



## Meet the Members

**You've probably seen Tony and Jane Willis at some of the Hopmog or BHM events, especially as they enjoy car shows, but you may not know much about them.**



**Tony was originally from Hounslow and Jane from Sutton. They've lived in Wallington since 1976 but are planning to move soon provided their buyer doesn't pull out at the last minute.**

**Tony was a heating engineer and was working on an installation at Queen Mary's Hospital, he went for a sandwich and a cup of tea in the League of Friends café and saw a sign saying that they were looking for volunteers, so he signed up. One of the events the League of Friends had organised was a barn dance, it was there that he met Jane, and the rest is history as they say. A career in industrial heating and then combustion engineering with 25 years on large powerplants meant that Tony travelled all over the world. During one job in Turkey an earthquake happened which meant that all lines of communication with the outside world were out of action, leaving Jane and two young sons at home worried about his safety. It took Tony and a Turkish colleague a week to get from Istanbul to Ankara airport, sleeping under cars and rescuing people on the way.**

**Jane had planned to become a teacher but after she'd met Tony earning enough money to get married became a priority, so she didn't go to college. After some time as a stay-at-home Mum, she did later become an NHS Nursery Nurse and then a Teaching Assistant for kids with special needs, so she has spent many years looking after young people. However, Jane said that if she had her time over again, she'd be an HGV truck driver. She loves trucks and once had a truck driving experience, a gift from their son James, when she drove a double level car transporter.**



The double level car transporter that Jane drove.



Jane behind the wheel of the car transporter

Tony and Jane had two sons, they tragically lost Ben when he was 20, he would have been 39 now. James is 36 and in the process of buying his first flat. Both Tony and Jane were keen motorcyclists, originally because they couldn't afford a car and they both have current bike licenses. Their last two wheeled transport was a Moto Guzzi, like the bikes featured in the CHiPs TV series about the California Highway Patrol.

Back in 2014, they thought about buying an Austin 7, primarily because it was small enough to fit in the garage but decided against it as Tony thought he was likely to spend more time fixing it than driving it. In the early 1970s Mann Egerton, a local garage, had a nice white Plus 8 but that slipped by them, but had planted the seed.

Jane had bought Tony tickets to Brooklands where they saw a Brown and Cream Morgan which they really liked, the owner told them to talk to Sarah, the nice lady at BHM. They were going to buy a brand new car but found the

process of specifying all of the details rather daunting, they then saw an advert later in 2014 for a 2001 4/4 that ticked all of their boxes, the only problem was that it was for sale at Perranwell's in Cornwall which was a long way to go to look at a car. A couple of months later they were on holiday in Cornwall and as luck would have it the car was still for sale, so they went to check it out. The deal was done, and Tony and James got the train down to Cornwall to pick it up, the journey home along the A303 soon became their first experience of putting up the hood in the rain, a fast-learning process as in their excitement they hadn't thought to ask how to do it before leaving Perranwell's.

They later bought a new 2023 CX chassis Plus 4 which of course has an easy up hood amongst other features.



Tony and Jane's current and first Morgan.

Tony and Jane have had three powerboats which they describe as being rather like riding a motorbike off road. Tony did a bit of water skiing, but they eventually gave up the boats as they were only using them a couple of times a year.

Tony had studied classical guitar but hasn't played in quite some time, but the musical gene passed on to their sons. James, who is an accomplished musician, plays many instruments but in particular, piano and ukulele.

Jane, confesses to being tone deaf but enjoys listening to music. Tony's main hobby is woodworking, and he has a large, very well-equipped workshop.

They haven't had much opportunity for long distance travel in their Morgan as they have, until recently, been caring for elderly parents, but they hope to fulfil those dreams in the future. They are however regular attendees at MOGFESTs and other Hopmog/Morgan events.

Like many people they started off saying that they were boring and nobody would be interested in them, but I think you'll agree that their stories are anything but boring.

