

Newsletter July 2026

Separated at birth



This Month

Committee reports

Upcoming events

Two Taunton events

Darts Farm CC Show

Cream Tea Run

Something Moderately Interesting
about Michelin



A new memorial sculpture by Paul Day was recently unveiled at New College in Oxford to commemorate the Morris Garage MG Car Company. This was where Sir William Morris started his motor business a century ago. He was soon to be joined by Cecil Kimber.



Get more smiles to the gallon
with TVMGOC



Secretary's Report



Dear Motorneers,

I am writing this whilst waiting for dinner at Llanerchindda Farm. Each time I come to Wales on a touring holiday I am astounded anew by just how beautiful this land is. The mountain and valley roads really take some beating, and I wish we were in our MG rather than the Merc.

We are here not as a classic car group, but as a family visit with Jan's brother, sister and sister-in-law as part of our 50th wedding anniversary celebrations. In addition, a couple of days ago we lunched at Tyn y Cornel. These are both places we have frequented on our Club holidays, and I am happy to report that each establishment is maintaining its high standard.

Last year at Llanerchindda, we had such a good time in terms of the accommodation, hospitality, food and routes provided, that our thoughts were dominated by when we could return for another four-night stay. You may recall that I have reserved all 13 rooms again for 21 to 24 May 2027. Save the date, but the earliest I will begin to collect names will be in the New Year.

We visited Tyn y Cornel in June 2024, and it is in a stunning location on the shores of a lake. I see from their advert in Classic Car Weekly that they remain a popular destination for car clubs of all kinds and it's easy to understand why. Our only reservation then was that the two routes the hotel provided weren't quite up to scratch. Should we decide to go back, and perhaps we might consider this for 2028 - to be discussed sometime - I know I could find some outstanding roads to explore. All this is for the future, but it's nice to have something special to look forward to.

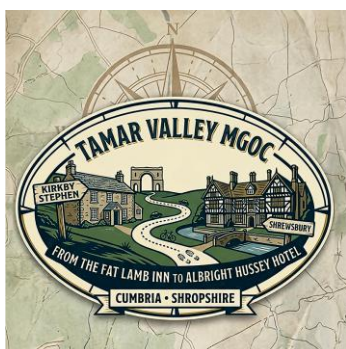
You may recall from last month's report that my MGA had had a few electrical problems exacerbated by the heat. I have always rather dreaded looking at the bird's nest of wiring under and behind the dash. It seems each previous owner, and to be fair myself as well, have added to the wiring confusion, and trying to work out what wire does what is a head-banger. So, armed with a new ignition key barrel (which had different wiring fittings from the old worn-out one), I bit the bullet and took the car to Andy at Tamar Motoring Centre to finally sort the whole lot out. Andy is a fully trained electrician who used to wire up Princess Yachts, and I must say he went above and beyond what I'd asked him for, even making a bracket for the electric fan relay, which also needed replacing. He encased lots of wires in trunking which previously had been wrapped spaghetti-like around the engine bay. And he took delight in showing me the collection of unnecessary wiring crap he'd removed!



I recently had (yet another!) article printed in *Enjoying MG*. I wouldn't be in the least surprised if some of you thought I like submitting articles just to see my name in print. However, this is only partly true! My piece about our troublesome Drive It Day experience was written purely for the money...so I could donate it to ChildLine. I can't pretend that I didn't feel a bit disappointed that because of our forced change of plan we didn't raise quite as much as I'd hoped for the DID Charity. So, trying to squeeze as much out of the day as possible, I put finger to keyboard and typed away for an hour or so in an attempt to add a bit more to the kitty. By the time you read

this, including my magazine contributors fee, the total raised by TVMGOC for ChildLine should be about £320. Decent enough in the circumstances.

Jan and I have been busy organising our Club holiday to The Fat Lamb in Kirkby Stephen where we will stay for three nights, then another three nights at The Albright Hussey Hotel near Shrewsbury. The former provides routes, which makes the organiser's life easy (similarly with Llanerchindda) but I have had to devise two or three tours of the Shropshire Hills and surrounding area. It's a time-consuming job. I received some suggestions from Shrewsbury MGOC, but they were only the barest bones of what we needed, not least because they didn't start at our hotel and they were just short trips to eateries. Consequently, Jan and I have spent days on Google Street view working out suitable attractive drives and mileages. Still, we are happy to do it, and printing the route books proved to be a suitable running-in test for the club's new printer!



