



# THE MORGANISER



*ScrumpyMog*

November 2024

## **NEWSLETTER of the WESSEX CENTRE of THE MORGAN SPORTS CAR CLUB**

Dear Morganeers

We would like to thank all those who have put pen to paper or finger to keyboard to write up reports of Wessex events including those who have been on independent trips.

John Adams visited the Isle of Wight while Julia and Neville have been off to the Isle of Man, both possible trip destinations for our club?

One of our adventures in the Morgan only extended as far as visiting Berrybrook for an MOT and service. However they must have thought we were quite agile as they provided us with a Super 3 as a courtesy car- no doors, no windscreen and no elbow room. The car is completely bonkers but a terrific (or is that terrifying) drive. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience but were glad to drive our trusty CX home.

Hopefully we will have some crisp, sunny days to get out in our Morgans and after Christmas, spring will only be around the corner.

Best wishes to you all

Rob and Jane (Editors)

**The next copy date is 7th March 2025**

## Morton's Musings

On the social front we had a noggin at La Campagna on Tuesday November 12<sup>th</sup>, which was kindly arranged by Ian & Olivia Denson, with the Anniversary Lunch at the Lordleaze Hotel on Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup>, organised by Rob & Jane Pring. And to round off 2025 Neville and Julia Lear are arranging the ever popular Christmas noggin at The Flintlock on Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup>. Details on all of these have already been sent out in the Events Update email.

As the year draws to a close it's quite nice to look back at some of the lovely events and places we have enjoyed in 2024. Although not strictly 2024 I would like to remind everyone of the sad loss of Graham Land on Boxing Day 2023 - a great friend and servant of the club. We started off the year with Rob & Jane's New Year Drive Out on January 7<sup>th</sup> when 14 Morgans set off to West Bexington. 28 sat down for lunch after which John Adams challenged everyone with 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! A noggin at The Firehouse, Curry Rivel on March 11<sup>th</sup> organised by Graham & Hazel, and in the same month a Sunday Lunch at The Thimble Inn, Piddlehinton on March 24<sup>th</sup> organised by John Adams. In April we accepted the kind invitation of the Mendip Centre to join them at a 'steam day' at the East Somerset Railway near Shepton Mallet. Co-ordinated by Robert Green (who is a member of both centres) train rides and touring the station and workshops was the order of the day - after breakfast in the cafe!

April 21<sup>st</sup> was Drive it Day, and Pete & Jill rose to the occasion yet again with a beautiful scenic drive titled 'Lakes & Level, Combe & Gorge'. 15 Morgans meandered through the Somerset Levels, up through the awesome Cheddar Gorge, on to Chew Valley Lake for lunch (the fish & chips were excellent!) and then down the descent of Burrington Combe to the final destination of Webbington Hotel for a debrief and end of day refreshments. Mike Smith arranged a Sunday Lunch at Hartley's Cafe/Bistro on April 18<sup>th</sup> where 8 Morgans made the trip, although a certain foursome were late as they lost their way!

Other enjoyable events throughout the summer have included the French Brittany Tour, The Vintage Nostalgia Festival, noggins at The Grange and Lime Kiln Inn, breakfast at West Bexington and trip to the Jailhouse Cafe in Portland prison, a visit to the Avalon Archaeology Centre followed by lunch at a local pub, a visit to the Castle Combe Autumn Classic race meeting. And of course the Wessex 400 where 5 of our members all celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2024.

All in all a busy year for the Wessex Centre and a special thanks to all those volunteers who made these events possible!

And looking towards early 2025 we turn our attention to a number of events - not only are Nev & Julia organising the Christmas noggin on December 11<sup>th</sup> but they are also arranging a joint meet up with The Morgan Three Wheeler Club on New Years Day! They then organised a splendid Sunday Lunch at The Castlebrook Inn, Compton Dundon on February 11<sup>th</sup> where 10 Morgans made the trip. A big thank you to you both.

