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# NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY 2011



Cold Turkey Run Stalwarts

# Chairman's Chat

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First of all may I wish that you all have a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Three important things should resolve in 2011:-

1. With a lot of continuing effort Tony will complete his resurrection of Karen's MGA.
2. Graham, given enough free time, will once again delight us with the rebirth and presentation of good old "Dizzy"
3. With the continuing help of outside agencies and support of the State Pension I will be the very proud owner of a better than new 1930s MPJG engine.

In between times I have no doubt that you all keep looking in the garage, or under the protective covers at your prides and joys wishing for the arrival of good spring weather so that you can get them out and drive them.

The work and "enthusiasm" goes on.

## Saturday 4th December 2010

I think that the annual Christmas Dinner and Awards Presentation in December was enjoyed by all and I have listed the worthy recipients of the Awards :-

Sam Bennett Trophy	Andy and Carole Schultz
Treasure Hunt	Bob and Carol Moore
SYCO	Roy and Sue Clapham
Bowling	David Reeves
Auto Test	Andy Wood
Quiz Night	a team called "Fivish"

My thanks go to the staff at The Farington Lodge Hotel and those Members who assisted and contributed to the success of the evening. However there is a "PS"

Because of uncertain circumstances the various trophies were not early available for engraving therefore every effort will be made so that these are ready for presentation at the Club's AGM on 25th January.

## MONDAY 27th December 2010

COLD TURKEY RUN ?  
More like a cold chicken run.

OK - we had the coldest December weather since records began together with a couple of inches of snow (global warming) so we didn't remove the dust covers!  
All except one:- (see cover)  
***Congratulations go to John Titterington – guts and determination!***

Otherwise a good selection of 4x4s and one all singing and dancing Mercedes completed Alan and Dot's Christmas cruise around the winter wonderland of Anglezarke and Rivington and only one required digging out of the snow. AND it wasn't the MG – say no more!  
All in all a good Club Day – a good chat a good drive and a good lunch.

## THINGS TO COME

Annual General Meeting  
Tuesday 25th January 2011  
Welcome Tavern  
Please make every effort to attend as your input is so very important to the future running and organisation of the Club. An agenda is included in this publication.

## ***And finally***

I am always envious of the new and spacious trains, both local and regional that we have in Spain and wish that we could enjoy the same in this country.  
A recent safety advisory article by Renfe (the train company) regarding how to hold on if standing on a moving train was considered for publication – seemingly it is touring the world wide net:-



NO!--- not that, but the old man to the right!

**Bill**

# Secretary's Scribbles

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At the start of last week, Bill Bradshaw told me that he needed my meanderings for the newsletter by Friday – I told him that that wouldn't be a problem. Well; Friday was two days ago and I'm only just sitting down to write them – no doubt you can see why it's probably just as well that I'm handing over the role of Secretary to Bill.

So, where to begin this month - well the start of another year with lots to look forward to, including the usual favourites, weekend runs, autotests, weekends away. But before all that, if you're anything like me, there's the annual servicing to be done, (hopefully this won't include the discover of any more mice this year). Once again I'll be digging my oily rags out and giving the old girl a good rub down – stop it!!.

One of the blokes that I work with recently asked me, why do you bother with these old cars, why don't you get yourself something a bit more modern. My first reaction was, wash your mouth out – have you no soul, I'm not interested in a modern MG, although I do sometimes wish that mine was a bit more economical. I went on to explain that I whilst I had no desire to buy a modern MG, I probably couldn't afford one anyway. However, that got me thinking, how much would it cost to pick up a reasonable low mileage MG TF?. Well, 5 minutes on the internet, and the results were quite surprising. Earlier this evening, you could take your pick from any one of 6 MG TF's (typically 54 plates) each with less than 20,000 miles on the clock and all of them were being advertised for less than £4000.00. Are you tempted now?

