# **MORGAN MUSINGS**

**SUMMER 2023** 



This newsletter is circulated to all paid up members of the Yorkshire Centre of the Morgan Sports Car Club. All content is provided by members and reflects their personal experiences and views.

We are grateful for the support of our advertisers and hope that our members will support their businesses.

## Morgan Musings – Summer Issue 2023

The days are getting longer but it appears that the weather is not behaving. I cannot remember a time when there has been so much wind and rain but, hopefully, we can look forward to better times. I collected my +4 on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and was instantly transported back to my last one and as the saying goes 'Morgan - An Experience Never Forgotten'. It certainly makes me smile a lot!

April has been a very busy month. The Spring Gambol, organized again by Russ and Ange Sayers, lived up to previous years with a typical Russ run up hill and down dale. Beautiful scenery but some challenging roads! It was good to be able to once again participate in these events and Gill and I enjoyed the day. The lunch and camaraderie at The Black Sheep Brewery were convivial.

Neil and Viv Edwards organized a visit to Sound Leisure Ltd, Leeds. I know this was a very enjoyable day and a full report appears in this issue. Also, a report on the Dutch Bulb trip organized by Russ and Ange.

But the main event was the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend. What a wonderful event this was and we were lucky with the weather! The planning and organization of the whole weekend clearly demonstrated how much hard work and thought had gone into every aspect and the result was clearly evident. A very big thank you to Jan and her team of helpers. A full report and contributions from many of you can be found in this issue and, hopefully, you will put them on the web site. Our thanks, too, to Nick Wilson from Morgan Motor Company for the interesting insight into his life and the future at Morgan.

There is plenty to look forward to as summer approaches so please refer to the Events Programme and I will make sure all forthcoming events are circulated so you can make your arrangements.



By the time you receive this issue our new King's coronation will have taken place and we wish him and Queen Camilla our very best wishes.

## **IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR**

Or Elvis hasn't quite left the building.

Yorkshire Branch's Visit to Sound Leisure Ltd. Leeds

By Michael Green

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023 started dull with a light rain, but after making our way to the Leeds premises of Sound Leisure, things took a distinctive turn for the better.

24 members in a number of Morgans and assorted 'other makes' attended for the midweek socialising and lunch organised and arranged by Neil & Viv Edwards.

Sound Leisure is a bespoke maker of classic style juke boxes, and if you thought that a juke box was just a thing for playing records in the cafes and pubs of the 1950's and 60's, then you were completely wrong.

The company is a family owned and run business, started in the late 1970's by Alan Black, and now encompasses his son Chris, daughter-in-law Cath, their son Alex, and Chris's brother Michael, all of whom take an active part in the running of the business (including Alan – who should have retired, but as they say – "you can't keep a good man down").

On arrival, we were shown into an amazing reception area, where hot drinks and biscuits were provided, whilst we settled in and absorbed some of the machinery and items on display.



From there we went into the factory, to an area set out for presentations and where the walls were bedecked with dozens of flags of countries from around the world, we were soon to learn that each one represented an area where the company trades.

There we were given a very full and most enlightening talk by Chris, assisted ably by Cath, telling the full story of the company from inception way back in 1978 up to date, and highlighting some of the challenges set by changes in customer requirements, changes in how and where we seek our leisure entertainment, not to mention difficulties arising from Brexit, the COVID Pandemic and global material shortages.

Throughout it all, the company has continued to prosper, and has two other business premises, where specialist components are assembled. There was a mention of the workforce of over 70 staff, and encouragingly a number of local apprentices are under training, learning a whole range of skills, before specialising later.

The staff range in age from those of school-leaving age to those of retiring age and perhaps, beyond.

During the introductory talk, we were joined by Alan, the founder of the company, who delighted us with an illuminating personal history, dating back to his days at Leeds Polytechnic, encompassing the time he did a deal with a neighbouring business owner, to take possession of a red Morgan instead of taking payment for work he did. He did mention that at the time he had the choice of either a 3-wheeler or 4-wheeler, but the 4-wheeler won the day (nothing to do with Mrs Black saying she was having nothing to do with the 3-wheeler of course).

Later, by way of a 'Thank you', Alan was treated to a tour of Mal & Gaynor's red Morgan out in the carpark (there's a photograph at the end of this article of Alan in the car – just look at his face)!

