



Park up the Mog - for a Picnic

Some perfect spots - Pages 5-6

Welcome to your July Newsletter. In this issue: Lytham Hall recalled in rhyme by Andrew Threlkeld - 1st with the News - Precious Cars on the Planet - Perfect Picnic Spots The Morgan Driving Academy - and more ... Hope you enjoy!

Photo above adapted with acknowledgement to Cross Chammel Sports Cars



I never think - it's no picnic!

We're now into summer and hopefully warm sunny days, perfect for making the most of our Morgan, out and about, experiencing that unique driving pleasure.

And what better way to fulfil that pleasure, than to plan a drive out to one of the many great spots in the north west to enjoy a picnic. But in making your plans for the coming months, I want you to plan for fulfilling the pleasure you can give to me.

I trust you'll have realised from my previous Newsletters, that I'm not 'a sandwich short of a picnic', but I may be short of an article or two for forthcoming editions.

Notably with your news, I never think - it's no picnic!

Les Burgess: les@lbacreative.co.uk

NorceMog visit Lytham Hall

Sunday 12th June 2022



Savouring the splendour of a fine Georgian house

Lytham Hall is regarded as one of the countries finest Georgian houses and provided a perfect venue for our June noggin. A group of our members gathered to savour the splendour of the hall and a delicious Sunday lunch.

Andrew recalls in rhyme - this stylish event

For those of us of a certain age who remember The Spinners, my rhyme below should be sung to the tune of Miss Hooligan's Christmas Cake - Andrew Threlkeld

Chorus

There were wings and legs of Chicken,
There was coleslaw, and salmon and Lytham shrimps too,
There were mixed satay skewers a plenty,
And sandwiches, more than a few,
There were sausage rolls in abundance,
A plateful, make no mistake,
And if that's not enough, there was salad and stuff,
Followed by a Cheeseboard and pieces of cake!

Mrs Moore issued a kind invitation,
Bring your Morgan and display it for me,
You will receive privilege parking,
Front of Hall, on the lawn, all for free,
How could we refuse the requestor?
A day out with a friendly bunch,
Just as we arrived, with a coffee revived,
It was time for our luxury lunch.

Chorus

Fifteen Morgan's when they were arriving,
Hoods all down and so very clean,
They were Red and Blue and Royal Ivory
And, of course, British Racing Green,
They parked on the grass as so promised,
They made such a fine display,
The public enthralled, NorceMoggers were called,
To the dining room through the archway.



Chorus

Now some members had problems with travel,
Their cars were deemed unsafe to drive,
They had to travel in tin tops,
But nevertheless, they did arrive,
Not allowed to park with the Morgans,
They had to go "pay and display",
A recall absurd, but thankfully they heard
"Time for lunch" Isobel did say



Chorus

There were walks and plants and gardens,
For all those with energy to spare,
The grounds were splendid in sunshine,
You could lose yourself over there,
There was even a tour of the great Hall,
With discounted entry of course,
Whilst some did choose, others couldn't refuse,
As the guide rounded them up with force!



Final Chorus

Our thanks to Isobel and Peter Moore for organising
such a splendid event.

[Andrew Threlkeld](#)

Below: The colourful display of Morgans, perfectly lined up,
pointing in an impressive panoramic view of the grounds.



NorceMog Autotest Results

Correction to the winners published in the June Newsletter.

Concourse

- 1st Place Kate Robins 2015 Roadster
- 2nd Place Peter & Sheila Barnfield's 2018 Plus 4
- 3rd Place Andy Bleasdale's Series II 4/4

Glendower Cup

The best aggregate finish in the Autotest/Concours combined
Andy Bleasdale.

NorceMog - 1st with the News

We didn't sit on publishing the 'Float-on-Air' cushion story!

You'll have noted in the June issue of Miscellany on pages 41/42, in the Morgan Historic Register News, the piece on 'Float-on-Air' cushions. It really is historic news, as thanks to David Roberts, we featured the story back in the August 2021 issue of NorceMog News. And not just how the cushion was part of Morgan's history, but its historical origin in the aviation industry, with examples of early advertising, promoting the comfort of the cushion. But let's not sit on our laurels, and thank Miscellany for the rest of the news, to help cushion the blow!

Miscellany
JUNE 2022

NORCEMOG NEWS
AUGUST 2021

Are You Sitting Comfortably?