I can confirm that the 2025 Wessex Centre Awards Dinner will again be held at The Lanes Hotel on Saturday January 25th. Your committee did look at alternative venues - some hotels with a swimming pool & spa, which were further away, and other hotels that were closer to home. We even considered holding the event at a restaurant with a private dining room, but without accommodation. All of these were untried, so with time pressing we opted for The Lanes again as we know they have done us proud in the past. As a centre, we will however, try to visit some other alternatives during 2026 to see if anything is suitable for future Awards Dinners.

Could I ask you, the members, to indicate which would you prefer from the above, or maybe you have other ideas? Perhaps just stay as we are with The Lanes. Your comments would be most welcome - this will help us shape the Awards Dinner in 2026.

The other major event is the Wessex Centre AGM, which in 2025 will be held at The Hornsbury Mill Hotel on Thursday February 20th. Once again the meal will cost £15, with the club subsidising it by £5 per head - so it will only cost you £10. A roast beef dinner, Chicken Forestiere or Vegetarian Wellington are the choices - so there is no excuse not to attend! Do come along - Committee members will be updating on activities and plans but remember it's your opportunity to make your views heard about your centre. See the notice and further information about proposed changes to the Committee in this issue.

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

Les  
Centre Secretary

## Castle Combe Autumn Classic

Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup> had an ominous weather forecast - would we have showers & thunder, or not? Members from SpotMog, Mendip and ScrumpyMog descended on the motor racing circuit at Castle Combe for their 2-day Autumn Classic. As it turned out early showers caught out some on their way to the circuit, leading to a number cancelling their visit, however those who did make it were rewarded with a fine day, a dry track (apart from one short shower just before the Ferraris came out for their race) and some excellent racing.

From the Wessex Centre we had Colin & Irene, Pete & Val, Mike Carter & guest and myself, and we were joined by two ex members who some of you may know - Pete & Francis See. In total there were 12 Morgans who made it, down from the original 22 that were booked in. Mike Carter even brought his kettle and gas ring so soon after arriving was brewing his first cup of tea!



Around us were a large number of car clubs so we were able to view Lotus 7s and Caterham 7s, Ford GT40s, Jaguars, MGs, etc. Next to where we were parked was the large marquee housing cars that were to be auctioned off from 2pm - one of which was a rather tired looking, one owner, 1994 dark green Plus 8 Morgan with 81380 miles on the clock, which went for £17000.

I had never been to Castle Combe before and was pleasantly surprised to find that I could wander anywhere in and around the paddock, which enabled me to get close up to the cars being prepared and to chat to the owners & drivers. A wide range of race cars included Minis, Ferraris, Jaguars, Formula 3, and a selection of older classics within the GT & Sports Car category including 5 Morgans, Austin Healeys, MGs, Lotus Elans, etc.

There are a number of raised banks around the circuit so we were able to watch the racing from different vantage points. On our side of the circuit one

was near Camp Corner (the last corner before the start/finish straight) which saw some interesting braking and overtaking manoeuvres. The other was Tower Corner leading into the chicane known as 'Bobbies' - again some interesting shenanigans going on through those!

Most of us decided to leave after watching an hour of the 2 hour long GT and Sports Car Cup race, mainly to avoid the rush of traffic leaving later. For me it was hood down and a lovely country cruise home via Bradford-on-Avon, Frome and Shepton Mallett. All in all a great day out.

A big thank you to David Millard of Mendip Centre and David Jones of SpotMog who made all the arrangements for the day and invited Wessex Centre to join them.

Les Morton

Mike Carter brewing up at Castle Combe Autumn Classic



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## A Morgan Evening Out At the Seaside

For many years we skipped a Noggin in August, mainly because lots of us were on our holidays at that time.

Last year though, we did an evening Fish and Chip run to West Bay which turned out to be very popular and we thought that perhaps this could be an annual event for the club.

