



NWMMOC NEWSLETTER

August 2026

Photos from the Archive.

Words & photos: Steve Chater

I bought my Morris in 1967 when it was 18 months old with 15,000 recorded miles. It has now completed 250,000 miles.



This photo was taken at the Morris Minor National Rally held at Weston Park in 1986. The first rally I attended after I had completed my 2 door's rebuild. The gentleman is my dad and the little boy is Paul our son who is now 49 years old.

This photo is the same car pictured outside of the house I lived in with my Mum and Dad in Brockham Surrey, before Georgie and I were married. The photo was taken on a visit in 1990. The Ford Escort behind was Georgie's Mum's car.



Sun Inn Gathering: Wednesday, 8th July.

Photo: Bill Reed



These meets are on the first Wednesday of the month but in July it was postponed until Wednesday, 8th.

Looks to have been an interesting selection of cars including several Morris Minors.

Anyone for croquet? Basic instruction, a friendly game or two then tea and cake!

We are invited to Swindon Croquet Club for 2 hours of fun and relaxation Wednesday, 19th August 2-4pm.

Swindon Croquet Club are based at The Hub, Cheney Manor, Swindon. There are refreshments, toilets and parking. All equipment provided. Wear comfortable clothes and flat shoes.

This is proving very popular, contact me asap if you wish to take part.

This is always a good event, please contact me as soon as possible to take part. Cost £6 per person. pamlynnholmes@icloud.com

Morris Minor Owners Club 50th Anniversary Rally at Eastwood Hall Nottinghamshire.

Words & photos: Peter and Liz Watts

On Friday 3rd July we set off for Nottingham with the temperature knocking on 30 degrees and with a prayer that it wouldn't get any hotter. The traffic was quite heavy on the Fosse Way with slow queuing at Stow and Moreton, but "Belle" showed no sign of overheating so, with relief, we pushed on via the M1 to our hotel in North Nottingham where we were to stay the two nights.

The rally site was an easy 15-minute drive from the hotel so, after a meal and refreshment, we set off for Eastwood Hall to register for the weekend. It was surprising how many cars were already there for the Friday welcoming meeting and the adjoining camping site was already buzzing with groups of people outside the camper vans and tents socialising.

Saturday morning, after a good breakfast to keep us sustained for the day, we set off again to the rally site, arriving around 11.00 to find the rally field for individual cars almost full. Having parked we went on a stroll around the site as, being the only North Wilts car, we were looking for people we knew to chat and catch up with.

Luckily, there was a fair contingent from North and Southern Ireland who we knew well. The weather stayed dry but cloudy and not the heat that we hear the south had been experiencing.



There were plenty of events taking place throughout the day in the main arena. The Leeds Branch showcased their 15 years as a club.

Sunday morning, after breakfast and checking out from the hotel and with the sky very overcast and looking as if it could rain, we motored up to the rally site. Again, plenty to see in the parade ring including the Pride of Ownership Parade for the Peter James Insurance Trophy and the final challenge of the blindfolded driver competition.

We departed mid afternoon making the homeward journey half an hour quicker than going.



In all we had a very good weekend. The pictures show the “Clubs” show areas and Liz relaxing with “Belle” proudly flying the North Wilts. flag.

Cotswold Airport Open Weekend, July

Photo & words: Clive Frost

The Cotswolds Airport Open Weekend took place on the 4th - 5th July at Kemble, Clive and Anna registered as exhibitors at no cost and went along on the 5th in their Traveller, Penny.

There were various exhibitors, covering a range of subjects, including the Oxford Bus Museum, the Buccaneer restoration team, Alpine Formula 1 and the Gloucestershire Regiment historical group. There were a few aircraft doing displays and a Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, Spitfire flyby. There were a few other classic cars, but capacity for a lot more.

This was the inaugural open weekend with the potential to become an annual event and worth considering for a branch event.



“What is your opinion about making this a Branch event in 2027please email.

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pamlynnholmes@icloud.com

Tour of Marlborough Open Studios: 26th July

Words: Peter Williams Photos: Bill Reed, Clive Frost, Pam Holmes

Some rare overnight rain cleared away to leave a thankfully fresher day as we gathered at Three Trees Cafe at Chiseldon 8 cars and 14 of us then pursued a tour around 3 venues and 7 local artists covering sculpture, graphic design, painting and drawing techniques.



First stop was near Wroughton by the old RAF Hospital where we were greeted by Kim and her immaculate garden and we spent a good 25 minutes admiring the varied work of 3 artists.

The journey to the second studio was the longest sector of all, taking around 30 minutes. Initially flat, back roads took us through Ogbourne St. George and then we hit the hills as we approached Ramsbury, eventually arriving in 2 separate cohorts due to technical issues mid-convoy.

Anne and her partner hosted us for 20 minutes and then we headed over to Froxfield via a particularly steep hill out of the Kennet valley.



Photo below: a small mechanical problem was addressed along the route.

Photo above: displays of millinery and pottery at the 3rd venue.

Fortunately the chosen route brought us right to the door of the third studio where Normandy and two other artists hosted us in a well-appointed venue with a very inviting swimming pool containing a large floating unicorn! Another 20 minutes here went quickly





and it was time to head to Aldbourne for lunch at the Post Office Cafe, where the food was served quickly and the staff were very attentive.

With the sunny weather we were all able to sit together outside and reflect on the morning's tour.

The event appeared to have been a success and will hopefully be repeated next year!'

Below a selection of photos taken along the route showing the beautiful surroundings and scenery.





"Many thanks to Peter Williams for a superb event: feedback suggests members would like to do this again, visiting other studios."
Pam Holmes.



