

# NORCEMOG

# NEWS

NORTH WEST AND CHESHIRE

January 2017

**Happy New Year! Welcome to this edition. Please let Andy Bleasdale know if you are going to the Inn at Whitewell on 15 January. No report has yet reached me from the Christmas Do...**

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NORCEMOG REGALIA – Isobel Moore 01253 738201

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Bunnahabhain Distillery - Islay



Bridgend Hotel, Bridgend, Isle of Islay



Ardbeg Distillery - Islay

## Morgans & Malt – Does it get any better?

### Part 2

A NorceMog guide to a Scottish Island Tour with Scotch!

Our holiday for 2014 was an Islands & Whisky tour on the east coast of Scotland with Ruby, our Morgan. This missive is a summary of our experience which may act as a guide should you wish to plan something similar.

**Previously on Morgans & Malt** – The last edition gave details of our trip to Islay, return ferry to the mainland and a visit to Oban Distillery – See November newsletter for details.

Essential! – Before you go join the Diageo 'Friends of Classic Malt'. You can register here <https://www.malts.com/en-gb/friends-of-the-classic-malts/> You get free tours of the distilleries in the Diageo group (partner free as well in most cases or you can both join!) and a Malt Map which gives a description of the 4 principle tastes – Delicate, Light, Rich and Smokey. More details in November Newsletter

Isle of Mull was the next ferry crossing from Oban to Craignure. The roads on Mull are not Morgan friendly, to say the least, and many are single track with passing places. Take care in the passing place lay-bys. They were awful when we were there in 2014.

The best bits of Mull are Tobermory – It has a distillery and the setting for the children's TV programme Balamory and a good base to visit of Staffa (Fingal's Cave) and Iona. Shortest to Iona is from Fionnphort however we went Killiemor and called at Staffa 'on the way.' These foot ferries so you do not take the car. We struggled to find an 'attractive' hotel and Killoran House. The setting was beautiful; the were spotless however it was run more like a house than a hotel. No bar, though they would drinks. No restaurant but they would serve dinner dining room where you had breakfast etc.



Fingal's Cave -

the Isles crossing from near are both stayed at rooms guest bring you in the

A typical tourist Island overall and more information here - <http://www.isle-of-mull.net/>

We continued our tour by catching a ferry from Tobermory to Kilchoan. From here there is a good drive up to Point of Ardnamurchan where there is a café (of course) and good walking routes with spectacular scenery. If you take you will reach a Private drive controlled by lights. It looks very private and at first we going to turn around however it is the route to Wait for the lights to turn green and go for it. road, hence the lights, leads to the point, and After a few hours there we drove to Mallaig to another ferry across to the Isle of Skye. We have 1<sup>st</sup> class accommodation on Skye but



this drive traffic were the point. A narrow the café! catch always I'm afraid Brother- does not



my in-law

take guests! There is a range of hotels on the island across all price ranges. Broadford, Portree and Dunvegan are popular destinations with accommodation and if you fancy something more upmarket you could stay at the world famous restaurant The Three Chimneys which also has 5-star accommodation or at Kinloch Lodge, another Michelin starred restaurant!

The Cuillin Hills are a popular destination for walkers and the island is very dependent on tourism. On the route to

our relative we drive through Carbost, home of the Talisker distillery and another member of the Diageo group - free tours if a member of 'Friends.'

From the Isle of Skye we started our homeward journey with a couple of days spent just outside Perth. We chose the route from Skye via Dalwhinnie as there is yet another distillery there and it provided a convenient the journey. The Dalwhinnie distillery is of the Diageo group though they lack understanding of customer It was the only distillery where we had Joan, the tour was conducted by a temp who knew less than us and answer any questions that were not 'script' and they were particularly regarding samples and tasting - we still bought a bottle though!

We stayed at The Hunting Tower Hotel, (<http://www.huntingtowerhotel.co.uk/>) a country house hotel, set in 6 acres, offering good food and comfortable rooms. It was located approx 15 mins from Perth town centre and convenient for the main A9 / M9 road network.

So there you have it - 5 Islands visited , 9 distilleries visited and about 1400 Morgan miles in 14 days. A great trip and one we may well repeat in the coming years, there is still much to explore / experience again!

### **Useful Information**

In total we used 5 ferries on 4 different routes. If we go again we would enquire about an island hopper ticket from Caledonian MacBrayne which we think can be tailored to your itinerary and would save money compared to the scheduled tickets. More details can be found here [www.calmac.co.uk](http://www.calmac.co.uk). They operate all the ferry services available except the Islay to Jura ferry which is a local operator.

Please feel free to contact us if you want any other information.

Andrew & Joan Threlkeld

Email - [jathrelkeld1@sky.com](mailto:jathrelkeld1@sky.com)



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And below a couple of pictures from the **November Noggin** at Sale Water Park, with thanks to **John and Irene** not only for organising it, but for their magnificent hospitality afterwards at their home, where there was a delicious spread of home baking. Additional thanks to John for his observations on the depth of the lake, which he saw getting deeper and deeper as he passed each day on the train, despite planning permission having been given for depth limited to only 5 feet!



