

**Newsletter
May
2026**



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Upcoming events

News – going Green & Car SOS

Drive It Day report

Visit to the Historic Docks in Portsmouth



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



Secretary's Report

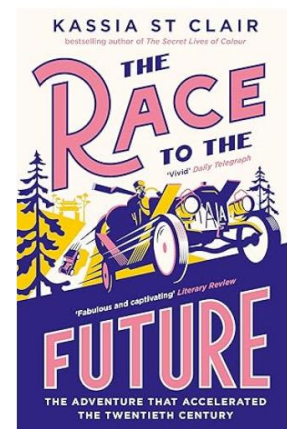


Dear Motorneers,

I had two occasions last month to feel greatly relieved regarding Club business. Firstly, that my presentation *The Long and Winding Road* went down well at the last meeting. You never know if what you find interesting would also interest others. * I posed the question, 'What's the single longest drivable distance between two points on earth?'

This was inspired by an online article that had captured my imagination, and it seems that the meeting attendees also found the question and consequent answer intriguing. Because of this I can highly recommend this book about a real-life epic road journey.

It's about the Peking to Paris race in 1907 when five cars crewed by men from very different backgrounds set off in a desperate race across two continents on the verge of revolution. It was an incredible endurance test for man and machine. They needed teams of helpers to drag their primitive cars up narrow gorges, lift them over rough terrain and float them across rivers. Petrol was almost impossible to find, there were barely any roads, armed bandits and wolves lurked in the forests.



But like most good books, *Race to the Future* is multi-layered, with fascinating sections on the geo-politics of the time. The world of 1907 was poised between the old and the new: communist regimes would soon replace imperial ones in China and Russia; the telegraph was transforming modern communication; the car would soon displace the horse. I found it an incredibly interesting read, hence my recommendation. Kassia St Clair really does her research well. Her other book *The Secret Lives of Colour* also testifies to this. Another good read.

The other reason for my feelings of relief was that after the stress of our Drive It Day show being cancelled at Royal William Yard, another venue was quickly found, thanks to it being suggested by Dave F. See the report later in this newsletter. Our total raised for Childline is now £200 + £50 Gift Aid. Many thanks to all those who took part and who gave to this worthy cause. This QR code to JustGiving still works if anyone would still like to donate.



*Similarly, if you haven't heard one of John's talks on bugs (he's a professional expert) they are always interesting. His next one is at this Monday's meeting and is about keeping bug-free on holiday. I'm itching to hear it!

Happy MGing!
Howard

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



Chairman's Report



Greetings Club Members on what has turned out to be a good driving month for our MGs. I would like to start by thanking Howard for responding to the cancellation of our TVMGOC Drive it Day Event at Royal William Yard so well. Many of you will know that he and Jan were in Cambridge when the word came through that Durnford Street flats were so unsafe that access to Royal William Yard was compromised, and so an extraordinary effort was required to arrange an alternative venue for our mini-show on behalf of Childline, the beneficiaries of the National Event.

While Tre, Pol and Pen farm shop had neither the advertising beforehand nor the footfall which we might have liked given the effort put in, the weather was kind and it was great to see everyone joining in and managing the charity table with smiles all round - thank you!

If you were there on the day, you will have seen that I have finally managed to acquire an MGA.



I am delighted with it, and Charlie is getting used to it. I have learned from her that the seatbelts, optional in 1958, are not optional today, and that the drum brakes all round are unsafe (she might have a point there - part of the deal was to have the disc brake conversion included as, during the test drive, the stopping power after arriving in my TF160 was little short of frightening). She is however jolly pleased that I now have one of the slowest MGs in the club (it's a 1500) rather than the quickest! As Alan commented, it's even the colour (Glacier Blue) of the MGA featured in our Trifold TVMGOC pamphlet!

Look forward to seeing you at the meeting,

Warmest Regards

Simon

Glacier blue, a favourite of mine, was only available on 1500 roadsters.

Howard



Event Secretary – The show must go on

Happy May Motoring.

Several club members went to Portsmouth to visit the naval museums during April. With the assistance of our Rear Admiral, we enjoyed an excellent guided tour of the Victory and perused many other areas. However, two days was not enough to see everything so at least two of us are going for a follow up visit in October. (See the report later).

May events include:

May 9th Castle Cars and Coffee 9am -1pm (Saturday). I shall give this one a try!

