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# NORCEMOG NEWS

NORTH WEST AND CHESHIRE

October 2012

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**A good attendance at the Anderton Boat Lift, with weather to match. If you missed it, the report is below. A good attendance at the Committee Meeting too, and thanks to the Mizons for their hospitality. The DRAFT Minutes are included.**

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NORCEMOG REGALIA – Isobel Moore 01253 738201 To access the Jancraft clothing and print details the web site is [www.jancraft.com](http://www.jancraft.com). They have our badge on their computer system, and you can go onto their website and order garments that they will badge for you. However, to ensure that you get both the fit and the quality that you expect, you can also buy elsewhere, and then send it to them to put the badge on.

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## Norcemog visit The Anderton Boat Lift – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012

On a bright, sunny September morning 12 fine examples of British engineering rolled into the visitor assembly area of a slightly larger example of British engineering – The Anderton Boat lift.



Located in the heart of Cheshire and boasting a structure Kevin McCloud would be proud of the boat lift links the Navigation with the Trent & Mersey canal some 50 feet (and 4 inches!) above.



that even Weaver (and 4

Northwich and surrounding towns flourished as the salt mining industry developed through the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the Weaver Navigation (man made river), made navigable in 1721, provided a much needed transport link from Winsford, through Northwich and on to Liverpool and the rest of the world. The Trent & Mersey canal completed in 1777 provided a waterway linking the salt towns of Northwich, Middlewich and Winsford to the South and the coal mining and pottery industries around Stoke on Trent.

As the salt and chemical industry developed further through the 19<sup>th</sup> century the two waterways became a major interchange for the transportation of goods in both directions using cranes, chutes and inclined planes to transfer products from one level to the other. Due to this method being so time consuming, and therefore expensive, the owners of the River Weaver and Trent & Mersey canal worked together to link the two navigable waterways directly so that the boats themselves could be transferred more efficiently from one to the other. The only problem was a height difference of 50 feet (and 4 inches!). Locks were considered and rejected as they would have drained the Trent & Mersey canal hence a hydraulic boat lift, designed by British engineer Edwin Clark, was opened in 1875.



The lift consists of 2 caissons (tanks) which could be 'sealed' at either end and would hold 2 boats at a time. The caissons were raised and lowered on hydraulic rams between the two waterways where the appropriate end could be opened and the boats depart / enter. Problems were encountered over the years and a serious accident closed the lift for 6 months in 1882, the same year that grooves were first noticed on the hydraulic rams.

John Arthur Saner was engineer for the Weaver Trust for 47 years and he proposed and designed an which used chains, pulleys and counter weights hydraulic rams. This was opened in 1908, however, chemicals and salt providing perfect corrosion there was a great dependence on regular (sound familiar?) and extensive repairs were required over the years the lift continued to operate however with a demand from industry and concerns about its safety closed in 1983.



Navigation electric lift instead of the with conditions maintenance in 1922. Over decreasing the lift was

During the same year 4 options for restoration were and it was decided that the hydraulic operation would be used whilst retaining many of the features from the 1908 electrical operation. Today, after £3.3M of heritage lottery funding the fully restored lift celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of re-opening for the transfer of pleasure craft between the two waterways.

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After a welcome coffee and Danish the 24 intrepid explorers from Norcemog boarded the Edwin Clark boat, moored on the Trent & Mersey canal, for a trip down the lift to the Weaver Navigation. A full commentary gave the history and operation of the boat lift and was followed by a 30 minute cruise to the centre of Northwich where relics of the industrial past were described and witnessed.



Back at the visitor centre there was time to explore the displays and working schematics of the history of the boat the

lift before a soup & sandwich lunch completed organised part of the Noggin.



For nature lovers the visitor centre is well surrounded by easy walks of the countryside. There is wild life in herons, buzzards and wild flowers to alleged crocodiles and tigers if be believed!



located and abundance from previous visitors can



After the 'Grand Day Out' it was time to leave for home, top down and an enjoyable drive through the Cheshire countryside.

Our thanks to all the staff at the centre who did their utmost to ensure the day was most enjoyable.

