

TVR Phobias

I hate spiders – no, not the wheels – the big black hairy things with eight legs! I suppose you could say I suffer from Arachnophobia, which is the correct name for the fear of spiders. Daft really, when they are so small, and in this country quite harmless, and I am over six foot tall, with size 10 boots! But I just can't help it!

Many fears are irrational. Beloved has a fear or phobia about buttons, others I have heard of include the sensation when you pull cotton wool apart, the feeling of felt, the look of porcelain dolls and the sight of tapioca pudding!

You can make a complete study of phobias. In fact, on the internet, there is a great site that lists over 500 phobias (www.phobialist.com). Some of them are really wacky! For instance, there is autophobia.

Now you would think this would be the fear of automobiles – but no, that's Motorphobia. Autophobia is actually the fear of self! How can you be afraid of yourself? Imagine, waking up in the morning and thinking, "Yuk! It's horrible! I'm still me!" Or what about Eisotraphobia – the fear of seeing oneself in a mirror! That wouldn't do a lot for your self confidence would it? I would hate to think what would have happened to a sufferer of that if they had used the hotel bedroom that I had recently. On the back of the bathroom door was a full length mirror, and when you shut the door, the mirror was right opposite the toilet! I'll leave the rest to your imagination!

How about Geniophobia – the fear of chins! Imagine a sufferer of Geniophobia meeting you and as they look at you they go, "Urgh! What's that on your face?"

In panic you would probably respond with, "What is it? A huge bogey hanging from my nose? A large weeping zit? Spinach between my teeth? Tell me, for heaven's sake – what's wrong with me?"

"It's horrible! I can't look at you! You've gota chin!"

I suppose we shouldn't laugh, but I ask you, are these things for real? They are all documented from reference books, so presumably there has been a sufferer of each one at some time. But some people must have had a very difficult time, like anyone who suffers from Somniphobia, the fear of sleep – what do they do – stay awake as long as possible and have half a dozen alarm clocks ready just in case they drop off (or perhaps once they are asleep they don't worry about it). What about Optophobia – fear of opening one's eyes! Actually I think there are a number of sufferers of this around our area – at least that's what it appears to be when you see how they drive!

Then there is Panophobia (or Pantophobia) – the fear of everything! Fancising having a phobia about absolutely everything.

"Urgh! It's a door! Yuk! A window! How horrible! A floor! I can't go in that room, there may be some furniture in it!" How can you possibly have a fear of everything?

Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself!" There's even a name for that – it's Phobophobia – the fear of developing a fear or

phobia! So, based on that, if you developed a fear of developing Phobophobia, would you actually have Phobophobia?! The mind boggles!

But two that must rate as the best are Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia and Arachibutyrophobia.

Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia is the fear of long words! Seriously! Imagine being at the shrinks to be told, "Don't worry, your fear of long words isn't that odd. There's even a name for it – look, I'll write it down for you!"

It would give you the screaming hab-dabs wouldn't it! You'd run out of the room shouting, "I can't look at that piece of paper!"

As for Arachibutyrophobia – this is the fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth!! Honest!! I don't know why a sufferer from this just doesn't stop eating the stuff – there you are – cured!

Some phobias would seem to relate to cars, like Tachophobia (the fear of speed), Ochophobia (fear of being in a moving vehicle) and Amaxophobia (fear of riding in a car)! But these are definitely for people who would NOT get into a TVR. What about those of us who DO drive them?

Well, there are some genuine ones that might fit several people I know. Pluviophobia or Ombrophobia are both the fear of rain or being rained on! I suffer from that whenever I'm in the TVR – but I think that deserves a better name, because it is ONLY when I'm in the TVR. Something like Aquativvaphobia would be more accurate – not liking to get the TVR wet! Or perhaps Aquatopoffstoppaphobia! This is the fear of being caught in a rainstorm with the hood off and having to stop!

Last time I got caught, I was only a mile from my destination, but I was in the outside lane, and the traffic stopped as the heavens opened! I was fortunate that I had a broolly in the car, which I immediately put up. I also discovered why we wear seat belts – at 25 mph there's enough uplift to paraglide!

I will also admit to suffering from Amychophobia, which is the fear of scratches or being scratched – although in reality it probably refers to the human body rather than the TVR shell.

If you don't want to suffer from Peniaphobia then don't buy a TVR – it's the fear of poverty, and once you have a Tiv, you'll start to get the symptoms as your bank balance drops! On the other end of the scale, you definitely should buy a TVR if you have Plutophobia – that's the fear of wealth. Owning a Tiv will help you overcome it!

But I definitely think we need some new ones. So here is my list of the top five phobias likely to be suffered by TVR owners and drivers.

1. Novaphobia and Meganovaphobia. The first is the fear of boy racers in hot hatches with back to front baseball caps and large diameter exhausts – although they don't have the power of a TVR, they're as likely as anyone to cause damage to a Tiv because they insist on trying to keep up and even overtake everyone they see. The second, related, fear is of the same boy racers with the 1000 megawatt speakers on the

parcel shelf. The reason we need to fear these is because you can't even hear a decent TVR exhaust over their maximum volume stereo systems.

2. Maxogatsophobia – this is not, as it might first appear, the fear of setting off a speed camera, for that would, of course be Gatsophobia. Maxogatsophobia is the fear of going through a speed camera and not quite managing to get the speed up to the maximum required 180 mph to avoid setting the camera off!

3. Dawdlaphobia – the fear of dawdling motorists who slow down on single carriage ways and then speed up as soon as they come to a dual carriage way, or there's a bit of open road where you could overtake. This phobia also covers the lane 3 drivers who should be on the hard shoulder and those who need a clear road each way for at least a mile before they will pull out at a junction. There are a number of related fears such as Caravannaphobia and tricurcumaphobia – the latter also being known as Delboyvannaphobia - fear of three wheelers!

4. Antiposaphobia – the fear of going out and NOT looking like a total poser. You might think that Posaphobia would be the correct name for this fear, but of course that would indicate the fear of looking like a poser – which no self respecting TVR driver should ever fear!

5. Amphispatialawarenessphobia – this is made up of *amphi* (from the Greek) denoting both sides or all around, spatial, from the Latin *spatium*, meaning space, and awareness. It is more commonly called Numptyparkaphobia, and clearly relates to the fear of those idiots who insist on parking too close, and then opening their door as if there is nothing within a mile or so! Come on, own up, 95% of us suffer from this!

I was having an enjoyable lunch one sunny Saturday, at a garden centre, in full view of the TVR in the car park, and was horrified to see some muppet try and park their car in the space next to mine that was just about wide enough for an anorexic man on a bicycle! It took her five attempts, and she eventually abandoned it with about 3 inches between her vehicle and mine!

Why do they do that when there were at least 10 full empty spaces fifteen yards away?

Finally, I have to add my own driving related fear. It's Oldblokeinahataphobia. Have you ever noticed that when anyone does anything totally stupid in a 4 wheeled vehicle it's nearly always an old bloke in a hat! So that has to be the worst phobia of all.

Right, that's me done. I'm off out in the Griff – now, where did I leave my hat?!

David G10TVR Morgan