













Welcome to your January 2025 Newsletter.

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Front cover picture: Philip Shuttleworths old Morgan

Contributions to NorceMog News always appreciated.
Please send your articles to norcemog@gmail.com

Noggin News

By Andrew Threlkeld

January 12th – Lunch at The Inn at Whitewell. Often the best attended Noggin so book early to avoid disappointment. Click here for [Details](#)

February 9th – TBC – Please feel free to volunteer!

March 9th – TBC - Please feel free to volunteer!

April 13th – AGM at Vale Royal Abbey. It's not too early to book. Menu and costs to follow. Click here for [Details](#)

Thank you to those members who have already organised or are currently exploring venues for a Noggin. Your endeavour is greatly appreciated

Event Calendar 2025

By Andrew Threlkeld



As 2024 rapidly draws to a close it is time to look at our events for 2025. January (Inn at Whitewell) and April (AGM) are taken however all other months are available.

Would you like to volunteer to organise an event? There is a list below with some ideas or if you know of another venue / event that would be suitable please let us know.

- Lancaster Canal cruise from Barton Grange
 - [Barton Grange Afternoon, Cream Teas, Lunch and Dinner Cruises \(kingfishercruise.co.uk\)](#)
- Steam Museum, Poynton
 - <http://www.enginemuseum.org/index.html>
- Bowland Brewery at Clitheroe
 - [Bowland Brewery | Clitheroe, Lancashire](#)
- The Carding Shed –
 - <http://thecardingshed.co.uk/>
- James' Places – Different venues

- JCB tour – mid week includes lunch.
 - [Factory Tour | JCB.com](#)
- RHS Bridgewater in Spring or Autumn
 - [RHS Garden Bridgewater / RHS Gardening](#)
- WWT Martin Mere
 - [Martin Mere Wetland Centre | WWT](#)
- The Mill at Condor Green – Meal or midweek break
 - [Mill At Conder Green -](#)
- Skipton Castle
 - [Skipton Castle, Superbly Preserved Medieval Castle, Yorkshire](#)
- Lancaster Castle
 - [Home | Lancaster Castle : Lancaster Castle](#)
- St Catherines Hospice – organise a car meet on some Sundays.
 - [St Catherine's Hospice | Quality of life to the end of life \(stcatherines.co.uk\)](#)
- Bancroft Mill Engine Trust & Museum
 - [Bancroft Mill Engine Museum | Bancroft Mill Engine Museum, Barnoldswick](#)
- Anderton Boat Lift
 - [Anderton Boat Lift & Visitor Centre, Cheshire | Canal & River Trust \(canalrivertrust.org.uk\)](#)
- Keighly & Worth Valley Railway
 - [Keighley & Worth Valley Railway - Keighley & Worth Valley Railway \(kwvr.co.uk\)](#)
- Bury Transport Museum
 - [Bury Transport Museum - The East Lancashire Railway \(eastlancsrailway.org.uk\)](#)
- National Trust property visit
 - Various locations [Home | National Trust](#)

Please contact Andrew at norcemog@gmail.com if you are available to volunteer.

NorceMog Christmas Lunch and Presentation

By Roger Benton



Held at the Barton Manor Hotel over 50 attendees enjoyed an excellent meal complete with hats and crackers. There was even at least 3 Morgans in the car park including one that turned up with the hood down (Bryan should receive an award for that!).

Big thanks to Linda for organising the event, it was a wonderful way to round off the year and a great chance to catch up with friends.

To quote Andy it was a great start to the Christmas period. Andy also informed us that 2025 would be his last as NorceMog Chairman.

As usual at the Christmas event some awards are handed out.