Happy MGing!
Howard

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



Chairman's Report



Greetings Everyone,

We have had another good month for driving our cars about in the sun, and those of us going on the mini-break are hoping that the weather is not too shabby over the next few weeks. Congratulations to Howard for his continuing success in getting his motoring journalism published. It was interesting at the excellent Darts Farm car show that a couple came across, spotting Howard's car emblazoned with one of his articles, and asked breathily whether 'the' Howard Perks was there. They intended to use his excellent Majorca article as a basis for a Bristol club run (for some reason they chose their Bristol over their MG Midget for the long journey). Anyway, I can see that future shows may feature Howard having to sign articles in the club gazebo!

It was great to see a good showing at Darts Farm, and indeed at the Cream Tea (which I eventually got to after a little car problem). Sadly, I will be on a train to London on Monday, so like Howard will not be there, but we leave the club in the capable hands of the rest of the committee.

Warmest Regards
Simon



Event Secretary – The show must go on

What a brilliant June we have just had!

The weather has been conducive to MGing, and we went to some great shows in our area.

Darts Farm was a great success as a club event, although I forgot to take the under-wheel stands for our flags. In true boy scouting manner, we tied them to the nearby fence with Howard's 100 metres of rope which he carries in the tardis of a boot on his MGA.

I visited St Merryn Steam Rally and myself and Gavin took our MGCs to the Jaguar Enthusiasts Day at Buckfastleigh Railway Station. Guess whose car won the 'non-Jaguar of the event' plaque? Enough of that. Onwards to July and beyond!

4th July -Totnes Classic Car Show

5th July - Cotswold Caper

I have not heard from anyone intending to go to either of these.

5th July - Penzance Car Show

11th-12th July - Powderham Show (Club Event)

I shall be going to both of these and we have 10 cars at Powderham over the two days.

19th July - Wadebridge Wheels (No known members going)

26th July- Flete House (Club Event)

Weather permitting, we have 17 cars going to Flete which means we have three places left for late entries.

1st-2nd August - Sticker Show

2nd August - Truro Show

2nd August - Grade Ruan Show

2nd August – Mt Edgumbe CC Show

This year I shall go to Sticker on Sat 1st and to Truro on Sun 2nd.

7th-8th-9th August - Boconnoc Steam Fair.

20th August - Fowey Car Show (Club Event)

22nd- 23rd - RAF Harrowbeer 1940s weekend (Club Event)

We have 20 cars at Fowey this year and, to date, I have only 11 for Harrowbeer, so more entries please.

30th August - Lizard Rally

I go every year. It's a great day out at the bottom of Cornwall.

5th-6th September - Helston Railway Weekend

6th September - Saltram Show

6th September - Dorset Dawdle (Bournemouth and Poole MG Club). The inaugural year of this run. Alan C and myself intend to go to this brand-new event, so why not join us.

Well, all that has made my brain ache so I shall go and have a lie down!

I shall hopefully see some of you at the next meeting on Monday 6th July.

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

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 with a talk by Nigel about his career as a TV extra
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/
	26	Flete House club display - fundraiser for St Lukes. Contact Andy to take part Meet Tesco Lee Mill 10:15 to depart 11am
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
NEW	2	Mt Edgcumbe After a 2-year hiatus the American & Classic Car Show is back. fomecp.org.uk
	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 please 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
	6	Dorset Dawdle – Bournemouth MGOC. A new event featuring a literary themed road run through Dorset's picturesque countryside visiting towns, villages and other locations that appear in the works of Thomas Hardy. Entry fee £35 for a car and two occupants or £27.50p for driver and car - includes route book, rally plate and cream tea. www.1020mg.org.uk/
	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
		Club 2 nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge David Frost has a presentation about the Cinnamon trust
Nov	TBA	Sunday lunch run – organiser required
Dec	18	Club Christmas lunch at Yelverton Golf Club organised by Janis

Museum hails founder

The County Classics Motor Museum in the centre of Taunton continues to thrive a year on from the sudden passing of its founder, Patrick Hawkins, and is planning a special event on 2 August to remember the man who made it all happen.

