



NWMMOC NEWSLETTER

June 2023

NORTH WILTS BRANCH RALLY 11 June 2023

Latest News



On 28 May committee members met up at Blunston Station with S&CR events organiser Emma to make final arrangements.

Rally Control

This will be at the entrance to the car park. We will be parking at the left of the car park in vehicle categories, please look out for the marshals in hi-viz vests. As usual we will give you a welcome pack on arrival with details of cars and participants, judging forms and a rally plaque. Raffle tickets will be on sale.

Refreshments

Teas and coffees should be available from the station cafe but we recommend you bring your own picnic.

Marquee

S&CR are kindly allowing us use of their marquee for prizegiving and raffle.

Trains

Train timetable is here: <https://swindon-cricklade-railway.org/timetables/>

Discounts

S&CR are allowing us a discount but ask that you help them by making groups of 10 members at the ticket office. As the railway is entirely volunteer-run, you may choose to waive the discount if you wish to help boost their funds.



Brightwen Binyon and Sanford Street School, Swindon

Report by Gill Waters.

Photo of Steve Rogers and his 1968 Traveller by Becca Bracher.



On Saturday 29th April a commemoration was held at Sanford Street Boys' School for the architect Mr Brightwen Binyon who designed the school. The school closed in 1966 but it saw many of the greats from Swindon: EW Beard (builder); Frederick Hawksworth (GWR Chairman); Harold Fleming (famous footballer, Fleming Way is named after him); Frederick Spencer (Chief Inspector - Education - London County Council), to name but four.

Mr Brightwen Binyon also designed the extension to the Mechanics' Institute, and the Locarno in Old Town which used to be the Corn Exchange, and designed Swindon Town Hall in its entirety.

Judith Gradwell, daughter of the woodwork teacher at the school Mr Gradwell, was pictured outside of the school with a Morris Minor Traveller as her father owned such a car in the past. The car belonged to Stephen Rogers of North Wilts Morris Minor Owners Club. The building is now the home of 11 different charities including Mind.

Our thanks to Martin Robins for inviting North Wilts Branch to to be represented.

More details of the event are [here](#).

Clonmel Rally

Report & photo by Peter & Liz Watts



On Thursday 27th April, Liz and I set off for the ferry to Ireland, a 3 hour 50 min, 184 mile run to Pembroke Dock. The weather held fine and there were no motorway holdups. Confidence in "Belle", IAZ 277, was heightened. The crossing was smooth and following a restful night in Rosslare, we set off for Clonmel, Co.Tipperary.

The Clonmel Vintage & Classic Car Club annual vintage weekend rally, which was the reason for our visit, is held over two days. On the Saturday we gathered at the Racecourse for registration and "breakfast" before the 80+ cars set off for a 65 mile run in convoy, around the Monavullagh mountains in Co.Waterford. We stopped for lunch at a former workhouse which has been renovated and retained as a tourist attraction (?) returning to Clonmel through the Ballinamult Pass. A very pleasant and sociable dinner was then taken at the racecourse.

The Sunday heralded fine and sunny for the static show held again at the racecourse. Several hundred cars were on show, from an early vintage Ford Model T, which incidentally completed the rally the previous day, to modern supercars. Sadly there were only three MM's on show.

The highlight of the afternoon was the raffle, held in aid of Ryan O'Dwyer, a postal worker who had suffered a life changing injury in a road accident, the first prize being a Saab 93 Convertible! Luckily we did not win it as Liz could not have been able to drive it home.

In all a very pleasant weekend with many new friends made.

Our holiday continued travelling on up to Derry City in the North West of Ireland, a journey of 258 miles, 6 hours with three stops en-route, where we stayed with a friend, visiting relations and enjoying ourselves. Derry City is looking good and thriving. All too soon it was time to start the long haul home, 254 miles Derry to Rosslare Harbour then the following day, home.

Total mileage for happy holiday 1,067. Warning for anyone contemplating a holiday in the Irish Republic (and most of Northern Ireland) in a classic car THERE IS NO E5 FUEL. Make sure you carry a fuel additive with you.

Lechlade Collectors' Club Rally, Monday 1 May

Report by Martin Howard



Four Minors attended the Lechlade Collectors' Club rally. Displays included tractors, children's fun fair and miniature steam tractors; we were entertained by the Highworth Silver band. All the classic cars were invited to parade around the ring, where each driver was interviewed about their car.



Award Winner

Congratulations to Ash and Pam Holmes for winning the Best Convertible award at Moggifest, Beaulieu, for the 1953 car Ash has recently rebuilt himself.

It was its on its first run out!

Photo: Pam & Ash Holmes

Wheel Nuts, Sunday April 30th

Report by Gill Waters

Photo by Alex Alexander



A favourite with North Wilts MMOC is the classic car show held at St Rose's School, in Stroud, affectionately called Wheel Nuts. This year we had 6 cars from North Wilts, a couple of people unfortunately couldn't make it on the day.

It was a really good show, with many classic cars and also very modern ones too. So many people wandered round the exhibits and we were lucky enough to chat to a young man who went to the special school, he seemed to latch on to us and we chatted as best we could. He seemed to be enjoying himself, we felt a bit sorry for the guy who was pushing him around in his wheelchair as the ground was a bit boggy.

There were a few stalls to browse including a plant stall with very high quality plants.

It was a good day out as usual, but it was a shame about the rain. Here is to next year and maybe a sunny day!!!



Miranda Minor & Marie Curie

Half a dozen branch cars joined over 20 Area 4 Minors at Cotswold Airport, Kemble, on 20 May to support the MMOC appeal for Marie Curie. Miranda will be back for our Branch Rally and for the Swindon Summer Festival on the Parks.