Meanwhile, we were split into 2 groups, and each was given a full tour of all areas of the factory, starting in the metal working shop where parts are made, shaped and polished before being chrome-plated, then through into the woodworking shop, where most of the cabinet assembly is done by hand, from laminating, through jointing, bending & shaping, assembling, to French Polishing. In here we saw 2 apprentices honing their skills very professionally, and looking like they really enjoy the skilled work.

On through the wood store, into an area where something special was happening – but we aren't allowed to say what!

Then to where the internal mechanisms are assembled and then tested.





This is where the old ideas about jukeboxes get the 21<sup>st</sup> Century treatment. If you thought that they all played 45's with the middles missing, you'd be wrong. Some models still do of course, but others have been designed by Alan and the team, who still come up with new and innovative ways to play music, there are vertically stacked 12-inch 33 rpm LP's, vertical CD decks and capabilities of MP3 players and streamed music, remotely selected. Even the 'traditional 45's' have new innovations – either the A or B side able to be played by choice.

We saw in despatch, finished jukeboxes wrapped and ready to go to their new owners.



Other than supplying and selling jukeboxes to individuals, the company also have a whole Division, headed by Cath, that supplies, maintains and updates them for the pub and leisure industries.

There's also a section that refurbishes older and 'pre-loved' jukeboxes, and we saw the condition that some of them come in as, and the transformation is amazing, being returned to their owner in better than new condition.

At every stage of the visit, we were given the opportunity to ask questions, watch the processes and see how this branch of the music industry is evolving. That said, the traditional, hand-built quality and skills show in the finished items, and it was noted that many of the processes would be interchangeable with how things are done at the Morgan factory.

After a full 3 hours or so, it was all too soon to leave Sound Leisure, but before doing so, there was just time for a group photograph back in the reception room.

Many of the photos were supplied by Alex and the team, and I thank them for these, and to the whole team there, a big Yorkshire 'Thank You' for a really enjoyable tour, and a look back with a little bit of nostalgia and a look forward to the future.



Having left Sound Leisure, we had a short run to the lunch venue at 'The Motorist', at Sherburn-in-Elmet, where we all enjoyed a pre-ordered meal and convivial drinks, in an area specially set aside for us. There, the conversation over lunch revolved around our visit to Sound Leisure, the innovations we had seen and just how good it is to see that a locally based company is thriving in these trying times, taking on the world and how the simple jukebox is no longer simple.

Oh! Nostalgia isn't what it used to be!

After lunch, a good number of members took the opportunity to visit the adjacent facilities at Sherburn Airfield, where we were given a conducted tour of the aircraft hangar that houses, amongst many privately owned aircraft, the two De Havilland Tiger Moths, one undergoing some major looking maintenance work.

All in all, an excellent day out, the rain almost stopped for the run home, and all that was left to do was to wash off the Morgan, having been liberally sprayed by rain and mud, hey-ho, that's for another time.

All that remains to be said is thanks to Neil & Viv for arranging all the events of the day, and to our hosts at each of the venues visited.

#### **SPRING GAMBOL**

By Richard Cole



Sunday 2nd April saw an excellent turnout of Morgans for Russ's Spring Gambol. The order of the day was most definitely "Up Hill and Down Dale" with both driving and navigational challenges through the Yorkshire Dales in beautiful early Spring weather.

Having missed our planned service and MOT in early March due to a bout of COVID, the team at Ledgerwoods squeezed us in to their busy schedule 2 days prior to the Gambol and this was the best way to check 'Mrs Mog' over prior to the Dutch Bulb Fields trip the following week.

All was well with the car, and we enjoyed some classic Morgan driving which included a (unintentional) 1:4 hill descent and climb (in that order!) on a gradient with diagonal drainage channels to negotiate; OK going down, but going up after finding somewhere to turn round, was not pretty. Navigator diagnosed with temporary dyslexia – should have been right not left, Dear!

The Day was rounded off with a proper Sunday Lunch at the Black Sheep Brewery; always a treat. So, thank you to the Masham Morgan Members Management Committee (MMMMC) aka. Russ and Ange, for a great day out.