May 10th Exeter Club. More to See. We have entrants, including myself.

May 22nd–24th Port Eliot Show. I have no knowledge of entrants from our club.

Our next Club Event is DARTS FARM on June 21st for which we have 11 entrants.

June 20th-21st is the Plymouth Motor Show which I believe one member is attending.

Steve Cox has contacted me as he is involved with the organisation of the PLYMOUTH BOAT FEST held at Plymouth Yacht Haven on Saturday 20th June. He is extending an invitation for up to 8 of our club cars to be on show at this event. If you would like to take part, please contact me and I shall put you in touch with Steve.

27th-28th June is St Merryn Steam Rally which I shall be attending and can recommend.

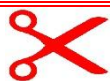
July is going to get quite hectic. Our Monday club night has been brought forward a week to 6th July because of the Club Holiday. I shall elaborate on July events next month.

As always, please do consult the event diary and our club website.

Andy

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: white;">2026</div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.8em; color: white;"> 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 </div> </div>		
May	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
	17	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 with a Highway Code Quiz so get swotting!

June	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 Theplymmotorshow@gmail.com
	26	Cream tea run organised by Janis + Helen. Details will be on the form at the next meeting.
	27 & 28	St Merryn Steam and Vintage Rally - Entry forms at https://stmerrynrally.com/entry-forms/
	28	Tamar Region Jaguar Day – Buckfastleigh. We have been invited to join them. South Devon Railway Station, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0DZ on Sunday 28 th June. Exhibitors should arrive at the station between 09:00 and 09:45. Let Andy know if you will take part.
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	Club lunch to Tre, Pol & Pen, Nr Launceston organised by Roy & 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
CANCELLED	25-26	Rosemoor Vintage weekend
August	1 & 2	Sticker Vintage Rally. www.stickerrally.com for exhibit entry form. Andy goes on Saturday so he can also attend Truro on the Sunday.
	2	Truro CC Show https://www.trurobid.co.uk/projects/eventsmarketing/truro-classic-car-show
	7,8,9	Boconnoc Steam Fair - entry form is on our website https://boconnocsteamfair.co.uk/
	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 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/
Sept	6	Saltram Rotary CCS Lyneham Estate https://rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1501
	14	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge – First Aid talk by Simon
	TBA	Sunday lunch run – organised by Janis & Nigel S.
October	TBA	John Hunt Tulip Trophy Run – organised by Gavin
Nov	TBA	Sunday lunch run – organiser required
Dec	18	Club Christmas lunch at Yelverton Golf Club organised by Janis



Going Green

There is no place for politics in these newsletters but it is appropriate to report on news that affects the classic car movement.

The Green Party does not support the existing exemption from Vehicle Excise Duty, nor historic vehicles exemption from annual MOT testing, which is currently voluntary. In addition, the Greens do not support payment exemption from entering clean air zones.

Other parties have not announced planned changes to the current exemptions, though that could change. Make of this what you will, but accepted wisdom says it is folly to cast your vote at an election for any party on a single issue.

For perspective, the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs survey revealed that last year on average older classics cover just 837 miles annually which is 0.2% of the UK's total road mileage.

As for the future, Richard Hammond neatly summed it up thus: "The cleanest thing you could do is recycle a classic, have it restored, and run it on synthetic fuel." Running an older car avoids the complex and multi-faceted environmental impact of having a new one built from scratch.

Car SOS

This is a favourite of many, if not most, classic car enthusiasts. As an ex-TV director/producer, I can't watch anything without mentally speculating what a programme's budget might be, none more so than *Car SOS*. I am quite sure that all viewers will wonder just how much they spend on the cars they restore. It will be a lot! What's more, they can't fix a particular programme's budget before starting work as they have no idea exactly what must be done and therefore what expenditure will be needed.

Of course, the costs must also include presenter fees and all production expenses. This, by necessity will be extensive, but broadcasters get a lot of mileage out of these programmes as they are repeated many times and sold to other channels here and abroad. It's a series that commissioning editors say has a 'long tail', meaning it keeps earning from repeats long after the initial transmission.

In 2019 the estimate for each of these restorations was said to be between £21k and £60k, though I imagine the work done on some cars would have exceeded that. Factor in today's prices for labour and parts and, well, your guess is as good as mine. The son of one man whose pre-war car was fixed up on the programme heard they'd spent £60k on labour, but the family already had most of the parts which didn't have to be found and purchased by the restoration team. The work took two months.