This type of event suits some of our members more than a sit down Noggin in a pub because it combines a drive out in our cars, either in convoy or on your own followed a pleasant informal evening and your choice whether to have fish and chips (or not). In some ways it is more of a social evening (because we have a wander about together rather than a sit down Noggin where everyone tends to remain fixed in their seats and there is not so much chance to speak to everyone) in fact a Noggin can be quite off putting for new members to our club unless everyone makes an effort to include them in the evening.

From an organisers point of view an evening like this is very easy. We just did a recce of a decent route checked that everything is still good at the venue, no road closing or reason why we shouldn't go on that evening etc.

The main problem of course is the weather, the bane of everyone organising outdoor events in this country.

We decided to run the event in August but we would wait for a favourable weather forecast before announcing the date which was then likely to be short notice.

On the evening 12 Morgans turned out, 7 of us met in Tesco's car park in Chard and set off in convoy for a 7pm arrival in West Bay and 5 Morgans went directly to The Bridport Arms car park in West Bay.

It was good to see our some of our newer members Stuart Young and Mike Carter whose son Marcus unfortunately couldn't make it on the night and Martin and Julie and Roger and Carole who thankfully are out and about again after a difficult year or so!

After a good chat and a catch up in the car park we meandered our way to one of the many fish and chip establishments dotted around the harbour.

Louise who was feeling rather more ravenous than the rest of because she had skipped lunch that day set off rapidly with Phil in advance of everyone else to pick up their dinner asap and were waiting for us on the harbour wall!

After a little confusion at The Harbour Lights Chip Emporium about who had ordered what when the chips were ready (why don't they issue numbered tickets for each order?) we wandered around the corner and sat on the harbour wall together and enjoyed our dinner.

Earlier we mentioned the weather, the forecast was for a warm and sunny evening, surprisingly this turned out to be incorrect and in the event it was overcast, threatening to rain and rather chilly so most of us adjourned to the Bridport Arms a little bit earlier than we would have for refreshments.

The threatened rain didn't come to anything and we made our own way home in the dark with the hood down and heater on.

We enjoyed the evening very much and we hope everyone else did too.

Perhaps we can do it again next year.

Pete and Jill



## The 400 Party - A Grand 'Do' Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024



Many of you know that during 2024 Wessex have had the unusual occurrence of five members reaching their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday within a few months of each other. In chronological order they are Nev Lear, Katie Tyndall, Hazel Allinson, John Robinson & Trish Powell. These 5 x 80 total 400, so the group became known as the 400, with Katie having the idea that a party should be held to celebrate this event, and what a good idea that turned out to be!

34 of us met in early September at Hazel & Graham's lovely house in Norton, ostensibly for a garden party, but our British weather had other ideas! Other than a brief half hour it rained throughout - this despite the fact that for a couple of weeks beforehand the forecast was for a glorious day. However, in typical Wessex fashion everyone decided they were going to have a good time regardless.

An invitation was thrown open to all Wessex members who brought food (and drink of course) but in fact there was so much food we could have fed the 5000! The special five (Nev said they were The Famous Five) each contributed a bottle of champagne so we all raised a glass (or several) and Trish Powell made a lovely birthday cake which was quickly devoured. This after a long struggle to light the candles, but of course we didn't have 80 (just 8) or we would still have been there the following morning.

John Rob 'said a few words' and Les Morton presented each birthday celebrant with a bottle of wine. Thank you Hazel & Graham; as we write this you are probably still sorting out the shambles we made of your home, so it really is a big 'thank you' for hosting a splendid party. The photos will confirm that a good time was had by all.

Julia & Nev Lear



## THE SUMMER PICNIC THAT NEVER WAS in 2024

To all our friends who had intended to come to our summer picnic at Higher Ridge on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

How disappointing it was for us having to make the late decision to cancel our picnic. The weather can change very quickly here, one minute the sun is out and the next it's wet and windy. After making the decision to cancel our picnic the morning started off looking promising with blue sky and white fluffy clouds, but to some extent we were relieved to see the darker clouds moving in and then, of course, followed by the wind and rain as forecast. Thankfully the decision was the right one. Very frustrating as Irene and I were really looking forward to having a good time here all together and having fun.