This will cheer you up..... earlier this evening, I was reading an article in today's paper about petrol prices – industry experts are warning that the previous record price for diesel £1.33/litre in July 2008, (that date just happened to coincide with Rosie and I spending our summer holiday driving our MG through France and onto Geneva – the fuel cost me an absolute arm and a leg) will soon be surpassed. These industry experts are predicting that diesel prices are likely to continue to rise to as much as £1.40/ litre by Easter – well that's bloody typical, especially as Rosie and I have just booked another motoring holiday to France!!!

## **What's coming up:-**

Jan 25th – AGM, please come and support this event, it's your club, this is your opportunity to come and tell us what you think/want

Feb 22nd – Ten Pin Bowling.

## **And finally....**

### The Hotel Bill

An elderly lady decided to give herself a big treat for her significant birthday by staying overnight in one of London 's most expensive hotels.

When she checked out next morning, the desk clerk handed her a bill for £250.00.

She exploded and demanded to know why the charge was so high. "It's a nice hotel but the rooms certainly aren't worth £250.00 for just an overnight stop without even breakfast."

The clerk told her that £250.00 is the 'standard rate' so she insisted on speaking to the Manager.

The Manager appeared and forewarned by the desk clerk announced: "the hotel has an Olympic-sized pool and a huge conference centre which are available for use."

"But I didn't use them," she said.

"Well, they are here, and you could have," explained the Manager.

He went on to explain that she could also have seen one of the in-hotel shows for which the hotel is famous. "We have the best entertainers from Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen performing here," the Manager said.

"But I didn't go to any of those shows," she said.

"Well, we have them, and you could have," the Manager replied.

No matter what amenity the Manager mentioned, she replied, "But I didn't use it!"

The Manager was unmoved, so she decided to pay, wrote a cheque and gave it to the Manager.

The Manager was surprised when he looked at the cheque. "But madam, this cheque is only made out for £50.00." "That's correct. I charged you £200.00 for sleeping with me," she replied..

"But I didn't!" exclaims the very surprised Manager.

"Well, too bad, I was here, and you could have."

Don't mess with Senior Citizens

## **Kevin**

# Editorial

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Well, this is the last newsletter that you'll be getting from me, and I'd like to thank all who have contributed over the years, especially my darling daughter Rachel, who has put it all together quickly and efficiently. Subject to confirmation at the AGM, Mike Newton will take over editorship and production of the newsletter, whilst I will revert to being secretary, replacing Kevin Doran, who has done a splendid job. Kevin has volunteered to remain on the general committee, replacing Ray Cohen, who has contributed to the effectiveness of the committee despite the miles he has had to travel to attend meetings etc.. There is a possibility that other nominations might be made prior to or at the AGM, in which case some of the above may change (or I might win the lottery jackpot, eh?).

Congratulations to Carole and Andy in being awarded the Sam Bennet trophy this year. Andy is always ready to help with members' car problems (as well as supplying defunct engines for me to play with) , whilst Carole is ever ready to provide refreshment to visitors. The club has also taken advantage of their hospitality in using their home for various club events over the years. Well done you two, you thoroughly deserve the honour. Janet and I have bitten the bullet and bought a 2006 TF, partly due to Gordon's salesmanship but mainly to give us more comfort and I hope reliability on the longer runs. This means that we will part with Buttercup, our 1978 Midget which will be put up for sale in the spring. She came to us in the late 90's as a rustbucket, but after a new Heritage bodyshell and complete renovation, has given us pure enjoyment over the years, apart from a couple of misadventures. The first was on the Cockermouth weekend when she burst a clutch pipe...



...then on the North Yorks weekend when we suffered a front tyre blowout (my fault, hit a kerb trying to avoid an oncoming local oik in a Land Rover). Both instances served to demonstrate the camaraderie and helpfulness of the members of our merry band. We have also decided to keep Iris, our MGA coupe, but our 1970 Mini Clubman automatic (Elsie) will have to go once I've sorted out her little problems.



