



THE MORGANISER

Wessex Centre Newsletter

SPRING 2026

Although this is the Spring issue it does cover events that have happened over the Winter - so the first thing I should say is Happy New Year to all Wessex members! Calling it Winter is a misnomer really as it should be described as the 'biblical wet season'!

So I hope you all had your Morgans safely tucked up in a garage or storage facility well away from the all the flooding.

This Spring Morganiser has reports on the Winter events - starting with the Christmas Lunch on December 16th, featured on page 2. And then into the New Year with the New Years Social Run on January 8th to Hauser & Wirth near Bruton on page 4. And of course the Wessex Centre Annual Awards Dinner on January 31st - see the feature from page 6 to find out who won what. On into February, we had the Wessex Centre Annual General Meeting on February 19th, with full details from page 9.

It was at the AGM that John Robinson mentioned that John Whittaker, had passed away in late 2025. I believe John joined the Wessex Centre in 2020, but I only met him once at the Taunton Museum visit that same year. That was when I had my 1980 Plus 4 4-seater and John had his bright red 1975 Plus 4 4-seater - so we chatted about our similar cars.

As we are moving into 'break out' time for getting back on the road, a reminder that Easter holidays are early this year - the weekend of April 3rd to 6th.
So be prepared for busy roads over that weekend!

We had a good year with the Morganiser last year - throughout the year there were 5 technical articles with 31 supporting pictures published. And 26 events or visit articles with 145 supporting pictures published. So a big thank you to all who have supported The Morganiser in various ways.

2026 is the 45th Anniversary of the Wessex Centre and I know plans are afoot for a special celebration. If you have old pictures and/or stories from your years as a Wessex member could you send them to me please so we can have a special display at the event.

Les Morton - Editor

My email address is morganiser.editor@gmail.com

The next issue of the Morganiser will be Summer - copy date Friday April 24th

Wessex Centre Xmas Lunch Tuesday December 16th 2025

After a few days of rain, Tuesday December 16th was a fine and dry day, so some intrepid members ventured out in their Morgans for the Wessex Centre Christmas Lunch at the Red Lion, Babcary. There were nine Morgans in the car park, however there was a total attendance of 38 members, resplendent in a wide array of festive Christmas wear.



Our organisers, Nev & Julia Lear had encouraged the ladies to make a special Christmas hat, whilst the men were invited to wear Christmas ties. However that was supported

by Christmas jumpers, blouses, shirts, braces, jackets, etc. A great effort by all members!

The dining room was lovely and cosy with a log fire crackling away - each table had a beautiful fresh floral display.

As the eating and drinking was winding down Julia stepped up and took charge of the entertainment - this started with the reading of a humorous fictional letter from Jacob to the travel company that arranged his trip, with his wife, to Bethlehem. Needless to say he wasn't impressed with the service or accommodation!

This was followed with singing of the 12 days of Christmas, with each table being responsible for a different item in the verses. Then a quiz - not specifically a Christmas theme but nevertheless challenging. First place was a draw between Pete & Jill Turner and Phil & Louise Atherton, so a tie break question was posed by Julia, with the quickest to answer being Phil & Louise.

Congratulations to them!





Then time for the Secret Santa, with Julia calling out the pre-distributed numbers and Nev doing the honours with the sack of presents.

Finally the judging of the best ladies hat and best gentleman's tie by the staff of the pub.

Hazel Allinson was the deserved winner for the ladies, having been wearing what was virtually a Christmas tree on her head for the duration of the lunch! Whilst Gordon won honours for best tie.

One final duty from Julia was to call out the winning numbers for the table decorations that Christine had made and kindly donated - so a special thanks to Christine.



By now it was time for the final socialising, then departure, not forgetting to collect your bundles of Christmas cards on the way out (which some did forget!) to wend our ways home in the darkening day.

A highly successful Christmas Lunch and a huge thank you to Nev & Julia for organising such a convivial and fun day.

Les & Jean Morton



New Year Social Run Thursday 8th January 2026

Our first run of 2026, and despite recent years being decent weather, this year was a wash out! Needless to say there was no scenic route and in fact only two Morgans made an appearance, easily out numbered by the other nine 'tin tops'! Mike Smith was in his Plus 4 (the only soft top) and Andrew & Sheelagh Bell were in their Plus Four LM62 (with it's cosy hard top).