## DUTCH BULB FIELDS AND MUCH MORE

The long anticipated Scenic Car Tours Dutch Delights mixed marque tour finally set sail on 6<sup>th</sup> April. Those of us sailing from Hull assembled at the Sailmakers pub prior to boarding the Rotterdam bound overnight ferry at 5 o'clock. Of course, being a Morgan 'event', when not driving, socialising is the order of the day/night. YUMMS on a ship works really well, and our outbound get-together set the standard for the rest of the tour; good food, great company and Morgans. Unbeatable.

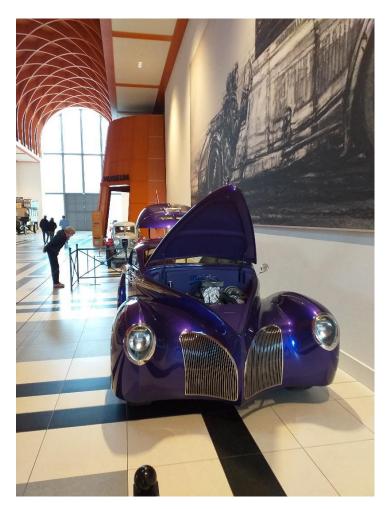


#### Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April

Having disembarked the ferry in Rotterdam, we were (re)familiarised with driving on the right (wrong) side of the road with a pleasant drive to the Louwman Museum on The Hague's LeidseStraatweg. The Louwman Museum is the national automobile museum of the Netherlands and has one of the world's largest and most famous collections of historic automobiles on public display.



The museum is housed in a building with 3 floors and over 10,000 square metres of exhibition space, and was specifically designed as a museum. The entrance hall is modern, focussing more on architecture than on cars, but the collection itself is internationally oriented and consists of over 230 automobiles. The museum has the largest collection of cars in the world from 1910 or older.



A Harley Davidson in the boot? Yes!



Just one Morgan. A JAP powered 3-wheeler



"Bond...James Bond"



## A large hall full of Bugatti's

Connoisseurs consider the collection, assembled by two generations of the Louwman family, as one of the finest in the world. We completely lost track of time but finished in the café for light refreshments, enjoying the Stampe biplane that 'started up' and did a 'flypast' on the hour, every hour.



The pothole free main roads and motorways in Holland ensured another pleasant run to the Fletcher Hotel, Loosdrecht, our hotel for the weekend, and we enjoyed a convivial welcome dinner that evening.



Hotel Marina and Loosdrechtse Plassen

## Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April

We opted for a drive out to Arnhem with Russ and Ange to visit the Airborne Museum and the John Frost Bridge.





During Operation Market Garden in September 1944, 1<sup>st</sup> British and 1<sup>st</sup> Polish Parachute Brigades were parachuted and glider-landed into the area to secure the bridge at Arnhem. Only a small force or the British 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne made it as far as the bridge but was unable to secure both sides, owing to stiff resistance from German Panzer Divisions stationed in the city.

The British force at the bridge eventually ran out of ammunition and were captured. These events were dramatized in the 1977 movie 'A bridge too Far'. The current bridge is the third almost identical bridge built at the same spot, and is named after the commander of the paratroopers, John Frost.



In the days before the internet and satellite communications, homing pigeons carried out long range message carrying duties. This pigeon called 'William of Orange' was not only awarded the Dickin Medal (the animal Victoria Cross) but also had a wood carving made to commemorate his incredible flight from Arnhem to England.



Tea and Tiffin were taken in Arnhem city centre before returning via a scenic run back to the Fletcher Hotel.

## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April

The visit to Keukenhof Gardens was the only pre-booked event on our Easter Weekend in the Netherlands. It was a wonderful day out memorable not only for the gardens themselves, but also for the thousands of other visitors enjoying the Easter Holiday. The very cool spring weather meant that the actual bulb fields around the Keukenhof were not in their full floral bloom, but the Gardens themselves did not disappoint.

Keukenhof, also known as the Garden of Europe, is the world's second largest flower garden following Dubai's Miracle Garden. There are more than 7 million bulbs in bloom in spring, with 800 varieties of tulips in a spacious 32 hectares of inspirational gardens established with winding paths lined with tulips, narcissus, daffodils, hyacinths and bluebells and dotted with lovely greenhouses, brooks and shady ponds.









There was a lot of interest in the Morgan line-up at Keukenhof. A family from Romania and a retired bulb grower were given back copies of Miscellany as souvenirs of their Morgan encounter, and we should have charged for the many photos taken by passers-by!