The new TF has registration MV06GFY, and I was tempted to call it Goofy but was overruled. Because she's in X power grey, we've opted for Grace. If you send me your own car names, we'll run a competition. Included in this newsletter is a draft programme of 2011 events which will be discussed at the AGM. If you have any other suggestions, please bring them up at the meeting or email me or the Chairman.

## Bill B

Preston & District MG Enthusiasts Club

## **Agenda for the Annual General Meeting**

to be held at the Welcome Tavern, Preston on Tuesday the 25th January 2011

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Open Meeting @ 8:30pm

Opening remarks by Chairman

Reading of minutes of 2010 AGM by Secretary

Following agreement that these are a true and accurate record, proposal that these be accepted / seconded.

Matters arising

Financial report by Treasurer

Following agreement that these are a true and accurate record, proposal that these be accepted / seconded.

Matters arising

Election of committee members.

The list below shows those nominations received at the beginning of December 2010.

Election of officers

Chairman – Bill Ryding (nominated for 2011)

Secretary – Kevin Doran (retiring as secretary but nominated for general committee for 2011)

Treasurer – Mick Bamber (nominated for 2011)

Election of General Committee

Ray Cohen (retiring from committee 2011)

Gordon Mallett - (Membership, nominated for 2011)

Alan Fowler (Vice Chairman, nominated for 2011)

Bill Bradshaw - (Newsletter Editor, retiring as newsletter editor but nominated as secretary for 2011)

Other nomination - Mike Newton for Newsletter Editor and producer for 2011

2011 events programme

Membership Renewal Fees.

The committee would like to suggest that the membership fee should remain at £15.00 per year, renewable in October.

Note. Our clubs fees are based on a family membership, which could include husband & wife, boyfriend and girlfriend or partners.

Confirmation of 2011 "Lancashire Lanes Run committee" volunteers.

Any Other Business.

**To All club members, it is your club and the AGM is a special chance to have your say. PLEASE support your committee and club by attending and getting involved.**

# History Lesson from Tony Sharples

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There is an old Hotel/Pub in Marble Arch, London, which used to have a gallows adjacent to it. Prisoners were taken to the gallows (after a fair trial of course) to be hung.

The horse-drawn dray, carting the prisoner, was accompanied by an armed guard, who would stop the dray outside the pub and ask the prisoner if he would like "ONE LAST DRINK".

If he said YES, it was referred to as ONE FOR THE ROAD.

If he declined, that prisoner was ON THE WAGON.

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot and then once a day it was taken and sold to the tannery. If you had to do this to survive you were "piss poor", but worse than that were the really poor folk, who couldn't even afford to buy a pot, they "Didn't have a pot to piss in" and were the lowest of the low.

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be.

Here are some facts about the 1500's: Most people got married in June, because they took their yearly bath in May and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in

the bedroom, where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing.

As the winter wore on they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence: a thresh hold.. (Getting quite an education, aren't you?)

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight, then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot, nine days old". Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over they would hang up their bacon, to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "Bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around talking and "chew the fat".

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "The Upper Crust".

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of

## History Lesson from Tony Sharples cont...

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days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of "Holding a Wake".

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people, so they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been

burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, thread it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell.

Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus someone could be, "Saved by the Bell "or was considered a "Dead Ringer"

And that's the truth.

Now, whoever said history was boring ! ! !

## The Cold Turkey Run

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Congratulations to John Titterington. After we spent many hours plotting the route, proving it out and wrestling with the computer to produce the Tulip diagrams, John was the only MG to turn up for the run!

If after reading this you are feeling thoroughly ashamed of yourself for not making the effort then don't be as we also had an assortment of 4x4s and a Merc to add a bit of class to the proceedings.

John turned up on his own but so did new(ish) member Conrad Beaumont so he became John's navigator. Never having seen a tulip diagram before he was given a crash course in how to use it but didn't look too confident as he tried to persuade John to swap places, but John wasn't having it.

