it was then passed



to Macneillie’s and lengthened to give the extended legroom in the rear and registered in 2003.



A search of the Council records shows much debate when it came time to replace the car, initially with a VW Golf, and later a Mercedes E Class (which the Mayor complained was “too narrow” compared to the old Rover). RoVeR was then bought by the manager of the local ex Rover Dealership and remained in his ownership until 2024. He named the car “Rolf”, and added the Registration P777 RVR, which is still on the car. His use was limited to “Dry” days out, and so consequently, the mileage is still relatively low, given that that it is now 23 years old. The BMW engine is extremely efficient and reliable, with reported examples having done in excess of 300,000 miles.

Beware your sins.....

Whilst working in the frozen North, just outside Liverpool, one evening, I was idly watching the “Bangers and Cash” preview of their upcoming auction, and was intrigued by the video of the Rover, which showed a stunning car, with a guide price of £3-4,000. This seemed very reasonable to me for a car in seemingly good condition, a known history, 12-month MOT and a genuine low mileage.

I vowed to watch the auction, then completely forgot about it!! The following week, and back in Liverpool, I looked at the auction results, and saw that the car hadn't reached its reserve, nor had it sold in the resulting "Timed Auction". I did a little more digging, found that it had been sold in a different auction only a few months before, but with no MOT – clearly someone hoping for a profitable turnaround.

With the reserve price having dropped considerably, I rang Mathewsons, the auctioneers, made an offer for slightly less than the previous auction sale price, which was accepted. I had, however, neglected to tell Maxine, my wife, and so was slightly on the back foot when about a week later, she mentioned over the phone, that we seemed to have bought a car! (I hadn't realised that Mathewsons completed the registration details on the V5C and sent it off to the DVLC – I didn't make that mistake again, but that's another story!!)



"Rover" is my go-to car for any long-distance journey, being sublimely comfortable, "a mobile armchair" as one motoring journalist described it, quiet and economical. The rear seats fold completely if longer boot space is needed

The Rover 75 remains a notable figure in British automotive history—cherished for its elegant styling, refined driving experience, and its role as the last flagship saloon from the iconic Rover brand. Whether viewed as a practical classic or a nostalgic reminder of British craftsmanship, the Rover 75 continues to enjoy respect among car enthusiasts and collectors alike.

Ed



Picture A



Picture B

Received entries		From
Picture A	Picture B	
<i>"Val, just put her in reverse for a bit please."</i>		Howard
<i>This is quicker than those dam locks.</i>		Andrew H
<i>Val and Ade take a wrong turn when the canal passes close to Alton Towers!!!!</i>	<i>The rules on the cut say that you have to go dead slow when passing moored boats.</i>	Ade & Val
<i>So that's what it was like on the Shropshire Union/Llangollen last winter! The last time I came over this way was in a barrel.</i>	<i>And they think I'm mad and at risk of sinking. They haven't seen the rest below the water line with the spike on the front.</i>	Richard
<i>Stand by with the parachute!</i>	<i>This boating lark is dead good!</i>	Howard
<i>For this year's holiday I chose superior accommodation. Last year's barrel was a complete disaster!</i>		Andy S.
<i>Val said left for the lock and right for the weir but Ade always got things mixed up when following run directions.</i>		Ade & Val
<i>"Ethel you idiot I said don't open the other lock gates yet!"</i>	<i>I have been dying to try it out but I think this is a dead end.....</i>	John I.
<i>Well, this is wiered</i>	<i>Easier than coffin up for a narrow boat</i>	Simon
	<i>The Captain was doing well with only a skeleton crew.....</i>	John I.
	<i>Fred thought this was better than the Co-Op Funeral Plan"</i>	Andrew H

And the winner chosen by David is...Andy & Simon! But we only want one winner so I'm making a hegsecutive decision to go with Andy as I don't think he's ever won before. Well done!

I hope Simon is OK with that. 🙌

Andy gets to choose next month's winning caption.

After skiing in the deepest snow Howard had experienced in the Alps in over 30 years, he came across this mountain creature. But what's happening? Please send your entries by the end of the month and title your email
Caption Competition to:
clubsecretaryvmgoc@gmail.com



And finally...



My wife had her driving test the other day. She got 8 out of 10. The other 2 guys jumped clear.



The Japanese needed a name for a car company and quickly. They called the Germans and offered them \$100 million if they could come with a name by the next day. The German said, "Dat soon?!". The Japanese said thank you and hung up.