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It seems odd and somewhat premature to be wishing you all a happy new year when I'm writing this four weeks before Christmas! Things certainly seem more normal this Christmas compared to last despite the high rates of infection in the UK, a fourth wave spreading across Europe and a new variant detected in South Africa.

I have booked our room at the hotel for the SVW event next July – all details were in the November edition and are also on the website.



Sadly, we lost John Venables in November and, given his many contributions to the MGCC, I'm sure his passing will be well-reported elsewhere. The photo is of John with his trusty VA Tourer that he owned for much of his life. The rally plaques in his garage testify to his passion.

Photo: John Venables at home, taken by Charlie Plain-Jones.

On 26th November we reached exactly 250 members in our Facebook group, a significant milestone indeed. The latest statistics show that 214 members were active on the site in the last 28 days. You can link to the SVW Facebook Group and SVW E-Group via the website home page.

I was unexpectedly contacted by Mihály Mészáros in November. Mihály owns an MGB and is one of only 2 MGCC members in Hungary. It is our good fortune that he read the article 'The 1938 Journey of The Peril' in the October edition, the story of two young ladies who travelled in an MG VA Tourer to Hungary and back, taking in much of Germany. Mihály was intrigued as to why they went to Hungary, so I extracted those parts of the album that showed where they went and the names of people they stayed with. There may be more to come on this because, at the time of writing, he has already found out that members of one of the families still live in the town they visited some 84 years ago.

Several owners are renewing the leaf springs on their SVWs after over 80 years of use. I'm doing this too and took delivery of all four leaf spring assemblies a few days ago. The bushing and fitting of these will be reported on in due course, as well as the expected improvements in ride and handling.

Sending all good wishes for the year to come.