
NORCEMOG NEWS

NORTH WEST AND CHESHIRE

January 2023



NorceMog Celebrations
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and a Champagne Launch
Pages 6-7

**Welcome to your January Newsletter. In this issue: Your Feedback on the NorceMog Christmas Lunch and Presentations - A Champagne Launch
Adrian and Dot's Morgan Tour de France . . . Hope you Enjoy!**



I'll Celebrate your Resolution!

In celebrating the New Year, I guess you make resolutions you're going to break, but I'll celebrate if you make, and don't break - "send Les some content".

Throughout the past year, some of you have sent me articles and photographs which have been a big help producing Newsletters, that with editing and added to those I've written, are designed to be newsworthy and enjoyable to read.

To continue, I'll need you all to send me more in 2023, so as we ring out the old - ring in the new, resolve to make it a pro-active New Year.

PS: Thanks for the votes for my Scriptwriter Award. Les Burgess: les@lbcreative.co.uk

NorceMog Christmas Lunch and Presentations Barton Manor Hotel

Sunday 11th December 2022



Making Merry at the Manor Members Feedback on the Seasons Festivities

Peter Murphy

As we opened the curtains, the snow of Saturday had disappeared, the sky was blue, would we/could we take the Morgan? Ah, but coming home would be dark and clouds were appearing, should we risk the wrath of our fellow Morganeers and go in the tin top? Sense prevailed and off we set in the Mini. By Haslingden the snow was deep and very picturesque, by Barton the snow had gone. We passed Barton Manor Hotel, could that be it? No, we were looking for Barton Grange Manor. When we arrived at the right hotel and drove into the car park, not a Morgan in sight! We checked at reception and yes, this was indeed the place. What a lovely afternoon that followed, thanks to all concerned, but I just hope I don't win the Layshaft Trophy again!

Nick Taylor

One of the best things was the welcoming from old and new friends. We asked for the music in the hotel room to be turned off, not to interrupt the table chatter which was none stop and interesting, including aspects of Liverpool. It's a small world, as all at our table knew the city well. I'm afraid 2022 limited our Morgan activity with no overseas trips, we're getting too old for them anyway, but the drive to Barton wasn't a problem and well worth it. Linda offered us a warm greeting when we arrived, for what was a great day out.



Andrew Threlkeld. A Christmas Tale - Ruby the Red Nosed Morgan, age 14¼

I knew it would be a difficult conversation with my moody Morgan teenager, hence it was with some trepidation that I entered Ruby's shed through the side door.

Ruby: "It's the second Sunday in December."

Me: "Yes."

Ruby: "It's the NorceMog Christmas lunch."

Me: "Yes."

Ruby: "I always go to the NorceMog Christmas lunch, I've never let you down!"

Me: "That's not strictly true."

Ruby: "Okay, one year I wouldn't start as my fuel pump relay had gone, it wasn't my fault you didn't have a spare!"

Me: "Good point, well made."

Ruby: "Anyway, I've got to go to catch up with Major III" (The McArthur's Roadster) "I always park next to Major III."

Me: "The Major's not going either, they have a family party which takes precedence."

Ruby: "I can park next to another Morgan then, I don't mind."

Me: "I doubt there will any other Morgans there."

Ruby: "WHY NOT?"

Me: "There's snow on the roads, and the motorway will be covered in salt!" As a tear weeps from her headlamp.

Ruby: "I can park next to a tin-top then, even an Aston Martin if I must?"

Me: "And it's very cold."

Ruby: "Cold? You say it's cold? What happened to "all you need are warm ears and warm hands?"
" You've got a woolly hat and leather gloves, that's no excuse."

Me: "Well, Joan's just washed her hair and doesn't want to squash it under a woolly hat."

Ruby: "Oh yes, that woman again, sometimes I think you love her more than you love me."

I'm not going there!

Me: "Anyway, you're not going out today, but I have got you a present."

Ruby: "I DON'T CARE!"

Me: "You don't know what it is yet."

Ruby: "OK, what is it?"

Me: "It's a 6amp battery charger / maintainer."

Ruby: "Oooh."

Me: "With state-of-the-art technology, it knows when you're fully charged, then just trickle charges to keep you warm through the winter."

Ruby: "Oooh, I like the sound of that, plug it in then, let's see."

I do as I'm told! - just this once!

