



March 2024



Newsletter

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Welcome to the March newsletter.

Our 1st event, drive out, to the Morgan Factory was well supported with 25 of us going on Wednesday 28th February. Steve has done a write up for us, so look out for it later on.

We have a guest speaker at the March meeting, so please arrive promptly.

I will be running a competition at the April meeting, but to do so I need your help. Have you got a photo of your 1st car? With or without you in it. Can you send me a copy please, or bring it to the March meeting (but don't show it to anyone) then we can have a bit of fun guessing who's is whose.

If you don't have a photo, let me know what it was and I will find a stock photo to use.

The next rolling road day will be held on Saturday 6th April from 10:00 hrs at A B Garage, as in previous years. Refreshments will be provided. Cost will be £30 per car for a full check of engine output, printout of BHP and torque curves, and any minor adjustments thought necessary to improve performance. This should take 20-30 minutes approximately. Event limited to 10 cars; book with Neil Wallace.

Steve has Drive It day sorted, 21st April, for full details see the following article, with starting times etc.

Looking forward to seeing you at a meeting.

Stay well, and good tinkering on your cars.



Drive It Day 2024

Please note change in start time for this event, We will now be meeting at 11.15am for a 11.30am start
Drive It Day will follow the normal format of a drive of about 80 miles with a mid-point coffee break on our way to our final venue.

Start - Hawarden Farm Shop, Chester Road, Hawarden, CH5 3FB

Please be at the shop by 11.15am for a 11.30am start - The cafe is open from 9pm, so you can always arrive early to grab a pre-drive coffee or even a breakfast roll.

MID POINT STOP: Woody's Cafe, Penllyn Leisure Centre, Bala, LL23 7SR

Finish - Bryngwyn Hall, Llanfyllin, Powys, SY22 5LJ

At Bryngwyn Hall. We will have a tour of the house, by the hall's owner, the charismatic Lady Linlithgow. The hall has been in her family for over 200 years and is an important part of Welsh Heritage. Designed by Robert Mylne in the neo-classical design it is the last surviving example of his work in Wales and Grade II listed. The hall was mothballed in 1929 due to financial constraints and was passed over to Lady Linlithgow in a state of dereliction in 1987. She will explain how and why she has spent many years restoring the hall to its former glory which has been her life-long ambition.



Following the house tour, we will all sit down for a mouth watering afternoon tea (and I am told there is plenty of it!) within the hall (they are able to cater for gluten free requirements). Finally, a tour of the nine acres of award winning gardens that lead down to a beautiful eight acre lake - all set in sixty acres of oak studded parkland will suitably finish our day. Dogs are welcome on a lead in the gardens but are unable to enter the house.

Please see the Facebook post on this event where you can express your interest if you have not already done so. The club will be subsidising the event so the cost to you will be £22 per head. This can be given to me at one of the club nights before the event (alternatively you can text me on 07798 922548 and I can make alternative arrangements to collect payment from you).

It should be a really interesting outing and one not to be missed - with plenty to eat and see both inside and out!

(Steve Brace)



Ash, Aluminium & Leather

Our recent tour of Morgan Motors in Malvern was very interesting. 25 of us made our way around the factory in two groups, both led by very informative and enthusiastic guides. It was great to see the traditional skills demonstrated by all the employees which were carried out in the old and trusted ways that dated back over 100 years. So no robots here - in fact and apart from a couple of laser aluminium cutting tools, the most complicated machine in the place appeared to be the coffee machine in the fantastic Morgan themed cafe!

After an introductory film, we initially saw the chassis area where both the BMW & Ford engines were married up to the gearboxes to form the appropriate rolling chassis' depending on the model. We then moved to the body area where the traditional woodworking skills were applied to the glued ash sheets and bent to form the curved wooden sections. These were then used to attach the freshly in-house made body panels to and then dropped onto the aluminium chassis' to form the beginnings of each car. The Trimming shop illustrated the final touches of the build process that finally brought the car to life ready for its newly acquired owner - just a pity that the current prices didn't also date back to over 100 years!