In a recent *Classic Car Weekly*, Fuzz gave some indication of at least how long they take on each project. He said, "I believe the production company would prefer projects to take somewhere between 500 and 700 workshop hours. The reality is generally a minimum of 800 hours, often cresting into four figures with the most challenging cases reaching 1500 to 1700 hours."

Of course, the stories behind the cars are often priceless, but I wouldn't fancy taking on the role of *Car SOS* production accountant!

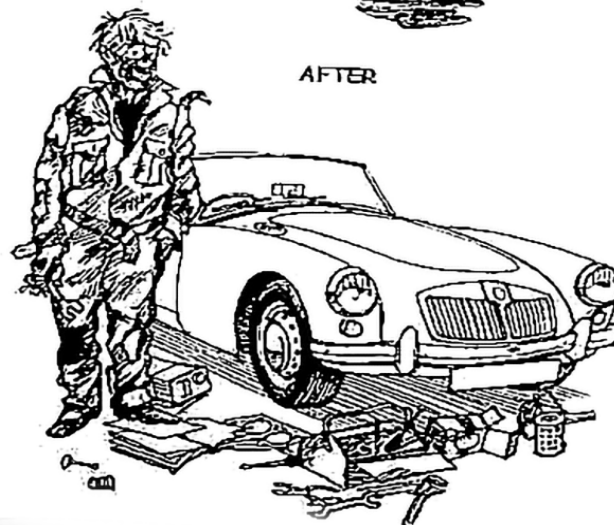
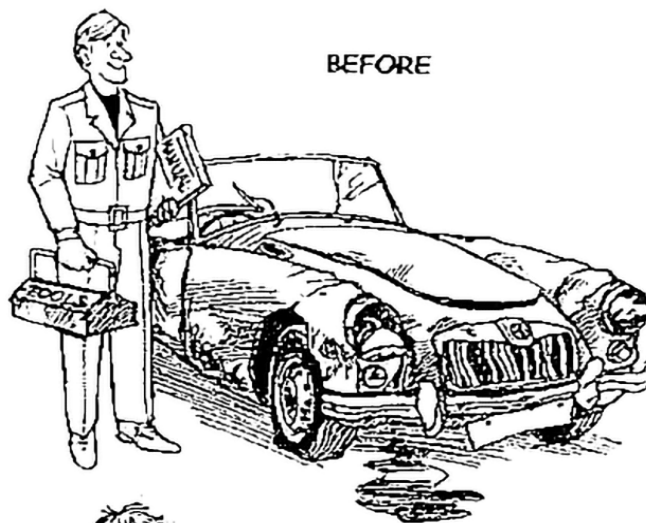
Howard



Naff or not, fluffy dice were all the rage to dangle from your rear-view mirror for over 30 years from the fifties to the seventies.

Their use dates to World War Two when American pilots would hang them in their aircraft cockpits (showing seven) for good luck and as a symbol that surviving a mission was a "roll of the dice".

After the war, this superstition transitioned into a popular hot-rod, car-culture trend, signifying a "dicing with death" attitude.



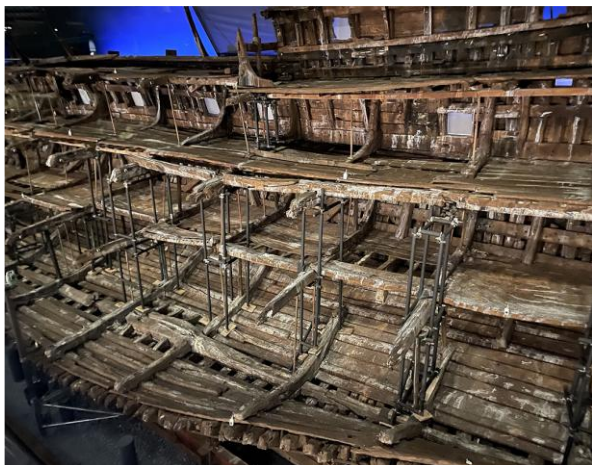


PORTSMOUTH HISTORIC DOCKYARD

Organised by Event Sec. Andy, a few of us went on a club excursion to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. It was excellent!