Award	Reason	2024 Winner
Life's Cup	Most enthusiastic member	Peter & Rosemary Murphy
Kelly Cup	Sporting Achievement	John Stephens
Harvey Cup	Concours Winner	Simon Drew
Layshaft Award	Problem of the year	Roger Benton
Wilkinson Sword	Best attended Noggin	Andy Bleasdale
Glendower Cup	Autotest / Concours combined	Paul Johnson
Glenise's Shield	Best Lady Autotest / Gymkhana	Kate Robins
Scriptwriter	Newsletter contribution	Roger Benton
Anderson Cup	Young Driver or Winner of Autotest	Paul Johnson



Paul Johnson receiving the Glendower Cup



Roger Benton receiving the Scriptwriter award



Kate Robins receiving the Glenise's Shield



Paul Johnson receiving the Anderson Cup



Andy Bleasdale receiving the Wilkinson Sword!



Roger Benton receiving the Layshaft Award



Peter Murphy receiving the Life's Cup



Simon Drew receiving the Harvey Cup



John Stephens receiving the Kelly Cup

Why did I win the Layshaft Award?

Or How I caused an international incident between Italy and France.

By Roger Benton

Being such a sought after award I thought I should justify why I am a worthy recipient of the Layshaft award.

We had travelled over the Alps in glorious sunshine with hoods down and, in my case, side screens off. Liguria then on to Tuscany staying in wonderful self-catering apartments set amongst fields of grapevines.



But the Italian roads were not exactly smooth, the first hint of a problem was a little red warning symbol indicating an 'Overseer Fault'. Apparently the 'Overseer' detects locking of the rear wheels and then puts the gearbox in neutral. I switched off and then start the engine, warning had gone.

Same warning reappeared the next day but this time it wouldn't go away. Called Morgan and they suggested leaving it for 15 minutes which cured the issue.

We were then heading North to Pisa, stopped for lunch and the warning reappeared so I park up somewhere safe and switched off but this time on trying to restart, the car was completely dead except for the wipers! First call was to the AA then on WhatsApp to let my fellow travellers know, then a call to Morgan. Within 30 minutes two other Morgans were with me. Morgan suggested disconnecting the battery for 15 minutes but no joy. Freddy (owner of the most beautiful +8 I have ever seen) produced a circuit tester and made sure the fuses were ok.

By now the tow truck should have been here so I rang the AA. The driver of the tow truck had tried to contact me but failed so had turned round and gone home. The AA requested the tow truck again and the same thing happened, the AA gave me the telephone number of the driver but gave me the wrong number. Eventually the tow truck turned up, 7 hours after the initial call.

My car is an automatic, with no engine running the car is stuck in park so the rear wheels are locked. To put the car on the pickup plastic skids were placed under the rear wheels and my poor car was dragged backwards on to the low loader.

I was informed that it could take a month for my car to be recovered to the UK. I wasn't really expecting it to make it in one piece. An annoying quirk of the AA recovery service is that they arrange to recover the car but not the driver so it was a taxi to the hotel.



The next day David Roberts (thank heaven for David and his Italian) and myself visited the garage where my car had been taken and this was the first encouraging sign. The garage was immaculate with high end cars such as Lamborghinis and Audi's on the ramps and a concours condition MGA restored by the owner. Lots of discussion and a bottle of whiskey seem to help motivate the owner to try and fix my car. I wasn't hopeful of a fix especially when the garage owner informed us that the diagnostic socket and software was specific to Morgan and not available to him.

However, this garage was very good, in less than a day and half they had fixed the problem.

The garage had traced the issue to a wire connecting two fuse boards, the connections had come loose. I safely returned home in my car and the Overseer has never again reared its ugly head.

But this story is not quite over, back in the UK I complained to the AA. Two weeks later I had a call from a nice AA customer services agent. I recounted what had happened and the agent said this was the worst example of poor service they had ever seen. I was offered compensation of £150 which I accepted. The agent then said the issue was between the coordinating office based in Lyon in France and the Italian Automobile club and that the two spoke different languages but the Italian office didn't answer the phone anyway. An investigation had been undertaken and things became a little heated, the Italians insulted the French causing an international incident so this whole issue was reported to a higher authority. What happened next I don't know but I suppose one could envisage the higher authority being referred to as the 'Overseer'.