A museum spokesperson said: 'The only town centre motor museum in Britain occupies a vast, rambling old department store on the main shopping street. Patrick devoted four years of his life to restoring and converting the historic buildings into a superb museum, which now houses more

than 100 cars, 140 motorbikes and a growing historic cycle collection.

'Normally open Tuesday to Saturday, the Museum will open on Sunday, 2 August to remember Patrick, with a special gathering of classic cars and bikes in the Whirligig Car Park beside the Museum (TA1 1RZ). Around 40 cars are already booked in but there is room for a few more.

'Come and enjoy the museum and show and to see how Patrick's spirit lives on in the brilliant museum that he created.'

tinyurl.com/3n9scr8t



While thinking about Taunton, their flower show is being held on 7/8 August.

Jan & I went last year, and it is fantastic.

You could combine this with a visit to the County Classics Motor Museum as it is a short walk away, though the flower show is a week later than the event opposite. See:

<https://tauntonfs.co.uk/>

Drive It Day 25 April 2027

At the last meeting we decided to decline the request from The Royal William Yard to hold our cancelled Drive It Day show there on another date this year. The event calendar is already busy enough without adding another commitment onto our club. As I had everything ready to go, including a treasure hunt around the yard, I have suggested to the Yard Events Team that we go back there for Drive It Day next year.

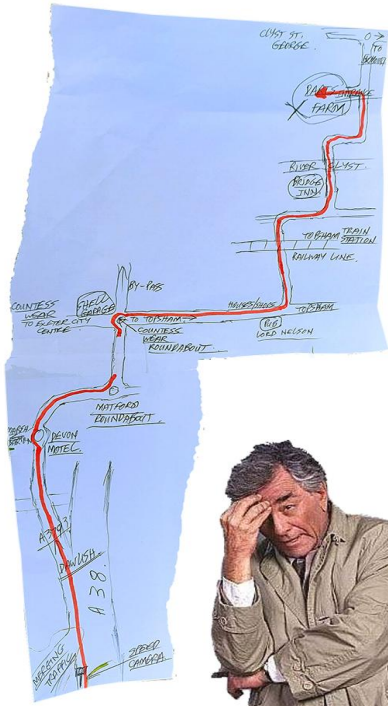
Jaguar Day

Gavin and Andy took their MGCGTs to Tamar Day Jaguar Enthusiasts Club at Buckfastleigh Station as MG owners were also invited.

It was noted that MGCGTs are a bit of a rare sight, but to see two side by side was even rarer. Andy's impressive silver example was unsurprisingly awarded best non-Jaguar in attendance. That's the second award it's won this year.



Darts Farm Classic Car Show in aid of Estuary League of Friends



It was a beautiful sunny Sunday morning when we all met up to convoy our way to Darts Farm at Topsham. Treasurer Nigel said he'd lead the way and had come up with a route. Well, it was not quite what we are used to! His map had all the elegance of a council noticeboard after a storm.

Nigel appears to have looked at every established principle of route layouts and said, "No thanks, I'll just have a go."

If the London Underground map is a masterpiece of information design, this is what happens when Nigel knocks one up after three pints and a vague recollection of where to go.

But we must feel sorry for him. He couldn't even afford a second sheet of paper and had to tear one end off and Sellotape it together. Still, he got us all there Ok!

But that's enough joshing...(sorry Nige, I couldn't resist it!)

We had been designated an area for our club display of 10 cars (we were the only MG club there) and broke out the feather flags. Unfortunately, Andy had forgotten to bring the flag bases. In the words of the great philosopher, Homer, "Dohhh!" But like any good Scout, I had a length of string with me and so we were able to tie the flags to the fence we were backed up against. Soon we were set. Bring on the punters!





Our neighbours in the field behind kept an eye on the cars while we wandered around.