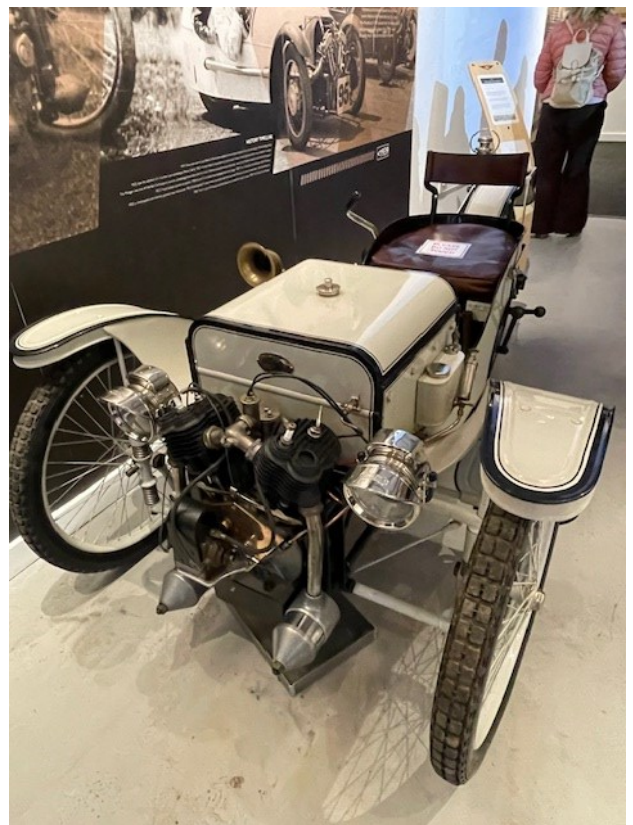
As well as what we saw going on in the various sheds that make up what is believed to be the oldest car factory that is still making cars, it was also the smells that hit you as moved about - a lovely combination of ash, aluminium and leather which somehow seems to sum up the very special character of Morgan cars.

Following the factory tour half of the group were treated to an afternoon tea in preparation for the long drive home whilst the other half had elected to stay overnight in the neighbouring village of Colwall, on the other side of the Malvern Hills. So thanks Neil for organising such a fascinating event and it now only seems appropriate to take a brief look at the history of Morgan Motors.

The Morgan Motor Company Limited was founded in 1910 by Henry Frederick Stanley Morgan in Malvern, Worcestershire. In 1909 he had designed and built a car for his own use and following this Morgan Motors was formed. Although the first few Morgan's had only one single seat, the majority of these early cars were all V-Twin three wheelers with either 2 or 4 seats - the 3 wheel design being a tax dodge as much as anything else as with only 3 wheels they were classed as motorcycles and avoided the British tax appropriate to cars. By the time of World War I, 3 wheelers were being produced at a rate of 1000 per week. The 3 wheeler design was eventually phased out in 1952 due to competition from more comfortable 4 wheel small cars produced by other manufacturers. H F S Morgan continued to run the company until his death at the age of 77 in 1959.

The first 4 wheel Morgan was a 2 seater and was produced in 1935. It was designated as the 4/4 as it had 4 cylinders and 4 wheels and was powered by 34bhp 1122cc Coventry Climax engine. A 4 seat model was added in 1937 and a drop head in 1938. Production of the 4/4 was

halted during the war years but resumed afterwards. Despite another brief halt in production between 1950 and 1955, a 4/4 design in various forms has been produced ever since.



In the post war era the Morgan +4 was introduced in 1950 which sported a larger 2,088cc Standard Vanguard engine and then used Triumph engines from the TR2, TR3 and TR4A until 1969 when production of the Morgan +4 was suspended (it was actually brought back into production in 2004).