I must pay tribute to my fellow travellers; their support made all the difference and I can't thank them enough.



Owner of garage that fixed my Morgan with his MGA

Ledgerwood Morgan Calendar 2025

By Andrew Threlkeld

The NorceMog word travels as photos from our visit to Houghton Tower last July feature for the month of February in the calendar from Ledgerwood Morgan based in Winterton near Scunthorpe.

FEBRUARY

Whichever way you look at it, a line-up of Morgans makes a very fine sight. Andrew Threlkeld captured the moment at Houghton Tower.

LEDGERWOOD MORGAN
01724 733228

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

The Car Tour Rap

By Andrew Threlkeld – Some photos courtesy of Scenic & Continental

Five NorceMog cars attended the Festival of Motoring on The Isle of Man last September. Themed “The Best of British” and superbly organised by Scenic and Continental Car Tours here is a (kind of) rap of our experience.

Roger Benton also reported on this event in the October 2024 Newsletter

Joanny and me and our Morgan car,
Drove up to Heysham, it's not that far,
Hood down, M6, quicker than a van,
We boarded a ferry to the Isle of Man.

The Car Tour Rap

The Best of British was the car led theme,
Instructions provided by the SCCT team,
Organisation beyond compare,
We had a great time whilst we were there.

The Car Tour Rap

On Thursday a display at Castle Peel,
Privileged parking as part of the deal,
Directions provided on a Tulip map,
Welcomed by a very friendly chap.

The Car Tour Rap

Park over here and some over there,
Fill all the spaces around the square,
Locals admiring and envious glances,
Sun was out, what were the chances?

The Car Tour Rap

Friday the cars arrived as a flock,
A blast up the hillside known as The Sloc,
Two miles long with no opposing traffic,
The road was closed just for our classic.

The Car Tour Rap

Setting off thirty seconds apart,
Engines revving and a racing heart,
Tour it once then race it again,
Sun still shining, there was no rain.

The Car Tour Rap

We were the first of all the boy racers,
What could be better, ahead of the chasers,
Just when I thought everything was great,
I caught up with that damn Daimler V8.



Overtaking just wasn't allowed,
But the Daimler driver was equally proud,
We cruised up to the chicane at the end,
I can't believe he braked for that bend!

The Car Tour Rap

Saturday, British cars are out in force,
MG's, Triumphs and Jags of course,
On Douglas prom we all displayed,
The Best of British, all portrayed.

The Car Tour Rap

Sunday morning like a vehicle pursuit,
Follow the police car on the TT route,
Locals gathered to wave us through,
350 cars, a bit of a queue!

The Car Tour Rap

Assembled in Ramsey, to the marshals' design,
Grouped by your speed desired, all in line,
Proceed to the hairpin, I think I'm in Heaven,
Keep up with the pace car, a Porsche Nine Eleven.

The Car Tour Rap

Flying past the TT marker signs,
Keeping to the quick racing lines,
Tower bends to Gooseneck a tight right hander,
Power in my Roadster, nothing grander!

The Car Tour Rap

The mountain road at speed descends,
Joey's, Hailwood and Duke's bends,
Closed road driving, what a VIP,
A stop at Creg Ny Baa for afternoon tea.

The Car Tour Rap

Refreshed we return at normal speed,
To the TT grandstand, photo guaranteed,
Prepare ourselves for the Gala dinner,
With SCCT everyone's a winner.

The Car Tour Rap

High speed ferry back to Liverpool,
Homeward bound, we have enough fuel,
Thank you SCCT, what a star,
From Joanny and me and our Morgan car.



We were extremely fortunate with the weather, just a 2-minute shower whilst waiting for the ferry home. SCCT have run this event for the last 3 years and have 3 versions in 2025. There are other optional extras available, it books up quick and is highly recommended.

