

# MORGAN STATUE FOUNDATION

UK REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1123923

HONORARY PATRONS:

SIR STIRLING MOSS OBE JOHN SURTEES OBE CHARLES MORGAN

## **CLOSURE OF MORGAN STATUE FOUNDATION**

On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014 the Trustees decided to close the Morgan Statue Foundation (MSF), as only £133,723 had been raised against the cost of the statue, which had risen from £274,450 in 2007 to an estimated £386,220. The increase was due to a substantial increase in the price of the raw materials required.

### **Background**

The idea of a Morgan Statue was initiated at the United States National Morgan Owners meeting in July 2004. Due to his success raising funds for the stained glass window at the Stoke Lacy Church, Roger Moran was asked to lead the fundraising.

Morgan Clubs around the world were contacted in addition to Malvern Town and District Hills District Councils, as Malvern was considered the obvious site for the statue. Because of their support the Morgan Statue Foundation was formed in June 2007 with Roger Moran (Chairman), Brigadier Michael Selby (Malvern Town Council) and Brian Iles (Malvern Museum of Local History) as Trustees. Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, Sir Stirling Moss OBE and John Surtees CBE were delighted to be nominated Honorary Patrons, later joined by Charles Morgan.

The Charity Commission granted the MSF charity status in April 2008.

### **Morgan Statue and sculptor**

Leslie Johnson FRBS, considered by many to be the UK's finest contemporary figurative sculptor, was delighted to be nominated as the sculptor. It was agreed that the bronze statue would be life size, showing founder H.F.S. Morgan standing alongside a 1958 Morgan 4/4 handing the keys to his son Peter 'sitting at the wheel', the same year he handed his son control of the company. The statue was named 'Handing Over'.

In May 2007, Malvern Hills District Council granted planning permission for the statue to be placed outside the Malvern Priory Gatehouse, by a unanimous vote.

### **Cost and Funding**

In December 2004 Roger Moran contacted Arts Council England and was informed that, due to Morgan's historic significance in the UK's motor industry, the project would most likely attract a maximum grant of 80%.

Other equivalent size statues cost at least double that of the Morgan Statue as they employ professionals, including lawyers, accountants. The Foundation's Trustees are not remunerated.

However, after July 2005 London was awarded the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the priority for National Lottery funding became the London Games at the

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expense of charities. Unfortunately, in April 2013, when the Foundation had raised significant funds to apply for an Arts Council England grant of £100,000 they were informed that the Arts Council 'did not give grants to statues'.

Despite the enthusiasm and generosity of many donors worldwide, the target facing the Trustees, combined with the estimated increase in cost of the statue, resulted in the decision in 2014 to close the MSF.

## Closure

As a charity, it has been imperative that the Trustees worked closely with the Charity Commission and strictly follow their closure rules and regulations. After the initial notice of closure to clubs and organisations worldwide and in the national press, all identifiable contributors were offered reimbursement, with a six-month deadline to respond. This deadline was extended by a further six months. Those who responded and wished reimbursement, were repaid.

Due to the original aim and objectives of the MSF being very specific, the Trustees experienced much difficulty agreeing a Supplemental Deed with the Charity Commission, to enable the net remaining assets to be disposed of. The Charity Commission insisted that any charities must have similar objectives to those of the MSF, namely, the promotion of art, including motoring art. Agreement was finally reached in July 2016.

Consequently, the Trustees decided to donate the net remaining funds of £55,294.35 to the following charities:

British Motor Industry Heritage Trust's, Gaydon	£22,117.74	(40%)
National Motor Museum Trust, Beaulieu	£22,117.74	(40%)
Malvern Museum of Local History, Malvern	<u>£11,058.87</u>	<u>(20%)</u>

The only item of property owned by the Foundation at the time of closure was the bronze 1/5<sup>th</sup> scale statuette. This was donated to the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust, Gaydon, where it is now on prominent display.

Disappointingly, the Trustees were not allowed to donate funds or the statuette to the Morgan Museum at the Morgan Motor Company, as it is not a UK Registered Charity.

## Conclusion

The Trustees, who, for many years have worked extremely hard, sincerely thank everyone who assisted the Foundation, physically or financially, to try and make the statue become a reality.

Trustees  
Morgan Statue Foundation  
19<sup>th</sup> November 2016

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