As you sit in your Morgan, I guess not many of you will know that Morgans of the 1950s and 60s left Pickersleigh Road installed with a particularly arcane feature of upholstery, the David Moseley Float-on-Air seat cushion.

These very unusual and now, extremely rare items, can be considered the precursor to that instrument of practical jokes - the Whoopee Cushion!

In my 1960 4/4 Series II, it was discovered to have arrived with one intact David Moseley Float-on-Air seat cushion, unusual as most 1950s and 1960s Morgans have been re-upholstered and now have seat cushions of foam rubber or similar. Morgan specialist Terry Foxon's comment that this form of cushioning was extremely comfortable as long as they weren't over-inflated motivated me to discover more.

The Float-on-Air seat cushions were made by David Moseley in Ardwick, Manchester and, incidentally, this was close to where AV Roe (Avro) started making aeroplanes at the turn of the 20th century. Even more interesting was to research and find that Float-on-Air seat cushions were used in the record-breaking endurance flights of the British Empire, supporting and providing comfort to the intrepid pilots who pioneered and opened up the skies to early intercontinental flying in the 1930s, to distant and exotic destinations such as South Africa and Australia.

To be seated on a piece of equipment that is original to a Morgan car of the first half of the last century, to travel in a car that's over six decades old and then to have one's posterior seated on something with a direct connection with aviation history...

...well how cool is that!

David Roberts

Left: The Float-on-Air Cushion and packaging.
Below: Early advertising, promoting the comfort, combating fatigue of the Float-on-Air Cushion.



There's no room in the cockpit for **FATIGUE!**

WHEN YOU'RE 'FLOATING ON AIR'

Unnecessary strain can be avoided by fitting a "Float-on-Air" cushion or seat. The patent air restricted type of cushion obviates any flow of air from side to side of the seat and gives perfect stability during flight. All vibration is absorbed, and complete comfort is provided. Famous air-race winners have proved them invaluable for combating fatigue.

Moseley
'FLOAT-ON-AIR'
Cushions

DAVID MOSELEY & SONS LTD
ARDWICK

fatigue Multiplies
Less
your flying hours

Moseley

Some Perfect Spots for a Summer Picnic

Get the most out of your Mog and treat yourself to a day in the great outdoors with a picnic at one of the many picturesque places in the North West



A picnic in the great outdoors is a great way to enjoy a day out in the Morgan, and as the weather begins to warm up, the North West is blessed with natural beauty and plenty of places to go. Here are just some of the spots to explore.



Tatton Park, Knutsford

Tatton Park is one of England's most complete historic estates, with a neo-classical mansion, 50 acres of landscaped gardens, 1,000 acres of parkland with deer and meres, plus a working farm. From the Knutsford town entrance you can drive through the park, past the lake towards the mansion, and park in a spot to enjoy a delightful view with your picnic.

<https://www.tattonpark.org.uk/home.aspx>



Lyme Park, Disley

Lyme Park is a large estate of 1,400 acres with a mansion house, which is surrounded by formal gardens, moorland and a deer park, and a number of spots ideal for a picnic. Set in the Peak District National Park, the house is the largest in Cheshire, recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a designated Grade I listed building.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lyme>



Speke Hall, Liverpool

Offering splendid views over the River Mersey, and surrounded by beautiful woodland and gardens, Speke Hall is bursting with glimpses of its Tudor-period history. Exploring these grounds offers a great day out, and there's plenty of quiet spots for you to set up your picnic. Book ahead to ensure your entry and parking – National Trust members go free.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/speke-hall-garden-and-estate>



Pendle Hill, Clitheroe

Most famous for its links to the now notorious witch trials of 1612, Pendle Hill and its surrounding towns and villages are a truly bewitching area of Lancashire. There are numerous long and short walks to enjoy, with plenty of spots to stop and enjoy a picnic. There are numerous car parks around the area where charges may apply.

<https://www.visitlancashire.com/explore/pendle-hill>



Turton Tower, Blackburn

Turton Tower is a manor house dating back to the 15th century and is surrounded by beautiful gardens and woodland offering a great place for a picnic. While the tower itself is closed due to current restrictions, the café is open for a takeaway, if you need it and the tower makes for a dramatic backdrop while you enjoy tucking into your picnic.

