



# The Dashpot

## December 2020

### This month:

Presidents Report, A Christmas Ode to MG, In MG History this Month, Links to Online Items of Interest, The Last Word

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Future Club meetings and  
all events are cancelled  
until further notice

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### Presidents Report

In the summer of 2008, having enjoyed a few drives with Ivan Wood in his MGA, and with Ivan's knowledge of a car that was just on the market, David bought himself an MGB. He gave it to me as a surprise birthday gift (so that I couldn't be annoyed with him for bringing yet another old car onto the property). An old MGB? What? I wanted a diamond necklace – nothing extravagant, you understand, just a gold chain with a little solitaire diamond pendant.

"Why would you want a diamond necklace?" he asked. "Think how much fun we'll have with an MGB. We'll join the Ottawa MG Club, make lots of friends, enjoy lots of road trips to shows and events." We joined the Club, I got involved, and over the years have enjoyed many road trips, events and shows, even organized a few, and have cultivated great friendships. So, all these years later, I guess I have to admit he was right about that.

As I said at the end of the AGM, owning my beautiful Polly Blue, and being a member of this wonderful Club has been a life-changing experience for me. I've been thinking in the last few weeks about all the fun times I've had over the years, and especially how much I've enjoyed being President, not just for the normal 2-year term – I got a bonus year as well, so thank you for that. Now it's time to move on, and I give you all my solemn promise that I will hand over the steering wheel to Pierre with good grace. Yes, I will still be an active member – but you won't have to drag me, kicking and screaming, from the Octagonal office on December 31.

Now, about that diamond necklace ... nah, never mind – I'm over it.

Looking to 2021, I'm optimistic that, with vaccinations for all on the horizon, things will eventually get back to some kind of normal, and we can resume our regular program of events. Exactly how long "eventually" is, remains to be seen!

So for now, whilst Covid continues to prevent us from getting together, I hope you find ways to be safely with friends, and all those you love and care about, over the festive season.

From me and my family, to you and your's ... merry merry, be well, safety mask, safety fast!  
Trish



**NAMGAR**  
North American MGA Register

Found something that would  
interest other club members?

Send to [The Editor](#) for a future issue.



**North American MGB Register**  
Including MGC, MG Midget, 1100/1300 MG, and Modern MG

# *A Christmas Ode to MG*

'Twas the night before Christmas, just one year ago,  
I'd wangled a date with this girl that I know,  
I'd tried off and on but with little success,  
When she saw the MG though, she quickly said "Yes,  
And do drive the roadster, it should be such fun!"  
And of course she was right, if I could get it to run!

To better my chances and shorten the odds,  
I put in new rings and shot-peened the rods  
Then I checked the valve clearances, re-gapped the plugs,  
examined the wiring to catch any bugs;  
I topped up the dampers, set camber and caster,  
Changed the ring gear and pinion so that I might go a bit faster.

I replaced the points, checked angle and dwell,  
Then rebuilt the carbs, set the timing as well;  
I changed the condenser and also the coil,  
Finally topped up the tank, added water and oil.  
Perhaps with all this I'll go out on the town,  
Go, and come back without once breaking down!

But you know in your heart, after all's said and done,  
The chances of that are fat, slim and none.  
My hands were a mess and my clothes were all splattered,  
But the engine ran smoothly, and that's all that mattered.  
So with everything tidy, I jumped into bed,  
With visions of a romantic drive in my head.

When the big day arrived, I nearly lost heart,  
What on earth would I do if the thing wouldn't start?  
I needn't have worried, on the drive out to meet her,  
Cecil Kimber's own car never ran any sweeter.  
The dinner was good, and the music was great,  
Then we went for a drive, which is like tempting fate.

As the lights of the city dropped swiftly away,  
The car sputtered and died, to my utter dismay.  
When I sprang from my seat and popped open the hood,  
Despite all the smoke I at once understood.  
A gasket had perished, the one thing I'd skipped,  
And that's why the engine with lubricant dripped.

As I pondered how best to make her understand,  
I saw with relief that help was at hand,  
For what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a pair of bright lights in my left fender mirror.  
As the car started slowing and then came to rest,  
The driver, I saw, was a man I detest.



"Why it's Tommy!" she cooed as she sprang to his side,  
Then she tossed me a sneer and said, "Thanks for the ride."  
They took off in a rush with a great spray of gravel,  
I watched them depart and my evening unravel,  
But I heard them exclaim as they drove out of sight,  
"Better get that thing fixed, or you'll be here all night!"

Now the moral is clear, it's not hard to discern,  
But British car drivers seem reluctant to learn,  
They're mostly like me, to my car I'm a slave,  
As I drive my MG—it drives me to my grave!  
Though possessed by possessions, there's no hint of remorse,  
The breakdowns we take as a matter of course.