Anyway, looking ahead to next ,year, we intend having another crack at our summer picnic. It's a special year for me as I will be joining the 80 year olds and looking forward to a good old knees up (maybe not at the picnic though). The plan will be to have it earlier in the year probably around June time, we shall get a date fixed into the program of events that will be in the making for next year. Once again we will be looking forward to seeing many of you here in 2025 hopefully this time with good weather.

All the very best to everyone

Colin and Irene

Pictures from 2023 Picnic



## A Visit to the Isle of Wight, by John Adams

Two years ago, I met Rob Davies, who had organized a Folkmog tour to Dorset, and I helped them with some of the activities. Early this year, he mentioned a trip they were doing to the Isle of Wight with the newly formed Mogfriends, which seemed like a good idea, so I signed up.

Of course, as we all know, the weather is always perfect in early September, and the Isle of Wight should have been no exception, right? Setting off in Dorset rain, the hood never came off. The other participants came from Norfolk and Suffolk and had a much worse time, driving through thunderstorms on the M25 to reach the Isle of Wight ferry. Fortunately, despite several CX wipers flying off, and a valiant effort by Frank, driving a beautiful polished aluminium-bodied 3-wheeler (no wipers or hood), everyone made it.



Although expensive, the Wightlink ferry was excellent, with a very helpful crew.

The first drive was right across the island from Lymington to Shanklin and our hotel, the Bourne Hall. By the end of the week, we all thought it was a bit 'Fawlty Towers', which added some humour to the stay, and one couldn't fault the extremely helpful and friendly staff. I must say that wherever lunch was taken, the food was excellent, and Isle of Wight portions are generally 'large'!

A very well-researched and comprehensive itinerary had been devised by Rob and co-organizer Ian Peachey, allowing everyone to pick and choose from the list. Personally, it was all the big things: Osborne House, a private guided tour of Bembridge Fort, Isle of Wight steam railway, MS Waverley paddle steamer trip, Quarr Abbey, a Roman Villa (absolutely outstanding), Nunwell House, and scenic tours on some lovely roads.



Most of us had booked a 4-hour trip once around the Island on MS Waverley, the world's last seagoing paddle steamer, but due to strong winds, the Captain could not risk going around the Needles and to the south, so we steamed up and down the Solent, which was still very enjoyable. A wonderful ship and well worth an excursion if you get the chance. In fact, the weather was so bad that the passengers the Waverley first picked up in Poole were told they had to be dropped off in Southampton and bussed back to Poole!



Fortunately, the rain became intermittent as the week went on, and it didn't really matter as most of the attractions were inside, although just like the mainland, quite a lot of roads were closed due to flooding.

The last two days were beautifully sunny, though it bucketed down with rain and hail on the way back just before reaching home! All in all, it was a great trip in wonderful company, and if you have never been or it's a long time since you have, I can thoroughly recommend a week on the Isle of Wight, but probably avoid the school holidays.

Cheers, John Adams

## Fossil Mog Picnic at Hive Beach

Fossil Mog's annual picnic at Burton Bradstock National Trust beach car park on Wednesday, 11th September 2024, was a delightful gathering, with approximately 70 Morgans in attendance, including 10 cars from the Wessex Club.

Despite a quiet start at 11:30 a.m., Morgans of all vintages and colours soon began to fill the car park, creating a picturesque scene. Although the numbers were slightly down from previous years, the weather forecast, which had predicted showers, thankfully did not materialise to dampen our spirits or the event.

One of the many advantages of picnicking is the flexibility it offers. Without the need for restaurant bookings, attendees could freely stroll around, engaging in conversations with members from other clubs. This relaxed atmosphere truly enhances the camaraderie among Morgan enthusiasts.

John Kennard proudly took home the prize for the oldest car with his stunning 1923 Grand Prix 3 Wheeler, having travelled from nearby Morecombelake. The car that travelled the furthest distance was Jann Robinson's distinctive black CX.

