



The Morganiser



Scrumpy Mog

March 2024

NEWSLETTER of the WESSEX CENTRE of THE MORGAN SPORTS CAR CLUB

Dear Morganeers

As the green shoots of Spring push their way skyward we Morganeers are looking forward to long sunny days and open roads. Nothing stays the same for ever and Roger Gibson has retired as Editor of The Morganiser leaving us to take his place. We hope to carry on much the same and welcome your contributions through articles, reports and other items. We would welcome any non-technical questions regarding 'Morganeering' and we will endeavour to have them answered. For example, if your partner won't let you wash your oily rags in the washing machine, let us know and we will consult our expert !.

Below is a list of the articles in this issue. We would like to point out that the details of **Drive It Day on Sunday 21st April** are included. This is always a popular event and is in aid of charity.

Morton's Musings
Christmas Noggin at the Flintlock
New Year Run
Awards Evening
Castlebrook Inn Sunday Lunch
AGM Report
Graham Land's Obituary
Forthcoming events
Details of Drive it Day 21 April 2024
Contact Information

Apologies in advance for any shortcomings but we are gradually acquiring the necessary skills to produce The Morganiser.

The copy date for the next issue is Friday 10th May and we would welcome your input.

Hope to see you all soon out on the road,

Rob & Jane Pring

Morton's Musings

And still it rains as I sit here preparing the copy in early March. I don't think I've known such a wet winter! I didn't SORN the Morgan as I thought I would get some nice winter drive outs, but it hasn't been the case. Let's hope Spring really does spring and we get some finer weather for driving - we are long overdue it.

The 2023 Awards Dinner was held at the Lanes Hotel on January 27th with 34 members enjoying a superb 3-course dinner followed by an informative talk about the African Queen - a detailed report, along with awards winners, is later in this issue.

Our Annual General Meeting took place on Thursday February 22nd at the Hornsbury Mill near Chard. 30 members attended, with a further 45 sending apologies. A detailed report is in this issue. However I would like to welcome two new committee members - Rob & Jane Pring who have agreed to become the new Editors of The Morganiser - please support them by sending in pictures and reports/articles for publishing.

We have had no interest in the position of Events Secretary so we feel that the time has come for events such as Noggins and Sunday Lunches to be organised by our members - hopefully this will introduce some new venues in different areas. With 44 members and about 14 events throughout the year each member should only be called upon once every 3 years to organise an event. Elsewhere in this issue you will see a list that shows those members who have already volunteered along with the events that we still need volunteers for - please contact me if you are able to organise an event. The Flintlock at Marsh has always been a popular venue, so maybe someone would like to organise a Noggin there? There are also a number of other events planned for 2024 - see the list in this issue. I'm pleased to say that Pete & Jill will still be involved in one-off events.

To keep our social diary up to date and to send out emails announcing events, on behalf of the organising members, we believe an Events Co-ordinator is probably a more suitable title than Events Secretary. Is there anyone who would be prepared to take on this new, mainly secretarial role? Obviously help will be given to get you up and running.

An idea we are working at present is a 'Car Swap' session. The idea being that we have the opportunity to drive each others cars (with the owner in the passenger seat) - we have a wide mixture of cars within the Wessex Centre and how often have you thought I would like to try a V8, or a Roadster, or maybe a CX automatic? This could be your chance. Currently we are liaising with Henstridge Airfield (between Sherborne and Shaftesbury) to look at the feasibility of using their hard surface runway. It will probably be a morning or afternoon at the weekend. I would welcome feedback from members as to whether they would be interested in this?

By now I assume members are fettling their cars, getting the washing and polishing underway and checking those tyre pressures as we all look forward to the longer, and warmer, days. Safe travels wherever your Morgan takes you.

Happy & safe Morganeering!

Les Centre Secretary

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Christmas Noggin at The Flintlock Inn

Wednesday 13 December 2023

32 Merry Old Souls met one Starry, Starry Night for festive fun and a chance visit from Secret Santa. However, there were no reindeer, and only two Morgans on the roof. Most seemed to cope quite well in the absence of mistletoe, encouraged by the relaxed atmosphere amongst the Christmas jumper, ties, waistcoats, hats, ear rings and antlers.



Jill had provided name place-tags with helpful reminders of our food orders, and we soon sorted ourselves out once the mad flurry of card exchanges was over. Once again, the inn had provided crackers on the House, together with a candy-stick each. The Flintlock is a favourite noggin venue for many, and they had opened specially for us. Without exception, the food was excellent, and generous . . . and if you ever see gingerbread tiramisu on the menu – go for it!