# NORCEMOG DIARY OF EVENTS – 2017

N.B. Dates **highlighted** are NorceMog organised events

Items in red to be confirmed / finalised

Easter Monday – April 17<sup>th</sup> St Georges Day – April 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Jan 15<sup>th</sup>** The Inn at Whitewell - Click Here for [Details](#)  
**Contact - Andy Bleasdale – Tel 01995 61718**

**Feb 12<sup>th</sup>** Behind the Scenes at The Grand Theatre – Blackpool  
Click Here for [Details](#)  
**Contact - Adrian & Alicia Grant – Tel 01253 727336 or [Adrian.grant@taspartnership.com](mailto:Adrian.grant@taspartnership.com).**

**Mar 8<sup>th</sup>** Committee Meeting - 18.30 TAS Partnership, Preston

**Mar 12<sup>th</sup>** Daffodils at Lowther Castle, Cumbria – Click Here for [Details](#)  
**Contact - Adrian & Alicia Grant – Tel 01253 727336 or [Adrian.grant@taspartnership.com](mailto:Adrian.grant@taspartnership.com).**

**April 9<sup>th</sup>** Lunch & **AGM, Vale Royal Abbey** - Click Here for [Details](#)  
**Contact – Andrew Threlkeld – 01606 852395**

April **MSCC AGM** - MMC, Visitor Centre, Malvern

April 23<sup>rd</sup> **FBHV Drive it Day** –

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** Gawsworth Hall Car Show, Macclesfield, SK11 9RN - Click here for [Details](#)  
**Contact - Roy Wilkinson – Tel 01772 324134 or 07754 565955**

**May 14<sup>th</sup>** To be Announced

**May ??** **VSCC Vintage Sports Car Festival @ Oulton Park**

May 27 – 29<sup>th</sup> Chipping Steam Fair – Entry is free of charge if you 'exhibit' your Morgan.  
Click here for [Details](#)

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Irish Gordon Bennett Classic Car Run – Discounts available for groups of 6 cars  
4 day festival in Ireland  
<http://www.gordonbennettclassic.ie>  
**Contact – Andrew Threlkeld – 01606 852395** or email – [norcemog@gmail.com](mailto:norcemog@gmail.com)

**June ??** Tatton Park Classic & Performance Car Show – Click Here for [Details](#)  
**Contact - Martin Cocks – Tel 07973 488504**

**June ??** Cholmondeley Power & Speed Event (Formerly Pageant of Power)  
Cholmondeley Castle, A49, SY14 8AH  
**Contact TorMog**

**June 11<sup>th</sup>** **Autotest & Concours** To be confirmed – building work planned at Museum  
Commercial Vehicle Museum, Leyland  
Click Here for [Details](#)  
**Contact - Bryan Rawlinson - Tel 01995 604716**

**June 25<sup>th</sup>** **Arley Hall Garden Festival - 10 Cars Max**  
Click Here for [Details](#)  
**Contact – Andrew Threlkeld – Tel 01606 852395**

- July 9<sup>th</sup>** Scenic Run – Cheshire / South of NorceMog area  
Route to be confirmed  
**Contact – Andrew Threlkeld – Tel 01606 852395**
- August 2<sup>nd</sup>** Committee Meeting - 18:30 TAS Partnership, Preston
- August 13<sup>th</sup>** August Noggin – TBC
- Aug 26 – 27<sup>th</sup> Run for the Hills - Click Here for [Details](#)  
**Contact – Morgan Sports Car Club**  
<http://www.morgan-motor.co.uk/runforthehills/>
- Aug 26 – 28<sup>th</sup> Oulton Park Gold Cup – 3 day race week-end - Click Here for [Details](#)  
**Contact – Andrew Threlkeld Tel 01606 852395**
- Sep 3<sup>rd</sup> Gymkhana - Farmer Parr's Animal World, Fleetwood FY7 8SL  
**Action** – BF to contact Mr Parr re possibility **To be confirmed**
- Sep ?? Morgan Challenge Race Series @ Oulton Park
- Oct 8<sup>th</sup>** Noggin – To be confirmed
- Oct 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>** Autumn Retreat – Buckatree Hall Hotel, Telford, Shropshire, TF6 5AL  
Click Here for [Details](#)  
**Contact – David & Una Haynes – email [david.una@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:david.una@hotmail.co.uk)**
- Nov 12<sup>th</sup>** Greater Manchester Transport Museum – Click here for [Details](#)  
**Contact - Adrian & Alicia Grant – Tel 01253 727336 or [Adrian.grant@taspartnership.com](mailto:Adrian.grant@taspartnership.com).**
- Dec 10<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Party and Annual Awards Presentation  
Contact – Isobel Moore / Linda Fearn