I won't even try to describe everything we saw, just a few things, but the visit was so interesting that even two days wasn't enough to get around the whole site. Andy is planning a return trip in the autumn, and if this goes ahead, I suggest you tag along. Here is a selection of photos that Nigel and I took to give a flavour of our trip and to entice you to visit too.

I must relate one story that greatly elevated our tour. Our little group was split into two as we had arrived at different times due to a terrible traffic jam. As some of us were looking around the Mary Rose museum, I thought I recognised a chap in a smart uniform. He came over and it turned out to be none other than Rear Admiral S P Williams CB CVO KStJ.



Adjacent to the Mary Rose museum is HMS Victory whose hull was laid down in 1758. She's currently undergoing more restoration work. I won't even begin to relate the ship's illustrious history. Just go and see for yourself. It would be a good idea to read up on her first because you probably won't be as lucky as we were. We experienced a very special treat due to being in the company of Simon.



Perhaps one shouldn't be surprised that Simon – for yes, it was he! – knows quite a bit about the extraordinary exhibits in the dockyard. His knowledge helped breathe life into the Mary Rose story and her many recovered artefacts, making the displays even more interesting.

After her remains were discovered back in 1971, you probably remember a decade or so later seeing on TV the Mary Rose, Henry VIII's flagship, being raised from the seabed of the Solent, 437 years after she sank in 1545.





As we boarded Victory, a rating stood on the gangway to welcome us. Simon quietly mentioned that Admiral Williams was on board to show some of his pals around, and that out of politeness perhaps the NCO in charge should be informed.

Barely a minute or two later I heard thundering footsteps running up a staircase and Petty Officer 'Gerry' Anderson* suddenly appeared to introduce himself. In the nicest possible way, Gerry wasn't going to let a RA escort anyone around his ship without him being involved too!

What followed was fantastic. With two experts acting as our tour guides, we learned so much about the ship and its most famous Admiral, Horatio Nelson. We stood on the exact spot where at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, Nelson lay injured and dying and where he asked his close friend Captain Thomas Hardy, to kiss him.



Victory is still Flagship of the First Sea Lord, despite being retired from active sea duty in 1812. She remains on the active Royal Navy list, retaining a serving Commanding Officer. The ship has played a prominent role in Simon's own career, but if I tried to relate exactly how and why I'd get the facts wrong. Ask Simon about Nelson's Great Cabin and his table. So, our chairman has a direct connection with Victory, but as far as I know, while onboard he hasn't asked anyone to kiss him!



We caught the ferry to Gosport to visit the Submarine Museum and to look inside HMS Alliance, the sole-surviving British submarine from WWII. Having watched the terrifying and claustrophobic *Das Boot* many years ago (never again- it's the stuff of nightmares) this is me looking for the way out!





We also explored inside the vast HMS Warrior. Launched in 1860, Warrior was Britain's first iron-hulled, armoured battleship. She was the pride of Queen Victoria's fleet and the largest and fastest ship of its time. This innovative vessel signalled a significant evolution in the Royal Navy, being powered by steam and marking the first departure from traditional wooden ships. Apparently, this ship's masts and sails boasted enough surface area to cover 13 tennis courts!



Boathouse 4 will be of great interest – Roy take note – to those who want to see work being done restoring many types of smaller wooden boats, some powered by engines, some by sail, including a motor gun boat, a landing craft and an extraordinary RAF High-Speed Launch.

So, if Andy does organise a return trip I strongly recommend you try to go. It's a fascinating place.
Howard

**Gerry was given the nickname 'Gerry' because of his family name being the same as the Thunderbirds creator. Apparently, it's a Navy thing to give everyone a nickname and, once bestowed, they're stuck with it!*



Drive It Day at Tre, Pen & Pol farm shop



Arrangements had originally been made to hold 'Drive-it-Day' (in support of the NSPCC's 'Childline') at the Royal William Yard, which we'd all been very much looking forward to, as public footfall to raise cash and club exposure would have been assured. The unforeseen issue of the unstable block of flats nearby meant this venue was no longer viable due to restricted access, and we were advised it would not be possible to hold the event there!

At very short notice Howard contacted the 'Tre, Pol & Pen' restaurant near Stoke Climsland and they were only too happy to accommodate us! Club attendance was good, and most of us met at the Travelodge car park, Saltash, leaving there at 9.30am to arrive at our destination by 10am. The weather was perfect, with warm sunshine, virtually clear blue sky, and a gentle breeze.