After enjoying a walk along the scenic coastal path and a refreshing cup of tea at the café, we packed up and headed home, reflecting on a thoroughly enjoyable day out.

We encourage all members to join us next year for another fantastic day at Hive Beach. Whether you're a long-time Morgan owner or new to the community, the picnic is a wonderful opportunity to connect, share stories, and celebrate our shared interest. Rob and Jane Pring



## WESSEX CENTRE REGALIA

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## Llanerchindda 2024

After 24 of us had a good time at Llanerchindda in September 2023, a reservation was made for 30 September 2024.

Individual bookings with Llanerchindda Farm were made, including some available remaining places taken by Fossilmog, Spotmog, and Mendip.

As the summer of 2024 came, and had more than its share of what the Met Office calls unsettled weather, we became slightly concerned that the sunny days and balmy evenings were not guaranteed in the Brecon Beacons in early October. Much of September 2024 was not so good weather-wise. In the week before we were due to arrive, the weather was bad on quite a lot of days. Both Spotmog couples had to cancel, one due to both contracting a rather horrible strain of Covid, and one where the lady was playing golf in wet weather, slipped, and twisted her leg, such that she could not even get into a Morgan. The omens were not good!

However:

Our day of departure arrived. Overcast but not raining. Hood down? – OK! We had a relatively uneventful trip, arriving at Llanerchindda about 4:30, just in time for afternoon tea with the few early birds, as the remaining participants arrived. Good news this year was that there is now covered parking for 8 cars. We went to our rooms, unpacked, and looked at the maps and route diagrams for the next 2 days.

Following a 3-course evening meal, a good night's sleep, and a good breakfast, we assembled for a briefing, and later for photographs.

Martin, our host, started the morning briefing by congratulating us for being one of the relatively few car clubs to arrive all in cars of the club marque! This is actually far from usual. Following the briefing, which included recommendations for morning coffee, E5 fuel availability, and pointing out some highlights from the route diagrams, we set off towards the Elan Valley (coffee), and on to Devil's Bridge Falls for lunch. The morning included some quite spectacular roads along the valleys and over the hills, often through woodlands.

Fortified by lunch, we set off on the return route, firstly through fields and woodland, and the sun came out as we drove through Tregaron to some higher, quite bleak roads, taking us past a very remote red telephone box, which is probably a couple of miles from the nearest house. From there we drove down the valley past Llyn Brienne Reservoir, returning to Llanerchindda from the

west along a couple of miles of very narrow, very steep (in places) roads, with a few potholes to keep the journey interesting.

Afternoon tea was waiting for us when we arrived, which was enjoyed while we exchanged tales of our day's trip and its highlights, before we got ready for another delightful dinner. This would be easy to get used to!

Wednesday dawned, with a cool but bright welcome to the day, as we studied the route map and directions for our trip to Pendine on the south coast, just a few miles east of Tenby.

This time, after the briefing, we turned right out of the car park up the hill, retracing our return route from Tuesday – with Andrew (or was it Mark) stationed a mile up the road, to avoid passing difficulties in case of oncoming traffic.



A few miles down the road, today more rolling hills than high-roads, our route was blocked for road works. However, we spied another Morgan a couple of hundred metres along a road on the right, and soon we were part of a Morgan trio, looking at the OS map trying to find a way back onto the designated route. By good navigation or good luck by our leader, we came back to the B4310, which was on our tulip diagram. Back on good "B" roads we headed in sunshine, down the A40 for coffee at the Carmarthen Museum. Revived by caffeine, we dropped back onto the A40, Carmarthen by-pass and then on to St Clears, and finally down B roads again to the Pendine Museum of Speed, where, after being met by Mark (or was it Andrew), we lunched overlooking the sea.