Ruby: "Mmmm, that's lovely, tickles a bit, but really pleasant. Shouldn't you be going? You don't want to be late."

Me: "Goodnight Ruby."

Then, as I close the door to Ruby's Shed she shouts, "**I'm definitely going next year!**"
Teenagers? They've always got to have the last word!

We arrived at Barton Manor Hotel in our draught free quattro tin-top with heated seats. Joan's hair was unruffled, and we enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon. Good food, great company and, all-in-all, probably the best NorceMog Christmas lunch we have ever attended. If Carlsberg did NorceMog Christmas parties....and all that. Our thanks to all who attended, and to Bryan and Linda Fearn for the impeccable organisation.

P.S. We've not told Ruby how good it was!



David & Una Haynes

Over the years, 1985 - 2022, we have enjoyed various venues and styles of Christmas celebrations with the Northern Centre. We've also enjoyed various types of weather for these events. Some members seem to go on for ever, maybe getting a little greyer, while others come and go. We must admit that being the most southerly members (it was an 180 mile round trip for the lunch) we don't get to many noggins in the Northern Reaches of the centre, south of the Mersey is just about OK.

As we travelled North on the Sunday, the temperature rose two degrees above freezing, the sun came out and the sky was blue and the snow-covered Winter Hill looked impressive. Unfortunately, we were not in the Morgan. The kitchen team must have been watching Master Chef, as they'd done something different to the melon starter, there was even popcorn scattered on top. Yes, it was good to meet up with people we hadn't seen for some time.



Geoff & Brenda Goodman

We would like to thank Linda for organising the Christmas lunch and we're looking forward to next years event, hopefully with better weather so that we can arrive in style, in the Morgan.

Also, we would like to thank everyone for their company, especially for the terrible jokes on our table and thanks to the chef for his awful sprouts.

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and all our best wishes for 2023.

Andy Bleasdale

Another 'start of Christmas' for me in Garstang, and what a great event it was at Barton Manor, seeing old friends and new. A chance to welcome and catch up with everyone on the events of the past year, recalling those warm and wonderful Morgan days and planning mischief for the New Year.

Here's wishing a Happy Christmas to one and all.

Andrew Brierley

I was very pleased to be at the Christmas lunch to enjoy meeting up and sharing the good news about my Morgan Aero 8 series 3. Some members we met, remembered that after enjoying the festivities at Barton Manor in 2021 we had to go home in a taxi and return to the hotel the next morning to pick it up, when it started right away.

Since I got the car over two years ago it would run for an hour or so, then the engine would shut down. The problem was inside the ECU box located at the rear of the engine. It gets very hot placed there, and a tiny solder spot was moving when hot which shut down the engine. The box containing four plates of soldered joints was replaced and I think the problem is solved at last. Hooray, and a Merry Christmas to you all.

Hilary Burgess

Although I was dreading the drag up the M6, even in the relative comfort of the Audi, it was worth it. And unlike the previous year when Les missed the Garstang turning and we de-toured via Blackpool making us late, we arrived at Barton Manor in plenty of time, but with no one else there, Les joked at reception, "had we got the right Sunday"!

We were glad when the other members started to arrive, and after mingling and catching up on the latest news, we took our table to enjoy the festive lunch. I was then pleased to be presented with the Life's Cup from Andy, who with Maggi, was amongst the members Les and I welcomed for the Greek/Mediterranean buffet I prepared, and served at our White Island house in Cheshire, that won the award. (Thanks to those who voted for me)

Unfortunately we had to leave early, as our son and daughter in law, were dog sitting our old Golden Retriever, and didn't get to thank Linda and wish everyone a Merry Christmas - and now wish you all a Happy New Year.



Celebrating the winners in the NorceMog Awards Presentations

A special feature of this years seasonal get together, following on from the festive lunch, was the re-introduction of our annual Awards Presentations, after some of our activities were put on hold due to the two Covid affected years. Our chairman Andy Bleasdale was not only pleased to present the awards to the winning members, but to receive one himself from our club secretary Andrew Threlkeld, who himself was one of the recipients.



Members take pleasure (maybe not Peter) in receiving their prize.



Life's Cup

Hilary Burgess had a winning recipe, with dedicated enthusiasm serving up a White Island Mediterranean Buffet.



Kelly Cup

Mark Butterworth raced to the award, driving his 1938 V12 Lagonda at the Oulton Park Gold Cup meeting.