Report – Andrew Threlkeld

Photos – Joan & Andrew Threlkeld

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## NORCEMOG COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012 at 19:30

### MINUTES of MEETING

**Present** – Adrian, Andy, Barbara, Bryan, Geoff, Gill, Isobel, John, Martin & Roy

**Minutes of 22<sup>nd</sup> February Meeting** – These were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**Outstanding Actions** - There were no outstanding actions

**Weekend Away 2012** - Following the discussions at the AGM in support of a Weekend Away in October an "Autumn Retreat" had been arranged to be held at the Palace Hotel Buxton over the weekend of the 19/20 October. To date 6 rooms had been booked and whilst the original deadline had passed the hotel had confirmed that rooms at the preferential rates were still available.

**Review of Diary of Events** - The diary of events to the end of 2012 was complete, as published in the Newsletter. It was agreed that since the most popular Noggins were those which included a visit to an historic feature, site or house we should plan for more of these in 2013/4. We should also include the motor racing/display events at Tatton Park, Arley Hall and Oulton Park. The members present volunteered for various outings and a Diary of Events was drafted. A copy would be sent to all members.

**Treasurers Report** - Bryan reported that current membership stood at 47, there were no outstanding bills and our bank balance remained healthy and stable.

**Website** - Adrian reported that he was not receiving any items that members wished to have put on the website. It had been hoped that members would send photographs, technical hints, visit reports etc.

**Newsletter** - A discussion about the distribution of the Newsletter concluded in deciding to publish future Newsletters on the Website.(after the October issue). Adrian would send an email advising members that the latest Newsletter was "now available" on the website and would provide a hyper link to it. It was

agreed that the Newsletter should be in the "public" pages of the website and available to all.

**Awards** - The various awards that had not been presented at the time of relevant events would be presented at the Christmas party. Following discussion the following awards were made:

- Lifes Cup - Martin & Vivien Cocks
- Wilkinson Sword - Andrew & Joan Threlkeld
- Scriptwriters Award - xxxxxxx
- Layshaft Award - Peter Moore
- Kelly Cup - Roy Wilkinson
- Glenises's Shield - Isobel Moore

**AOB** Isobel reported that Jancraft would in future only be supplying regalia items from their website. They would however, continue to offer an embroidery service to add the Norcemog badge to items of clothing sent to them. Bryan raised the issue of lack of Norcemog entry in the Centre Reports in Miscellany. It was agreed that we should have an entry every month. Geoff agreed to submit the entry.

**The next meeting will be held at G&G's at 19:30 on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21:30

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**NorceMog Diary of Events** there are a small number of dates after the AGM which need to be confirmed, so although the whole year is planned, in this edition, only the first months are shown to prevent you entering the wrong dates for the far future events.

Oct 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Weekend Away – Palace Hotel, Buxton.

Nov 11<sup>th</sup> Mid Month Noggin – Boundary Mill Barbara & Roy 01772 324134

Dec 9<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party – Mollington Banastre Hotel, near Chester

## **2013**

Jan 13<sup>th</sup> Mid Month Noggin - Andy & Sue Bleasdale – Tel 01995 61718

Feb 10<sup>th</sup> Snowdrops at Lytham Hall Isobel & Peter Moore – Tel 01253 738 201

Mar 10<sup>th</sup> Salts Mill - Adrian & Alicia Grant – Tel 01253 727336

April 14<sup>th</sup> AGM – Royal Oak Garstang - Bryan Rawlinson Tel 01995 604716

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## **NORCEMOG AUTUMN RETREAT THE PALACE HOTEL BUXTON 19<sup>TH</sup> – 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2012**

Following discussion at the AGM when the vote confirmed a desire to have a weekend away in the autumn (not having had a dinner dance earlier in the year) arrangements have been made to hold this event at The Palace Hotel, Buxton.

The Palace was used as the main hotel for the MOG2010 which many of you will know as a very comfortable and excellently located hotel, with secure parking for our Morgans.

