



NWMMOC NEWSLETTER

June 2025

North Wiltshire Branch Rally, 4th May 2025

At Lambourn Vintage Machinery Society Show

Words: Kath Ridley. Photos:

On Sunday the 4th of May , twenty seven of our “Morris Minors” headed toward the “Lambourn Vintage Machinery Show” for our Branch Rally.

We parked up our cars and then met up with everybody, had a chat and then went for a walk around the show. There was plenty to see and do throughout the day, there was a lot of vintage vehicles including, steam engines (big and small), farm machinery, bikes, stall holders selling their goods and also catering facilities and much more.

We had our own best in car show within the North Wiltshire Morris Minors Group, we had eight different categories of M.M. The afternoon was finished off with the presentation of the awards, trophies and raffle prizes.

Although the weather was not the best wet and very cold, it was a lovely day to catch up with some of our members.

We have got our “Morris Minors On Tour” to look forward to in July.



Concentration on everyones faces for the prize giving and raffle!

Branch Rally Winners

Morris Minor Saloon 2 doorSteve Chater
Morris Minor Saloon 4 door Bruce Ephgrave
Morris Minor Convertible John Dunn
MM Series 11Ashley Holmes
Morris Minor LCV George Kitching
Morris Minor Modified Martin Howard
Open Class Bill Reed
Morris Minor Traveller Phil Rendle

Best in Show was awarded to George Kitching.

The Golden Spanner was awarded to John Dunn.
Nigel Gratton Award was awarded to Pam Holmes.





South Wales MMOC Rally at Caldicot Castle. 11th May

Words: Kath Ridley. Photos: Bill Reed, Ash & Pam Holmes.

On Sunday the 11th May, nine members of the North Wilts Morris Minor Club, drove over to Wales, to go to Caldicot Castle, it was a lovely drive once we got over into Wales.



Driving over the bridge into Wales.

We were directed into our places. Throughout the day we counted in the Morris Minors group section over fifty minors, it was good to see them all.



The setting of "Caldicot Castle" is lovely and it has a lot of history, going back in time. We were allowed in some parts of the castle, which was interesting.



Ash & Martin at the top of one of the castle towers.



The area within Caldicot Castle walls gave access to refreshments, toilets and a gift shop. It was a lovely spot to sit and view the wide variety of architecture.

We sat and had our picnic in the grounds and then had a look at all the other cars at the show.



This was a lovely part of Wales, and it is somewhere we would go again.

Thanks to the South Wales MMOC Branch for a very enjoyable rally.

Moggyfest at Beaulieu: 17th -18th May

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



Moggyfest is the MMOC Southern Region Rally at the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, and what a splendid affair it is. Pam & Ash, Alex and I represented North Wilts Branch. The marquee was set up with a fine display of "Morris Through the Decades", an extensive spares shop, and refreshments. Steph Holloway, Kim Henson, Roger Lee and Danny Hopkins were among the speakers, and I particularly enjoyed Kim Henson's account of the Morris Ital – last of the breed. A prize-winning Ital was on display. Car of the Show was the pickup in the photograph (of concours cars). Our thanks and congratulations to Laurie Blewer and his team for a fine event.

In addition to the Minor event Alex and I also visited the Motor Museum, Beaulieu Palace which is the home of the Montague family, the Special Operations Executive Museum, the Spring Autojumble, and we took a ride on the monorail.

On the Sunday morning I walked to the historic shipbuilding village of Buckler's Hard. It's just a couple of miles from the show site on a forest path – I heard a cuckoo and a song thrush on the way. The Museum there is fascinating about the 17th and 18th century shipbuilding business and the displays are of a very high standard.

Ashley Alexander and Bill Reed's cars parked in front of the monorail.



As always Dorset Branch did a wonderful themed display in the marquee.



Concours cars were displayed for judging in front of the marquee, where they received lots of admiration!





The photo above shows the range of Moggies and other classics on display. On Saturday Ash's convertible, flying the North Wilts. flag, was parked next to a decorated pick-up.

On the Friday, Ash and Pam went to Exbury Gardens where rhododendrons and azaleas were in bloom! We viewed some of the gardens from the narrow gauge steam train.



Places to go with your Morris Minor:-

1950's Fete at White Lodge Care Home.

NOW ON Saturday 5th July 2.00-4.00pm..

North Wiltshire Branch Members have been invited to take their classic cars along to the "Fabulous '50s Fete". on Saturday, 5th July, 2-4pm. We are assured there will be tea and cakes! If you are available to take part then please..... let Gill Waters know as the Activity Organiser at White Lodge needs to know who to expect on the day!

Fabulous
50s Fete
Saturday 5th July, 2-4pm

SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL TO HETHERSETT HALL FOR A 1950S CELEBRATION AT OUR ANNUAL SUMMER FETE

Get in touch if you would like to attend. Please be aware that our games and raffle are cash only.

- Live singing from the "Mini Concert"
- A jiving performance
- A classic car display
- 50s-themed games
- Delicious Finger Buffet

Plus a variety of different stalls and much more!

White Lodge Care Home
Braydon, Swindon, SN5 0AD
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Andrew's Birthday visit to The Haynes Motor Museum.

Words & Photo: Sarah Bracher

It was Andrew's birthday at the end of April so we had a couple of nights away in an Airbnb in Somerset with the purposes of going to The Haynes Motor Museum.

We visited the museum on Drive It Day and imagined the car park would be as interesting as the museum. Unfortunately not... It's such a large Museum and very informative BUT only 1 Morris Minor as pictured below. Well worth a visit for any car mad person. We both enjoyed it immensely.



Willowbrook View Care Home

Words: Pam Holmes Photos: Bill Reed, Ash Holmes

We were invited to display our cars at this new care home as part of an afternoon of 1950s musical performances for the residents, their families and friends. Many of the residents and visitors came to view and admire the cars, reminiscing about the Moggies and other cars.



Above: North Wilts MMOC flying the flag to promote our Branch.

Below: A North Wilts MMOC saloon, Traveller and convertible alongside a pristine MG Magnette ZA.



We had a wonderfully warm and sunny day, enjoyed ice creams, refreshments provided by Willowbrook View and generally enjoyed chilling in the sun! Within the garden and lounge/bar of Willowbrook people socialised, enjoyed the music and the ambiance suggested everyone was having a good time!



Diagnosis of failed wheel bearings on Traveller.

Words: Bill Reed. Photo: Doreen Richards



Dave and Steve pile into my Traveller for a run to confirm my diagnosis of a failed wheel bearing. Many thanks to Ash for technical advice and for giving me a seal.



Requests for Help!!!!

Please would a member of the Branch volunteer, to write a short report for the 'Branch News' in Minor Matters.

If you are a member of the MMOC, National Club, you will receive Minor Matters magazine and be aware that like many other Branches, North Wiltshire contributes a short report about our events and activities to the Branch News.

I have written a short report for the next issue of Minor Matters but do feel this is a task that should be shared amongst members of the Branch. It is not an arduous task, a maximum of 200 words describing recent and planned activities. A photo can also be added, either one you have taken or I can supply one of an appropriate event.

If you are willing to help out with this, please phone or email me: Pam Holmes pamlynnholmes@icloud.com. 01285 810524.

North Wilts Branch, MMOC Area 4 and other events.

Please refer to the North Wilts Branch website.

<http://www.northwiltsmmoc.co.uk/styled-18/index.html>

Thanks & final notes

From: Pam Holmes

Many thanks to: Ash Holmes, Bill Reed, Sarah Bracher, Kath Ridley and Doreen Richards who have contributed to this Branch Newsletter.