

Lists

Have you noticed how many people write lists these days? From lists of things to do before they die to lists of what to buy from the shops. Everyone's writing lists.

Now, it is a well-known phenomenon in life that the older one gets the more lists one has to make! These days I even have to write a list whenever I go upstairs to remind me what I'm going up for. Otherwise I get upstairs, can't remember why and so go back down again. The other day I got half way upstairs, forgot what I was going up for, so sat down on the stairs for a few minutes. When I got up I couldn't remember whether I was going up or down! Is it me or is it just my age?

Mind you, Beloved is no better. She writes shopping lists and then leaves them on the kitchen table! Either that, or when we get to the shops she can only find last week's list in her handbag, so we have to buy the same as we did last time!

But lists are not only to remind us of things. Spurred on by Pop Music's Top Ten, we now have the Top Ten lists of just about everything, from "The Top Ten Favourite places to visit by the Royals", to "The Top Ten Public Lavatories not on Motorways", and from "The Top Ten Favourite Mobile Ringtones used by the under 18's", to "The Top Ten Airport Car Parks". The thing is - who cares?!

On the internet I recently came across the "Top Ten reasons home made diets are not good for pets" (eh?), the "Top Ten data destructions" (don't know what that means), the "Top Ten Scams to look out for" (must check whether mine made it) and the "Top Ten regimes that imprison without trial"! Weird or what? I even found one site boasting the "Top Ten Bloggers"! (By the way there are 38 on the list of ten!!)

A few years ago a work colleague asked me whether I had ever written a list of lifetime goals. Nope - never even thought about it - but I did then! One of them was to own a classic Jaguar (I've always been a great E-type fan - some hope!) or even to have a Jag as my company car. Buying my first TVR partially achieved it (at least a classic sports car - even if not a Jag), and when I got the company X-type I crossed it off the list, even though everyone insists on calling it a Mondeo!

So one down - loads to go - except I've lost the list and can't remember what the others were!

So, I thought I could write a new personal TVR lifetime goals list, like "...work out where the bonnet release catch is..." and "...learn how to drive the Griff without losing the back end!" But instead I decided to indulge in a few other "Top Ten TVR" lists, starting with the Top Ten Responses that could be given by TVR drivers when caught speeding (but probably wouldn't be!)

1. "I'm sorry officer, I was going so fast, I dared not take my eyes of the road to look at the Speedometer!"
2. "Sign, what sign?"
3. "I didn't think this car could go that fast!"
4. "Was that all? I clocked it at least 10 mph faster than that!"

5. "The Gatso can't possibly have caught me – I was travelling much too quick for it!"
6. "If you jump in the passenger seat I'll show you just how fast it will really go!"
7. "The reason I didn't stop was last week my wife ran off with a policeman and I was worried you were bringing her back!"
8. "I'm late for the TVR regional meeting – we're going to have a race along the A5"
9. "But the V8 sounds better at that speed!"
10. "Do you want to race your cop car against a REAL car?"

Then I started another one – the Top Ten things you wouldn't hear a TVR driver say:

1. "I'll put a bigger silencer on to quieten it down a bit!"
2. "I bought this car for its economy!"
3. "It's pouring with rain so we may as well go out for a drive in the country!"
4. "There's a small parking space – it's a bit narrow but I'm sure I can squeeze in!"
5. "Bring as many suitcases of clothes as you like, dear!"
6. "Why would I need to join a motoring breakdown organisation?"
7. "Racing someone away from the lights is so childish!"
8. "I bought this car so I wouldn't be noticed"
9. "We can take that rubbish to the tip in the Tiv"
10. "It's a bit chilly to take the roof off".

What about the Top Ten things you are likely to hear a TVR owner say?

1. "Porsche's are for hairdressers!"
2. "Ten quid says I can beat plod away from the lights!"
3. "Can you wipe your feet before getting **into** the car?"
4. "Don't scream like that every time the rear wheels overtake us!"
5. "No we can't add a tow bar!"
6. "I can't go out in the car/put the car in the garage (delete as applicable) before I've washed and polished it!"
7. "Oo! Look! There's a TVR!"
8. "Of course it's not too cold to take the hood down!"
9. "No drinking, eating, smoking or farting allowed inside the car!"
10. "I reckon if I spent another five K I could get another 20 bhp out of the car!"
11. "0-60 is 5.2 seconds, 0-100 is 10.9 seconds, top speed 158 mph, standing quarter mile in 13.9 seconds, 280 bhp, 315 lbs of torque – what do you mean what's it like to drive – how would I know – I never actually drive it!"

(OK – so I can't count!)

Finally, how about the Top Ten reasons TVR owners go to Regional Meetings in car parks!

1. To meet fellow TVR enthusiasts
2. To have a drink
3. To look at TVR's they've been looking at for years

4. To photograph their TVR amongst others to add to the 74 photo albums they already have of their TVR amongst others!
5. To talk BHP, acceleration figures and other vital statistics (even if they don't understand them)
6. To try and work out who actually owns the TVR name these days!
7. To have another drink
8. Because it's an excuse to take the car for a 50 mile run even though the meeting is only 10 miles away. (I think I can claim the record for this one when the West Midlands had a meeting at the (now defunct) Clarke's TVR, which was six doors down from our house, but I felt the car needed a 30 mile run to warm it up!)
9. To find out why their TVR doesn't go as fast as someone else's.
10. As an excuse to get out of the washing up/decorating/visiting the mother-in-law (delete as applicable)

Right – I'm off to create the Top Ten reasons why I should buy a Tuscan. By the time I get to number six Beloved will have either agreed or called our solicitors!

David (G10TVR) Morgan