The scenic run back to the hotel was entertaining. Back country roads (still no pot holes), canal tow paths and canal bridges stuck in the open/up position provided plenty of opportunities to compete with cyclists and traffic calming obstructions for right of way!

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April

## ROYAL 2653 DELFT

KONINKLIJKE PORCELEYNE FLES



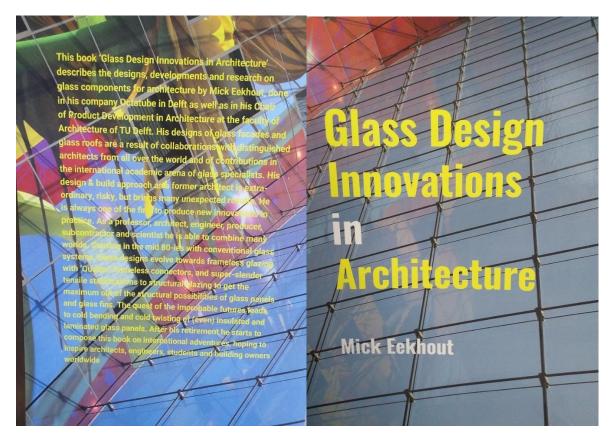
**Royal Delft** 

Our final day combined the run back to Rotterdam Europort with a visit to the Royal Delft earthenware factory in Delft. Delft Blue started in the Netherlands around the 17<sup>th</sup> century when the Dutch East India Company brought the blue painted porcelain back from China, providing inspiration for the Dutch ceramists.

Not only does the factory produce the trademark earthenware illustrated above, but also large wall tiles and architectural features such as archways and doorways. Of course, prices match the quality and size of the beautifully crafted and decorated porcelain; a 6-foot tulip display stand was priced at over £15000, but souvenir pieces from the shop, such as a cup and saucer, sold for around £25.



Parking around the factory was free but limited, and after 2 circuits around the 'block' we were invited to park immediately opposite the Delft factory in the Octatube factory staff car park. The factory owner who allowed us on to his 'lot' introduced himself as Professor Doctor Mick Eekhout, retired professor of product development at the University of Delft. He and his family live in the residential street behind the factories, and his 2 young granddaughters were treated to a Morgan 'tour' and allowed to sit in our British Classics. Of course, Mick was presented with a free back-copy of Miscellany, and showed us around his factory that produced large glass structures installed around the world, including Tottenham Hotspur football stadium.



**Amazing Technology** 



Our final day in the Netherlands finished back at the Europort in pouring rain at the front of the ferry queue prior to boarding, bringing our Dutch tour to a memorable end.

## **GRANGEFIELD MOT & SERVICE CENTRE**



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## THE YORKSHIRE 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

Yorkshire Centre of the Morgan Sports Car Club celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Burn Hall near York, during the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup> April to coincide with "Drive it Day"

Saturday evening was a black tie gala dinner where guests were encouraged to include a hint or more of gold in their outfits and we were pleased to welcome Nick Wilson, Chief of Staff at Morgan as our guest speaker.



Yorkshire Centre has had a total of 12 centre secretaries since its formation and we were delighted to welcome 8 of them to our celebrations including 3 founder members of the centre. (How young they must have been!)

Pictured form left to right are Neil Edwards, David Bright, Jeremy Wilson, Mike Pullen, Maurice Denton, Russ Sayers, Simon Broadbent & John Forrest with Jan Lawson Centre treasurer, regalia officer and event organiser.

### **Birds of Prey**



The Birds of Prey Centre at Burn Hall provided an informative and entertaining event prior to the Gala Dinner that evening. In addition to getting hands-on with many of the beautiful birds, the fine, cool weather enabled an avian flying display.





This is Morgan aka Mogchick

Over £300 was donated to the Centre in appreciation of this memorable experience with the birds. The latest new arrival at the Centre has been named Morgan in appreciation of the Morganeers generosity.

#### 50th display boards at the Gala Dinner

By Keith and Carol Hodgson

It was back late 2012 when I had the idea to collate the history of the Yorkshire Centre for the 40th anniversary in 2013.

I contacted Maurice Denton and Mike Pullen who were very enthusiastic about the project.

