



TINMOG

Cornwall Centre of the MORGAN SPORTS CAR CLUB

WWW.TINMOG.ORG.UK



WELCOME TO THE JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER



Are we nearly there yet?



Dear Fellow Tinmoggers,

I sincerely trust that all is well with you during these continuing uncertain times. The restrictions are dragging on with as yet no sign of a significant reduction in the imposed restrictions. I feel that the two-metre distancing rule will have to be reduced soon. It will cause serious problems for shops as they cannot have enough customers to make their businesses viable. Restaurants and pubs may soon be able to open serving food and drink outside – a real bonus in the weather we are experiencing at the moment. It is at these places that Clubs meet, and no events can be organised until we can meet inside – we can't trust the weather!

This month I have written a piece about the first Morgan Marjorie and I owned when living in mid-Wales. Don't forget, you are more than welcome to send me any anecdotes about your Morgan or Morgan trip you have made.

The first Morgan that Marjorie and I purchased was in February 1986, it had the registration OTN 4.



For Sale in England

At the time, we had a small hotel in mid-Wales, and the Morgan we had bought was not the right one to buy in our situation. The car had been constructed between the Morgan Motor Company and MacDonald Racing, a Morgan Dealer in Lanchester, County Durham for the Le Mans 24 hour race in the 1970s. It was rather a beast, with an imported Traco full race engine, plus a few other mods!



The crated engine



Under construction at Malvern

The reason it wasn't "the right one" was that in mid-Wales, we couldn't find a suitable mechanic/garage to tend its needs, the local garage which serviced various sports cars looked at it and "mmmmmed, no." The car was not really suitable for road use, it supposedly hit 100mph in under 10 seconds and a top speed of 160+ mph. With the race clutch and straight through exhaust made it rather "noisy" for town driving, in fact Marjorie and I drove through Oswestry in it once, M was not amused!



In the Lion car park



Under the bonnet

We once took the car to west Wales to see some relatives in March, but on our return journey through the Welsh mountains, it started to snow, not heavily, but it made for very careful use of the throttle. We managed to arrive home safely.

Having the hotel, some of our customers asked if they could be taken for a spin in it – not literally, though often nearly. We had a good circuit of about six miles for this outing with hills and straights and after a few of these trips, the car became to be known affectionately as the Kinell Morgan. During our time at the hotel, we sponsored a single seater hill climb car and the driver and his

oppo stayed with us when the championship meetings were held at Loton Park, west of Shrewsbury.

A perk of being a sponsor was that we were able to park in the paddock. At one of the meets, we were parked with OTN 4 and when I wandered round, I saw a single seater with the same engine as in our car.



The car we sponsored
+ daughters - somewhat younger!

I spoke to the driver and said that we had the same engine in our road going Morgan, he didn't believe me, but I convinced him to come over and see for himself. He meandered over to the car, looked at the engine, gasped, and said "Oh" and walked away, backwards.

One summer's day I received a phone call asking if OTN 4 was for sale, the chap had phoned John MacDonald to ask if he knew where the car was and John gave him our number. I said the car wasn't for sale, but that he could come and look at it. He was a vet from Coventry and said he would like to see the car having heard such a lot about it. He arrived two hours later and I took him round the six mile triangle. Coming back into the village from the Llanfyllin direction, there was a hill and downward slope into the village, we came over the brow, full bore, splitting exhaust note and (won't mention the speed!), turned into the front car park – just as a police sergeant and constable were coming out of the hotel having carried out a spot visit. They walked over to the car, looked at the vehicle end to end, looked at each other, shook their heads, and walked back to their car – not a word said! The vet then asked if the car was for sale. Marjorie and I had discussed whether or not we should sell the car and decided that because there was no one in the area that could look after the high-performance car – and M didn't like the "noise" it made; we would sell it. The vet offered us a good price, so we sold it. I was very sad to see it go, but it was too impractical for us at that time.

We heard a few years later that it had been sold to a Swede, no, not a vegetable, and it was exhibited on a stand in the Swedish motor show. What

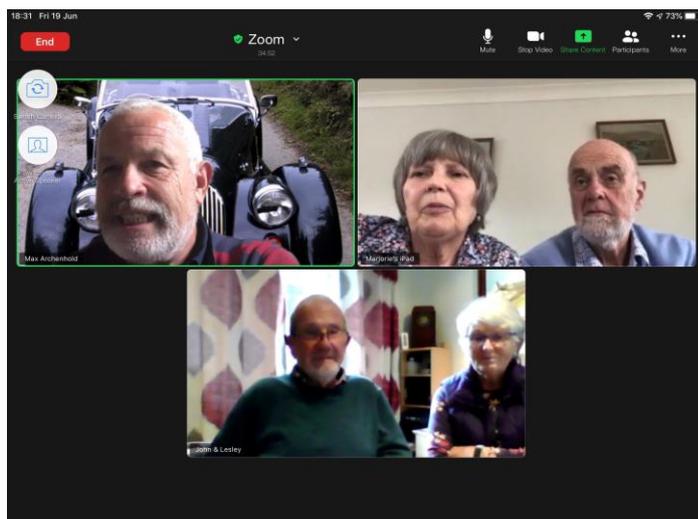
would OTN 4 be worth now, I dare not think, but that would have depended on how we could have maintained it. That's life, full of "what ifs".

As OTN 4 is now:



Below is a link to a You Tube clip of the car on a race track in Sweden – where it hits 125mph in third!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CuNkSro1EG0>



On 19th June, we held a Committee meeting using Zoom - a rather different experience! One suggestion that came up was to have a virtual Tinmog gathering via Zoom followed by a quiz, this "meeting" to take place in July. Max, being the IT Wizkid on the Committee, will set up the meeting and will send information about it to you.

Yes, hmmm, mugshots of the meeting! For some reason it's a mirror image.

With regards to the Christmas lunch and the Anniversary celebration, we are still in the hands of the virus regulations and hotel policies, so no update on these.

I wish you all the very best during these very trying times, stay positive and look forward to when we can meet up as a Club again.

Paul

PLANNED TINMOG EVENTS

October 20th to 24th - Autumn Tour to the Welsh borders organised by Paul and Marjorie – the first night will be at The Beaufort Hotel, Raglan, followed by three nights at The Wild Pheasant Hotel, Llangollen. There will be a lunch venue en route to Raglan on the 20th where you may join the Tour, or you may go direct to The Beaufort Hotel. The following day will be a scenic run through the Welsh borders to Llangollen, with hopefully interesting coffee and lunch stops. One of the two days at Llangollen will be an optional run into Wales, the other free to explore the area. Please contact Paul and Marjorie if you wish to be added to the party. We know the Hotel is still functioning so hopefully the tour will go ahead.

Saturday December 5th – Tinmog Christmas Lunch at the Carlyon Bay Hotel organised by John and Lesley. This is currently under review as the Hotel required a £10 per person to be paid by 1st June. John and Lesley are writing to the Hotel to see if the request for the deposit can be waived until much later in the year due to the uncertain times.

January 2021 Plans are in progress for a celebration to mark 20 years of Tinmog. This will probably be in the form of an Anniversary Run combined with a meal and overnight stay at a venue in Cornwall – more details to follow!