



NWMMOC NEWSLETTER

March 2024

“SOUP & SPUDS” on 25 February

Words: Peter Watts; Photos: Sarah Bracher

On a chilly Sunday afternoon, 25th February, the Club held a “Soup & Spuds” event at Castle Eaton Village Hall which was attended by twenty two members including guests.

Pam, Kathleen and Ash put on a fabulous lunch with a choice from three soups and breads followed by jacket spuds with a fine selection of fillings, hot and cold. Just ideal for a cold February afternoon. Many thanks to them from all.

When everyone had satisfied the inner self Sarah took up the gavel for an auction of various Morris memorabilia and parts, the proceeds of which (£97) will go to the club’s chosen charity for this year, The Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

To round off the afternoon a game of “beetle drive” created much amusement but, from the chaos and hilarity, Pam emerged as the winner.



NORTH WILTS BRANCH EVENTS

Saturday 23 March: Spring Lunch Run: contact [Martin Howard](#)

Sunday 21 April: Drive It Day: See details below

Sunday 5 May: Annual Branch Rally at Lechlade Vintage & Country Show

Saturday 8 June: Swindon Festival On The Parks

Friday 28 to Sunday 30 June: MMOC National Rally, Gaydon

Deadline for April North Wilts Branch Newsletter: 25 March

Please send items to bill@euclidvillas.co.uk or text to 07798 601224

AREA 4 EVENTS

Contact mmocareafour@gmail.com

16 March: Breakfast Meet at Bradford on Avon

21-22 September: Camping weekend near Frome

See the [EVENTS PAGE](#) of our website for more information, contact details and other local events you might like to attend.

Drive It Day Sunday 21st April

We plan to meet at Studley Grange Garden Centre, Hay Lane, Swindon, SN4 9QT at **09.30** to depart at 10.00 am.

The drive is about an hour to an hour and a half, ending at The Old Prison, Northleach, for late breakfast or early lunch. Menu at <https://www.theoldprison.co.uk/cafe-menu>.

Route plans will be given out on the day.

The cafe manager requests can we advise how many would like cooked breakfast and how many parking spaces she needs to organize for us **by the 5th April**.

If you would like to join us please contact [Ashley Alexander](#)

County Islands

Here is a piece of Swindon nostalgia given to me by Vieve Forward, whose father Colin made the original road signs for what is now known as the Magic Roundabout.

Bill



JEFF'S NEW CLASSIC

Words and photo: Jeff Hide

In January 2023 I was enjoying my time with Baggins, that is, until I injured my left knee and could no longer use a clutch. So, Baggins went to Essex and I acquired an automatic car of my young dreams, a Mercedes SLK230. It was beautiful in style, powerful in performance and put a spring in my step when the automatic roof opened up to the springtime.

Alas, come 2024, the cost of the tax and insurance exceeded the mileage I had done and every indication for 2024 and thereafter at my age, was that these costs would exceed the value of the car. It went back from whence it came and I was left with no car. That is, until I came across a car of rarity which was the subject of attention by Mike Brewer and his mechanic on the TV series, Wheeler Dealers last year. To cut a long story short, it had been totally recommissioned with re-built engine and transmission and passed onto Paul of Paul's Yard (See Youtube [Paul's Yard UK](#)). Here you will see the whole story.

I bid for this Concours d'elegance condition automatic Vanden Plas 1500 at the Manor Grange Classic car auction at Runcorn, Cheshire on 17th February against keen interest and my luck was in. If you did not know it, British Leyland designed these cars using many parts from existing BL models including the Morris Minor 1000.

