



# NWMMOC NEWSLETTER

## October 2025

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### Shrivenham Fete, Saturday, 23rd August

Words and photos: Bill Reed.

As a Branch we have attended Shrivenham Fete many times but in my experience this was the biggest yet.



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*Steve and Shirley in "TMC" and Ashley and Sue in "RHY" arrive at Shrivenham.*





Our Branch cars and the Swindon Classic Car Club made up the bulk of the Classics display and some of us were parked under the line of trees which gave welcome shade.

There was a big area of stalls with crafts and food and drink outlets. Lots for children to do, with races in the arena, plus the “Bang to Rites” drummers, dog show, fancy dress, and Punch and Judy. I enjoyed the Highworth Silver Band and the excellent acrobatic display by The Black Eagles.



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*John Dunn's convertible "DAP" is very smart!*



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*A wide selection of classic and vintage cars: North Wilts banner and cars in background!*



Martin and I took the opportunity to go up the church tower - a spiral staircase to the ringing chamber (above which are ten bells) and then three ladders to the roof where you get a fantastic view out to the Uffington White Horse and the Ridgeway, and to Swindon on the other side.



*View from the church tower looking over the Shrivenham Fete.*

## **Shallbourne Show, 24th August 2025.**

**Words: Pam Holmes. Photos: Bill Reed, Ash & Pam Holmes**



Pre-war classics at the Show.







Shallbourne Show had grown this year from 300 classic vehicles in 2024 to 400 on display, this year.



There were a significant number of Morris Minors: different models in varying conditions and colours. Several North Wilts. Branch cars were visible, mostly Morris Minors but also Bill Reeds Triumph.













## Penny at Purton

**Words & photo: Clive Frost**

As many in the club will know, Charlie plays cricket for the Purton team, which does present a challenge with fitting in the cricket games around the club events. As well as the division 2 U15s games most Sundays, there's also T20 games during the week plus Charlie also plays for the adults 3rd team occasionally on Saturdays so a busy schedule.

We do take the opportunity to give Penny a run out whenever possible and she always stands out amongst the other cars.



Here's a photo of Penny at Purton for a local game against Cricklade, with Purton fielding.



## North Wilts Branch AGM 2025 and GHR 800N

**Words & photos: Bill Reed**

In the Branch 40th Anniversary Album I compiled in 2021, you will find on pages 8 and 9 a brief account of the Morris Minor built to order for Mr Law in Swindon in 1974, after factory production had ended.



One of our members, Robert Harrin, wrote an article about it in Minor Matters in May/June 2016; the car itself appeared at our Branch Rally at REME in 2022; and in May/June 2023 I contributed an article to Minor Matters on its





connection with Bampton's Coachbuilders in Swindon. Other accounts have appeared in various publications.

The car is now owned by Andy Smith in Derbyshire and a few months ago he was contacted by Denise Law, the granddaughter of the car's first owner. She had just discovered that the car still existed; and until then neither Andy nor I knew of her, or the whereabouts of her father Rod, who negotiated the build of the car for his father.

As a result Denise has kindly offered to bring Rod down to see us at our AGM on 19 October. This will be an opportunity for Branch members to chat to them and maybe learn something more about the car's early life and its exploits, including the extraordinary 1982 "car pull" from Swindon to Oxford in aid of Cancer Research, in which our own current member Robin Phillips took part.

Do come along to our AGM, both to support the Branch for the coming year and to hear more about this unusual story.

Copies of the 40th Anniversary Album are still available.

## **Milletts Farm Shop and Garden Centre near Standlake**

Words & photo: Pam Holmes

Every Thursday morning there is a gathering of classic cars at the Milletts Farm Shop and garden centre near Standlake from about 9.30- 11.30am.



On 4th September it was a damp and cool day, which possibly accounted for the low turn out of cars but we bumped into Martin Howard with Jim and his white saloon.