After a chat and coffee we waved them off but instead of waiting for them to return we called on my sister for another coffee and move her piano (that's another story). On our way there we spotted John and Conrad coming towards us having missed the second instruction and only one mile into the run. Oh

dear, not looking good. Anyway they got back O.K along with everyone else which was a relief as the conditions were anything but ideal.

Bill Bradshaw was unable to do the run as he had a house full of guests (well that was his excuse) but managed to join us at the finish for a drink and a chat with strict instructions not to have any food as there were plenty of leftovers to eat at home (cold turkey?). Talking of food, there didn't seem to be any complaints at the Plough apart from the service being a bit slow, but to be fair the pub was busy. I looked enviously at John's liver, onions and bacon although there was nothing wrong with my chilli con carne.

As last year, because of the weather, we'll probably do the run again. It might be a Sunday afternoon or summer evening, what do you want? Let us know at the AGM. See you there, weather permitting!

### Alan & Dot

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# Provisional Calendar of Events 2011

Date	Club Event	Time	Start / Meet
Tues 25 Jan	AGM	20.00	Welcome Tavern
Tues 22 Feb	Tenpin Bowling	20.00	Lakeside Superbowl
Tues 29 Mar	Guest Speaker	20.00	Welcome Tavern
Sun 24 Apr	St Georges Day Run / Treasure Hunt	10.30	TBA
Tues 26 Apr	Club Night	20.00	Welcome Tavern
Sun 8 May	Cholmondley Castle	TBA	TBA
Sun 15 May	Sunday Run and Lunch	10.30	TBA
Tues 31 May	Club Night	20.00	Welcome Tavern
Sun 5 Jun	Myerscough College	TBA	TBA
24/25/26/27 Jun	North York Moors	TBA	TBA
Tues 28 Jun	SYCO night	TBA	TBA
Sun 10 Jul	Leighton Hall	TBA	TBA
16/17 Jul	Cholmondley Pageant of Power?	TBA	TBA
Tue 26 Jul	Autotest	19.30	Schultz Estate
6/7 Aug	Northern National	TBA	TBA
Sun 7 Aug	Woodvale?	TBA	TBA
Tue 30 Aug	Club Night	20.00	Welcome Tavern
Sat 17 Sep	Lancashire Lanes Run	TBA	TBA
Tue 27 Sep	Club Night	TBA	TBA
Tue 25 Oct	Club Quiz Night	TBA	TBA
Sat 5 Nov	Bonfire Night	19.30	Schultz Estate
Tue 29 Nov	Club Night Guest Speaker	TBA	TBA
Sat 3 Dec	Annual Dinner and Awards	TBA	TBA
26 or 27 Dec	Cold Turkey Run	TBA	TBA

Other events may be added or details changed during the year.

# Committee, Contacts & Useful Information



Honorary President      Jeff Reid

[www.prestonmg.co.uk](http://www.prestonmg.co.uk)

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## Committee

Chairman	Bill Ryding	Preston (01772) 323116 william@wryding.wanadoo.co.uk
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Membership	Gordon Mallett	Burnley (01282) 429658 Mobile 07725503888 gordon.mg@btinternet.com
Vice Chairman	Alan Fowler	Leyland (01772) 424797 alan.fowler1972@tiscali.co.uk
General	Ray Cohen	Bury (0161) 767 9499 Mobile 07890107531 cohenraymond@tiscali.co.uk

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## Newsletter Editor

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All articles are to be sent to the editor by the 15th of the month. The Newsletter will be published and emailed in .pdf format or posted at the end of each month in time for club night.

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## Trading Members

Andy Schultz (club technical consultant)	Cuerden Classics	Preston (01772) 627120 Mobile 07817 173158 andy@pr55xq.freereserve.co.uk
John Ashworth	Accident Repairs etc	Croston (01772) 600964
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