



## Here's to delivering Seasonal Cheer for a Cracking Christmas

Page 11

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**Welcome to your December Newsletter. In this issue: David Roberts reports on Abbeywood Estate and Gardens - Un Mog en Provence - Meanings of Morgan Nicknames Mog Modesty - A classic birthday cake - and more . . . Hope you enjoy!**

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### **“Merry Christmas Members”...**

... my wish to you all, as we approach that special day, when I enjoy welcoming family and friends, gathering round the Christmas tree, then at the table, pulling the crackers, before tucking into the turkey, and cracking that old chestnut “who wants stuffing!”

Then with eager anticipation we exchange our gifts, thanks to Santas’ delivery.

But if he hasn’t delivered to all on your list, and you’re looking on-line, or trawling the shops, searching for what to get, no need to be out searching for mine - and it won’t cost you a penny. Just your articles and photographs will deliver me seasonal cheer!

Let’s pull together, to make it a Cracking Christmas!

Les Burgess: [les@lbacreative.co.uk](mailto:les@lbacreative.co.uk)

# Abbeywood Estate and Gardens

14th November 2022



**It was a hit - not to miss,  
as our members enjoyed  
this November Noggin**



Taking on the co-ordination of a November NorceMog Noggin can be a hit and miss affair, due in particular to the unreliable late autumnal weather, particularly if the frost arrives, and with it the liberal spreading of highly corrosive salt on to the roads. But thankfully, we were blessed with dry weather, which could have been due to someone up-on-high looking after us, possibly encouraged by a kind word or two from Peter Morgan!



NorceMoggers grandchildren - a chip off the block!

It was also great to see NorceMog newcomers Tony and Penny Cory who arrived in their very nice 1977 4/4, with the right side of the bonnet exposing a hint of two Weber DCOEs and its tuned engine.

Another newcomer and a welcome addition was Mark Beesley, who arrived in his new CX chassised +4.

Peter and Rosemary Murphy arrived in their maroon CX Morgan, but unfortunately, Mike and Beth Harris were laid low as they were suffering from a nasty bug with 'flu-like' symptoms, meaning they had to cancel as did Ian and Dee Baines due to family commitments.

Thirty three NorceMog Morganeers were booked in for the event, and we even had two well-behaved three year old grandchildren of the Roberts and Brown families in attendance. "Yep, let's start NorceMog membership recruitment early"...that's what I say!

Many members took advantage of the kind weather and dry roads, and chose it as a perfect occasion to exercise their Morgans. It was great to see models ranging from early 4/4s from 1960 and 1977 through 4/4s and +4s of the 1990s, and early 2000s up to and including a rare Aero Series 1, and the latest CX-chassis Morgans.



For those who couldn't attend the event, Abbeywood is a large estate with wonderful gardens and a restaurant that serves lunches and afternoon teas. I am unsure whether it was NorceMog's reputation and notoriety that had preceded us, but Abbeywood had reserved the Orangery specially for our group.

Despite any notoriety, all present behaved themselves following, no doubt, the exemplar behaviour of the 3 year olds Dexter and Annie! The food, by common consent was enjoyed by everyone and my personal request, (make that stipulation) for the pannacotta with Abbeywood-grown poached berries to be included on the menu, was met.

All too soon, it was time for us to leave, bid our fond farewells and depart for home. By contrast with myself and Sue who live just a couple of miles away from Abbeywood in Little Budworth, Ron and Maria Hargreaves had the longest journey, including the dubious delights of the M6 to negotiate their way home to Clitheroe, and David and Una Haynes who had the journey to Market Drayton in deepest darkest Shropshire.

So, in signing off, a very big thank you to everyone who came to the Noggin, and to Heather and all of her team at Abbeywood, who attended to all our needs in making it such an enjoyable event.

David Roberts

### **Members Morgans in the car park - an added attraction at Abbeywood Estate and Gardens.**



Roger Benton's Plus 4 in the mix of Mogs and tin-tops.



A Mini Intrusion in an otherwise classic Morgan line-up.



Mark Butterworth's stand alone - and stand out Aero 8.



Dave Roberts rebuilt 1960 4/4 - a beauty alongside a beast.

# Meanings of our Morgan nicknames

**We all love our Morgan,  
so much so we often refer to it  
by an affectionate nickname,  
Mog, Moggie/Moggy.**

**There are other meanings  
for the nicknames, one or two  
we may all be familiar with,  
but some maybe not.**



## MOG

This most commonly used and affectionate nickname, that we associate with our classic sports car, appears to have one or two other meanings, and a number of acronyms that can be used in texting, that I was not aware of.

