
NORCEMOG NEWS

NORTH WEST AND CHESHIRE

June 2018

Welcome to this edition and please enjoy the read. There is a bit about the anniversary weekend and the Bank Holiday at Gawsworth Hall. Chapter 5 is included as is the detail of the July Noggin on 8 July which will include a visit to Jodrell Bank and a pub lunch.

NORCEMOG REGALIA – Isobel Moore 01253 738201

NorceMog turns 50!

What a super weekend - the sun shone and it was side-screens off for the Morgan Sports Car Club Northern Centre, NorceMog, 50th Anniversary celebration, and we certainly made the most of it!

We met up on Friday afternoon and had an opportunity to catch up with old friends and also make some new ones. A total of 65 guests joined in the celebration over the weekend, and we were delighted to welcome MSCC members from clubs across the country including CranMog, DevaMog, TorMog, TinMog and Yorkshire.

Centre Secretary Andrew Threlkeld organised the action-packed event. The conveniently located hotel had excellent facilities including ample parking, a spa, a swimming pool and a large function room. Possibly a little prematurely, the hotel even boasted charging points for electric cars!

After a hearty breakfast, Saturday offered a choice from a comprehensive list of local tourist attractions and Scenic Runs, the longest of which was 113 miles deep into the easily accessible Peak District. We took the opportunity to pay a surprise visit to my 92-year-old aunt as we circumnavigated the Wirral enjoying the beautiful countryside in the sunshine. Then it was back to the hotel for The Black-Tie Ceilidh Dinner, which gave us an opportunity to properly welcome our guests and importantly thank Andrew, his wife Joan and other committee members for organising such a well-planned weekend. This was evident in their choice of the accomplished and amusing Ceilidh band who had us Do Si Do-ing and Stripping the Willow with enthusiasm, if not technique.

At the 9:30am muster for drivers and navigators on Sunday, David (Haynes) and Dave (Roberts) presented instructions and directions for a carefully resurrected Scenic Route to Ruthin previously driven by NorceMog members 25 years ago! Recognising the requirements of current NorceMog members, in addition to the route being meticulously described David and Dave carefully identified fuel stations, coffee venues and toilets. We had a full tank, but we stopped at Beeston Castle for elevenses and can recommend the high-tech "facilities" at Malpas town centre carpark! Then onwards passed Worlds End and skirting the Eglwyseg Mountain to the Old Horseshoe Pass north of Llangollen. The enjoyment of miles of challenging single-track roads and even a ford was enhanced by the beautiful views across Welsh countryside, all this was well worth having to brave the clatter of tooth rattling cattle grids and avoid the totally unpredictable kamikaze sheep.

Impressively, we all arrived at Ruthin Castle in time for lunch and a Welsh themed quiz in the medieval dining room, then returned to home base with the satisfying glow of tanned and intrepid explorers.

With formal celebration over, a large proportion of the attendees chose to continue

the 50th Anniversary celebration at Gawsworth Hall Classic Car Show. In addition to the annual display of local Morgans in the Bluebell wood, the organisers had kindly reserved a feature location for 6 vehicles, each representing a decade from the 1960's to date. A fitting end to a very special weekend! **Neil McArthur**

Photos are available via this link <https://1drv.ms/f/s!ArCc6-0T9ANOhKMwWO0fwxKtVCfVMw> but I was not able to copy them into this Newsletter, sorry. Ed.

Photo 1 – 50-year window sticker

Photo 2 – Anderton Boat Lift

Photo 3 – Ceilidh

Photo 4 & 5 - Assembling for the scenic run

Photo 6 – Peter & Michelle Chapman at the ford

Photo 7 – Richard and Jill Hough splashing through the ford

Photo 8 & 9 – Parking at Ruthin Castle

Photo 10 & 11 – Privileged Parking at Gawsworth Hall

Photo 12 – Sunday lunch in the Medieval Hall

Photo 14 & 15 – Other Morgans at Gawsworth Hall

Photo 18 – Ingo & Tina De Boer with Rupert Richards – Best Morgan at Gawsworth / Richard lives at Gawsworth! **Andrew Threlkeld**

Gawsworth Hall 7 May 2018

Bank holiday Monday dawned bright and sunny and so we headed off early to Gawsworth Hall with Martina & Ingo de Böer's Morgan Plus 8 in tow. Thanks fully, they had their satnav on as I had to press on to greet members whose Morgans were on the Norcemog 50th Anniversary decade display; this was something I failed at as Adrian Grant and Derek & Patrica Clarke were already in situ. Rupert Richard's 1950s Plus 4 race car was first in the line and so I lined up my 1976 Plus 8 alongside. Next in line was the de Böer's original (except for dashboard) 1980 Plus 8 with Adrian's 1998 Plus 4, Derek & Patricia's 2007 4/4 and Rodney & Susan's 2017 Plus 4. All looked resplendent lined up on the launch overlooking the Hall whilst the other Morgan's languished in the shade of trees in the bluebell glade.