## Oakridge Show, Saturday, 6th September

Words: Pam Holmes Photos: John Dunn

North Wiltshire MMOC Branch members were out in the sunshine for this tradition village show with stalls, fish & chips, afternoon teas, ice cream, dog agility, a tug of war, raffle, fruit and vegetables, cakes and lots of classic cars. Apparently this year there was a total of 70 classic cars, which for a small village Show is quite an achievement! Ten of the cars were from our Branch.



Morris Dancers performed at regular intervals throughout the afternoon and then came for a photo shoot with the Morris cars!



# **Converting to an electric power unit for the steering of my Morris Minor.**

## **Words & photos: Martin Howard**

I had for some time thought about making the steering of my car easier to use at low speed when parking etc. Having some time ago fitted van wheels with modern tyres it had become much more difficult.

On talking to Alex Alexander about this, he mentioned that Bill Reed and himself had fitted, a few years ago, electric power steering to their cars and had never regretted it. This renewed my interest in thinking this may be the solution to my problem.

Bill gave me a copy of the article he had written in 2018 and had been published in a car magazine, explaining how Easysteer in Bolton had fitted the system in his Triumph and Alex's Morris Minor. On my contacting this company they explained that they would need me to take my car to them to provide a quote to manufacture and fit a system.

As I wished to install the unit myself, I decided to search the internet and came across another company called EZ Electric Power Steering in Leerdam Holland, who have produced a conversion kit for the Morris Minor which I could install. This suited me fine as I had carried out all the modifications to my car. Also they had one in stock at a price a lot cheaper than other companies in the UK selling the same system.

I agreed to place an order and made the payment. Two days later I received a notification from the delivery company in the UK to say they would be delivering the package that day. An amazing service!

The kit included the steering column with electric motor, the control box and the wiring loom, all ready to fit. All I had to do was undo the small bolt at the bottom of the column under the carpet and the two bolts to the clamp at the wheel end, also remove the wheel and horn push. Then remove the column ready for the replacement column.

As I had made and fitted a small panel to the glove shelf and below the dash, I would now have to make a new one as the electric motor was going to be here, (see photo below), this was already fitted to the new steering column. Also the control box and the wiring loom would be located here. This took some planning and adjusting until I managed to get it all in the restricted space, also making and fitting the new face panel.



Having completed the installation of the new unit I then drove the car out of the garage to find out if it all worked, I noticed immediately the improvement



in the steering. On completing the test run, I adjusted the potentiometer using the small control knob located on the new panel to suit my driving.

Brilliant, my decision to do this conversion was a success. I can now get the Morris into the garage in one go, which I was not able to do before. The overall time in doing the conversion was two and half days, most of the time was in having to make the new panel and sorting the new wiring.

I have to thank Alex and Bill who advice was a great help in my making decision to do the conversion.

## **Last but not Least!**

I trust that you have read the article by Bill Reed about 'GHR 800N' and the follow-up to this story that Bill is facilitating after the Branch AGM on Sunday, 19th October 2025.

To tempt you to come along on the 19th October, there will also be "Soup and Spuds" with time to catch-up socially with friends!



I understand that AGMs may not excite you, perhaps you feel unable to offer to join the committee, perhaps you find the procedures tedious however we are required as a “club” and a “Branch of the MMOC” to produce annual accounts, to report on our activities and to elect a committee, at an AGM.

It is essential that we have a chairperson, vice chairperson, a secretary and a treasurer for the Branch to continue. These ‘officers’ need the support of other members to contribute to creating and organising the regular programme of activities: Drives, meals, talks and presentations, quizzes, social events and visits to places of interest both car related and for broader interests.

Please give serious consideration to:-

- offering some of your time to the Branch by joining the Committee and helping our Branch to thrive. If you feel that you could find the time then please contact Sarah Bracher as soon as possible.
- offering to help with the organisation of an event during the year.

And please make every effort to attend the AGM to support your Branch.

Please let Gill Waters know if you are planning to attend the AGM, in order that we can ensure there is enough soup and spuds for everyone!!

Hoping to see you on Sunday, 19th October at 12.00 noon in Castle Eaton Village Hall.

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

**Bill Reed, John Dunn, Clive Frost, Martin Howard, Ash Holmes.**

Hoping to meet up at the AGM.  
Pam Holmes