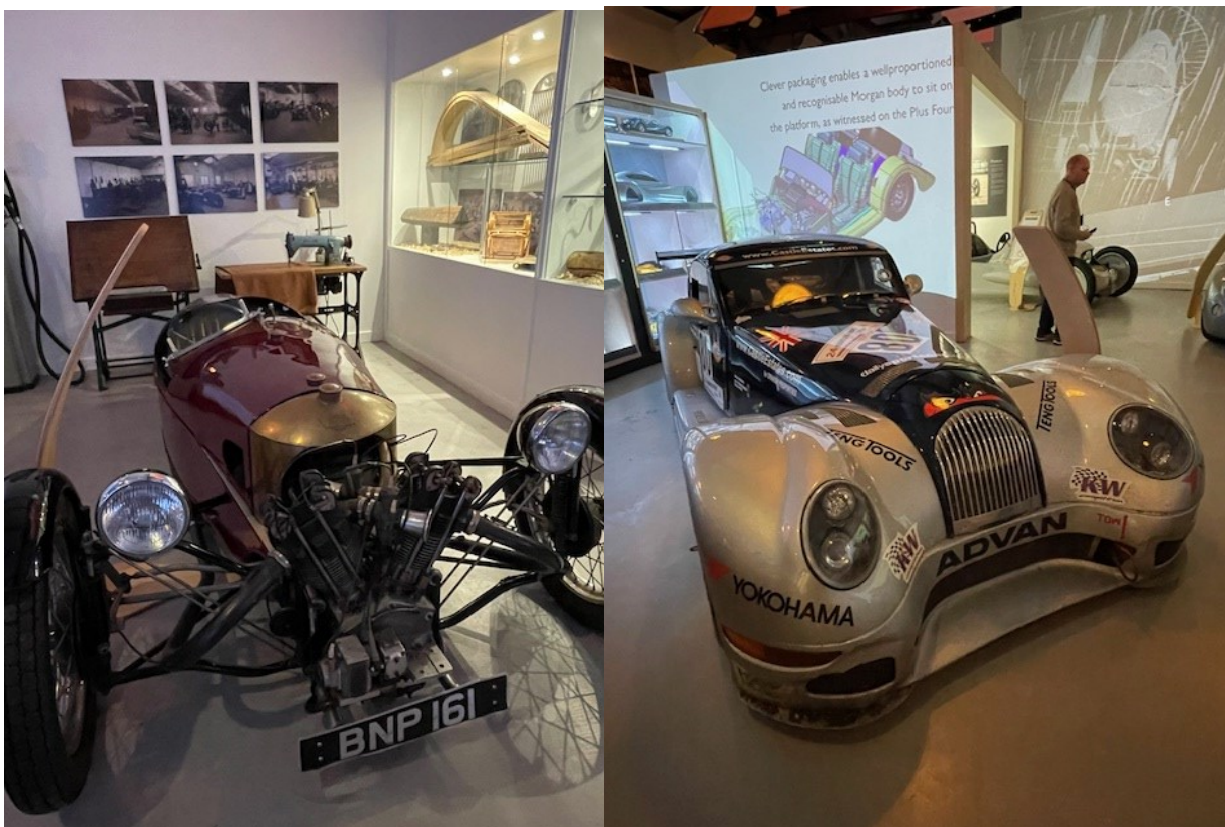
The Morgan +8 was brought in due to the decreasing availability of a suitable large 4 cylinder engine from 1968. Instead it used the Rover V8 engine, firstly in 3.5 litre form then as a 3.9 litre. From 1998 to 2004 a 4 litre Rover unit was used and also, as an option, the 4.6 litre engine. In final form the +8 had over 190bhp and could accelerate to 60mph in 5.6 seconds. In 2004, Morgan introduced the so called Roadster to replace the Morgan +8. This used a Ford Mondeo V6 producing 223bhp.

Morgan also produced the Morgan Aero 8 (series I-V) that was introduced in 2000. This again had a wooden substructure of ash. However the chassis was made of aluminium ending over 100 years of their traditional steel one. This time the engine was a BMW V8. Due to its light weight the latest series of Aero could do 0 to 60 in 4.5 seconds which was also due to the engine's 367bhp output. As well as the main Series I to V models, they also produced several limited edition models including a hard top Coupe version.

In 2011 a new Morgan Plus 8 was introduced sharing the same bonded aluminium Chassis and engine as the Morgan Aero. In the same year Morgan produced a new 3 wheeler taking things back to where it all started. However, the current Morgan range that can be bought today consists of the following 3 Models: the Morgan Plus Six - using a BMW 3 litre in-line 6 cylinder 340bhp engine, the Morgan Plus Four - using a BMW 2 litre 4 cylinder 255bhp engine and the Morgan Super 3 (a 3 wheeler) - Using a 118bhp Ford 1.5 litre engine.