We all found the museum fascinating, telling the story of 4 and 2-wheel speed record attempts in the 1920s, and although something of "a stunt," even an attempt in 2015 to break the 1927 record! "Star of the show" when we visited

was BABS, which was rescued from the sands and restored. Babs broke the record with 170 mph in April 1926, which was beaten in Feb 1927 by Malcolm Campbell with an early "Bluebird" with 174 mph. The (apparently road-going) Bentley Continental in 2015 averaged 180 mph over two, 1-mile runs (in opposite directions). However, in addition to these highlights, the museum has a lot of other really good information and exhibits.

We left in sunshine for our journey home to Llanerchindda, driving through Laugharne, where some of us took the opportunity to locate and visit Dylan Thomas's Boathouse. Thereafter, the tulips took us along a parallel B road to the main A40, through Llandovery, where some light rain began to threaten, and finally about a mile before our destination some light rain fell. However, as there was nowhere to stop and raise the hood, we completed our third day without putting the hood up. 😊

After another excellent day's run, afternoon tea, and the final dinner, our hosts rounded the evening off by presenting John R with a birthday cake, which we all shared with him to celebrate his 80th birthday, 2 days after he left Llanerchindda.

All of a sudden it was Thursday! Time to go home. After three great days, excellent food, interesting roads, and even the weather, considering the days immediately before and after, was better than we might have dared to hope, and of course, wonderful company, thanks to: Elaine and John, Elaine and George, Jenny and Bob, Chris and Gordon, Bev and Alan of Wessex, our new friends Alex and Nick of Mendip, and Kim, Graham, and Douglas of Fossilmog.

We all look forward to returning, if possible with a bit better weather, to drive some of the other 28 routes which our hosts have prepared for us and other car clubs. Partly due to Llanerchindda being almost fully booked for 2025, and partly feeling that to miss a year would give us a chance to look at other, different possibilities, we made a reservation for 7th to 10th September 2026, which will go into the Wessex calendar, and we will revert sometime in mid-2025 when we will have to make individual room bookings. This week is the first week of the new school year, and according to meteorological records, a very good week for fine weather.

The sun shone on us as we drove home, where several of us took the opportunity to drive back via the military road to Brecon. We were additionally happy that we drove the whole 4 days without putting the hood up, which we did not expect.

Hazel & Graham October 2024





Llanerchindda 2024

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## Our Trip to the Isle of Man

or as our new car sticker says 'An Adventure Before Dementia'

As part of Neville's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations (which have gone on almost as long as Frank Sinatra's retirement concerts) we decided it would be good to take part in the British Sports Car Meeting run by Scenic Tours to the Isle of Man; thus giving us an opportunity to see if we could achieve our ambition of getting Bluebell to run at 100 mph.

We drove to the ferry via the 'pretty route' – up the Wye Valley and A49, with glorious sunshine all the way. We stayed en route with our friends Dave & Sue Sapp (Wessex members for years before moving to North Wales) catching up on all our news before continuing on to Heysham. There we were pleased to see lots of other Morgans as well as other well known marques such as MG, Jaguar, Triumph, Austin Healey etc. We were all thrilled to be hoods down but there was some ribbing of a few Triumph Stag owners who were still sheltering under their lids. (They soon took them down!) A totally flat crossing followed (thank goodness) and we were shortly disembarking at Douglas where we quickly drove to our very nice hotel on the front.



There were many activities organised for those that wanted to be kept on the go all the time, but we had previously decided to keep two days free to do our own thing, so the following day we drove to Laxey to visit the famous water wheel, called Lady Isabella which is shortly to finish a complete restoration. This involves replacing all the missing 17 sections of a wooden pump rod which are carried horizontally on a viaduct connecting the wheel via a rocking arm to a rod which works vertically to pump water out of the mine. This working wheel has the largest diameter (72'6" in the world). There are 95 steep steps to climb up to the top and I did have a few moments doubt as to whether it was wise to attempt this, but soon decided to forget my advancing years and have a go. Suffice it to say I was puffing a bit on reaching the top but the views

were well worth the effort, so we decided that after a bite of lunch we would treat ourselves to an easy ride on the mountain railway up to the summit of Snaefell. As I mentioned the weather was glorious so we were able to enjoy the rare sight of being able to view all of the UK from the top – England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The views were spectacular and apparently there are only a very few occasions each year when this is possible because of the frequent low cloud/mist.