This has become a very popular show with exhibitors displaying 240 classic cars, 10 classic bikes and with 6,000 paying visitors in attendance! The trek up to Topsham is well worth it and this is likely to become a regular TVMGOC event to attend.



On this hot sunny day, the show had everything one should have – lovely food, vending stalls, music, and entertainment in the form of the hilarious Red Barrows display team.



I often judge an event like this by the number of interested people who stop to talk to us about our motors, and it seemed as if I, like the others, was chatting away for most of the day.

I received a small ego boost as a couple came up to Simon to ask if the chap was here who had written the articles in the January and February editions of *Enjoying MG* about the trip with Roy & Sonia to the Pyrenees and Mallorca. Simon, smirking, I suspect because he knew how flattered I'd be, directed them to me. Fame at last! They want to replicate the journey with the Bristol Owners Club and requested the route book we'd devised. They also asked many questions about the places we'd visited, and I was delighted to oblige. I hope they have a great trip.

Most importantly about the show, there was a fantastically eclectic range of vehicles to ogle over. Here is a small selection of the more unusual and impressive vehicles that caught my eye.

Howard with some extra photos from Nigel



Groovy baby!



The Pembleton V-Sport 3-wheeler – a new car



The Stanley Motor Carriage Company was an American manufacturer of steam cars that operated from 1902 to 1924. The cars made by the company were colloquially called Stanley Steamers.



1950s Sunbeam-Talbot 90



This metallic grey MGA was perfect



The fabulous biker boys



A rare 1963 Ford Consul Capri



To Cowslip Barn, Launceston

On a glorious day that actually wasn't too hot, compared to the previous three days, we had a lovely breeze which made it ideal hood down driving conditions for National Cream Tea Day.

Seven cars met at Roborough Down, Simon and his dog being the last to join us. However, I did hear that Simon had to pop home to change cars due to a small engine issue.



Keith and I set off, second in the order, hoping to follow the first car, as I had an inkling I might be depending on them for a non-eventful trip.

But from the word go when pulling out onto the main road, we lost them! I knew that Denham bridge was the first landmark to aim for, but we somehow ended going through Buckland Monachorum and approached Denham bridge from an 'alternative' route with potholes, hairpin bends and a big sign saying unsuitable for traffic!

On this glorious and not too hot summer day, the Devon countryside was looking lush and wonderful with every shade of green imaginable. It was the perfect day to be out in an open-topped MG.

After that, my navigator kept rather quiet, so I had to take the navigation into my own hands and stuck to the route I knew which was to head for Lifton and find our way from there to Cowslip Barn at Launceston, so unfortunately it was a very 'edited' trip, but we enjoyed it just the same, especially seeing the Dartmoor pony foals and a red kite enroute.

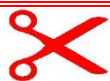
The others went via Bratton Clovelly, Ashwater, St Giles on the Heath and Yeolmbridge, before finding their way to Cowslip.

We all sat in an open-sided Marquee overlooking fields and Launceston Castle in the distance. Our wonderful cream tea was put on a large table for us to help ourselves.

There was a basket with large warm plain and fruit scones, plus a huge bowl of clotted cream and jam, with lashings of tea.

We all departed at about 5 pm and I'm sure that I can say on behalf of everyone, that it was a very enjoyable afternoon and a wonderful cream tea to fully celebrate National Cream Tea Day. With many thanks to Janis and Helen for the organisation.

Sally and Keith



News snippets



Are the days numbered for two-seater convertibles?

Apparently demand for this type of car has plummeted in favour of overweight SUVs. Shame!

See: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx212yy4er0o>

Hello Sailor!

MG and the RYA are charting an exciting new course in 2026 as MG are announced as the official automotive partner of the RYA and the British Sailing Team. Read all about it here:

https://www.rya.org.uk/news/mg-official-automotive-partner-of-the-rya/?utm_campaign=4718998_Member%20News%20-%2012%20June%202026&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Royal%20Yachting%20Association%20%28RYA%29&dm_i=7T75,2T57A,39J4WP,6TF7U,1,0,0,0

The first ever issue of Classic Car Weekly

This is available online in high-resolution digital form. It was originally published on 2 May 1990 just as the Eighties classic price boom was coming to an end, and includes an expert take on what was happening in the motoring world at a time when Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister, Madonna's *Vogue* topped the charts, and a gallon of petrol for your Ford Escort would set you back just £1.86.