So back to our visit. The Morgan factory guides told us that despite the modernisations in its designs, Morgan Motors remain proud of the fact that the authenticity of their cars has remained unchanged for over 110 years. They also stated that in their modern day production it is important that they retain the traditional craftsmanship that they have always been known for as well as, where appropriate, introducing modern design..... And of course keeping loads of those vital ingredients of ash, aluminium and leather!

Steve Brace









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Get More

The Lost Barn - Tilston

Looking for a good cafe to drive out to this summer in your classic? Look no further than the Lost Barn Cafe in Tilston. The food and coffee are always great so it's well worth a drive out to through the fantastic local Cheshire countryside. Below is an article that appeared in the local village newsletter that provides a little bit of history of why when and how it was set up:

Spotlight on Local Business: The Lost Barn

The Lost Barn Coffee Roasters was founded 5 and a half years ago by Jo and Blair Mc Kerchar and is located at Grafton (just outside Tilston, on the road to Stretton), on Jo's families dairy farm and childhood home.



Freshly returned from over a decade spent living and working in Melbourne, Australia, the couple were eager to bring together their experience in the food & drink, and design & project management industries, and settled upon the idea of developing coffee as an artisan product. An antidote to the mass market coffee chains who utilise cheap and low quality coffee beans, they wanted to put an emphasis on the traceability and quality of the beans, and foster direct trade relationships with growers from around the world.

The intriguing name 'The Lost Barn' comes from old Grafton Estate records and field maps, which together tell of a barn decimated in a catastrophic storm which blew over from



Ireland in January 1839. Growing from humble startup origins in a converted shipping container, the business now roasts four tonnes of coffee beans a month, working with growers from 8 different origins. The Lost Barn Coffee Roasters supply numerous hospitality venues and shops, from the far reaches of the country to one of their very first retailers and supporters

just down the road - Tilston Village Stores. Despite the challenges that Covid brought while the business was still in its relative infancy, it has organically grown and garnered an expanding customer base and industry recognition. Their Bloomsbury Blend coffee was awarded the Golden Fork by The Guild of Fine Food for the best food and drink product from the North of England, and most recently the business was named Drinks Producer of the Year in the Cheshire Life Awards.

An exciting development for the family business has been the move into a new purpose-built site on a four-acre field just a short distance down the farm drive, with Jo's sister, Faye, also returning from a long stint in New Zealand and Australia to join the team. This farm diversification project benefited from the last round of EU grants, and thanks to a huge amount of local support the dream of creating a unique destination in the beautiful rural landscape at Grafton became a reality.

The Lost Barn venue currently comprises an open plan, working coffee roastery with a vibrant adjoining café, serving food from 9-3pm daily, and a wide range of drinks and sweet treats. The café also benefits from a large outdoor seating area for the summer months, with a natural play space with sandpit and mud kitchen for younger visitors. Beyond this fenced seating area visitors can further enjoy



the idyllic rural surroundings with a wander around the pond and meadow. Both features were created to enhance the biodiversity on the site, and the arrival of resident kestrels, a multitude of pond species, and barn owl sightings have been heartwarming.



A farm store offering a range of produce and lifestyle items and gifts sits in a small adjacent building. In the 1950's the farm was home to a thriving, walled market garden, which the family have reinstated in a new location beside a flock of heritage breed chickens and an apiary of beehives, which all provide zero food-miles produce for the store and café. The intention is that this will slowly grow over time, with the next offering to launch in 2024 being gently pasteurised and unhomogenised milk from the farm's dairy herd. The milk will be pasteurised in the purpose-built dairy space alongside the store, where it will be on sale to customers whilst also supplying the café with all its milk needs.

Since its launch, Lost Barn Coffee has supported a number of local community and charitable initiatives, and late last year became the main sponsor of Tilston Netball Club. A new permissive footpath has been created to allow locals to reach The Lost Barn from Tilston across the fields, with the new route joining the existing public footpath along Long Lane which heads towards to the brook. Once over the little bridge signs direct the way heading towards the right.

If you're still yet to visit The Lost Barn, pop down and the team look forward to giving you a warm welcome! Opening hours are 9-4pm Monday- Saturday and 9-3pm on Sundays. The café is dog friendly, with well-behaved four-legged friends welcome on leads inside and out.