**Mog Off** - an expression that has two meanings, completely contrary to each other, depending on how it's expressed.

**"I'm going to mog off"** - this is expressed politely to others when you want to depart from a situation or someone. You can often observe that someone is about to 'mog off' as they move slowly away.

**To be told to "MOG OFF"** - expressed assertively, can be used rather than a more common, aggressive explicit. For example, if someone is annoying you, rather than telling them to "F-OFF" you can assertively say "MOG OFF".

**To MOG someone** - this projects your outgoing persona, when you want to assert your dominance over someone. Facial expressions, applicable here, are noticable for example, when someone stares at you, as they Mog you.

### Acroymys in text messaging

These are just a few that I've taken from a long list of acronyms, which included others, that seem a lot less meaningful. Even from these I've listed, apart from the odd one, I'm sure I would never have the need, or even want to use them.

MOG Miserable Old Git  
MOG Mother of Groom  
MOG Messenger of God

MOG Master of Golf  
MOG Mail Order Group  
MOG Made of Gold

## MOGGIE

Even though we know this is a pet name for a domestic cat, one that doesn't have a pedigree and of mixed breed, maybe the history of the name is unknown to us.

In the eighteenth century, research reveals that the expression 'Moggie' was often used to refer to a cow or calf. It was only in the twentieth century that 'Moggie' became known as a pet name for a domestic cat.

My wife Hilary has two cats that are only just Moggies, they are predominately Maine Coon, with some Persian bred into them, pictured here when they were young girls. Beautiful cats who get along famously with my Golden Retriever boy, as much loved members of the family.



## MOGGY

Research also reveals that other than the origin of 'Moggie' referring to a cow or calf, the expression, spelt 'Moggy' was often used to refer to a mouse, and the cat was always referred to as 'the Moggy Catcher'. But with the passing of time, 'Catcher' was dropped and the cat (now commonly spelt Moggie) adopted the nickname.

An ancient dictionary reveals that the expression 'Moggy', was also used in describing a type of woman or a man. It referred to an untidily dressed woman, or a man, who lacked the ability to view himself in a positive way.

# Un Mog en Provence



## David and Una stopped a leak, under the radiator of their Plus 8, putting too much of a damper on a holiday in France.

A good number of years ago, long before the advent of digital cameras, mobile phones and even the Euro, a couple of Morganeers from NorceMog were holidaying in Provence in their Plus 8, and not for the first time.

It can get quite warm, or should I say hot, in Provence, where we were staying with a Dutch family that we know, and all was going well, as we spent many enjoyable days visiting the local beauty spots and small village restaurants, as you do. Being conscious of the temperature when we were out and about in the Morgan, I kept an eye on the temperature gauge, as the cooling fan kept coming on, which after all that's what it's purpose in life is for!

Then one sunny day I noticed there was a damp patch on the front of the radiator, "merde!" Following an Investigation, it revealed that the radiator was fine, "bon", but the bottom hose wasn't, "merde!" encore!

From telephone calls I made to the UK, I managed to get the number of the French Morgan agent in Paris, and then, after making further calls to the agent, it determined they had a bottom hose! Apparently the top and bottom hose is roughly the same, you just have to cut it to fit in true Morgan fashion!

The said bit of rubber arrived the following day, courtesy of FedEx. Cutting and fitting was straight forward, after all there's only two jubilee clips to consider isn't there? Although the answer is yes, it was also necessary to move the radiator to get the hose into position. Lying on your back under the car with minimal space to work meant it took most of the day, but the job was done and there were no leaks.



The scale of the Retaining Clip and Seal

Nearing the end of our holiday the French did what the French do frequently - they call a Lightning Strike! This time it was the petrol tanker drivers who were on strike. It makes a change from it being the fishermen trying to block the Channel ports. After pleading at the local Station d'Essence we managed to get a full tank of fuel, but that wouldn't get us to Calais!

We could get to Italy on a full tank of fuel and then go north through Switzerland and any other country but France, so we left Provence a day earlier than planned and set off east to Italy. Crossing the border into Italy we realised we only had French Francs! We found a hole in the wall and got some Italian Lira, 10s of 1000s of them!, before we then turned North and headed for Switzerland.

At an Autostrada we obviously had to pay. Rapid Italian and much gesticulation (almost as good as the French) from the toll booth man meant nothing to us until we then realised he wanted about 50p in Lira, but our recently purchased notes were the equivalent of £10 each and he wasn't for giving us any change! But sitting tight, shrugging our shoulders, and with the queue behind getting longer and noisier - he gave in.



