

NORCEMOG

NEWS

NORTH WEST AND CHESHIRE

November 2014

Welcome to this edition, and apologies that it has been delayed, due to my holiday in Boston, visiting my grandson and his parents, coupled with the accumulation of stuff waiting for my attention when I returned. If you have not booked for the Christmas Do then you are probably too late. I have included the details just in case there is still a chance... Thanks to Andrew for providing the reports from the events in October.

NORCEMOG REGALIA – Isobel Moore 01253 738201

NORCEMOG WEBSITE

Andrew Threlkeld has taken this over, and will welcome any contribution you want to make, especially photos.

Chester Vintage Enthusiasts Club – Autumn Trial

19th October 2014 at Fishpool Farm, Oakmere

The Chester Vintage Enthusiasts Club is a Vintage and Classic Car Club covering Cheshire, The Wirral and North Wales. Norcemog were invited to enter / attend their annual Autumn Trial and what fun we had.

Norcemog were well represented by John Alden and neighbour, Roy Wilkinson and son and Andrew Threlkeld and wife who had all entered, David and Una Haynes who had volunteered to marshal and Harry and Kay Walker who popped along to see what was happening.



Despite some cloudy skies the day stayed dry for the event and the sun even shone through on occasions. The course was made up of 6 sections of various climbs and twists and a timed slalom around buckets which would be used as a tie-break should competitors end up level on points.

Now, as a complete novice to the Trial / Gymkhana scene I was encouraged by the entry form stating a safe, non-damaging environment. I then had a look at the first section and thought "this farmers field does not look all that smooth to me" and my anxiety rose a bit further when Roy appeared with a tyre pressure gauge and started discussing optimum tyre pressures and stating confidently that he thought his winter tyres were more suited to the occasion. Mmm, I just thought I turned up and 'had a go' or even 'give it a bit of welly' as Len Goodman might have said.

Anyway, it was all light hearted, well organised and fairly informal. Instructions were

1. Begin at the start line
2. Get up the hill as far as you can
3. Pass through the gates keeping the numbered posts to your right. (That's the side the driver sits!)

4. Do a 'stop / start' when the marshals tell you without rolling back.

What could possibly go wrong?

There were classes - Pre-war vintage, Post war classic and an Invitation class – basically the Morgans!



As previously stated there were 6 sections, all uphill (not too steep) and twisty with 6 numbered posts to get past. Your score on each section was the number of these posts that you got past hence 0 the minimum (don't laugh!) and 6 the max on each section.

Hence we drove up to the start line of Section 3, as it did not matter which order you did them, and ventured forth into the great unknown. Hey we left the start line, stopped and started without rolling back and got past gate 6 without hitting anything. Full marks on our first attempt, should I quit now while I think it's easy? – No chance!



Roy Wilkinson on the start line for Section 5

The ground conditions were fine, even with an MoT advisory on my trunnions, (painful I know), our car's modest power and thin tyres (all

standard) served us well. John Alden's plus 8 suffered with wheel spin and poor Roy failed to get off the line due to wheel spin on 2 of the sections. For us though we completed all 6 sections scoring 33/36 points, just section 5 proving too tricky. We did start a steward's enquiry when we flattened one of the stop/start markers (wooden sign, not marshal) but were not penalised for this misdemeanour!

The organisation included a BBQ lunch of sausage and beef burgers with Tea and Coffee, all money raised went to their chosen charities

After lunch all the sections were completed again, some with a few tweaks to make them tougher, however ground conditions held up well and were very similar to the morning session



Andrew & Joan at the start of Section 6 with Una Haynes marshalling

So who won? I hear you shout. Well, it was Andrew & Joan repeating 33/36 in the afternoon, John 2nd suffering with too much power and Roy deciding that Liverpool v QPR may be better use

of his time after struggling on 2 of the sections.

Guess what! As we left the last section we noticed the next competitor did not merely follow the track to the next gate but 'looped the loop' to ensure he was 'square on' and able to negotiate the gate safely. Oh, I didn't know you could do that, can I start again please?

A great day out, good fun and a very pleasant atmosphere mingling with members of CVEC and Devamog.

I had a chat with the organisers after the meeting, one of whom is also a Devamog member, and they have run the event at this location for the last 12 years or so and Norcemog members would be more than welcome to join them next year, I'll add it to the Calendar!

