

Beaches, Castles and Gardens.... A Week in Pembrokeshire with DevaMog Friends.

There should have been 10 Morgans, newly polished for the occasion, lined up outside the hotel. Sadly 2 CX models were missing, replaced by “tintops” which had parked a little distance away in order “not to spoil the line” - very considerate of you Dave and Paul!

Our home for the week was the Elm Grove Country House Hotel in the little village of St Florence near Tenby. Our hosts, Jane and Alan were extremely welcoming and obviously used to car enthusiasts staying, a bucket of water and cloths always to hand. Jane cooked the delicious 3 course evening meals and Alan was a very attentive “mine host”, manning the bar for pre and post dinner (and any other time) drinks.



The agenda for the week was very flexible with people free to pursue their own interests and only a scenic drive on the Sunday and some evening meals organised for the whole group. However, it was uncanny that despite not arranging things as such we'd turn up somewhere only to find Morgans already there or arriving shortly after. That was the case on our first morning when fortified by a hearty breakfast we decided on a walk from Lawrenny Quay and found that a few others had the same idea. So it was as a group we enjoyed the circular walk that took us through woodland, along the estuary coast and back via fields where a “Wellness Festival” was taking place. Fortunately our appointed group photographer, AKA Joe, resisted the urge to capture the yoga session in action! After coffee and cake at the cafe some of us moved on to the nearby Upton Castle Gardens for the afternoon.

The gardens are a fascinating mix of arboretum with rare trees, formal areas, walled kitchen garden, wildflower meadow and wild woodland. Tucked away within is an atmospheric 12th Century chapel. Tour completed we moved on to another castle at Carew. By this time we'd missed lunch and it was too late to visit the castle but we did manage to get tea and toasted teacakes before the cafe closed!

The next day, was a group scenic drive planned and led by Emyr and Janet from TaffMog. They took us on a delightful route encompassing quiet lanes, small villages and spectacular coastal views. A coffee stop at the beautiful Cenarth Falls before heading on to lunch at the Cliff Hotel in Gwbert overlooking Cardigan Bay. There we enjoyed the Sunday carvery with an amazing view of the bay. The return journey involved another incredibly scenic drive over the Preseli mountain, a single track road with stunning views and fortunately very little traffic coming the other way. Over 100 miles covered, thank you Emyr and Janet for a fantastic day.



The following days went by far too quickly and we were spoilt for choice with so many interesting and varied places to visit. The weather was perfect for Morgan touring being dry, warm and sunny. Several members of the group took the ferry from Tenby to Caldey Island and enjoyed time exploring there. Others toured Pembroke and Picton Castle or ventured further afield to St Davids. Walks along the coast path, woodlands and gardens were also very popular. We visited more impressive gardens including the National Botanic Garden of Wales, Colby Woodland Garden and Aberglasney Gardens, which was probably our favourite. It was just the right time of year for the rose garden to be in full bloom along with the herbaceous borders. There was also a walled kitchen garden and woodland walks. Such a pity there wasn't room in the car to indulge in the plants they had for sale.



One afternoon we joined some of the group for a wine experience at the Jabajak vineyard owned by Les's niece. We had a very entertaining talk and tasting instruction, followed by a tour of the vineyard. The non drivers probably enjoyed it more as we could take more than a sip.



As well as enjoying meals at the hotel, one evening we all met up in the seaside village of Saundersfoot for a gourmet event - fish and chips always taste better whilst sitting on a bench fending off seagulls.

On our last evening we dined again at the hotel and were surprised and delighted to be given a parting gift by our host, Alan. Whilst we'd all been out exploring during the week he had been busy painting and presented each couple with a picture of their car.

Friday and time to leave. After breakfast, thank yous and goodbyes we set off, deciding to head home to South Shropshire via a scenic coastal route. We stopped in Aberaeron, parked on the seafront and there was another Morgan. Jane and Gwyn must have thought we were stalking them as we ended up choosing the same café

for coffee and heading back to the car park at the same time. We then continued along the coast to Aberystwyth before heading inland and home.



We had a fabulous week, glorious weather, wonderful company and our general knowledge greatly enriched - now thanks to Neil and June we understand the significance and international importance of Dobby's grave and why you can't buy turkey eggs!