It includes CCWs very first buying guide, putting the price of a good 'Frogeye' Sprite at £4500 (you'd pay around £13-15k for the same car today) and a news story from longstanding newshound Nick Larkin about a new car club being set up to cater for the Austin Allegro (which is still going strong today). It includes a race-winning MG that was bought for just £180! See the classified ads and weep: <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/71073531/the-first-ever-issue-of-classic-car-weekly-wednesday-2nd-may-1990/1>

Free wheel – this from Richard

I now have a standard MGTF spare wheel (the skinny type) complete with tyre, surplus to requirement - all in good condition.

I do not believe it is any use to those with the 160 engine with the AP racing brakes unless they are prepared to go through the correct procedure and fit this wheel to the rear and move the rear wheels to the front in the event of a front wheel puncture. The standard rear brakes on the 160 should accept this wheel. It will fit those with the standard 15" wheels.

If anyone wants it they are welcome to it. They just have to collect it. We might bring it to club night at some point if someone wants it.



How a tyre company invented food tourism.

It all started in Clermont-Ferrand in 1889, when brothers Andre and Edouard Michelin founded their world-famous tyre company, fuelled by a grand vision for France's automobile industry when there were fewer than 3,000 cars in the country.

The brothers thought how they might improve tyre sales, and realised that if people drove more, they would wear out the rubber more quickly (*Genius! Ed*). They came up with the idea of creating Michelin touring maps that featured garages, petrol stations and, crucially, places to eat.

Eventually they started to rate the *en route* restaurants. One star was awarded if the place was worth a stop, and two stars if a place was worth a detour. If a restaurant was worth a special journey, it received three stars. So, gastronomic tourism was born out of the desire to wear out tyres more quickly.

The original definitions of the star system, officially published in 1936 and still used today, are as follows:

- **One Star:** A very good restaurant in its category, offering cuisine prepared to a consistently high standard.
- **Two Stars:** Excellent cooking, skilfully crafted dishes of outstanding quality, worth a detour.
- **Three Stars:** Exceptional cuisine, showcasing the pinnacle of culinary art, worth a special journey.

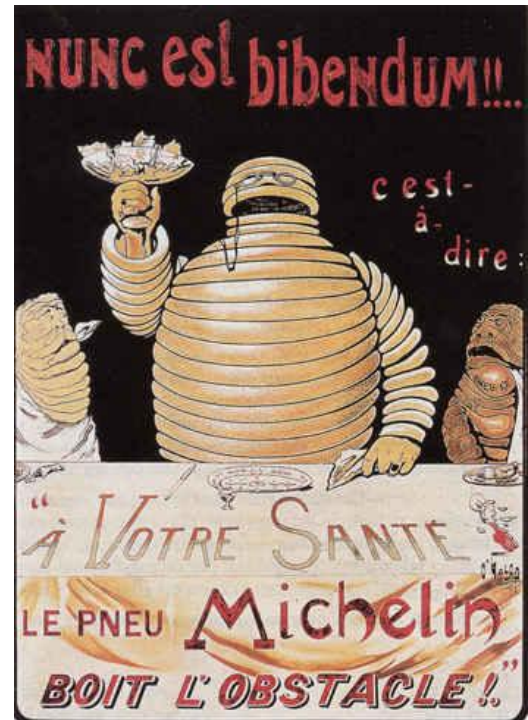
Historical Milestones

- **1933:** French chef Eugénie Brazier became the first person to hold six Michelin stars simultaneously (three stars at two different restaurants).
- **1974:** The Michelin Guide made its debut in Great Britain, awarding some of the UK's earliest stars to establishments like The Waterside Inn, The Box Tree, and The Connaught.
- **1982:** *Le Gavroche* in London became the first UK restaurant to achieve the prestigious three Michelin stars.

The Michelin logo features one of the world's most famous and oldest active trademarks.

The Michelin Man, formally known as Bibendum, was introduced in 1898. The name comes from the famous Latin phrase "Nunc est bibendum," which translates to "Now is the time to drink!"