Andrew Threlkeld

Pictures courtesy David Haynes & Harry Walker

Norcemog visit Hoghton Tower
11th October 2014

A grade 1 listed building dating from 1565 provided a magnificent venue for our October Noggin organised by Peter & Isobel Moore. Located between Preston and Blackburn Hoghton Tower is only minutes from the motorway network but also ideally situated for many 'Morgan loving' B roads in the vicinity.

On a warm, sunny October day a dozen Morgans were given privileged parking positions at the front of the Tower Walls as we assembled for the obligatory refreshments prior to a private tour.



Hoghton Tower is very welcoming and the family play an active part with Lady Rosanna and her daughter 'helping out' in the refreshment area, (one does not call it a café here!) as we lunched prior to a tour of the rooms. Sir Bernard also joined us with the cars as we all admired the panoramic views that Hoghton Tower offers.

Hoghton Tower, is the ancestral home of the de Hoghton family. The de Hoghtons are descended directly from Harvey de Walter, one of the companions of William the Conqueror, and through the female line from Lady Godiva of Coventry, wife of Leofric, Earl of Mercia.

Re-created in 1565 by Thomas Hoghton, this ancient, fortified, hilltop manor house occupies a commanding position, 650ft above sea level with magnificent views of Lancashire, the Lake District and North Wales. Hoghton Tower is the only true baronial hall in Lancashire.

Over the centuries many royal guests have been welcomed and entertained including James I, William III, George V & Queen Mary, and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Other distinguished visitors include William Shakespeare, JMW Turner and Charles Dickens.

Our tour was well presented with the knowledgeable guide keeping us interestingly entertained throughout the 1 ½ hrs that the tour took. In addition to visiting the 'living' rooms and halls within the house we also had a look 'downstairs' where the servants used to live, not a bit like Downton Abbey but very typical of genuine Upstairs / Downstairs!



A further refreshment visit to 'top up' our supplies, another session of Morgan talk,

mainly around Geoff's new Roadster and we were ready to hit the road home, hoods still down and soaking up the very welcome October sunshine.

A big Thank You to Peter & Isobel for a Great Day Out

Report & Photos - **Andrew Threlkeld**

NorceMog Diary of Events

Nov 14-16 Christmas Cabaret Weekend – Abingdon, Oxford – Andrew Threlkeld

Friday – dinner plus tribute act

Saturday – dinner plus disco

£55/night/head – value and well recommended.

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

As last year there has been favourable response from the membership to the idea of holding the Christmas Party at the Mollington Banastre Hotel again, this time on Sunday 7th December 2014. The majority of those who responded chose to have the standard Christmas Lunch as a sit down meal at a cost of £17.00 per head. We have provisionally booked the same room as in previous years which will seat 24 members which seems adequate for our current membership. A response from those who wish to attend by 1st November would be appreciated. It has also been decided that the full cost of the meal should be paid by the 1st November too, by cheque payable to "NorceMog" for £17 per head and forwarded to Roy to enable the hotel to finalise the arrangements.

As for staying overnight at the hotel, a rate of £40 per person has been agreed for the Saturday night for b&b. Dinner b&b would be £121.80 for two.

Just phone the hotel quoting "Morgan Christmas Party" and you will be booked in at the preferential rate. Whilst you could have the same rate for Sunday evening, the majority usually just stay on the Saturday evening.

For those who have not stayed before. Guests have free access to the Leisure facilities which include a nice heated indoor pool.

The intention is to meet for pre-dinner drinks at the bar at 12.00 noon and follow this with our lunch at 12.30pm.

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

For those who enjoyed last year a reminder of what it was all about and for those who did not attend, you can now see what you missed....



11 Jan 2015 The Inn at Whitewell - Bleasdales 01995 61718

8 Feb 2015 Venue to be confirmed – Isobel and Peter Moore 01253 738201

8 Mar 2015 Lowther Castle, Cumbria – Adrian and Alicia Grant 01253 727336

11 Mar 2015 Committee Meeting at 18.30 The TAS Partnership, Preston

12 April 2015 AGM and Lunch, Garstang – Bryan Rawlinson 01995 604716

25 April 2015 MSCC AGM, Visitor Centre, Malvern