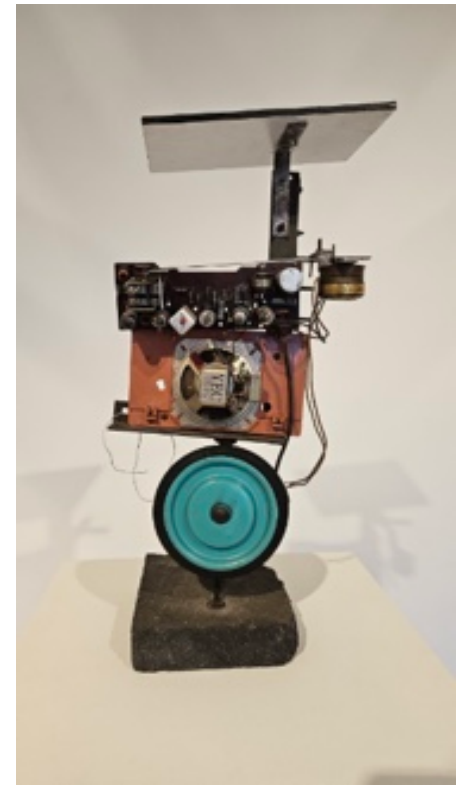
So it was a straight run down the A303, and on up the A359 to Bruton, passing the Haynes Motor Museum on the way. Arriving at Hauser & Wirth we all made a dash through the rain for the Roth Bar for coffee, croissant and in some cases egg Benedict.



A leisurely time ensued, with some visiting the farm shop, as we needed to wait until midday before we could enter the exhibition of Niki de Saint Phalle & Jean Tinguely - Myths & Machines. Quite an eclectic mix of exhibits which were made mainly by Tinguely - they are described as '*anti-machines that feel more relevant now than ever before, constructed from scrap metal and an assemblage of found materials, designed to highlight the flaws of modern technology and society's displacement of humanity.*' I must say I did ask the question 'is it art'?

Only a visitor can decide for themselves, however they were very intriguing.





Niki de Saint Phalle' exhibits were large colourful open-air pieces of voluptuous dancing figures, of which a few were inside (one below) - the outside ones we chose to view through the windows of the gallery as it was still raining!



Most people decided to wend their way home after the gallery, however a few members did stay and sample lunch at the Da Costa Italian Restaurant (with it's six chefs!).

It was a shame about the weather, but nevertheless a big thank you to Rob & Jane for organising our first outing of 2026. Weatherwise it can only get better!

Les Morton

Wessex MSCC Annual Awards Dinner 31st January 2026

The Annual Awards Dinner was once again held at the popular Lanes Hotel in East Coker.

Members were arriving from 6pm to enjoy the social pre-dinner drinks before sitting down to dine at 7pm. 28 members, including Patrick Carney and his wife Holly (the new owners of New Elms in Shaftesbury) joined us this year. John Adams was Master of Ceremonies, so after another superb meal prepared and served by the team at Lanes, John stood and invited members to toast 'The King'.

Our own members, Gordon and Christine Martin, kindly stepped in as guest speakers at short notice as our original speaker, Phil Atherton, had to pull out. Having worked, and run their own business, in the lift industry, they gave an informative and amusing talk about the history of lifts and the scale of some of the huge lifts around the world today. All rounded off nicely with some funny anecdotes of their own encounters with customers and staff. It's funny and horrifying what can be found in the pits at the bottom of lift shafts!

John Adams thanked Gordon & Christine for their enjoyable presentation then proceeded with the main business of the evening - the Wessex Centre Awards for achievements in 2025.



As Chairman in 2025 Pete Turner presented the **Chairman's Award** to Les Morton for his previous 3 years serving as Centre Secretary.

Now it may appear as nepotism!, but Les Morton, as Editor of the *Morganiser*, then awarded Pete & Jill Turner the **Editor's Award** for the best article submitted in 2025. Their epic road trip to Italy via France and Switzerland in September.



And whilst up receiving that award they also won the **Longest Trip in Your Morgan** with the same trip - nearly 2500 miles.

The **Longest Distance with Your Model Car** wasn't awarded for 2025, nor was it awarded in 2024 as the event wasn't held. Equally the **Fun Concours Award** wasn't given as the event wasn't held. Your committee is thinking of re-purposing these awards for 2026



We then came to the award that every member dreads! **The OBE** (Oh Bloody 'ell). There were no outstanding catastrophes in 2025, however Gordon and Christine Martin did have a few problems with their CX Plus Four - brakes, windscreen, wipers, major water ingress, rear suspension, fuel gauge, etc. which led to the car being at the Morgan factory for six weeks in the prime summer period! Now all fixed and the car is running as it should do. Hopefully this award should be some small compensation for those lost weeks!

There was a four-way tie for the **Most Attendances at Noggins in a Morgan**, so there was no clear winner. John therefore decided it wouldn't be awarded this year. The four top attendances were by George & Elaine Balcombe, Gordon & Chris Martin, Chris & Sharon Cheesman and Viv & Nigel Screen.