In the late 19th century, bicycle and early automobile tyres were naturally a light grey-white colour before carbon black was added to tyre compounds in the 1910s. This historical detail explains why Bibendum remains white today.





Received entries	From
<i>She said I will take you for a ride in my Camper backpack We ended up at the Vets and I lost two things.</i>	John I.
<i>What does this cat say?...“VeeWow” It’s a cat-a-lick-it conveyer.</i>	Andrew H. Howard
<i>The cat is out of the bag as Volkswagen announce their new pink transporter Is this what’s called a VW catavan?</i>	Peter S. Tom E.
<i>Bus Life!</i>	Gavin
<i>To avoid smelly rear gases she fitted a cat to her backpack.</i>	Jains
<i>It’s a VW Catty</i>	Howard
<i>So, it’s true VW is air cooled engines just purr along.</i>	Gavin
<i>Jane has to walk carefully, or she might let the cat out of the bag.</i>	Janis
<i>The purrrrrfect way to travel</i>	Howard
<i>Who will let the cat out of the bag?</i>	Gavin
<i>I go everywhere with my thinking cat on</i>	Howard
<i>The pack is a purrfect size</i>	Jains
<i>Combining ‘back-packing’ with a ride in a ‘classic’ meant the ‘rat run’ for Tiddles used the ‘cats eyes’ to great advantage!</i>	Nigel S.
<i>Tiddles gets disqualified from Run to the Sun for cheating!</i>	Sally
<i>I didn’t think the T2 had a cat</i>	Simon
<i>VW introduce the kit bag</i>	Jan P.

And the winner chosen by Jan P Sally. Well done!

She will choose next month’s winning caption.

What is Howard explaining or asking Roy?
Please send your entries by the end of the
month and title your email
Caption Competition to:
clubsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com



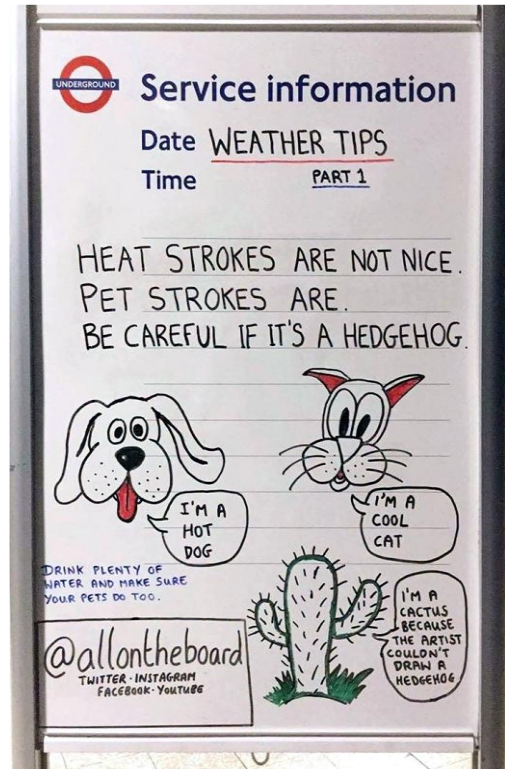


**And finally...
feeling the heat**



How to sleep in a UK heatwave

- Open all the windows. Invite approximately 400 gnats in.
- Turn the fan on. Enjoy the sensation of hot air being moved slightly faster around the room.
- Remove the duvet. Remove the sheets. Remove everything. Lie there like a starfish wondering where your life went wrong.
- Realise there is no sleep coming. Accept it. Make peace with it.
- Check your phone. 02:47.
- Early turn starts at 06:00.
- Stare at the ceiling until your alarm goes off, drag yourself out of bed and go and deal with everyone else who also did not sleep.



Shakespearian poem

*Shall I compare ye
to a summer day? Alright.
Thou art very hot.*



*Sadly, a live performance
of Frozen the Musical has
had to be cancelled due to
the extreme heat. Olaf is
said to be in a critical
condition.*



It's a good job it's not snowing. Can you imagine shovelling snow in this heat?!

It's so hot, cows are giving evaporated milk!