Gilks' Garage Café in Kineton

Words and Photos: Bill Reed



On Wednesday 22 July Alex, Steve and I had a drive up the Fosse Way for brunch at Gilks' Garage Café in Kineton.

It is run by the fifth generation of the Gilks family and we had a very friendly welcome from Keith and Katherine, in the photograph.

The café has history and memorabilia from the time when the garage was a Rootes dealership, the atmosphere was warm and relaxed, with other classics and bikes making an appearance.





Keith would be pleased to host a branch visit and it looked as if a dozen or so members could be accommodated with prior notice.

A weekday might be best as Stow-on-the-Wold and Moreton-in-Marsh, which are on the route, can get congested at weekends.

Distance about 60 miles from

Swindon. A good stopping place on the way would be the Old Prison at Northleach.

Gilks' is also a convenient stop on the way up to the British Motor Museum at Gaydon, being just a few miles off the Fosse Way. It's also very near the stately home Compton Verney <https://www.comptonverney.org.uk> which hosts major art exhibitions.

Any members who might be interested in a visit, please contact Bill, Steve or Alex.

More information here: <https://gilksgaragecafe.com>



Dates for your diary

Shrivenham Fete Saturday, 29th August

A fun event with Classic cars, shopping, refreshments, entertainment and much more.

We have been before, as a Branch and everyone has been full of praise for this event.

I believe there is a church tower to climb for good views!

This year there is a requirement to book a place, we have an allocation. If you would like to take part then please contact me as a matter of urgency. pamlynnholmes@icloud.com

Shalbourne Show: Sunday, 30th August.

The success of this Show in 2025, when over 450 classic cars attended, has led to it being a requirement this year for each driver/ car to book in advance. The link for booking is on the North Wilts MMOC Branch website. Any problems in obtaining and returning the booking form then please contact Pam Holmes 01285 810524 pamlynnholmes@icloud.com

Once you have booked for the Shalbourne Car Show, please advise Bill Reed who is co-ordinating this event and arranging for us to drive "in convoy" to the Show to enable us to be parked as a group. bill@euclidvillas.co.uk

A personal invitation to enter your vehicle at: Oakridge Show: Saturday, 5th September.

This traditional Village Show is held at the Pleasure Field, next to the Oakridge Village Hall (GL6 7NZ), between Cirencester and Stroud. This year is the 80th anniversary of the original Oakridge Flower Show and will include stalls, sideshows, hot food, bar and beverages, music and dancing entertainment. Inside the hall there will be a display of craftwork, fruit, vegetables and flowers entered in the friendly competition by local residents. Toilets in hall foyer.

As in previous years, there should be a growing and attractive display of pre-war and classic cars, motorcycles and possibly some tractors and commercial vehicles.

Entry is free. Arrival by noon at the latest, with the expectation that vehicles are displayed until 4pm.

Entry forms are on the North Wilts Branch website or available from Pam Holmes. 01285 810524. Please let me know if you plan to attend. pamlynnholmes@icloud.com.

Brinkworth Show: Sunday, 6th September.

Please let me know if you plan to attend this show, then we can reserve a space sufficiently large for the North Wilts cars to be parked in a group.

It would be good to support this local village show.
pamlynnholmes@icloud.com

AGM as part of a social event: Sunday, 18th October at Castle Eaton Village Hall.

North Wilts Branch are fortunate in consistently having had sufficient volunteers to form an active committee enabling and promoting an extensive programme of events each year. To sustain the committee and Branch, we need to draw in new committee members. If you would be interested in joining the Branch Committee then please talk to me, Pam, or any of the other committee members. We meet every 6-8 weeks for a “meeting to discuss and plan the business of the Branch”. The meetings are relaxed but purposeful and new members would be welcomed.

The AGM will take about 30 minutes; this will include voting in a committee for 2026-7, hearing an update on the Branch finances and a brief presentation from the chairperson about the last year and time for ideas and feedback from Branch members.

The afternoon will be a programme of social events with refreshments. Watch this space!

Hopefully one part of the afternoon will be a presentation by a member of the Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance, which we support as our Branch Charity.

Your ideas and contributions are vital to sustain the Branch, so please put this date in your diary. Times will be around 12-4pm.

Also, please can you pass to me or any other committee members, ideas for events over the winter months.

New ideas are particularly welcome but please let us know which of these “old events” you would like to see, or not have, on the programme again:

- Quiz - Games evening or afternoon.
- Speaker - what sort of topics.
- Presentations about “my Morris and the work done on it”
- Visits to places of interest: ideas for venues!
- Breakfast meet. - Pub lunch

North Wilts MMOC Branch Committee

Words: Pam Holmes

Your committee meets every 6 weeks to consider and discuss all those matters that affect the Branch and its members!

We share information about events relevant to Branch members Morris Minors and classic car related interests, approve necessary expenditure, monitor the accounts, ensure the equipment owned by the Branch is kept in good order and liaise with the Morris Minor Owners Club.

The most time consuming responsibility of the Branch committee is to plan and deliver a regular programme of events which are promoted through this Branch Newsletter and the Branch website.

A significant amount of time recently has been given to planning the Branch Rally on Saturday 1st August at the South Cerney Show. Soon we shall be focusing on planning the AGM and we are already thinking about the “December Branch Event” for which your suggestions would be appreciated: please give us your thoughts!

Finally, I would like to pass on thanks to those Branch members who are not committee members but who have taken the lead, or made a significant contribution to organising events for the Branch: Bill Reed, Ashley Alexander and Peter Williams.

Final note of thanks for your contributions to this newsletter to:

Steve Chater

Clive Frost

Ash Holmes

Bill Reed

Pete and Liz Watts

Peter Williams