<https://turtontower.co.uk>



Brock Bottom, Preston

On the very western edge of the Forest of Bowland, it's a great place to visit and enjoy the nature trail, a beauty spot along the river. With plenty of shallow water to paddle in and lovely walks through the woodland, Brock Bottom is a fantastic location for a picnic. You'll find a designated area with tables, and free parking available too

<https://www.explorebowland.co.uk/brock-bottom/>



Dunham Massey, Trafford

Dunham Massey's gardens are full of colour and scent for a delightful walk round and a picnic. The large grounds offer plenty of ancient woodland to explore, as well as a resident herd of fallow deer and other wildlife, such as owls and woodpeckers. You'll need to book ahead for your visit with car parking included. National Trust members go free.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dunham-massey>



Beacon Fell, Goosnargh

The Beacon Fell Country Park has 271 acres of woodland, moorland and farmland, ideal for a picnic. Spectacular views reach all the way to the Isle of Man on a clear day and stoats, weasels and Roe deer can be spotted roaming the woodland. Admission is free, with car parking available for just £1 per day

<https://www.visitlancashire.com/things-to-do/beacon-fell-county-park-p1730>



Crook O'Lune, Caton

A popular and attractive spot where the River Lune travels in a big curve through tree-lined banks, for a relaxing place to enjoy the sunshine with a picnic. You'll find wonderful views of the Lune Valley and a café for refreshments. Admission is free, and pay and display car parking is available for just £1 per day.

<https://www.pure-leisure.co.uk/parks/lancashire/crook-o-lune/overview/>



Hare Hill, Over Alderley

Hare Hill is a tranquil wooded garden, surrounded by historic parkland, with a delightful walled garden at its heart, the ideal place for a picnic. Enjoy plenty of colour from the snowdrops, narcissi and cyclamen, followed by stunning rhododendrons, azaleas and magnolia. You'll need to book a visit in advance to guarantee entry and parking.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hare-hill>

If the recent Gawsorth Hall Show prompted you to find out more about Classic Cars and their value...

... five of the most precious cars on the planet

Since cars were introduced in 1886, there has been valuable developments, but not every one is special - and those that are cost fortunes - out of this world. Here is a handful of classics - amongst the worlds most precious and valuable.

1904 Rolls Royce 15 HP

The Rolls-Royce emblem itself symbolises rare and expensive, so it's no surprise to see that a Rolls-Royce car is listed here, and now has an estimated value of £28 Million. The Rolls-Royce 15 HP goes way beyond antique and is almost ancient in the world of cars today. There were only 6 of these cars ever made and only one is known to exist today. The 15 HP was a frontrunner in the history and ongoing prestige of the Rolls-Royce name.



1927 Bugatti Royale

Officially, a Bugatti Type 41, but is know as the Royale, it was seen as an incredible show of wealth. The Royale had a 12.7-litre straight-eight and weighed 3,175 kilograms and was designed to be the most luxurious car ever. Of the six built, only three were sold. Although the actual sales figure was not revealed, a person involved in the March 2021 sale of a Bugatti Royale confirmed the price was more than the then-record £18 Million.



1936 Bugatti 57SC Atlantic Coupe

Widely accepted in the collector community as one of the rarest and possibly the most expensive car in the world, the Atlantic was designed as a two-door built on a 57S chassis. It has a low slung stature, made to be lightweight, and is regarded to be the ultimate Bugatti and the first supercar. Only four Bugatti Type 57 SC Atlantic Coupes were made, and a £92 Million example - (yes! £92 Million) remains unaccounted for today.



1955 Mercedes 300SL Gullwing

The 300SL Gullwing is the rarest, most expensive Mercedes ever built. Valued at £5 Million, although much less than others here, it is testament to a manufacturer that has produced quality cars every year since the 1950s. The Gullwing was launched to great acclaim and was viewed by many as the ultimate long-distance cruiser. Mercedes' reputation for quality continues, but the 300SL Gullwing is considered to be their crowning achievement.



1962 Ferrari 250 GTO

If you want a rare and one of the most expensive cars on the planet, then it's got to be the 250 GTO, one of the greatest road and track machines ever made and referred to as the Mona Lisa of Ferrari. The 250 GTO has it all, styling, speed and championship winning engineering, arguably the most sought-after collectable, with an estimated value of £57 Million...



...seriously interested? - better start saving up!