A Morgan 4/4 History Revealed

By David Roberts

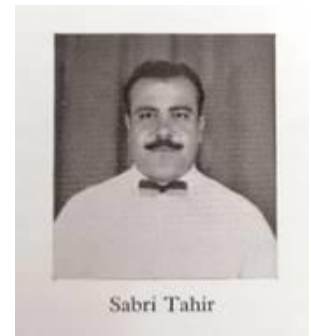
Many NorceMog members will know of, or have seen the 1960 4/4 Series II that I rebuilt between 2017 and 2022. Some members may remember reading that this car has been in my family since 1967 when my brother-in-law purchased the car. This same car was the first Morgan that I rode in, over half a century ago! So, when friends send me an interesting photograph from the early 1960s, it's difficult not to be excited!

September 2024. Argiris Nicolaou, son of Andreas Nicolaou, proprietor of the Cyprus Classic Motorcycle Museum based at Nicosia and owner of a 1957 Morgan 4/4 Series II, unearthed the following period photograph online.



My Morgan 4/4 Series II, was ordered by Morgan's agent for Cyprus, H. Sabri Tahir of Kryenia and was dispatched from Morgan's Pickersleigh Road factory on Monday 29th February 1960 with ivory white body and wings, black interior, tonneau cover and badge bar. It spent the first two years of its life on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. The agent, H. Sabri Tahir, a Cypriot Turkish businessman with reputation for being a bit of a rogue. Tahir sold a fourteen Morgans between 1959 and 1965, virtually all British armed forces personnel who were able to take advantage of generous tax exemptions afforded to them. Of the 388 4/4 Series II cars manufactured, H. Sabri Tahir supplied five; A552 is one of two 4/4 Series II Cyprus cars known to survive.

Sabri Tahir had rather an interesting life. In addition to being the agent for Morgan, he was obviously a bit of an 'entrepreneur', owned bars and hotels and was renowned for operating 'at the edge of the law'. He befriended the author Lawrence Durrell (brother of Gerald Durrell of *'My Family and Other Animals'* fame) and assisted him with the purchase and restoration of a house in the northern part of Cyprus, now Turkish Cyprus. After the invasion and annexation by the Turkish military of Cyprus' north east area and in influx of the Turkish mafia, there followed a number of attempts on his life, one of which was a car bomb that injured him sufficiently that he had to use a wheelchair, his son was assassinated in one of his hotels in 1981, finally, in 2000, Sabri Tahir, aged 76, was assassinated by a former bodyguard with six shots to the head. He obviously led a 'colourful' life.



A period photograph of the quayside at Kyrenia, of the Bomonto Bar, its owner H. Sabri Tahir standing at the doorway, people relaxing in the sunshine enjoying a drink and, most interestingly, a Morgan sports car parked on the quayside. Tahir was the agent and importer of Morgans. Unfortunately, the photographer and date of capture is unknown.



The Morgan is a 4/4 (Plus 4 lowline bodied cars were not introduced until after the 1962 Le Mans 24 Hours race in which Chris Lawrence won the 2 Litre Class with his 4/4 low-line bodied Plus 4. Note that the Morgan has a centrally mounted spotlight, bumper over-riders and steel wheels with hubcaps; a badge bar if fitted, is obscured by the trade plate. My 4/4's grill and cowl-box, showed evidence of a centrally mounted spotlight. An accident, whilst on Cyprus, required repairs to A552 by RAF fitters from 103 Maintenance Unit; this necessitated a new front wing and, most probably, a new front bumper; the use of military specification nuts and bolts is evidence that RAF fitters undertook the repairs. Following the accident circa 1962, the over-riders, spotlight and badge bar were not replaced. So, there is more than a strong probability that the white Morgan illustrated in the photograph is newly imported Morgan 4/4 Series II, chassis number A552.



Regardless of any debate whether the car in the Kyrenia quayside photograph is, or is not A552, the discovery of this previously unknown and fascinating photograph after a period of over six decades, is a remarkable find and provides more insight to A552's probable experiences and unique history on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

My Old Morgan

By Philip Shuttleworth

I always wonder who drives my old cars.