Les Morton then announced the winner of the **Best Photo Competition** - the best picture that appeared in the Morganiser in 2025. The picture opposite appeared in the Spring issue - John Adams astride his classic 1925 AJS E7SS motorcycle.



In 2025 a long lost award was discovered. Traditionally a long wooden spoon is awarded to the participants who come last in the annual Treasure Hunt, however we discovered that a winners (smaller) wooden spoon had been awarded in the past. As our winners had been awarded a bottle of 'bubbly' at the time, we felt it only right that they should be acknowledged at the Annual Awards also.

So **Winners of the 2025 Walking Treasure Hunt** around Sherborne were Roger & Carole Gibson.



And the last, but not least, award was yet again won by Bob Glover and Jenny McCarthy as the least successful participants in the **2025 Treasure Hunt Wooden Spoon** - you retain it for another year!

Lastly, a lucky draw to see who would take home the lovely floral arrangements on each table. Every person drew a cocktail stick from a holder on each table - the one with the red tip was the winner. So a lot of happy lady members took an extra gift home with them.

It was a delightful evening filled with laughter, bonhomie, and recognition of the achievements within the Wessex Centre.

Many thanks to John Adams for organising the event, Gordon & Christine Martin for the illustrated talk and Christine Martin for the lovely floral table displays.

PS - a sneaky picture of me ironing the blue table cloth during the afternoon's preparations - thanks a bunch John!!



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Wessex Centre Annual general Meeting

Thursday 19th February

A healthy attendance of 32 members enjoyed an excellent Cumberland sausage & mash supper at Hornsbury Mill. The new bar was a good place to meet up and chat with fellow members. Instead of being in the large room next to the Orangery, as previous years, we were in the newly refurbished restaurant for our meal and meeting - smaller but a cosy atmosphere, reminiscent of the AGMs previously held at the Prince of Wales pub atop Ham Hill. The Wessex Centre subsidised the meal so members paid only £10 each, which included tea & coffee.



After the meal the Annual Wessex Mastermind Quiz commenced with questions being set by Hazel Allinson - with an out-and-out motoring theme (maybe with a little help from Graham?). I don't think many of us knew that the windscreen wiper was invented by Mary Anderson in 1903, or that the biggest car manufacturer in the Czech Republic is in fact Toyota. Plus many other interesting facts - so an education as much as a quiz. With 20 points up for grabs it was the 3-man team of Gordon Martin, Rob Pring and Les Morton that scored the winning total of 16 points. So the Wessex Mastermind Award has gone to a good home for the remainder of the year.



And then on to the main business of the evening, the Wessex Centre Annual General Meeting - chaired this year by Gordon Martin. Firstly, Pete Turner opened the meeting as he was Chairman throughout 2025, commenting on the awful weather we have had here in the South West for most of the Winter - *'although Morgans do have a wooden frame he didn't think they qualified as a boat!'*

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved. Under Matters Arising John Robinson announced that John Whittaker, a member since 2020, had passed away in late 2025. John owned a lovely 1975 Plus 4 four seater in bright red, which we think his son will be doing some restoration work on and then using it.

Christine presented the financial statements for the Wessex Centre which showed that the bank balance as at 31st December 2025 was £2081.09 in credit. The accounts were approved.

The three remaining Officers of the Committee read out their respective reports - Les Morton (Editor), Graham Allinson (Membership Secretary) and Rob Pring (joint Events Co-ordinator). Full details of those reports are available in the Minutes of the Meeting.

As there were no new applicants to serve on the Committee, and no Committee members were standing down, all members of the Committee were voted in en bloc for another year. With no other business the meeting was declared closed.

It should be noted that only 2 Morgans arrived at the meeting - Pete & Jill Turner and Bob Glover & Jenny McCarthy - well done them!

Since the AGM Gordon has received a very nice email from John Robinson:

Just a short note to say how much we enjoyed last night's AGM.

Great meal/service/room and ambience. You and Chris [and the other Committee members of course] worked so hard to ensure evening went smoothly and successfully.

When listening to Rob's event recall it made me appreciate just how many opportunities there were for Wessex members over the previous year. Well done everyone!

Chris highlighted the Wessex 45th anniversary this November. How time flies when you are enjoying yourself... I had a look at our 2006 commemorative mug - marking the 25th anniversary. Interestingly Wessex still has 8 of those 43 members [excluding partners] listed:

David [and Hildegard] Carlton

Ian [and Olivia] Denson

Nev {and Julia} Lear

Trish Powell [and Russ Armstrong]

John [and Elaine] Robinson

Nigel [and Vivian] Screen

Pete [and Jill] Turner

Terry[and Janet] Wilson

Not bad eh.... - I'll leave you to share with fellow Committee members. Keep up the good work!

