
NORCEMOG

NEWS

NORTH WEST AND CHESHIRE

February 2014

Welcome to this edition.

Thanks for the response to my request for names for the Tram Depot tour next Wednesday, 5 March. If you have not yet let me know that you are coming along, do so by noon on Monday, without fail. A modified notice about the AGM, and here again, we need you to let us know if you are coming along. If you are, please e mail to jathrelkeld1@sky.com, so that he can sort the catering. Committee meeting at the Mizon's on 12 March. If you want to raise any issues, get in touch with Geoff.

NORCEMOG REGALIA – Isobel Moore 01253 738201 To access the Jancraft clothing and print details the web site is 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.

NORCEMOG WEBSITE

Andrew Threlkeld has taken this over, and is immersed in its redevelopment. He will welcome your input to how it looks, and any contribution you want to make, including especially photos.

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Morgans on view at Oakmere Morgan - Northwich

Oakmere Morgan held an event on Sunday 26th January at 10am to 2pm. They invited known owners in their area plus Devamog and Norcemog members. They served tea and coffee to all and bacon baps to the early birds. On show were six traditional Morgans, three, three wheelers and an Aero.

Starting with the three wheelers, it was good to see that one of the models had been chromed up and not before time in my opinion. Chrome spoked wheels and other bits on the front end. I know it is supposed to look old fashioned but I would like to chrome it up a bit more, including putting very wide chrome spoked wheels and tyres on it.

There was a good range of traditional Morgans, you know the ones everybody associates with Morgan and most of us have. Very noticeable was a Plus 8 looking the part in Corsa red and oozing grunt. A wolf in sheep's clothing having an Aero chassis with a very powerful engine.

Then there was the Aero, liveried in white with its futuristic rear end styling. The Aero now ends to a point a bit like the three wheelers. This will be a bit of a shock to anyone who was not prepared for it like me. Having looked at it over the hour or so I was there it definitely started to grow on me. It looks a bit odd but in time it could be a classic iconic shape. The funny Japanese type rear lights in opaque plastic are disappointing.

I am a Morgan traditionalist and would never change my Plus 4 for anything except maybe that awesome Plus 8. I was very disappointed to see the spare wheel had disappeared on the new models. I like to see the spare wheel. Also missing is the little side lights on top of the front mudguard. Very disappointed to see them gone although I understand they can be fitted as an after sale. The factory don't fit them any more due to health and safety. Don't send me down that road or I will blow Brussels up.

So all in all it was a very interesting day. Unfortunately it was cold and wet so we did not get to drive any of the vehicles on show. Oakmere Morgan offered anyone who arrived in a

Morgan a free health check which was very nice of them. Keep it up Oakmere Morgan and I hope they make it an annual event. Their grand opening was this time last year so maybe it is an annual event.

Harry Walker

Norcemog Squadron Sortie to Birley Arms and Fairhaven Lake 9 February

How could I or anyone else resist a chance to meet up with fellow Morgan owners and experience sitting in the driving seat of a Spitfire? A Triumph Spitfire you may ask. Absolutely not – much, much better than that - a replica 1942 Supermarine Spitfire Mark IX! The small boy in me simply would not sit still and can you blame him? It even tempted some out of deepest, darkest Shropshire!

Meeting up at the Birley Arms between Wrea Green and Warton was straightforward and easy, particularly for those with local knowledge or who had taken the precaution of making a flight plan. Others, particularly those who hail from Sale decided that serendipity ruled and entertained Wrea Green residents with many sightings of the same Morgan. Lunch consisted of sizeable helpings yet the clamour of conversation continued unabated. Irene was defeated by her turkey – no, not John this time!

