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As reported last month, I replaced the steering box oil in my VA Tourer with a semi-fluid grease. A subsequent drive seemed to indicate less wander, perhaps because the grease produces a slightly greater resistance. It may only be my imagination and perhaps in engineering terms this is ill-founded, but as they say... perception is reality!

Booking details for the 2024 SVW event in Holland (24-26 April) have been on the website for some time. Hotel Blooming is just west of the medieval city of Alkmaar. The price is 329 Euros per night B&B for double occupancy, plus a small tourist tax. The buffet evening meals are charged separately. Full details at <https://svwregister.co.uk/social-events>. Please note: the email address to use for the hotel has changed; it is now Dena@weareblooming.com. I've created a new WhatsApp group for those in the south of the UK thinking about attending the event; we were originally looking at the Dover crossing but have decided that the Harwich to Hook of Holland ferry is more practical and cost-effective. If interested, please drop me a line with your mobile number and I'll add you to the group.

Tony Margel sent me a large bundle of documents in August that took me some time to look through. They document Tony's involvement with the SVW Register soon after its formation in 1966 (member no. 4), letter exchanges with the factory, early newsletters, parts sources, etc. The newsletters regularly included cars for sale, often with owners' names, chassis numbers, etc. all of which may add further history to our database. Jim Andrews is looking forward to cataloguing everything before it's all passed to our Librarian, David Smyth. At the time of writing and owing to Tony no longer being able to drive the VA Tourer he's owned since 1967, it remains available to purchase at what I think is a very attractive price – it's on the Register website.

There are quite a few SVWs for sale as I write. The value of classic cars is seemingly depressed at the moment, especially pre-war models, not helped by the cost of living crisis that affects many in the UK and abroad. I think prices will increase again in due course for the more prestigious and rare models, SVWs included. In the meantime, it's a good time to buy!

Mike Benton has owned two VA Tourers amongst other MGs and classic vehicles and coincidentally knows a good friend of mine in the microcar world (Bond 3-Wheeler, etc.). He joined us at a microcar gathering in Sussex at the end of September and brought along photos and articles about SVWs. One of the photos was of Air Vice-Marshal Sir Keith Park in his red VA Tourer, taken in Malta in June 1943. Many of us have seen this photo, which can be found easily online, but Mike's image processing skills produced a superb A4 copy that I'm very pleased to have.

For your Scribe, Christmas comes early as, writing this towards the end of October, this will be my last opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a 2024 filled with good SVW memories.