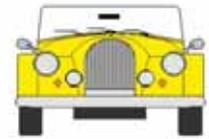




FolkMog News

Issue No. 31 – June 2006



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Welcome to the June edition of FolkMog News, which is mainly given over to a report and photos by Eileen Cook of the trip to Ireland. There is also the usual review of forthcoming events and a look back at what we have all been up to over the past few months.

Recent events

The Treasure Hunt in March was a great success with lots of people searching for clues around the grounds of Somerleyton Hall. The winners were Simon and Rosemary Daunt from Anglemog; I'm not sure if we should force the follow-on, as they say in cricket, and invite them to organise next year's event for FolkMog! Many thanks to Chris & Sally Dady for arranging this year's event. Thanks also to all those who have arranged other gatherings for us over the past few months, and in advance to those whose noggins are still to come.

FolkMog Irish Tour by Eileen Cook

Thursday 18th May dawned a sunny morning in Norfolk as we set out on our journey to Swansea but as we approached Wales the forecast proved correct and the wind and rain gave us some idea of the weather we would have on the overnight crossing to Cork. The seven cars booked on the trip duly arrived at the port terminal and greetings took place, and we agreed a Morgan trip would involve a certain amount of endurance. We sailed at 9pm and there were many ups and downs, creaks and groans during the night and that was just the vessel, for there was a gale force 8 gusting to 9 and only a few lucky folk survived the voyage without feeling queasy! We arrived four hours late into Cork but, in true Morgan spirits everyone soon recovered and enjoyed the first day of driving on Irish roads.

The theme for the tour was for everyone to visit wherever they wished and we would all meet in the evenings. We had to curtail our plans for the first day but some people drove via the Lee Valley to Bantry and the Beara Peninsula and even traversed the Healey Pass, although visibility was poor as rain had set in again later in the day. We arrived at our hotel in Killarney late in the afternoon and soon settled in, joining up in the bar before dinner. This hotel was rather large and we had to negotiate with the staff to accommodate us on one table as there were many large coach parties dominating the dining room. We did eventually get our own table by the third day!



[An Irish Hound making friends with Alan & Diana Biddlecombe](#)

Saturday's forecast was good so it was hoods down and off for a trip around the Ring of Kerry, one of the most scenic routes in Ireland, and it did not disappoint us. We kept meeting at various beauty spots the first one being Kells, which had a jetty in the bay and we persuaded an Australian lady to take a photo of us avoiding the breaking waves. We then took the small ferry across to Valencia Island and stopped for lunch at the Skellig Experience, a visitors'

centre explaining the history of the area. Later some people drove around the Skellig Ring; the Cooks decided to go over the Gap of Dunloe which was quite a challenge with the route not well marked, as the Walkerleys also found out the next day. However, after much second gear driving and many hairpin bends the summit was reached and the gap to descend opened up. On reaching Kate Kearney's Cottage at the end of the descent Maurice was pleased to see the jaunting carts and ponies just as he remembered from his previous visit 45 years ago.



Some of the party on Kells jetty

Sunday's forecast was dire and we awoke to rain as it can only in Ireland. However a trip to a motor museum was organised and a few of us went out to Kilgarvin and eventually found it down a real country lane. The owners, Mr & Mrs Mitchell and Sons, had opened up especially for us and were pleased to show us their collection which had started as a hobby and continued to grow. The many interesting cars included Rolls Royce, Armstrong Siddeley, Adler (a 1935 German car) Ford 10, Morris 8, Rover 14 etc. Mr Mitchell continued to work in a garage and had restored some of the vehicles. He was very Irish and his two sons seemed to be in the business as well. His wife opened the museum and served coffee for us and told the ladies where to shop in the next town, Kenmare.

The afternoon was spent at the local historic grand house in the Killarney National Park, Muckross House, where there were many interesting things to do. A Victorian Mansion, it is one of Ireland's leading stately homes. There are also 3 reconstructed traditional working farms and cottages based on the 1930s. Heather and David toured this area quite late in the afternoon and Heather was invited to milk a cow which, much to the farmer's surprise, she achieved very successfully! They also took a ride in a jaunting car up to Torc Falls, despite the heavy rain.

The next day we moved on to Ballyvaughn and most of us followed the scenic route planned

for that day, which included the Dingle Peninsula where some cars continued past Dingle and found the ruin of a seventh century church which was the highlight of their day. The route also took us over the Connor Pass again with spectacular views. We continued on through Tralee and took a ferry across the Shannon on a windy but sunny day. On arriving at our next hotel we were greeted by a warm fire in the lobby and felt this hotel had better vibes. We all enjoyed a large meal at one table and lots of talk ensued. Later in the bar we were entertained to live Irish music.