A short drive after lunch to an industrial estate revealed the location of the Spitfire. Within a 'hangar' shared with an ex-War Dept 10 hp Vauxhall and an ex-RAF fuel bowser, sat the Spitfire minus its wings which were stored on a wheeled trolley. Some enthusiastic and hardy Norcemog members helped wheel the trolley outside revealing the superb replica Supermarine Spitfire Mark IX within wearing the livery of the Mark Vb of W3644 bought by the inhabitants Lytham St Annes during the war. Sgt Ridings, it's 20 year old Lancashire pilot and W3644 was lost in action on a bombing mission over Morlaix, Brittany in 1942.

For those sad individuals such as I who appreciate such facts, this particular replica was apparently the first fibreglass replica to be built and installed as a gate guardian to RAF stations when the RAF realised that the genuine articles were worth large amounts of money. This one was installed at RAF Hooton near Ellesmere Port which, if I'm correct, was coincidentally the airfield from which the last operational RAF Spitfire, part of the meteorological flight, flew.

There was a constant stream of Norcemog members ready to sit in the cockpit and after an introductory talk by the volunteers, they were assisted into the cockpit and given an explanation of the controls and instruments. Some even requested the cockpit canopy to be closed despite claims of claustrophobia!

Incidentally, there were no strains of the *Dambuster's March* or *633 Squadron* coming from anyone's lips – after all, Norcemog members are a well-informed bunch and do know that these films are dedicated to the pilots and aircraft of 617 and 633 Squadrons which of course flew Avro Lancasters and de Havilland Mosquitos. What an intelligent lot!

For my part, I patiently dozed sitting in a Lloyd loom chair listening to the gramophone and lazily leafing through *Picture Post* when I was rudely awakened by the clanging of a bell and loud shouting. Before I knew it, I was in the cockpit but thankfully the dream stopped there! Just as well as without wings and a Merlin engine, take-off would have been impossible!

After our enthusiasm for this iconic and wonderful aeroplane had been satiated, we all drove in convoy to Lytham's Fairhaven Lake where there is a life-sized replica Spitfire installed twenty five (imperial) feet in the air on a plinth as if on a very low pass over the lake. Beautiful! The volunteer from the Spitfire display team was on hand to photograph the proud line-up of Morgans and before long it was loaded into Facebook (rather than in *Picture Post*!).



Norcemog Squadron's infamous A and B Flight pilots ready to taxi off for their sortie to Fairhaven Lake in Supermarine Spitfire Mark 9s

Finally and to quote the famous BBC war correspondent of the Falklands Brian Hanrahan: "I'm not allowed to say how many joined the raid, but I counted them all out and I counted them all back." It was a truly excellent day – thank you Isobel & Peter!

David Roberts

NorceMog Diary of Events here is the latest update, which includes details of events already circulated by Geoff Mizon. Add the dates to your new Morgan calendars.....

- Mar 5** Blackpool Transport Tram Shed Tour - Adrian Grant – Tel 01772 204988
adrian.grant@taspartnership.co.uk
- Mar 12** Committee Meeting 19.30 at the Mizon's Tel 01253 892733
- April 13** NORCEMOG AGM

The 2014 AGM for the North West and Cheshire Centre of the Morgan Sports Car Club will take place on

Sunday 13th April 2014
at
Vale Royal Abbey Golf Club
Whitegate, Northwich, CW8 2BA

A 2 course carvery lunch with coffee will be served about 12.30pm.
Cost £14.95

The meeting will follow in the Library

Please inform Joan & Andrew Threlkeld if you wish to attend before March 28th

Tel - 01606 852395 or 07912 494768

Email – jathrelkeld1@sky.com

After the meeting Sue & David Roberts have kindly offered 'Tea & Cake' at their home close by and the opportunity for a daffodil walk. Flowers and weather permitting!