So noisy was the throng of merry-makers that some almost missed their festive dish, but there was a massive de-crescendo once Pete had issued the quiz sheets. Graham and Hazel certainly know their carols, and were able to win a bottle of bubbly by identifying the songs from their first letters – I do think that they should have been made to sing one of them as a duet, just to clinch it.

S. S. then arrived stealthily (without white beard) with a huge sack, and distributed gifts to anyone with a ticket. There was some furtive fumbling in the sack to pick up the biggest/heaviest present – Ho! Ho! Ho!



It was a late night for a noggin, and as we left for home there were many good wishes for 2024 – and much looking forward to the New Year scenic run.

Roger Gibson

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2024 New Year Drive Out, 7 January

We all met at the Cartgate Coffee Stop for a leisurely scenic drive down to the Manor House, West Bexington, for lunch. Considering the recent rain, the weather was perfect albeit quite chilly, especially as Katie and I had only returned from the 24 degrees heat of Lanzarote, three days before ! 14 cars arrived, plus 1 couple in their 'tintop', and it was very nice to meet new members, Andy and Sheelagh Bell from Mere in their 2022 LM62. Tim and Chrissy were going to join at the lunch. Unfortunately, Les was full of 'Lurgy' and joined for the drive but not the lunch to avoid spreading it around.

A lovely route had been chosen and some of us even encountered a fellow Morgan owner coming the other way. There was a plan to stop in the seaside car park at Charmouth, but as expected, it was full due to the good weather, so we continued to the lunch venue.

28 sat down to a very enjoyable lunch served highly efficiently by the attentive staff, proving once again that the Manor is an excellent venue.



After lunch we were 'treated ?' to a quiz featuring disguised names of car parts, and although I think most of us did quite well, Nev and Julia managed a full house with all the 15 questions correct, well done.

I feel everyone thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and after bidding our farewells, hopefully had a safe journey home, but not before a very enthusiastic member of staff took numerous photos.

As ever Rob and Jane's organisation was spot on, and I know you will all want to join with me in thanking them for their efforts

John Adams



Welcoming in the New Morgan Year on 7th January at The Manor House

Awards Evening at Lanes Hotel

Saturday 27 January 2024

Having assembled at the bar to get that all important flying speed, Les summoned us to dinner. Although numbers were slightly down on last year, 32 of us sat down to what I thought was a excellent meal, professionally served by the attentive staff. I think we all appreciated the effort put in by Lanes too always make us so welcome.

After the meal, Kevin Patience presented a talk about the true story of the "African Queen". It turned out that he had owned a Morgan and several other interesting classic cars, and one or two of us remarked that in hindsight it might have been better for him to just talk about them a bit longer ?

It now being rather late, Les did a wonderful job of presenting the awards with some haste.

The awards were as follows :-

Chairman's Award	John Robinson.
Most Noggins in a Morgan	Bob Glover and Jenny.
Longest Trip	Ian and Olivia Denson.
OBE	Bob Glover and John Adams
Fun Concours	Roger Gibson.
Editor's Award	Bob Glover.
Treasure Hunt	Mark Freeman and Jayne Wilby.
Treasure Hunt Spoon	Bob Glover and Jenny.
Best Photo	Martin Medland.

You have probably noticed that Bob won 4 awards, so naturally he is barred from winning everything for 12 months !!!!

During the evening, Chris Cheesman and Crissy Ayres gave wonderful appreciations of our wives, husbands, and partners, and it was now time to retire to the bar at about Midnight.

John and Katie



Sunday Lunch at the Castlebrook Inn, Compton Dundon

11th February 2024

It was a fine Sunday morning when 10 Morgans converged on Compton Dundon to meet for the first time at the Castlebrook Inn.



The venue is only 7 miles from where we live so we decided to leave home a bit early and drive a short scenic route via Baltonsborough, Glastonbury and Street to make it worthwhile getting our car dirty !



There were 28 of us accommodated at tables of 6 at one end of a long room separate from other tables. The usual Morgan chattering took place over drinks until the carvery was opened. At this point it was time to fill our plates and then near silence prevailed as we all concentrated on the matter in hand.

The carvery was excellent and encouraged some of us to pile a bit too much on our plates! The desserts were also good and generously sized.

It is great to be back in the Morgan fold after a 2 year "dalliance" with a Jaguar F-Type and a Triumph Stag. We are now enjoying our third Morgan!

Many thanks to Nev and Julia for discovering this lunch venue and for making all the arrangements.