The following day (still lovely sunshine) we visited Milnthorpe Gardens and whilst I admired the flowers I discovered some old vintage cars kept there (Nev was in his element). The afternoon was spent track racing which was fun and this took Nev back in time to his more youthful days - it was good to find he hadn't lost the knack of throwing the car into the corners. Of course we didn't do very fast times against some of the other cars with seriously big engines and obviously hours and hours of practice, but it was fun even though we had to wear enormous crash helmets which made us look like spacemen.

On Saturday we had another free day so we drove to Peel and by this time it was a bit cloudy and cool, still dry but we were hearing of atrocious weather down South, so we said a little prayer that it wouldn't move our way up North. We followed this drive with a gentler form of transport, riding behind Harry who pulled the horse drawn tram along the prom at Douglas. On inquiring how long a stint these Clydesdales have to work, I was informed "only an hour a day" which the drivers were obviously envious of!

We then got to the day we had really been waiting for, the Mountain Run day, when all the cars are convoyed right across the island (there were 332 of which I think 90 odd were Morgans) with all roads shut, police stopping other traffic and almost encouraged to drive through red traffic lights at 65. Very satisfying, especially for a rebel like me! Then we were taken in batches of about 25 cars of similar speed capacity and let loose to drive as fast as we could (or wanted to) round the TT race track; which is just the ordinary mountain road but with nothing coming the other way and no real restrictions. We (and everyone else)

had to slow down considerably at the top as the thick mist made speedy progress impossible, but this only lasted for about 5 minutes and then we dropped down into clear conditions. It was then that we were able to achieve a bucket list dream of getting Bluebell up to 100 mph. I was hanging on for grim death because the road surface wasn't all that good and the poor old car was really shaking as we dropped down to Creg-Ny-Baa for a lovely tea. However we were jubilant that Nev had managed to accomplish something we had dreamt of doing for the last 20 years! After it was all over Jann Robinson (MSCC Chair) came over very enthusiastically and took the photo shown below which she proceeded to put on Instagram with comments - fame at last!

As this was our final day we joined a huge crowd that evening for a Gala Dinner at a large hotel and to which we were all transported door to door in buses. We met up with our friends Olivia & Ian Denson who were with the TinMog crowd and who had kindly invited us to share a table. This was a super event where we all dressed up and after an excellent meal we were amongst the first up on the dance floor, trying to forget our advancing years.

There was one last thing to make us very aware we were in a Morgan (or in fact any open sports car). As the ferry approached Heysham it started to rain for the first time during our whole trip and we all realised our cars were all hoods down. There was a frantic scrambling by many to take up position at the front of the queue near the appropriate stairs for your car, and then immediately the operatives opened the doors it was a sprint to your vehicle and who could get the hood up the fastest before the ferry doors were opened for the off. I think everyone managed it, but it was rather comical.

We really enjoyed this trip, the organisation was superb and as I have said the weather was really good the whole time (which for us is a rarity) but most important of all we achieved our ambition and Bluebell flew at 100 miles an hour. Well done old girl - not bad for 42 years old 4/4.

Julia Lear



Nev, Julia and Bluebell recovering after the Mountain Run

## Sunday Lunch and Run Around The Levels 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024



A good number of Morgans met at Cartgate on a sunny Sunday morning in the late autumn for a run and lunch organised by Hazel and Graham Allinson. The run took us past Thorney Lakes, Muchelney Abbey, Stembridge Tower Mill stopping for break at Walton Hill to admire the views in all directions. After a short distance we arrived at The Firehouse, Curry Rivel for a delicious Sunday Roast.



Photos taken by Mike Smith.