NORCEMOG AGM – 13th April 2014

AGENDA

1 Apologies

2 Secretary's Report

3 Treasurer's Report

Finances

Membership renewal – subs (£5) for 2014 are now overdue

4 Election of Officers

Position	Current Officer
Chairman	- Andy Bleasdale -
Secretary	- Geoff Mizon - resigning
Treasurer	- Bryan Rawlinson -
Regalia Officer	- Isobel Moore -
Newsletter Editor	- Adrian Grant -
Competition Secretary	- Martin Cocks -
General Officer	- John Alden -
General Officer	- Roy Wilkinson -
General Officer	- Andrew Threlkeld -

5 2014 Diary of Events

Autumn Retreat, Gymkhana, Base Camp, Christmas Party

6 Any Other Business

If you are unable to attend the meeting but wish to have your views expressed on any matters relating to the centre, please contact a committee member before the meeting.

AGM AGENDA NOTES

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In order to keep Norcemog attractive to and enjoyable by, its members we need to keep a steady flow of new ideas for our events. This can be assisted greatly by a regular turnover of committee members. Several of the current committee have been officers for approaching 10 years one or two even longer.

Our constitution requires that all the Officers of Norcemog need to be elected each year, we therefore require volunteers to fill ALL the various positions.

Please consider volunteering to join the committee in any of the positions and help by bringing some new blood to the organisation. If you are prepared to help (or know another member who is), please use the form below to make a proposal. (be sure to confirm the person is willing to stand if you are proposing another member).

We would like to see as many Morgan cars as possible at Waddesdon in support of Help for Heroes. In return for a minimum donation of £5, cars will be parked in front of the elegant French Chateau style manor house offering a superb photo opportunity. Waddesdon Manor is a grand and beautiful 'Rothschild' / 'National Trust' Estate located on the A41 between the towns of Bicester and Aylesbury. www.waddesdon.org.uk.

Gates open for Morgans at 09.30 and general public 10am. To reserve your front of house space and limited edition rally plaque sponsored by Gott & Wynne (first 200 cars), please send the following to: David Harris, Mallards, Balcarras Retreat, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham. GL53 8QU

- Your cheque, min £5 payable to Help for Heroes
- Email address and vehicle details Plus 8, 4/4 etc
- Stamped addressed envelope.

Your parking ticket will be despatched by return.

Front of house parking only available through advance booking

Entry to grounds free for NT members. Reduced rate for non members arriving in a Morgan. In the event of any query please contact David Harris (davidharris144@btinternet.com)

June 1 Tatton Park Classic & Performance Car Show - Martin Cocks – Tel 01772 862936

June 8 Autotest & Concours Commercial Vehicle Museum, Leyland - Bryan Rawlinson - Tel 01995 604716

June 22 Arley Hall Garden Festival - Geoff Mizon – Tel 01253 892 733

July 13 Scenic Run - Andrew & Joan Threlkeld – Tel 01606 852395

July 25 -27 The MSCC have reserved a Club area at the **Silverstone Classic** in July 2014.

The car club code is C14004. Tickets can be booked through the website

<http://www.silverstoneclassic.com/>

Go to the Car Clubs page and enter the code. You then need to buy the 'CAR CLUBS DISPLAY PACKAGE' ticket. This ticket gives you entry for 2 people and 1 infield vehicle pass for your Morgan. If you buy 'EVENT' tickets you will need to buy a ticket for each person attending and you will not receive an infield pass so you won't be able to bring your Morgan onto the car club display area. Please note you will NOT be able to bring any other vehicle onto the club area. This is for Morgans only. There is plenty of free public parking available. For the best ticket prices book before the 31st March 2014. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us either by email or 01908 330273.

August 6 Committee Meeting - 19:30 Venue TBC

August 10 Oulton Park Classic Race - Martin Cocks – Tel 01772 862936

Aug 15-17 MOG2014 Harrogate - Neil Edwards (Yorkshire)

Aug 24-25 Oulton Park Gold Cup - Geoff Mizon – Tel 01253 892 733

Sept 12 – 14 Autumn Retreat – Venue suggestions, Murder Mystery?, Volunteer

Oct 12 Gymkhana ?? - Volunteer Required

Nov 9 Noggin Venue TBC – John & Irene Anderson?? – Tel 0161973 0169

Dec 7 Christmas Party, – Roy & Barbara – Tel 01772 324134