Layshaft Award

Peter Murphy suffered his success via a crushed front wing, courtesy of an unknown assailant in a car park.



Wilkinson Sword

Andrew Threlkeld had 41 members attending the Leigh Arms in Little Leigh, putting other events to the sword.



Glendower Cup

Andy Bleasdale demonstrated his skill, and shined with the best combined score in the Autotest and Concours.



Scriptwriter

Yours truly accepted the award, with words wishing for more of your Newsletter contributions.



Harvey Cup

Kate Robbins polished off the rest in the Concours, with her Roadster, chosen by staff of the Commercial Vehicle Museum at the Autotest.

Glenises's Shield

Amy Anaffi showed feminine finesse during the Autotest / Gymkhana (if we'd included the event) combined, and took the overall 1st place.



Gymkhana Shield No event in 2022

Champagne corks popped when Morgan opened their flagship showroom in an exclusive London district.



Celebrating the launch of their second factory-owned showroom and announcing Pol Roger as official champagne partner

As we enter the new year, it was this month on the 31st January 2022, that the Morgan Motor Company opened its second company-owned dealership, moving into the re-developed Astwood Mews in Kensington, an exclusive part of London. Morgan Works London is now the company's second factory-owned outlet and joins Morgan Works Malvern at the brand's established headquarters in Worcestershire.

This flagship Kensington showroom in its prestigious location, offers both new and used Morgans to the capitals car enthusiasts, as well as an aftersales service capability, backed up with the factory resources.

The launch of the London showroom spearheads the company's retail transformation, integrating with its global distribution strategy, where dealer network has increased from 56 to 74 outlets over the past year.

David Waghorn, Head of Business said: "The new dealership here in London aims to deliver the highest level of customer service, setting the standard for the Morgan dealer network across the world".

Marcus Blake, Chief Sales Officer said: "Throughout the last year, Morgan has strategically elevated and grown our dealer network to enhance its customer experience, increase its global reach and introduce the latest Morgan products to entirely new audiences".



Further to these endorsements, Marcus added, "Morgan Works London now forms a key piece in the puzzle, representing the brand in the capital city of our home market, and a unique customer demographic".

Following the extensive development and refit of the prestigious Astwood Mews site, Morgan Works London is set to welcome customers and visitors to the capital from all around the world.

The showroom style includes design elements from the Morgan Experience Centre, at the company's Malvern home, featuring the use of core materials including wood, leather and aluminium extensively in the decoration.

To showcase their passion for high quality design and inspiration, Morgan Works London has an interior that promotes the product, and appeals to a discerning market and the individuals within it.

The space includes a 'speccking pod' plus a gallery room with feature lighting inspired by traditional coachbuilding techniques and can display up to five vehicles at any one time.

Customers visiting the showroom will be able to design their dream Morgan, along with viewing the company's latest models. On display at the launch event were the Plus Four CX-T, along with the then, newly announced Plus Four LM62.

The official opening of the dealership also saw the launch of Pol Roger, announced as the 'official' champagne of the Morgan Motor Company.



Pol Roger, Morgan Motor Company's Official Champagne Partner

Following the launch of the new Morgan Motor Company's London Dealership, Champagne Pol Roger was delighted to announce it is the bespoke vehicle manufacturer's official Champagne.

Both these institutions share a dedication to traditional methods of craftsmanship, with nearly three centuries of experience between them. Pol Roger is proud to be in partnership with such a renowned British institution as the Morgan Motor Company, as our own hearts are inextricably linked to these islands.



Founded in 1909, Morgan construct their cars using a combination of long-established techniques and modern methods to create a classic yet timeless design, with an uncompromising devotion to quality.

Pol Roger is wholly aligned with this innovation and hand-crafted tradition. The House is one of the only Grande Marques to hand-remuage their bottles, a process which takes four riddlers a day to turn round a total of 200,000. This refusal to take the path of least resistance epitomises Morgan's and Pol Roger's commitment to quality and craftsmanship.

Though a Champagne House founded in Épernay, Great Britain has always been the premier market for Champagne Pol Roger, a tradition dating back to the 1850s. We look forward to continuing to celebrate the best of Britain with our sponsorship and relationship.