Imagine my surprise, when my old 4/4 cropped up on "Facebook" it is now owned by a company called Classic Car Adventures who have a small fleet of British Classics including TVR, MG and Morgans.

So for £229 a day they can be hired.



NorceMog Events 2025




Diary of NorceMog Events

Enjoy meeting up with your fellow members

Keep a check on this Website for any Event Updates


2025


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

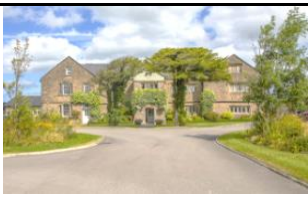
Jan 12	The Inn at Whitewell, Clitheroe, Lancashire Contact - Andy Bleasdale Tel 07973 315676 Email: bleasers@hotmail.com Full Details	
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Feb 9	TBD	
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Mar 9	TBD	
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Apr 4 - 6	MSCC Spring Dinner Dance & AGM Week-end Burn Hall, Huby, Nr York Contact - Jan Lawson Email: jan.lawson@janmail.co.uk Full Details Booking Form	
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Pre order Meals	Apr 13	NorceMog AGM/Lunch, Vale Royal Abbey, Whitegate Contact Andrew Threlkeld Tel 07912 494768 Email: norcemog@gmail.com Full Details	
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May 18	Haighton Manor, Haighton Green Lane, PR2 5SQ Lunch & dedicated parking area at this Brunner & Price establishment. Contact David Sims Email: simswasindubai@gmail.com Full Details	
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May 11	Cheshire Candles Charity Run Organised by West Cheshire MG Owners Club - Morgans welcome Details to follow Limited to 150 cars	
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Jun 15	Gymkhana & Concours The British Commercial Vehicle Museum, Leyland Contact Bryan Rawlinson Tel 01995 604716 Full Details	
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50% Discount Ends 29 Feb	Jun 27 - 29	MOGFEST - New Forest, Hampshire Full Details & Booking Form	
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Jun 29 Free Admission maximum 10 cars	Arley Hall Garden Festival, Arley, Cheshire Contact Andrew Threlkeld Tel 07912 494768 Email: norcemog@gmail.com Full Details	
Jun 29	Lancashire Classic & Performance Car Show At Hoghton Tower Nr Preston, PR5 0SH Organised by Great British Motor Shows More Details & Tickets	
Jul 13	TBD	
Jul 22 - 25	Fat Lamb Tour: Lakes & Dales Contact Adrian & Dot Long Tel 07831 377255 Email: adrian.long@icloud.com Full Details	
Jul 26 - 27 50% Discount	Oulton Park Gold Cup Contact Andrew Threlkeld Tel 07912 494768 Email: norcemog@gmail.com Full Details to follow	
Aug 10	TBD	
Aug 31	Cheshire Classic & Performance Car Show Venue to be confirmed Organised by Great British Motor Shows More Details & Tickets	
Sep 5-7	Morgans at Windermere. A FellMog Event Contact Les Ellis Tel 07900 962348 Email: les2mog@gmail.com More Details	
Sep 14	TBD	
Sep 14	Southport Classic & Performance Car Show Victoria Park Rotten Row, Southport PR8 2BZ Organised by Great British Motor Shows More Details & Tickets	
Oct 12	TBD	
Nov 2	TBD	
Dec 14	Christmas Lunch & Annual Awards Presentation Barton Manor Hotel, Barton, Preston, PR3 5AA Contact Linda Fearn at Full Details	

If you have an idea for hosting one of our monthly events, we welcome proposals.

Contact Andrew Threlkeld, Centre Secretary Tel: 07912 494 768 Email: norcemog@gmail.com

And Finally

The Christmas lunch was a fine finish to the year and I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Thanks to all those contributors to this month's newsletter. Quite a varied collection of articles so I hope you found something of interest here.

Happy new year everyone, here's hoping for a great 2025.

Best wishes

Roger

roger.benton@icloud.com



Morgans under a Tuscan sun