Peter wasn't going to pass on an invitation to the Morgan Driving Academy

After purchasing a new Plus Four, Peter and Rosemary Murphy enjoy a complementary half day course in Bicester



Having ordered our new Plus Four last July and then taken delivery in November, I was not surprised when a letter from Morgan arrived in December with the usual Customer Satisfaction Survey, which seem to accompany any purchase these days. However I was pleasantly surprised that the letter included an invitation to a complimentary half day Morgan Driving Academy course, which they hold at Bicester Heritage near Oxford.

This sounded really interesting, so I wasn't going to pass on the offer and contacted Morgan to accept the invitation, and after a little back and forth we arrived at a date for the course which was Monday May 9th at 8.30 am.

Bicester Heritage is an ex World War 2 RAF base, where most of the buildings are listed, beautifully restored and now house over 40 small-ish specialist auto workshops and related businesses. There is also limited accommodation on the site and given the early start we booked into one of the rooms for two nights. The room turned out to be very comfortable, well furnished, and gave us the opportunity to explore the site which made the trip worth while on its own. All of the businesses we wandered into made us feel very welcome, showing us the work they were doing and keen to answer our many questions.

You never quite knew what you would discover behind the workshop doors, from a Morgan 4/4 series one, vintage Bentleys, Armstrong Siddeleys and Rileys to an immaculate workshop making perfect 3/4 limited edition replicas of Ferraris, Bugattis and Aston Martins, including a James Bond edition complete with machine guns, rotating number plates and smoke screen.

These replicas are electric powered, intended for children over 14. and in case anybody is short of ideas for an Xmas present for the grandchildren, they are available from The Little Car Company. But with prices ranging from £25,000 to over £85,000, it really is a case of how the other half live, like the customer they told us about who ordered six Bugattis, one for each of his daughters.

On that high note, having explored all the car workshops, we were delighted to discover the on site brewery and gin distillery.



The morning of the course arrived and thankfully it was a bright dry day. We started with coffee from the Heroics cafe, where we also ordered our lunch to be ready for the end of the course, and all supplied by Morgan.

The Morgan facility is small, really just a garage for about six cars, but conveniently in the same building as our accommodation. We were welcomed by Shane, a driver for the Morgan racing team and my tutor for the morning, and Josh a student apprentice with Morgan and Warwick university and also a mechanic with the racing team.

After a brief induction, Shane and I headed off to the track in a Plus Four (they try to supply a car that's similar to your own). Josh meanwhile chaperoned Rosemary in a Plus Six.

The track at Bicester is quite short, round about 1 kilometre, but it contains about six bends and chicanes and a reasonable length of straight. With the track being so short it allows you to get in numerous laps and after Shane had driven round and demonstrated a couple, it was then my turn to take the wheel.

I had never been on a track before and it was fabulous to have exclusive use for the morning, with no fear of something coming the other way! Under Shane's direction we explored different driving lines all around the course and looking at the effects of different braking points. It was really building my confidence in the car and finding just how stable it was as we worked our way through the squealing tyres.

After about an hour we had a brief coffee stop and then out onto the local roads driving on a mix of lovely country roads and dual carriageways eventually arriving back at Bicester and back onto the track for another hour.

For this second session we explored the use of the throttle and brake to help in steering round the corners, using the sport and sport plus settings, followed by very aggressive right and left turns from a T junction, and finally emergency braking under ABS at speeds of over 80mph to see what happened, the answer was that we stopped very comfortably in a straight line.

Shane was a brilliant coach, who I'm sure had tailored the course to suit my inexperience, helping in building my confidence and showing me just how capable and fun the car can be. Meanwhile Josh was a very helpful and knowledgeable host to Rosemary, who enjoyed the day almost as much as I did.



I can thoroughly recommend the Driving Academy Day with Morgan, my only question is why they neglect to mention it when you're ordering the car, I know it wouldn't be a deciding factor but would help to lessen the blow of the final invoice.

Also, If you're in the area, a visit to one of the Bicester Heritage Scramble days would be well worth while, and for non petrol heads there's always the Bicester Village shopping outlet where you can spend a few hours watching tourists queuing to get into Dior, Gucci and Vivienne Westwood with empty suitcases to fill.