The car park was large enough to accommodate not only ourselves, but a smaller gathering of Triumph owners on the other side.

Simon & Charlie arrived in Simon's* newly purchased 1958 MGA finished in 'Glacier Blue,' (*Surely you mean "their"? Ed.)

It is immaculate and attracted much interest from club members and members of the public alike!

It was good to see club members come along who don't regularly attend the monthly meetings, and it was 'all hands on deck' when we arrived, to set-up the two 'Childline' tables with NSPCC flags & badges & collection boxes for those donating by cash, one by the main restaurant entrance and one in our small gazebo (which had to be assembled first)! The tables were manned in rotation, and we were able to sample breakfasts & lunches were available, whether or not pre-booked.





There were plenty of tables inside and outside the restaurant, and some members sat on their own chairs in the gazebo or near their cars. Everyone seemed to enjoy the day, and there were a few donations from the public, despite there not being much footfall. So the day was definitely a success, and the lovely weather made all the difference! A good result from something having to be arranged at the very last minute!

Nigel S.



Bob's Rover 75 Vanden Plas, LWB Limousine parked next to David & Teresa's TD



Received entries	From
<i>I was told my Airbnb would have a topless model waiting for me in the bedroom.....</i>	John I.
<i>I complained to reception there was a left hooker in my bedroom</i>	John I.
<i>"If you insist on buying a house without a garage then my car has to be indoors".</i>	Bee
<i>Well to be that clean in those surroundings it clearly doesn't work.</i>	Richard
B&B	Simon
<i>It's just for the dog to sleep in.</i>	Andrew H.
<i>The perfect man cave for the over 60s.</i>	Gavin
<i>Perhaps over-optimistic installing a king-sized bed in the garage!</i>	Jan P.
<i>" So.... you're telling me there's a strange world out there, where people don't keep an MG in their bedroom??!!"</i>	Tony S.
<i>Perhaps I should have agreed to heating in the garage after all.</i>	Jan P.
<i>I went to bed dreaming of an MGB, but I woke up and this thing is still here!!</i>	Clive
<i>Should have been more sceptical when he offered to refurbish the bedroom!</i>	Jan P.
<i>I'm bit worried about break-ins around here. As you spend so much time with the damned thing, you may as well sleep with it. Well, they said I had to get the brakes bedded in... You always said you wanted a threesome, well now you can have one. Do you promise to love, honour and change the fluids regularly? I do. Early to bed, early to rise, makes an MG drive like it flies. Wife: why is the bed in here? Husband: so I can sleep with my true love.</i>	A whole collection from Steve W.

And the winner chosen by me, Howard, is Simon. Some of these were really good and thanks, but Simon's was minimalist yet still apt. Well done! He will choose next month's winning caption.

Here's a chap who is lining up to go places. But there must be a better explanation to his weird look. Please send in your suggestions by the end of the month and title your email
Caption Competition to:
clubsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com





And finally...



Two nuns were driving through Transylvania when a vampire jumped on the bonnet of their car. The passenger nun says to the driver, "What are we going to do?"

Calmly, the driver nun replies, "I'll just turn on the windscreen wipers. That will knock him off!!" She turns on the wipers only to find the vampire clinging tightly, hissing at them through the windscreen.

The passenger nun says excitedly, "Well, that didn't work! What are we going to do now?!"

Still calm, the driver says, "I know!! I just had holy water put in as wiper fluid. I'll spray him with it." She sends a spray of water onto the vampire. Smoke rises off where the water hits, but the vampire just clamps down harder, hissing even more loudly at the two nuns.

Agitated, the passenger says, "Well, that didn't work either!!!! What are we going to do now??"

The driver thinks for a minute then shouts, "I know!!! Show him your cross!!!!"

The passenger nun rolls down the window, sticks her head out and says,

"GET OFF THE CAR, YOU 3@"\$5%**^!!!!!"



A wild Jaguar eating a fully grown man.



Q: Know why British MG didn't fit computers into their cars?

A: They couldn't figure out how to make them leak oil!

Q: What's the difference between a classic Bentley owner and a classic MG owner?

A: The Bentley owner washes his hands AFTER he's been for a pee, and the MG owner...