Buxton has many things to take advantage of, being situated in the heart of the Peak District. Places such as Bakewell, Castleton, Leek and Matlock offering opportunities for scenic runs, whilst properties like Chatsworth House, Hardwick Hall, Kedleston Hall and Biddulph Grange

within easy reach if historic houses and gardens are more to your liking. For a more strenuous day, what about a walk in the Manifold Valley or Dovedale?

In Buxton itself there are caves, gardens, a gallery not to mention the Opera House several good pubs and shops aplenty.

Private dining in the Conservatory has been arranged for dinner on Friday and Saturday with waitress service and the full restaurant menu available. Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday will also be in the Conservatory, again for our exclusive use. B&B is offered for Sunday in case you would like to visit one of the many local restaurants (within easy walking distance) or eat early and go to a performance at the Opera house.

A significant discount has been arranged for MSCC members for this event, the rates for the rooms we have allocated to us for the weekend being:

DB&B at £70 per person per night for Friday and Saturday nights based on 2 people sharing, or £90 for a single.

DB&B at £55 per person for Sunday night based on 2 people sharing or £75 for a single

B&B at £40 per person for Sunday night based on 2 people sharing, or £60 for a single.

To join this event simply ring the Reservations Team at the Palace Hotel on 01298 22001 to book your room for the nights you wish to attend being sure to mention that you are joining the Morgan Event (to get the above rates). They will ask for a credit/debit card to guarantee the reservation but will not take any payment until you leave the hotel. Should it become necessary to cancel your reservation this can be done until 14:00hrs on Thursday the 18/10/12 at no charge.

Any rooms in our allocation that are not booked by September 7<sup>th</sup> will be removed from our allocation for the hotel to use for normal guests.

When you book please email me so that I can keep a record of who is attending and for which nights.

**Geoff Mizon**

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### **Christmas Party at the Mollington Banastre Hotel on Sunday 9th December 2012**

A favourable response to the idea of holding our Christmas Party at the Mollington Banastre Hotel on the 9th December 2012 was received from the membership, the majority of whom have chosen to have the standard Christmas Lunch as a sit-down meal at a cost of £14.95 per head. We have provisionally booked a room which will seat 24 members and have had booking requests from 18 members so far. If this room is oversubscribed we will endeavour to obtain a larger room, so in fairness to the hotel we would appreciate an early response from those who have not registered their interest in attending by the weekend of 14/15<sup>th</sup> July which is the weekend of the Oulton Park Classic Car Race/Show. Roy and Barbara are attending this event so they would like to finalise numbers that weekend.

As for staying overnight at the hotel, a rate of £40 per person has been agreed for either the Saturday night before or the Sunday night after. Just phone the hotel quoting Morgan Christmas Party, and you will be booked in at the preferential rate. Roy and Barbara will be there on the Saturday evening to show people around who have not stayed before. Guests have free access to the Leisure facilities which include a nice indoor pool.

The intention is to meet for pre-dinner drinks at the bar at 12.00 noon and follow this with our lunch.

The hotel number is **01244 851471** and Roy can be contacted on **01772 324134** (home) or **07754 565955** (mobile)

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### **NorceMog Goes South ?**

After two aborted attempts to put an itinerary together for an interesting Continental trip here is number three, and the final one!

Reasons for earlier failures were,  
For a bespoke tour, 'We are no longer able to undertake bespoke tours for 2013' It took them six weeks to tell us! (Continental Car Tours' CCTs)

Meeting up with a local group, 'Les Mousquetaires Club has almost ceased to exist due to many problems of age, illness and *worse*'. (This response I found quite touching as I know, knew, some of them!)

So this is the proposal.

Centre the trip around The Laon Historique weekend Fri 17<sup>th</sup> - Mon 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013  
See information below. Extending the trip before or after the weekend is possible but to ensure an entry to the event and hopefully all of us in the same hotel we need to book now. That is book the entry and accommodation.  
Details of actual ferry crossings and prior or post accommodation can be sorted a little later.

Una & I have booked the Ibis Laon (see attached) for the event but will be arriving in France on the Wednesday and staying approx 20Km from Calais for two nights prior to the event.

Anyone wishing to join us wuld be most welcome and should contact us direct for more information. [Daid.una@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Daid.una@hotmail.co.uk); 01630 652498.

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