The Gawsworth classic car show is a wonderfully relaxed and friendly affair with Alvis, Bentley, Riley, Roll Royce of the 1920s and 30s competing for attention with exotica such as AC, BMW, Bristol, Jensen, Lotus, MG, Morgan, Porsche and TVR as well as less exotic marques such

as Austin, Ford and Morris. Have I missed anything out?

Later in the afternoon was the awards ceremony and recently joined Norcemog's members from northern Germany, Martina & Ingo de Böer were called out by Rupert Richards to received the *Jim Tucker* award for Best Morgan. It was richly deserved as their car, despite being 38 years old, is in ex-factory condition and has only 33,000 miles on the clock having spent 19 years in a private collection in Sweden. Jim Tucker, by the way, was a well-known race driver of a Morgan 4/4 in the 1960s; coincidentally, Ingo de Böer purchased a couple of years ago, a painting of Jim Tucker racing his 4/4 and so the connection was immediately apparent. The prize included a bottle of Rioja and free tickets to one of Gawsorth's theatre evenings.



I would like to thank all those who came forward to display their Morgans. Your support meant that were able to celebrate the final day of Norcemog's 50th Anniversary Weekend in style!

David Roberts

CHAPTER 5

When the day arrived for me to take my driving test, I got the train to Liverpool and met up with my tutor. We drove through the Mersey Tunnel to Birkenhead and I got behind the wheel. I drove around the area where the test would be taking place, to familiarise myself with what I would be coming across. It was a similar area to that in which I had taken my test on the motor scooter. After I had passed my test, we drove back through the Mersey Tunnel to Liverpool. I thanked my tutor, paid my dues and got the Merseyrail back to Wallasey.

The Morgan was already tanked up with fuel so it just needed packing with our suitcases and hot water bottles! We had a meal and set off for the A49 and the first part of our journey. We found B&B accommodation with two single rooms and settled down for the night for a change, we had an uneventful journey to 3 London and we checked into our hotel in

Euston Square, where I was able to park the Morgan outside the hotel. We found somewhere to eat and had a look round the area before we set off for the London Palladium on the Tube. Apart from my setting fire to Valarie's fur coat with my cigarette during the performance, we had an enjoyable evening.

The next day being a Sunday, we decided to drive around London and do some sightseeing. The lack of traffic made the driving easy and in the end we drove to the Isle of Sheppy since neither of us had been there before. We took some photos as a memento of our visit and drove back to the hotel. The next day we packed and started on our journey back. We had all day to make the trip, had no problems with the Morgan and had an easy journey home. Shortly after arriving home, I received a letter from the New Zealand Government, offering me a position in Wellington, working for the Royal New Zealand Navy. I would be flying to New Zealand in the next few months so I told my friends that I would be selling the Morgan and one friend, Barry, said that he would be interested to buy it, having heard how well it had performed going to London and back. His cousin had been a friend of Valarie's and they had been to school together.

Barry bought the Morgan and I prepared myself for the journey to New Zealand. I eventually flew at the end of May 1960. The journey took me first from London to Damascus, then after an overnight stop to Payalebar Airport, Singapore, where I had the chance to talk to some RAF airmen who were on duty to receive some goods. From there we flew to Darwin for another overnight stop before flying on to Brisbane where we refuelled and flew on to Auckland.

Those of us who were going to venture on then took the overnight sleeper train to Wellington. On arrival, we stopped at an ex-Army camp at Trentham as temporary accommodation before taking the train back to Wellington to be introduced to our working facility. We then needed to sort out some accommodation of our own. I found a house above Oriental Bay where I had a room and shared the accommodation with some other people who were going to work in Wellington. It was a pleasant location, although I needed to take a bus to where I worked.

It took me only a little time to settle down as previously when I was in the RAF there was a familiarity about RAF stations where you knew what to expect. And writing letters home was a similar procedure as it was the only way to keep in touch with home. I did find that New Zealand was a bit behind the times compared with the UK. Most noticeable was the cars, which were mainly prewar models from the 1930s and 1940s because New Zealand had no indigenous car manufacture. The nearest car manufacturing was in Australia where they made American designed Holdens. As for Morgans, although they had agencies in New Zealand, they had to be ordered at great expense from the UK. Peter Morgan had his secretary type a list of agencies for me before I left the UK, but the cars were so expensive in New Zealand that there was no way I could afford one.

I got to know a young man in the office who had worked in Liverpool before moving to New Zealand with his parents. Sadly, his father had died and he looked after his mother. John had a sister who lived in Christchurch. He had a lot of contact with the shipping lines and was always getting invitations to go aboard ships which were docking in Wellington and it became a regular pastime for the two of us to visit ships in Wellington Harbour during our lunch breaks.