Enough of an Autostrada, we then head for a small village where we needed to find somewhere to stay. The day was very hot and being a Sunday afternoon, all God-fearing Italians were at home with their family, so nobody was about as we slowly weaved our way through very narrow streets of shuttered houses, quite touristy really.

Then all of a sudden there was green fluid all over the windscreen and the smell of a hot engine. I instantly stop, and bonnet up, was expecting the worst - but no, I must have disturbed the otter switch (the temperature sender) in the bottom of the radiator when I fitted the new bottom hose, and there was the switch dangling on its wires as proof.

The switch is just a push fit into a rubber seal with a small clip and neither of them were to be seen! Not expecting to find them I took a look behind the car, and in the fast-evaporating green fluid that was once in my engine, lo and behold I found both the clip and the seal. we were travelling very slowly when things went wrong.

Fitting the seal, switch and clip only took seconds, but now we needed water. We had a litre bottle for personal consumption and that was it. So Una was despatched to find a source of water and quickly reappeared having found the village fountain. After Una making many trips, we have a full radiator

Now with the radiator full, and after finding lovely little hotels, we continued our journey home trouble free.

David & Una Haynes

## Bryan's classic 'Morgan' birthday cake was a cut above!



**Bryan Rawlinson recently celebrated his 80th birthday,  
and was presented with this wonderful cake.**

As a long-standing NorceMog member and committee member, Bryan organises the Autotest event at Leyland and is the owner of a red 4/4, a classic car - then a classic cake - for a classic occasion.

**Congratulations Bryan.**

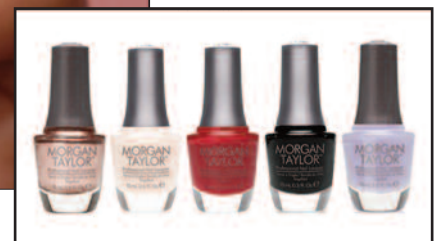
## Mog Modesty

**Us Morganeers are a modest set of souls - aren't we?  
But it would appear there are products out there with the name  
that promotes anything but!**



### Morgans Pomade Hair Darkening

A Morgan man goes grey gracefully doesn't he? or in your editors case white! But if we're ever thinking of getting our colour back, Morgans Pomade could be the solution. It's branded as "The world's most famous hair darkening product" - a pretty bold claim. I may not be well versed in hair colourant history, but as it's been around since 1873, they must know what they're doing after all this time. They say that Morgans Pomade has "hair darkening" properties, that are formulated to gradually darken your hair in three to four weeks - It could be our dark secret!