Peter Murphy

Photographs

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- 1 A Plus Six is put through its paces on the track
- 2 The Morgan 4/4 Series One, found in the workshop
- 3 A 3/4 scale limited edition Bugatti replica
- 4 The James Bond edition 3/4 scale Aston Martin

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- 5 The drive with Shane in a Plus Four on the track
- 6 A Porsche 912, Lotus Elan, Austin Healey and a Derby Bentley
- 7 The Morgan Plus Four and Plus Six outside the workshop
- 8 A row of early Armstrong Siddeleys



Diary of NorceMog Events

Enjoy meeting up with your fellow members

2022

Please note: Events are subject to Corona Virus restrictions

Highlighted events organised by NorceMog. **Items in Red** to be confirmed/finalised. Check Website for Updates.

Jan 16

The Inn at Whitewell

Contact Andy Bleasdale Tel 07973 315676

[Full Details](#) 40 MEMBERS MAX



Feb 13

The Clink Restaurant, Styal, Wilmslow

Contact John Stephens Tel 07845 938493

jrstephens@talktalk.net

[Full Details](#) 20 MEMBERS MAX BOOKING ESSENTIAL



Mar 13

The Leigh Arms, Little Leigh, Northwich

Contact Andrew Threlkeld Tel 07912 494768

norcemog.sec@morgansportscarclub.com

[Full Details](#) 40 MEMBERS MAX BOOKING ESSENTIAL



April 9

MSCC AGM - MMC, Visitor Centre, Malvern



April 10

Lunch & AGM, Vale Royal Abbey, Whitegate

Contact Andrew Threlkeld Tel 07912 494768

norcemog.sec@morgansportscarclub.com

[Full Details](#)



April 24

FBHV Drive it Day

The Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs, with events to uphold the freedom to use historic vehicles on the road.

secretary@fbhvc.co.uk



May 2

Gawsworth Hall Car Show, Macclesfield

Contact Martin Cocks Tel 07973 488504,

martincocks@btinternet.com

[Full Details](#) [Download Entry Form](#)



May 8

Autotest & Concours, British Commercial Museum, Leyland

Contact Brian Rawlinson Tel 01995 604716

[Full Details](#)



June 12

Lytham Hall, Private Dining, Lytham

Contact Isobel Moore Tel 01253 738201

isobelpeter@gmail.com

[Full Details](#)



June 26

Arley Hall Garden Festival

Contact Andrew Threlkeld Tel 07912 494768

norcemog.sec@morgansportscarclub.com

[Full Details](#) 10 CARS MAXIMUM



June 24-26 **MOGFEST 22 and Annual Dinner,**
Beamish Museum, Durham.
<https://www.morgansportscarclub.com/news/article/mogfest22bookingsopen>
Bookings can only be made through MSCC Travel Club



July 10 **RHS Bridgewater Gardens, Worsley, Salford**
Contact Steve & Viv Grunner
steve.grunner@hotmail.co.uk
[Full Details](#) **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**



July 29-31 **Oulton Park Gold Cup 3-day race weekend**
Contact Andrew Threlkeld Tel 07912 494768
norcemog.sec@morgansportscarclub.com
[Full Details](#)



Sept 2-4 **Morgans at Windermere**
Contact Les Ellis Tel 07900 962348
les2mog@gmail.com
[Full Details](#)



Sept 7 **Quarry Bank Mill Styal - National Trust Property**
Contact Adrian Long Tel 07831 3772565
adrian.long@me.com
[Full Details](#)



Sept 16-18 **Isle of Man Festival of Motoring**
Contact www.mscctravelclub.com



Oct 9 **To be Confirmed**

Nov 6 **To be Confirmed**

Dec 11  **Christmas Party & Annual Awards Presentation**
Barton Manor Hotel, Barton, Preston
Contact Bryan & Linda Fearn Tel 01253 891539
bryanfearn@hotmail.co.uk



For any news updates on any of these Events,
please Check the Website
www.norcemog.com

If any member has an idea for a future event,
we welcome proposals
Contact Andrew Threlkeld, Club Centre Secretary
norcemog.sec@morgansportscarclub.com



Adapted with acknowledgement to: Pigment

**When he checked the photo
he could see they looked ‘a sandwich short of a picnic’**

**A non-woke joke, illustrating that political correctness
must never stifle creativity, and I trust that in the past Newsletters
you’ll have seen, it never has, and never will stifle mine!**

... there’s no stifling the creative spirit, driving a Morgan - so let’s enjoy!

Cheers - Les les@lbacreative.co.uk