For further information - www.lostbarncoffee.co.uk

Or phone - 01829 470055 (Roastery) / 01829 708181 (Café)



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CAPTION COMPETITION

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Can you get a photo of his bum?

MG F 1998 For Sale

£2,500

Model – MG F

Year – 1998

Mileage – 55808

Owners – 5 (Owned since 2011)

Colour – Night Fire Red

Engine – 1.8 VVC 160

Features:

Gloss Black hard top with heated rear window, 10 Disk CD changer, ABS, Air

Conditioning, Full Black Leather

alpine Audio

About the Car:

I bought this car with my grandpa in 2011, creating wonderful memories together. However, since his passing, I must part with it as I also have a TF. The car has undergone recent upgrades, including the replacement of a stainless-steel exhaust and the replacement of three tires—two at the rear and one on the driver's side front.

The car has its full-service history, paperwork of all work carried out across our ownership and previous and the head gasket and cam belt changed in 2014

Contact:

Harrison C

07519099850

HCurry@gmail.com Please email or message if you have any questions or if you would like more photos.





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CVI 083 09/22



Events

We don't plan to have a designated events organiser on the committee, this is a joint effort! If any member wants to organise something, please go ahead! Just run it by Angie or Steve first to make sure it doesn't clash with anything else we are planning.

March	12	Club Night with a guest speaker.
April	4	Start of Thursday weekly classic car meet at Billy Jean Café just off A55 Holywell
	6	Rolling Road Day (places available)
	9	Club Night
	21	Drive It Day
May	12	Candles Run
	14	Club Night
	26/27	<i>Capesthorpe Hall</i>
	29	Evening Run TBC
June	11	Club Night
	16-20	Llanerchindda Farm
	26	Evening Run TBC
July	9	Club Night
	14	Caewys Car Show
	21	<i>Capesthorpe Hall</i>
	28	<i>Bodryddhan Hall</i>
	24	Evening Run TBC
August	11	<i>NCCCC Car Show, Claremont Farm</i>
	13	Club Night
	25/6	<i>Capesthorpe Hall</i>
September	1	<i>Arley Hall, Cheshire Classic & Performance Car Show</i>
	10	Club Night
		North Coast 500

Plus evening trips or Sundays with meal; see website or Facebook page for details.

WANTED YOUR CAR PHOTO IN POTRAIT TO USE AS COVER PHOTO, OR YOU WILL HAVE LOTS OF MGC COVERS.....

Forward planning/possible events

2025

- Jun: Gordon Bennett & Ireland tour
- Sep: Fat Lamb & N Yorkshire tour

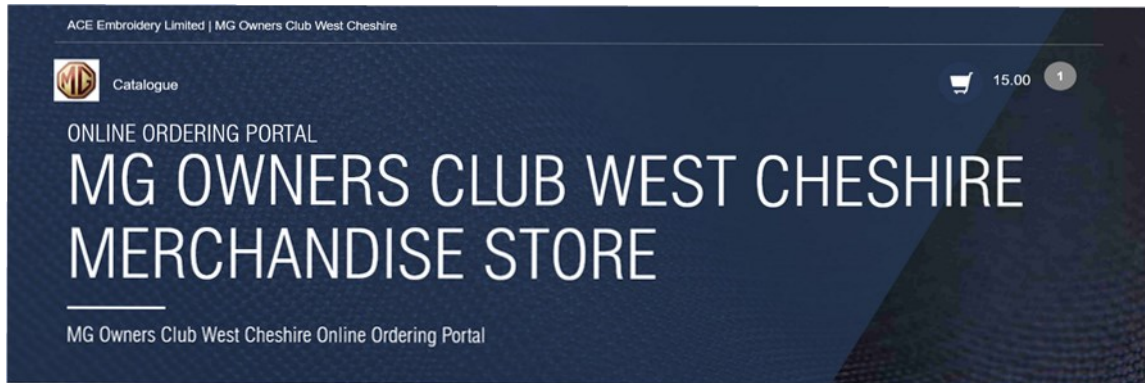
2026

- Jun: Irish Tour
- Sep: tbc

2027

- Jun: Mid Wales Tour - club organised
- Sep: IoM classic car event

<https://mgowes.ace-online.co.uk/catalogue>



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