Our thanks to Graham and Hazel for a great day out. Rob and Jane Pring

## Forthcoming Events

### **Sunday November 24th - Wessex Centre 43rd Anniversary Lunch**

This years 43rd Wessex Centre Anniversary Lunch will take place at The Lordleaze Hotel, Henderson Drive, Forton Road, Chard TA20 2HW. Please arrive by 12.30 for a 1pm start. A complimentary glass of Prosecco, or soft drink, will be offered. John Anderson, the new Vice Chair of the MSCC, will be joining us as our guest. He will propose a toast to the MSCC and give a short talk, and hopefully he can answer any questions you have about the MSCC. Rob & Jane Pring.

### **Wednesday December 11th - Christmas Noggin**

Neville & Julia Lear have volunteered to organise this for Wednesday December 11th from 6pm at The Flintlock in Marsh (the same as last year). Full details of menu choice, cost, secret Santa, etc. will be circulated nearer the time - for now ensure the date is in your diary for this noggin full of merriment!

### **Wednesday January 1st 2025- New Years run out to Weston Zoyland Pumping Station Museum**

Neville is organising a visit to the museum in conjunction with the Morgan Three Wheeler Club. More information on the museum web site - <https://www.wzlet.org/>. Museum Post Code is TA7 0LS - meet up at 11.00 am for coffee etc.

All Morgans will park together in the field car park. Please let Nev know if you will be attending as he will need to let the manager know how many cars will be arriving. All Club attendees will get a discounted admission cost £10 per head, which can be purchased on the day. Children under 15 go free.

### **Saturday January 25th - Annual Awards Dinner (aka 'The Posh Frocks Do')**

The annual black tie (posh frocks) Awards Dinner will be held at The Lanes Hotel on Saturday January 25th. A splendid 3-course dinner, a guest speaker and the annual awards will be presented. Accommodation is available. An email with full details will be sent out next month. In the meantime get the date in your diary for this enjoyable evening!

### **Thursday February 20th - Annual General Meeting**

To be held at the Hornsbury Mill, Hornsbury Hill, Chard TA20 3AQ. Once again the simple meal will cost £15, with the club subsidising it by £5 per head - so it will only cost you £10. There is no excuse not to attend! Further details nearer the time.

## Wessex Centre AGM 2025

The Wessex Centre AGM 2025 will be held at The Hornsbury Mill Hotel on Thursday February 20th. Once again the meal will cost £15, with the club subsidising it by £5 per head - so it will only cost you £10. A roast beef dinner, Chicken Forestiere or Vegetarian Wellington are the choices - so there is no excuse not to attend! Do come along - Committee members will be updating on activities and plans but remember it's your opportunity to make your views heard about your centre.

It will be an important AGM as the committee wish to make changes. This last year we have had no Events Secretary/Organiser, so I have been taking on that responsibility as well as being Centre Secretary. Having served the club for 3 years I would like to stand down, well, move sideways actually - but we need your help! Our proposal is that Rob & Jane Pring take over the role of Events Co-ordinators, I would then become Editor of The Morganiser. John Adams and Graham Allinson are happy to continue as Treasurer and Membership Secretary respectively. Mark Freeman is happy to continue as Assistant Centre Secretary, however he has indicated that work is becoming busier so he's not too sure how long he can continue. **For all this to happen we need a volunteer for the role of Centre Secretary.** I am quite happy to discuss the duties with anyone who is interested. Please remember it is your club, for your benefit - but it does rely on members giving up a little of their free time to make things happen.

**I'm sure we all want to continue with the large and varied range of events the Wessex Centre organise, but without volunteers this won't happen. Hopefully we can move forward and get the committee back up to full strength for 2025.**



## COMMITTEE INFORMATION

CENTRE SECRETARY – Les Morton

ASSISTANT SECRETARY Mark Freeman

TREASURER                 John Adams

MEMBERSHIP                 Graham Allinson  
& REGALIA

EDITOR                         Robert & Jane Pring

EVENTS COORDINATOR    Situation vacant

### **DISCLAIMER**

*Morgan Sports Car Club Wessex Centre*

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