Wessex Centre Committee 2026

Chairman - Gordon Martin

Treasurer - Christine Martin

Membership Secretary - Graham Allinson

Events Co-ordinators - Rob & Jane Pring

Editor - Les Morton

Co-opted members

Pete Turner, John Adams and Neville Lear



Spotted out and about in Devon over the Winter - there are rumours that Colin & Irene had the car converted so they could get out of the steep approach lanes to their house!!



Meanwhile, Geoff and Barbara Newcombe out enjoying the sun in their Morgan on Saturday February 28th.

WESSEX CENTRE REGALIA

We still have a number of Wessex Centre regalia items for sale - hurry whilst stocks last!

Round Embroidered Badge - £3



Blue Oval Patch Badge - £3



Round Dragon Patch - £3



Pin Badge - £5



Contact Graham Allinson, Membership Secretary, for more information



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Restoration of a Three Wheel Morgan (M3W) - Part 3

Nothing much to report in this issue as progress has been slow, however a couple of pictures:



Not a lot left on the car, but it's now in a state ready for the high-build primer, which should have happened on February 20th.

It's pointing in the right direction,
the room ahead of it is the paint booth.
The current "promise" is that it will
get its proper finish coat before the
end of the month.

Full details of this saga will be described in
a future update.

Mike Smith



A polite reminder

At noggins we traditionally hold a raffle to raise funds for the Wessex Centre. Can you remember, from time to time, to bring the donation of a prize please. Anything that will be a suitable for members who generously buy raffle tickets at the noggins.

Any Wessex Centre member is welcome to attend a committee meeting.

Minutes of committee meetings are available on request from Gordon Martin.



Have you joined the Wessex Centre WhatsApp group? It's a great way to share information, get quick updates on Wessex activities, share pictures, ask for Morgan related advice, etc.

John Adams manages the Wessex Morganeers WhatsApp Group, so if you would like to join it please contact him.

Articles, pictures and suggestions for inclusion in your Morganiser are welcome - please contact the Editor: morganiser.editor@gmail.com

Some ideas include - ● Technical articles, anecdotal stories, events you have attended, pictures, holiday stories, etc. ● Morgans, or other vehicles I have owned including Members Mogs - past and present, and stories behind them: Me and my Mog(s) ● Suitable clothing & hats - tips when driving in your Morgan ● Venue suggestions for drive-outs, noggins, Sunday Lunches or just a coffee stop ● Or anything you like!

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Telephone: 07970 173853.

E/mail: patrick@newelms.com

WESSEX MSCC EVENTS LIST FOR SPRING 2026

MARCH

Rob & Jane Pring

Wednesday 4th March

NOGGIN AT THE ROYAL OAK, OVER STRATTON TA13 5LQ

Meet at 6.30 pm for 7 pm sit down.

Graham & Hazel
Allinson

Sunday 22nd March

SOCIAL RUN TO WINYARDS GAP INN, DT8 3HY, FOR SUNDAY LUNCH

Meet at Cartgate 10.30 for 11 am departure and enjoy a scenic social run to Chedington. 12 for 12.30 sit down at Winyards Gap. Names and menu choices to - grahamallinson@hotmail.com More details to follow

APRIL

Chris & Sharon
Cheesman

Wednesday 8th April

NOGGIN AT VILLA VERDE, CHILTHORNE DORMER BA21 3PX

villaverdeyeovil.co.uk More details to follow.

Contact Chris Cheesman - c.cheesman@icloud.com

Committee

Thursday 16th April

**COMMITTEE MEETING, THE GEORGE, DONYATT TA19 ORW
12 NOON**

All members welcome to come along. Names to
Martingordon783@gmail.com

Pete & Jill Turner

**Sunday 26th April
DRIVE IT DAY**

A great day out in your Morgan. Details to follow.

MAY

Monday 4th May

KINGSBURY EPISCOPI MAY DAY FESTIVAL & CAR SHOW

See - kingsburymayfestival.co.uk. Further details will be circulated

Roger & Carole
Gibson

Sunday 17th May

**WALKING TREASURE HUNT AND LUNCH AT THE WHITE HART,
SOMERTON**

Further details will be circulated.

JUNE

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

JULY

Rob & Jane Pring

Tuesday 7th July

VISIT TO THE NORMAN LOCKYER OBSERVATORY, NR SIDMOUTH

10.30 am. See normanlockyer.com. £12 per person. Planetarium show, historic telescope tour, and visit to the Technology centre for live meteor detecting. Approx 2hr visit.

Names to Rob & Jane Pring - pringrob@aol.com by Tuesday 30th June

Morgan Sports Car Club Wessex Centre

*The 'Morganiser' is the newsletter of the Wessex Centre of the Morgan Sports Car Club.
The views expressed in The Morganiser are not necessarily those held by The Morgan Sports Car Club.*