So, after many discussions, emails, phone calls, odd get together we pieced together the initial forming of the centre and the early history.

In the following months I gathered articles, photos, memories and contributions from so many people past and present, too many to mention here.

The history booklet contained write ups of the early days of the club, events, trips abroad, Morgan motor sport, trophies, noggins, officers and spotlight on a few people and cars.

Maybe the booklet could be downloaded to the website at some point.

Due to the volume of photos passed on to me I also thought it would be nice to produce a pictorial history of the Yorkshire Centre so I began to put together the display boards showing photographs of events, cars and people.

I suggested to Jan that it would be nice to dust them off and display again at our 50th celebrations at Huby so she kindly made a few additions and updates. Also, we had files of old scenic runs and copies of old newsletters.

It's fair to say they gave us a few laughs, started conversations even debates, got people reminiscing and brought back a lot of fond memories.

To end I would like to quote the Ambassador to the Netherlands Sir Colin Budd (2001-05) who said to us on our 2001 Holland trip "Morgan people typify all that is great about being British".







#### DRIVE IT DAY

**By Ange Sayers** 



#### Morgan Parade at Sledmere

Day 3 of the weekend was also Drive it Day. After a very successful Gala Dinner the night before, following another good breakfast, participants took the route book with the route to get them to Sledmere House, near Driffield, the destination after the scenic drive. The route of 35 miles went through some lovely villages and the spring flowers were still out, the new born lambs were bleating away and the lovely yellow fields of the Rapeseed were particularly in abundance.

Considering it was Drive it Day, Russ and I only saw a Land Rover sporting an impressive Drive it Day plaque, a Morris Oxford, a Morris Thousand and when we got to Sledmere a lot of Porches. A bit disappointing really. Apparently, a few of our members had some angry folk shaking their heads on the run and one even remarked "it's not a race track!".

After the nice run, we arrived at Sledmere House where a couple of the staff was directing our cars into the designated parking area so we could all park up together. At Sledmere House, most folk got to have a bite and drink in the cafe by the house whilst a few of us chose to use the outside catering facilities which were adequate enough for a drink and a snack.

With the weather turning cold, the lovely warm fire in the shop was a welcome place to huddle around and chat to friends for a while. There was also a tiny museum telling the history of the Waggoner's explaining why the estate sent their workers to drive wagons during the First World War. A few members went around the house and gardens too. The weather, although dry was cold but most folks had their hood down. We are hardy Yorkshire folk, don't forget! We had a wander around the shop then got back into our cars, hoods down and enjoyed the return route, a "Russell Run" back to the Hotel. And in Huby, just before we got back to the hotel, we saw an abundance of Triumph Stags parked up. There must have been about 15.

By the time we all got back, the sun had really made an appearance and quite a lot of members were enjoying the afternoon sun. We, Stuart and Jean, Carl and Lisa and Keith and Carol also took advantage of the warmth to enjoy a drink outside before enjoying the last evening of the weekend. At 1930pm we took our seats in the dining room to enjoy a 3-course dinner. This was followed by a riotous quiz that Jan had been given that was actually 25 years old! So, all the answers were pre 1998. Very difficult but enjoyable too. Covert using of Google was used as each table tried to get the answers. After the winner was announced, Jan threw another one in. Who was the couple on the picture boards that were in the 4-seater and who was driving it? And the answer was: Lisa and Carl Aveyard were the Bride and Groom ably driven by Donald Thomas. Another enjoyable evening was enjoyed by the 56 members who stayed on for the last evening of the weekend. Russ and I would like to extend our thanks to Jan for organising a great and memorable few day to celebrate the Centres 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