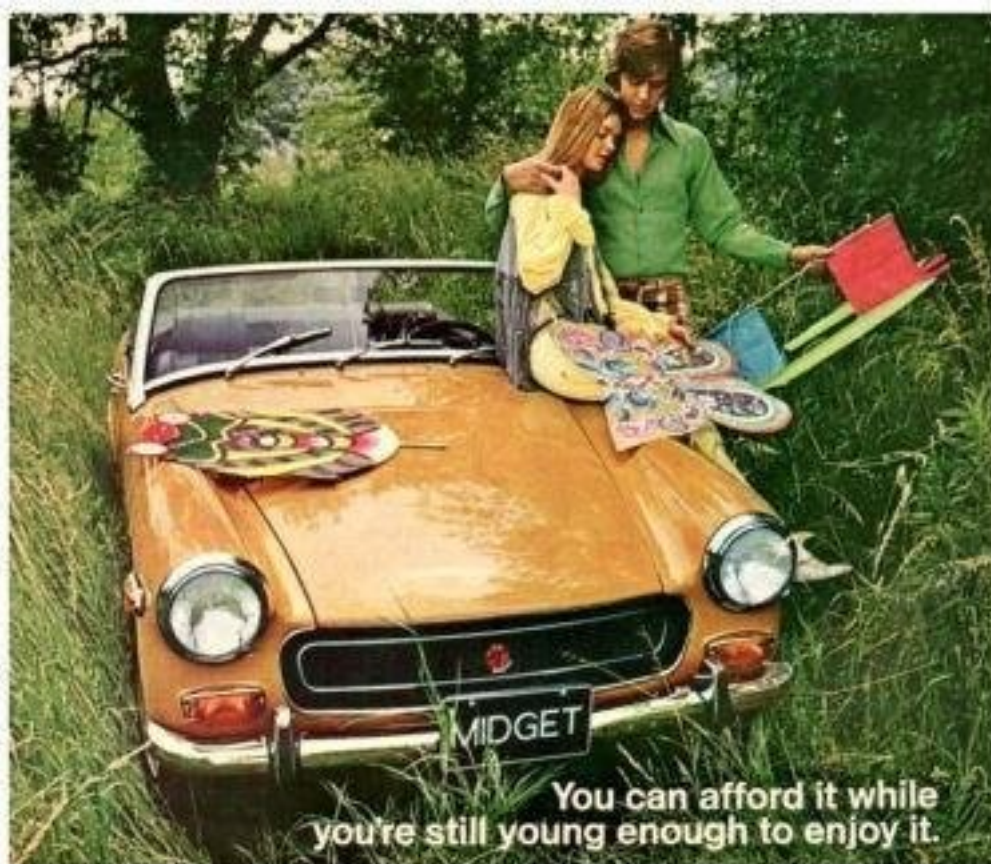
We accept the frustrations without raising a ruckus,  
Though our souls have been seared by the man, Joseph Lucas.  
To wish someone well when their troubles are chronic,  
Is counter-productive, it's oxymoronic,  
But regardless, I say, as the holiday nears,  
Merry Christmas to all—especially MG'ers! 📖

—Harry L. Christian



***Friday 7th December 1979 — 41 years ago***

The last MG Midget rolled off the production line. The Midget can trace its lineage back to the Austin-Healey Frogeye Sprite, the car which brought affordable sports car motoring to the British public in 1958. In 1961 the Austin-Healey Sprite Mk2 arrived, and with it the badge engineered MG Midget – a better appointed version that shared the majority of components with its Austin-Healey stablemate. Original cars were fitted with a 948cc A-series engine – the same engine that was used in the Frogeye in 1958, only uprated from 43bhp to 46bhp. Twin SU carburettors and the revvy nature of the A-series engine made performance engaging, if not truly quick. By 1962 the ageing 948cc engine was replaced by the updated 1098cc A-series, which was also shared with the Morris Minor, amongst others. Peak power was now a healthy 56bhp and the front drum brakes were replaced with more powerful discs as a result. While early cars certainly have their charms, they are somewhat lacking in creature comforts – a heater was only an option and windows were in the form of side screens, or curtains.



Having the want is one thing. Having the wherewithal is another. The trouble with being young is that all too often you have the one without the other.

But the 1971 MG Midget is something else again. Here is a true sports car for \$2,395\*—the lowest price you can pay for the real thing.

In this case the real thing includes a race-winning 1275 c.c. engine. Racing-type rack-and-pinion steering (2.35 turns lock to lock) for cool, crisp driving. Heavy-duty suspension for superb road-hugging. Disc brakes up front for straight-line, non-lade stops. Twin reclining bucket seats. And full sports car instrumentation with an electric tach.

Which only goes to show that, even though MG has been engineering sports cars for over 40 years, there is no generation gap. For the name of your nearest Austin-MG dealer and information about overseas delivery, dial (800) 831-4299 except in New Jersey where the number is (800) 962-2863. Cads are toll-free, of course.





**Link to online items of Interest:**

**A delightfully festive car advert**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p\\_9zofqpRRI&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR2EfR8H0w\\_rfNDoUmuZcrZ1O6NxzZ7oojEHOPUAnwkmCy7GaNXz7Vh7rpo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_9zofqpRRI&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR2EfR8H0w_rfNDoUmuZcrZ1O6NxzZ7oojEHOPUAnwkmCy7GaNXz7Vh7rpo)

**The Next Generation**

These young children are surely destined to be future MG owners – they already seem to know about “The marque of friendship”.

<http://www.omgc.info/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Friendship.mp4>

**The Last Word:**

2020 – this just about sums it up!

<http://www.omgc.info/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/This-sums-up-the-year-2020.mp4>



Copies of this edition of “The Dashpot”, along with copies of “The Dashpot” going back many years, can be found on the website: [www.omgc.info](http://www.omgc.info) / News and Events / Dashpot – and you’ll see that you can also check on Broadcasts that you might have missed, or need a reminder about.