Les Burgess

With editing acknowledgements

Morgan Works London: John Bowman, Car Dealer. John Redfern, Motoring Research
Pol Roger Portfolio, polroger.co.uk

Celebrate that special occasion with Pol Roger.

Available from: Waitrose - Magestic Wine - and online including Laithwaites - and yes! even Amazon!

Adrian and Dot take their own Morgan 'Tour de France' in September 2019.



In 2019 a group of us cycled from the Channel to the Med, covering around 850 miles from Caen to Nice in 14 days, flying home from sunny Nice. We included an ascent of the infamous Ventoux, so loved by the Tour de France riders who ascend it in 90 minutes or so, it took us 4 hours!, but enough of that...

...what struck us about the whole route was it's amazing variety using 'N' and 'D' roads we saw every aspect of rural France from the Apple Orchards of Normandy to the Vineyards of Provence riding over the Massif Central and up the Gorge de Verdon. So the idea was hatched to drive the route in the Morgan.

The route we thought was easy, just follow our cycling notes, but we were of course a lot faster so instead of averaging around 65 miles a day we went for two days in one so half the overnight stops. Actually driving over 100 miles on 'D' roads is surprisingly hard work, at times the roads were so bumpy we were driving at cycling speed! As a result we resorted to bypass routes on better roads especially when the cycle route went off down a cycle track!

Upon catching the overnight ferry from Portsmouth to Caen we arrived early in Ouistreham (Caen port). A good start soon had us confused with the roads around Caen, taking some two hours to get south! After a brief domestic we were soon back on track, enjoying the countryside having lunch in Bagnoles de l'Orne and an overnight stop in La Flèche in the region known as 'Pays de la Loire'.

After a good nights sleep we set off along the banks of the Loire past Chateaux through Loches and onto Crozant passing through the beautiful village of Gargilles-Dempierre with steeply roofed houses and a Romanesque church and castle.

The following morning saw us heading towards Le Mont Dore via Aubusson through the Limousin region



Boarding the Caen ferry at Portsmouth.

best known for its red muscle-bound beef cattle! and on past Rémy Martin (vsop fame). We passed through Fresselines where Monet produced much of his work.

Le Mont-Dore at the source of the Dourdogne River is both a summer activities centre and a ski resort in winter. The owner of our Hotel loved the Morgan, taking pictures galore. In the morning we walked the town market before setting off for Mende, As yesterday we continued out over the Massif Central starting with a big climb out of the town, horse power definitely better than peddle we can tell you!



Parked up before the Ardèche bridge crossing.

You cannot mention the Ardèche without mentioning chestnuts for which the area is famous for producing 'marron glacé' (candied chestnut). Beaujolais and Cotes de Rhone come from this area and there is a cave with paintings and engravings said to be 36,000 years old, not open to the public for preservation reasons!



At the summit of Ventoux.

From here it was only 60 miles to Nice, traveling across the Gorge de Verdon and along through the hills and roads of the Alp Maritime with a sweeping descent into Nice and our Hotel on the Promenade des Anglais. We stayed there for three nights before the long drive home.

After a relaxing couple of days we headed north via Lyon, Tours, Le Mans a drive of over 800 miles, sadly this was all on motorways staying two nights on the way with a final night to Bayeux giving us time to see the Cathedral and Tapestry before catching the ferry home from Caen. It was a wonderful trip, with the Morgan performing faultlessly throughout, after its longest trip ever at just over 2,000 miles, including driving to the south coast. Apart from England and Northern France it was hood down driving all the way, with the weather finally breaking as we hit Normandy at the end of the first week of October

We passed through St Flour driving through the Languedoc Roussillon wine region feeling very much that we were getting into the south of France. Mende is in the upper Lot Valley, a small city of about 12,000 citizens. Dating back to the 3rd century it is full of medieval buildings, Interestingly the Tower of the Cathedral once contained the largest bell in the world until it was melted down in the 16th century to make cannons!

We spent the night in a lovely apartment developed from a 17th century terrace from where we continued on to Vaison-La-Romaine and Ventoux. We travelled via the Vallon Pont d'Arc on the Ardèche river, a beautiful natural limestone arch spanning the river in an area known as the Rhone Alps.