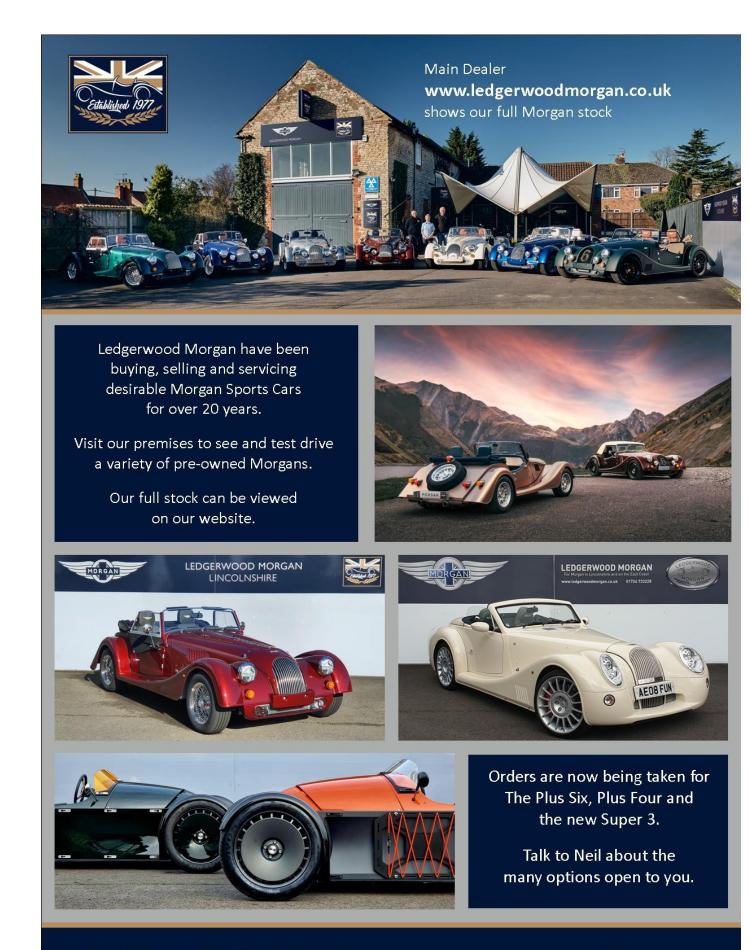


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ASTON WORKSHOP В SPORTS PRESTIGE & CLASSIC

## MSCC Yorkshire 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Edition Regalia

We commissioned a small range of special edition clothing items in black with a 50<sup>th</sup> version of our logo in black and gold.

All 3 are available to order in Men's & Ladies versions and can have additional embroidery such as a name or car registration number if desired.



The detail of the embroidery is as above



## Gilet in windproof laminated fleece @ £33.00 ea



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There is also option of a heavier weight warm fleece with full zip also £28.00 MENS SIZES (CHEST) LADIES

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L	42	L	14	36/38	
XL	44/46	XL	16	38/40	
XXL	48	XXL	18	40/42	
3 XL	50/52	3XL	20	42/44	

NOTE the polo shirt, gilet and heavier fleece are conventional fit, the Microfibre fleece is more fitted so if you prefer a looser fit please order the next size up.

To order please email jan.lawson@jan.lawson@janmail.co.uk stating which item (s) you require, whether Men's or Ladies version and the size. Also, whether you require any additional embroidery as well as the logo.

Items can be collected at events or posted for an additional £3.50 if preferred.

## Coming up in 2023

MAY				
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Wassand Hall Vintage Car Show		
JUNE		-		
	1st – 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jersey International Motoring Festival		
	8 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Club Denmark		
	11 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup>	Llangollen Break		
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Mouse MOG picnic & Gymkhana		
JULY				
0021	30 <sup>th</sup> June – July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	MOGfest at Brooklands		
	$30^{\text{th}}$ June – July $2^{\text{nd}}$	Le Mans Classic		
	6 <sup>th</sup>	Pocklington Gliding Club Evening		
	8 <sup>Th</sup>	Breighton Wings & Wheels		
	13 <sup>th</sup>	YUMMS		
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Scenic Drive and Picnic at Kiplin Hall		
	21 <sup>st</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup>	MAC Shelsey Walsh Classic Nostalgia Event		
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Club stand at Ripon Classic car show		
AUGU		Club stand at hipon classic car show		
AUGU	6 <sup>th</sup>	Pull Pup to Sowerby Hall		
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Bull Run to Sewerby Hall		
	13 <sup></sup> 17 <sup>th</sup>	Polo		
		YUMMS		
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Scenic Drive		
	25 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	Silverstone Classic		
SEPTE				
	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Morgans at Windermere		
	13 <sup>th</sup>	YUMMS		
OCTO	3ER			
	ТВА			
NOVEMBER				
	4 <sup>th</sup>	National Coal Mining Museum		
DECEN				
	8 <sup>th</sup> & 9th	Ravenhall Christmas Party – Theme TBA		

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