After a few months, I mentioned to him that I was thinking of taking the ferry down to Christchurch. As I was not the best of sailors in rough seas I decided to book a cabin on the overnight ferry and after arriving, we were met by a steam train which took the passengers into the middle of Christchurch. John's brother in law met me and drove me to where he worked in the local Christchurch newspaper. He showed me round the printing works and then we drove round the local area before going to his house for lunch and to meet his family. His wife and children were going to show me round in the afternoon and I particularly wanted to see New Brighton and its pier which were named after my place at home. The pier was a wooden structure and looked as if it needed to be replaced. (when Barbara and I visited again in 1991, it had in fact been replaced by a concrete structure, but I do not know how it fared in the earthquakes of the last years)

After spending a few months in Wellington, I had to visit the Royal New Zealand Airforce

offices which were in the same building in Wellington but on a different floor. I bumped into a guy I knew from my time in Singapore who was in the RNZA. It was good to catch up with him as it must have been more than ten years since I had last seen him. Shortly after that I applied for my NZ driving licence which I had no trouble getting, since I already had my UK one. This enabled me to hire a car locally and visit more places in North Island. Although I invited a couple of girls to show me round, and although I enjoyed visiting places, I did not want to get tied down to a any sort of longterm relationship because I eventually wanted to visit Australia.

At the end of 1961, I handed in my notice to the Royal New Zealand Navy office and booked myself a tour a tour of North Island including a stay in Rotorua which was very interesting. I stayed at a hotel in Rotorua which I visited again with Barbara in 1991 and which had been partly destroyed by fire in the 1970s. after the tour, I ended up in Auckland for my flight to Sydney. **Roy Wilkinson.**

That time of year – Subscriptions due

2018 subscriptions are due from 1st April and the cost is £10 for the year. Cheques should be sent to our treasurer at the address below.

Bryan Fearn, Little Poulton Hall, 32 Little Poulton Lane, Poulton -le-Fylde, FY6 7ET

For direct transfer to our bank account use the following details with an email to Bryan Fearn at bryanfearn@hotmail.co.uk to let him know you have paid

Account Name MSCC Northern Centre (Norcemog)

Account No. 01160427

Sort Code 40-43-56

Ref Your surname and initials

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NORCEMOG DIARY OF EVENTS – 2018

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

Items in red to be confirmed / finalised

June 3rd National Garden Scheme Invitation, Malpas SY14 7AL

Click here for [Details](#)

Contact – Chris & Carol Bennion, chrisbennion@btinternet.com

June 2nd & 3rd Tatton Park Classic & Performance Car Show –

Invitation to be confirmed - 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 Please note this event was cancelled for 2017

June 10th

Autotest & Concours Bilsborrow Village Hall PR3 0OE

Starts at 10.30, lasts until 13.30 than to the local pub for lunch!

Contact - Bryan Rawlinson - Tel 01995 604716

June 15th Salon Privé in aid of Blackburn Cathedral Appeal

Click Here for [Details](#)

Contact – Peter Whitman – email: peterwhitman@yahoo.com

Tel +447774694964

June 24th Arley Hall Garden Festival -

10₅ Cars Max

Click Here for [Details](#)

Contact – Andrew Threlkeld – Tel 01606 852395

June 29&30th MOG 18 in The Cotswolds

Contact – www.mog18.info

July 1st

All Morgans Day @ Blenheim Palace. Organised by Roadster 100 Club

Contact – allmorgansblenheim@gmail.com Tel - 07450 615044

July 8th

Jodrell Bank Arrive 11.00 Talk and garden tour arranged, followed by lunch at a nearby hostelry, probably the Inn at Goostrey.

Contact – Adrian & Alicia Grant – Adrian.grant@taspartnership.com.

August 8th

Committee Meeting - 18:30 TAS Partnership, Preston

August 12th TBD

Aug 25 – 27th Oulton Park Gold Cup – 3 day race week-end - Click Here for [Details](#)

Contact – Andrew Threlkeld Tel 01606 852395

Aug 31st
-Sep 2nd

Chatsworth Country Fair in grounds of Chatsworth House. Display your Morgan and save £120! Click Here for [Details](#)

Contact High Peak Centre (TorMog) – Colin Hill chill4856@gmail.com

Sep 9th

Gymkhana - Farmer Parr's Animal World, Fleetwood FY7 8SL

Click Here for [Details -](#)

Contact – Bryan Fearn Tel - 01253 891539

Oct 14th TBD

Oct 14th Autumn Trial run by Chester Vintage Enthusiasts Car Club

Click Here for [Details](#)

Nov 18th TBD

Dec 9th

Christmas Party and Annual Awards Presentation

The Barton Grange Hotel, PR3 5AA

Click Here for [Details](#)

Contact – Isobel & Peter Moore Tel 01253 738 201

Email - isobelpeter@gmail.co.uk

Or Bryan & Linda Fearn – Tel 01253 891539