Vaison-la Romaine lies between the Alps and the Mediterranean and is at the foot of Ventoux, so after a good nights rest and super breakfast overlooking the river we headed off up the mountain to relive my excruciating 4 hours climb of 3 years earlier, it took us 45 minutes in the Morgan, this iconic Tour de France climb has a cycling record of 55m 51s set up by a Frenchman in 2004, how he did it we don't know. Most professionals can do it in under 2 hours. It's well worth the effort though, as the panorama from the summit is stunning with 360 degree views over the maritime alps and the wine growing areas of Provence.

From Ventoux we headed south to Moustiers Sainte Marie, famously the most beautiful village in France situated in Haute Provence and lives up to its reputation in spades, absolutely delightful, driving through the narrow main street with the hood down was a real head turner. We stayed here for two nights which was a good break taking in the atmosphere, good food, countryside walks and the cafes were wonderful.

Snapshots taken at the many scenic locations en-route on Adrian and Dot's September tour



Preparing to cross the Loire.



Lovely villages for lunch stops.



The beautiful Ardèche.



View from Ventoux over Provence.



Moustiers-St-Marie in Haute Provence, beautiful.



The Grand Hotel, Le Mont Dore.

Let's hear about your travel experiences - at home or abroad: les@lbacreative.co.uk



Diary of NorceMog Events

Enjoy meeting up with your fellow members

2023

Check Website for any Event Updates www.norcemog.com

Highlighted - Events organised by NorceMog. **Items listed in Red/TBC** - to be confirmed/finalised.

Jan 8

The Inn at Whitewell, Clitheroe, Lancashire

Contact Andy Bleasdale Tel 07973 315676

bleasers@hotmail.com

[Full Details](#) **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

LIMITED TO 40 MEMBERS



Feb 12

TBC

Mar 12

TBC

April 15

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



April 16

Lunch & AGM, Vale Royal Abbey, Whitegate

Contact Andrew Threlkeld Tel 07912 494768

norcemog.sec@morgansportscarclub.com



April 23

FBHV Drive it Day: Pipes in the Peak, Derbyshire

Confirmation to follow

[Full Details](#) **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**



May 1

Gawsworth Hall Car Show, Macclesfield

Contact Martin Cocks Tel 07973 488504,

martincocks@btinternet.com



May 7

Cheshire Candles Charity Run

Organised by West Cheshire MG Car Club

[Full Details](#) **MORGANS WELCOME**



May 14

TBC

June 11

**Autotest & Concours
the British Commercial Museum, Leyland**

Contact Brian Rawlinson Tel 01995 604716



Date TBC

Arley Hall Garden Festival, Arley, Cheshire

Contact Andrew Threlkeld Tel 07912 494768

norcemog.sec@morgansportscarclub.com



June 30 -
July 2

MOGFEST 23 & Annual Dinner
Windsor & Brooklands Museum, Surrey
[Bookings open](#) and can be made through MSCC Travel Club



July 9

100 years of Blackpool Carnival
[Details to follow](#)



July 24 - 27

Fat Lamb Tour: Yorkshire Dales / Cumbria
Contact Adrian & Dot Long Tel 07831 377255
adrian.long@icloud.com
[Full Details](#) **DON'T DELAY TO RESERVE A PLACE**



July 28 - 30

Oulton Park Gold Cup-3-day race weekend
Contact Andrew Threlkeld Tel 07912 494768
norcemog.sec@morgansportscarclub.com
[Full Details](#) of what is racing and anticipated prices

**DISPLAY
CAR APPLICATIONS
NOT AVAILABLE YET**
Keep a check on
their website



Aug 13

TBC

Sept 1 - 3

Morgans at Windermere
Contact Les Ellis Tel 07900 962348
les2mog@gmail.com
REGISTRATIONS OPEN 1st April



Sept 10

TBC

Sept 14 - 17

FolkMog week-end at Woodhall Spa
Several NorceMog members are going on this trip.
Although Closing Date was June 2022
Contact wilson.steve12@googlemail.com for any cancellations



Oct 8

TBC

Nov 5

TBC

Dec 10



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



If you have an idea for hosting a vacant monthly event, we welcome proposals.

Contact Andrew Threlkeld Tel: 07912 494 768 norcemog.sec@morgansportscarclub.com



**Spot yourself celebrating the festive season
at the NorceMog Christmas Lunch and Presentations**

Sorry...if you're not in focus here, view pages 2-3-4.

**Enjoy celebrating in the New Year
making merry in twelve months of Morganeering**

Cheers - Les les@lbacreative.co.uk