George and Elaine Balcombe



Chris and Sharon Cheesman suitably dressed for the Sunday Lunch drive

Graham Land 1953-2023

I know we were all very sad to hear that Graham had died of pneumonia on Boxing Day. Although only relatively new to the club, he made a deep and lasting impression, soon becoming a very competent Centre Secretary. Unfortunately, as we know, Graham suffered a major heart problem and had to relinquish the position, and for nearly 2 years he battled the complications of his condition. I think we all thought as we saw him more regularly that he was recovering well, but it was not to be, and he died peacefully with his family at his bedside. Following a private cremation, there was a moving service of thanksgiving for Graham in his very packed village Church, including many club members.

Graham was born in 1953 into farming family at Brentor, and during his childhood, the family moved around the Southwest and even a short time in Canada. He joined the Fleet Air Arm in 1969 as a Naval Aircraft Mechanic and with typical hard work and dedication rose the rank of Warrant Officer First Class. He met and married Sheila in 1976, and in true naval style, he sailed on HMS Ark Royal to the USA, 3 weeks later! He left the Navy in 2005, and threw himself into retirement projects becoming embroiled in his village life. As you can imagine, he soon became a pivotal figure and someone to be relied upon.

Although we certainly crossed paths around 1977/8 as we served on the same Wasp HQ Squadron at Portland, unbeknown to us, we both joined Wessex at the same time and attended our first Noggin at the Lime Kiln some 8 years ago. Sitting opposite him, we soon realised we had met before, and a firm friendship was formed. Although I was yet to buy my first Morgan, Graham proudly showed me his brand spanking new 4 seater in the car park. I am sure those fortunate enough to have served on the committee with Graham will feel a particular loss, and our centre has lost a wonderful ambassador.

To quote Sheila in his last moments, he said "Tell them", but she couldn't decipher any more. But she believes it was a message to all of his loved ones including us Morganeers.

Our thoughts and deepest sympathy go to Sheila and her family.

John Adams

MSCC Wessex Centre Spring Events 2024

March

Thursday March 12th - noggin at The Firepit, Curry Rivel. Graham & Hazel

Sunday March 24th - Sunday Lunch at The Thimble Inn, Piddlehinton. John & Katie

April

Thursday April 4th - noggin - *volunteer required please.*

Saturday April 13th - East Somerset Railway Breakfast & Visit/Ride etc. with Mendip Centre. Robert Green.

Sunday April 21st - Drive It Day - route and destination TBC. Pete & Jill

May

Date TBA - Noggin. Pete & Val Tombs

Future events:

Saturday June 1st - The Vintage Nostalgia Festival. Pete & Jill

June 3rd to June 10th - The French Brittany Trip. Pete & Jill

August - Fish & Chip Run. Pete & Jill Tuner

September - Stockland Picnic. Colin & Irene

Noggin & Sunday Lunch Volunteer List for 2024/25

March

Noggin Graham & Hazel

Sunday Lunch John & Katie

April

Noggin *Volunteers required*

May

Noggin Pete & Val Tombs

June

Noggin *Volunteers required*

July

Noggin *Volunteers required*

August

Noggin Pete & Jill Tuner - Fish & Chip Run

September

Noggin Colin & Irene - Stockland Picnic

October

Noggin Graham & Hazel

Sunday Lunch Les & Jean Morton

November

Noggin *Volunteers required*

Sunday Lunch Rob & Jane Pring

December

Xmas Noggin *Volunteers required*

DRIVE IT DAY SUNDAY 21st APRIL 2024

LAKES AND LEVELS COMBE AND GORGE

Drive it Day this year is a full day out scenic run. Meeting at 09:30am Langport Cockle Moor Car Park (Free) for a 10:00 am prompt start. Toilets are available here.

We will be stopping at Hilliers Garden Centre near Cheddar for coffee and a comfort break before winding our way up Cheddar Gorge towards Chew Valley Lake where we can either picnic or make use of the Café and fish and chip takeaway. There is also a bar available and there are toilet facilities. We will then make our way past Blagdon lake and finish up at the Webbington Hotel and Spa where we can take refreshments, sandwiches, toasted teacakes etc. from the lounge bar menu.

From there we will individually make our way back to the A38 and home.

Drive it day was originally started by The Federation of Historic Vehicle Clubs and again this year supports the charity NSPCC Childline.

If you would like to add your support you can visit their website and buy a fundraising vehicle plaque from £12.50. We recommend a small plaque for Morgans.

If you would like to join us on this tour please contact us on:

turnersmail@btinternet.com

We will send you final route instructions before the day.

Pete & Jill Turner

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EVENTS COORDINATOR Position vacant

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