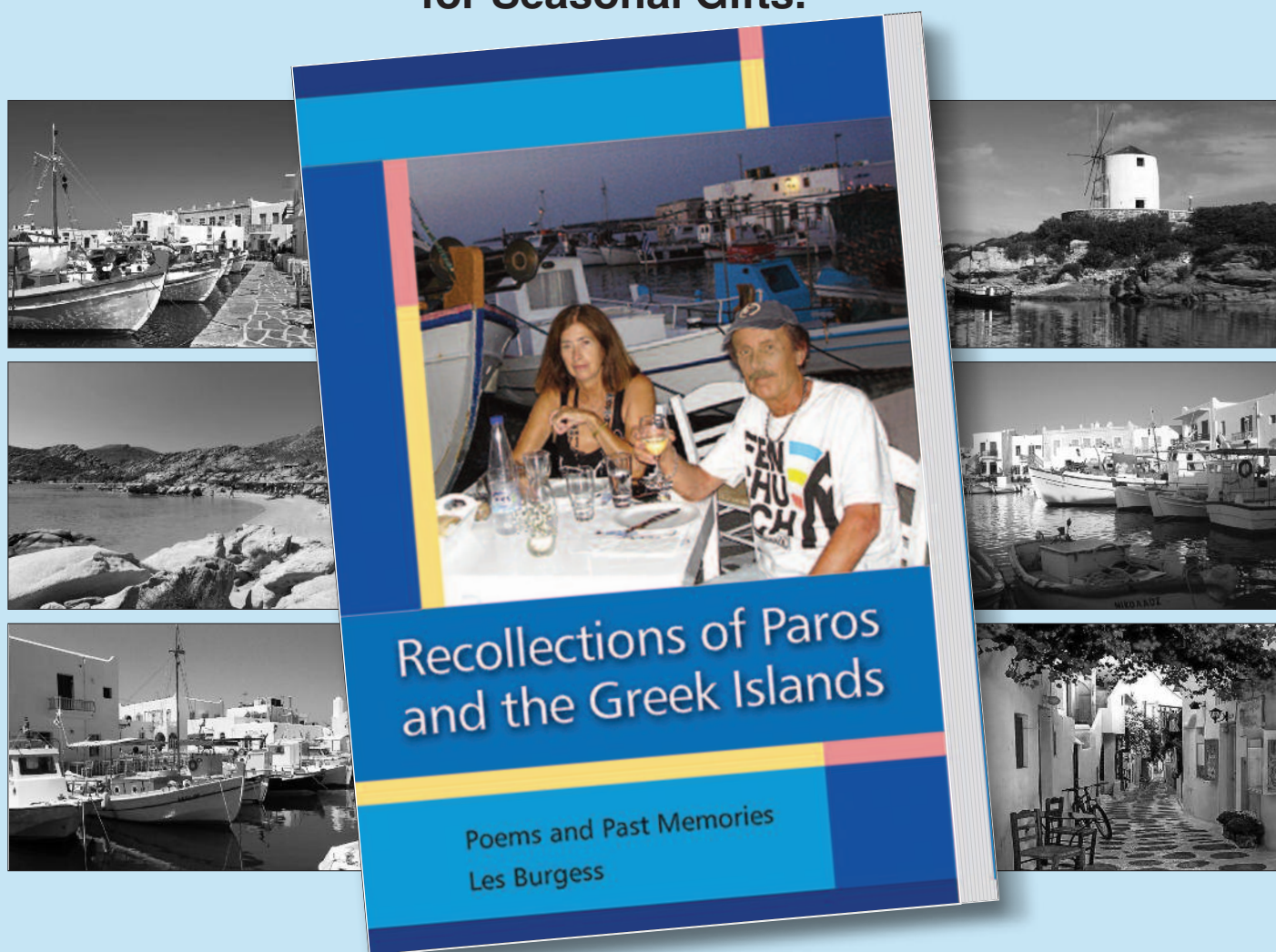
### Morgan Taylor Nail Lacquer

A Morgan lady doesn't need any help with make-up does she? your looks are natural! But let's pretend you do, Morgan Taylor Nail Lacquer could be one of your beauty products, it's promoted as the crème de la crème of nail lacquer, developed by professionals, just for you. Over a period of 30 years, Morgan Taylor claim they have been innovative with nail lacquer that is specially formulated and that this can be seen in their creative colour palette, ranging from the classical to avant-garde, and from the subtle to vividly spectacular. You could say that they've nailed it!

**but we're not Modest about our Morgans are we - they're Mognificent.**

Les Burgess

**Christmas is just round the corner,  
and here's a creative way to help solve your search  
for Seasonal Gifts.**



## **Recollections of Paros and the Greek Islands**

### **Your editors book of Poems and Past Memories**

Those of you who attended the White Island Mediterranean Buffet, will have got a taste of my love for the Greek Islands, a love that inspired me to write a book. A story of my travels to, and holidays on these beautiful islands, featuring a collection of poems and the people and places on Paros, recalling the many years of unforgettable moments that made it all so memorable.

These poems and past memories express all my innermost feelings for the islands, written with candour, deep affection and just a little light heartedness, in particular for Paros and her people, who, since a medical condition made distance travel difficult, I keep in touch with as friends.

With phonetic spellings of basic Greek, the book includes a gallery of photographs, location maps for the Ionian and Aegean islands, the Cyclades and details of my favourite places on Paros.

**The islands include: Crete, Corfu, Skopelos, Skiathos, Lesvos, Kefalonia, Paros, Antiparos, Santorini, Naxos, Mykonos and Halkidiki on the peninsular.**

Writing the poems and story evoked wonderful memories of the time I shared with my wife Hilary, over many years on the Greek islands - recalled to send as a seasonal gift.