On the ferry to Valencia Island

The next day most people visited the local area which covered the Burren National Park which is a limestone paved area with a profusion of wild flowers as well as forts, tombstones and interesting geological features. Several people visited the Cliffs of Moher which rise to a spectacular 700ft and were alive with nesting sea birds. However Maurice likes to drive his car on the open road so off we went out of Munster to the Connemara region north of Galway and drove at some speed around the almost deserted roads. The area was very similar to Sutherland in Scotland with loughs (tarns) around the coastal area rising to the mountains which included 12 peaks. There was also a very good route called the Sky Drive around a peninsula north of Clifden. On returning we found we would be dining in a private room off a landing as, yet again, a large coach party had arrived. However, we were well looked after and had a splendid meal. Simon presented us with a donation from the group who had appreciated our efforts in arranging the tour. We were extremely grateful and pleased that everyone had enjoyed the trip. So many thanks to Simon and Cathlyn Davidson, David and Heather Kennett, Roy and Marion May, Alan and Diana Biddlecombe, Paul and Jan Dunningham and Tony

and Clare Walkerley. In Limerick the next day we endeavoured to spend some of the donation and bought a print called 'The End of the Glen' by James Craig from the National Gallery of Ireland collection.

Then it was time for our return trip and, as the ferry did not leave Cork until 9pm, there was plenty of time to visit more places, some people going the shorter route and stopping in Limerick and Blarney Castle whilst others tried the longer way and enjoyed a scenic drive through the Knockmealdown Mountains. Most people decided to have a meal before boarding the ferry to be on the safe side, but as luck would have it, we had a smooth crossing, arriving back in Swansea by 7am. We soon put the hood down and had a sunny drive back to Norfolk, covering nearly 1,500 miles in the week.



The Author at the wheel;

Forthcoming Events

The noggin on August 8th at Badingham is being arranged by Ian & Dilys. Your meals need to be ordered in advance for this evening, please ring Ian or Dilys on 01449 612157.

STOP PRESS

FolkMog Silver Anniversary

The first ever meeting of the MSCC Eastern Counties Centre (now usually simply known as 'FolkMog') was held on Sunday 9th May 1982. In order to commemorate this auspicious occasion we shall be having a special 25th Anniversary weekend next year. Our intentions are that on Saturday 5th May there will be a dinner/dance at The George, Swaffham with overnight accommodation available, followed by a scenic run to a pub for lunch on the Sunday morning. (This weekend is particularly convenient as the early Spring May Day holiday is on Monday 7th which allows a long weekend to be available). So, please mark up your 2007 planner now to avoid any later disappointment!

One of the major FolkMog events of the year - the 2006 Gymkhana, will be held in the grounds of Ian Charity and Dilys Lloyd's home at Combs, near Stowmarket, on Sunday 13th August. As has been the pattern over the past few years it will be a non-serious fun event when everyone is encouraged to have a go at 5 gentle driving tests around the garden which includes the natural hazards of fruit trees, telegraph pole, pylon and a pond disposed all on nicely graded grass! We shall have the tests in the morning starting at 11.30 on the dot followed by a picnic/BBQ lunch before results are announced and prizes awarded. So do please make every effort to come along and share in the fun!

Chris Dady has been trying to finalise details for the track day at Snetterton but so far the organisers, Gold Track, have not been very forthcoming. We have a definite date, Wednesday 18th October, and hope that arrangements will be similar to last year. The cost then, but anticipate an increase, was £130 per car for 2½ hours track time with no additional cost for passengers or extra drivers. When further information is available I will mail/e-mail everyone the details.

Mog 2006

And finally, another reminder that Mog 2006 at Mallory Park is on 28th – 30th July. Events start on Friday evening with a Trad. Jazz band and buffet supper at the Hinckley Island Hotel. On Saturday join in or watch the Track Day, Gymkhana, Concours, and Innovations competitions or, if you prefer drive one of the scenic runs which have been planned. In the evening there is a dinner dance, again at the Hinckley Island Hotel. On Sunday watch the racing at the Peter Morgan Memorial meeting or cruise the trade stands and display celebrating 70 years of the 4-wheeled Morgan. More details can be found in Miscellany.

Forthcoming Events

July

Sunday 2nd July – from 11.30 am. Lunch at The Meare Shop, Thorpeness followed by trips on the Meare by those who feel so inclined.

OS sheet 156, ref. 471595

Tuesday 11th July – from 7.00 pm. Evening noggin at the George & Dragon, Newton by Castle Acre. 3 miles North of Swaffham on the A1065

OS sheet 132, ref. 831098

Friday 28th – Sunday 30th July. Mog 2006 at Mallory Park.

August

Tuesday 8th August – from 7.00 pm. Evening noggin at the White Horse, Badingham. On the A1120 2 miles NE of Dennington.

OS sheet 156, ref. 307675

Sunday 13th August. FolkMog Gymkhana and BBQ. Arrive from 10.30 am. in time for the tests that will start promptly at 11.30. Ian & Dilys live at 'Riclea' on a private extension to Church Road, Combs, about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile South of Stowmarket Telephone no. 01449 612157. See main text for further details.

OS sheet 155, ref 050567.

September

Tuesday 12th September – from 7.00 pm. Evening noggin at the King's Arms, Reepham.

OD sheet 133, ref. 104229

Friday 22nd – Monday 25th September. North Yorkshire Dales Weekend. Three nights B&B at the Charles Bathurst Inn, Arkengarth, near Reeth.

October

Wednesday 18th October. FolkMog track day at Snetterton.

Further details of some of these events are to be found in the main text. Otherwise keep an eye on FolkMog entry in Miscellany for more information.

Plenty to keep us all occupied again this summer. I hope to see you at one or two events.

Roger

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