Yiama e fille mou **Les Burgess**

## **Recollections of Paros and the Greek Islands.**

Available on Amazon via this link: <http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/191109050X/>



# Diary of NorceMog Events

Enjoy meeting up with your fellow members

Check Website for any Event Updates [www.norcemog.com](http://www.norcemog.com)

# 2023

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

**Jan 8**

**The Inn at Whitewell, Clitheroe, Lancashire**

Contact Andy Bleasdale Tel 07973 315676

[bleasers@hotmail.com](mailto:bleasers@hotmail.com)

[Full Details](#) **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

**LIMITED TO 40 MEMBERS**



**Feb 12**

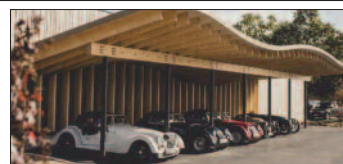
**TBC**

**Mar 12**

**TBC**

**April 15**

**MSCC AGM - MMC,  
Visitor Centre, Malvern**



**April 16**

**Lunch & AGM, Vale Royal Abbey, Whitegate**

Contact Andrew Threlkeld Tel 07912 494768

[norcemog.sec@morgansportscarclub.com](mailto:norcemog.sec@morgansportscarclub.com)



**April 23**

**FBHV Drive it Day**

The Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs, with events to uphold the freedom to use historic vehicles on the road.

Contact [secretary@fbhvc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@fbhvc.co.uk)



**May 1**

**Gawsworth Hall Car Show, Macclesfield**

Contact Martin Cocks Tel 07973 488504,

[martincocks@btinternet.com](mailto:martincocks@btinternet.com)



**May 7**

**Cheshire Candles Charity Run**

Organised by West Cheshire MG Car Club

[Full Details](#) **MORGANS WELCOME**



**May 14**


**TBC**

**June 11**

**Autotest & Concours  
the British Commercial Museum, Leyland**

Contact Brian Rawlinson Tel 01995 604716



<b>Date TBC</b>	<b>Arley Hall Garden Festival, Arley, Cheshire</b> Contact Andrew Threlkeld Tel 07912 494768 <a href="mailto:norcemog.sec@morgansportscarclub.com">norcemog.sec@morgansportscarclub.com</a>	
<b>June 30 - July 2</b>	<b>MOGFEST 23 &amp; Annual Dinner</b> <b>Windsor &amp; Brooklands Museum, Surrey</b> <a href="#">Bookings will open in November 2022</a> and can only be made through MSCC Travel Club	
<b>July 9</b>	<b>100 years of Blackpool Carnival</b> <a href="#">Details to follow</a>	
<b>July 28 - 30</b> <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Oulton Park Gold Cup - 3-day race weekend</b> Contact Andrew Threlkeld Tel 07912 494768 <a href="mailto:norcemog.sec@morgansportscarclub.com">norcemog.sec@morgansportscarclub.com</a> <a href="#">Full Details</a> of what is racing and anticipated prices	 <div>DISPLAY CAR APPLICATIONS NOT AVAILABLE YET Keep a check on their website</div>
<b>Aug 13</b>	<b>TBC</b>	
<b>Sept 1 - 3</b>	<b>Morgans at Windermere</b> Contact Les Ellis Tel 07900 962348 <a href="mailto:les2mog@gmail.com">les2mog@gmail.com</a> REGISTRATIONS OPEN 1st April	
<b>Sept 10</b>	<b>TBC</b>	
<b>Sept 14 - 17</b>	<b>FolkMog week-end at Woodhall Spa</b> Several NorceMog members are going on this trip. <a href="#">Although Closing Date was June 2022</a> Contact <a href="mailto:wilson.steve12@googlemail.com">wilson.steve12@googlemail.com</a> for any cancellations	
<b>Oct 8</b>	<b>TBC</b>	
<b>Nov 5</b>	<b>TBC</b>	
<b>Dec 10</b>	 <b>Christmas Lunch &amp; Annual Awards Presentation</b> <b>Barton Manor Hotel, Barton, Preston</b> Contact Bryan & Linda Fearn Tel 01253 891539 <a href="mailto:bryanfearn@hotmail.co.uk">bryanfearn@hotmail.co.uk</a>	

**We are looking to add to our schedule of events for 2023.**  
**If you have an idea for hosting one of the monthly events, we welcome proposals.**  
 Contact Andrew Threlkeld Tel: 07912 494 768 [norcemog.sec@morgansportscarclub.com](mailto:norcemog.sec@morgansportscarclub.com)



## A Cracking Christmas!

Round the table making merry  
on a joyous Christmas day,  
when I'm there pulling crackers  
and they're snapping away.  
As each cracker snaps open  
and the gifts then appear,  
I hope they're from members  
sending news for next Year.

**Let's all have a Cracking Christmas  
and enjoy the gift of more Morganeering in the New Year**

**Cheers - Les [les@lbacreative.co.uk](mailto:les@lbacreative.co.uk)**



**Wishing all our members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**  
Your NorceMog Committee