South Wales Branch Rally, Caldicot Castle, Sun 7 May



Steve and Shirley, Alex and Sue, and Bill met up at Leigh Delamere services for a drive across the old Severn Bridge to Caldicot - less than an hour. This rally is always very relaxed with a large number of classic cars, some of them rarely seen on the road these days. Car of the Show was a 1930's Morris Oxford. The castle is free to visit and has a colourful history. The parkland offers extensive walks and there is a cafe inside the castle grounds. Always a good day out, so if you haven't been before look out in Minor Matters for next year's date! Our thanks to South Wales Branch.



MMOC Branch Liaison Meeting

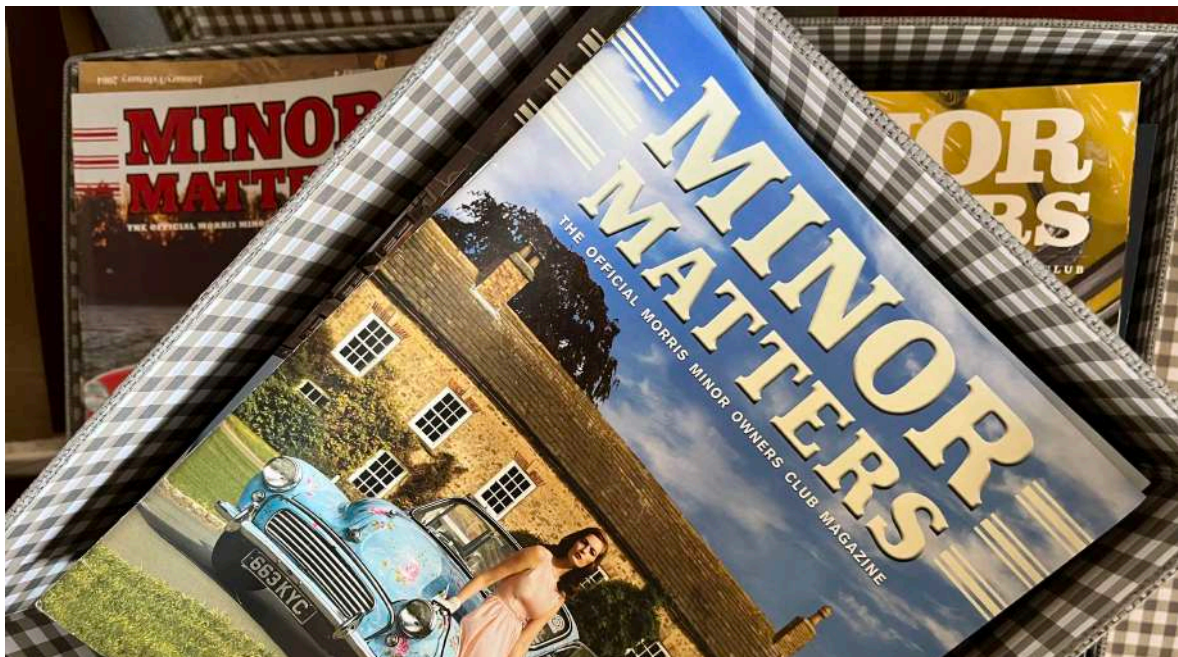
On 30 April Bill and Steve Chater attended the MMOC Branch Liaison Meeting in Dudley. As reported last month, this saw North Wilts Branch being officially recognised in MMOC Area 4, which better reflects the geography of our membership and main events. Look out for Area 4 activities coordinated by Liaison Officer Jenni Wood, where all North Wilts Branch members will be welcome.

MMOC AGM

The AGM took place on the same day. Subscription fees and branch rebates were discussed. It was agreed that branch rebates would be increased by 10%. Annual subscriptions are to be raised to £35. This is well below comparable fees for other national car clubs. In order to provide guidance for branch representatives at future liaison meetings, the North Wilts committee would like to informally gauge member satisfaction with MMOC membership (subs cost, quality of magazine, rallies, advice, website, member benefits, online services etc), so comments will be invited at our own AGM on 8 October.

Minor Matters back numbers

Another question raised at the AGM by Bill was the digitisation of Minor Matters issues. This is underway. MMOC HQ will retain one hard copy of each issue and submit another to the company carrying out the digitisation. This copy has to be pulled apart for scanning and will then be destroyed. The reason for raising this is that Bill has three boxes of issues dating back to the early 1990's, which he is holding on behalf of the branch. There seems no reason to keep them if back copies can be obtained from the MMOC digitised archive. If you would like them (or if you need any issues or duplicates for your collection), please let Bill know ASAP: bill@euclidvillas.co.uk. Otherwise they will go to the skip.



Suggestions from members

Many thanks to those of you who have responded to our requests for help at events and for ideas for future events. **Paul Kimmens** has offered to arrange a meet-up and run out from his sailing club at South Cerney. This would be a mid-week event (the sailing club is too busy at weekends) and he and his wife have offered to arrange refreshments. Please could you help us to gauge interest, by informing [Gill](#) if in principle you might wish to take part in this. We will then proceed to suggest a date! **Keith Boffin** has suggested we attend [Newbury Car Show](#) on Sunday 6 August and Thatcham Memorial Show on Saturday 7 October. If you are interested in either of these please contact [Bill](#). **Mark Osland** has reminded us of the [Chippenham Lions Cherished Vehicle and Family Fun Day](#) on Sunday 4 June. Entry fee £7 per car; meet Mark and Bill there at 10:00 (contact [Bill](#) if you plan to come, so that we can look out for you).

North Wilts Branch Events

Sunday 11 June: Annual Branch Rally, [Swindon & Cricklade Railway](#), Blunsdon Station.

Saturday 24 June: Summer Festival on the Parks, Swindon. Contact [Gill](#).

Sunday 30 July: Run and visit to the [Oxford Bus Museum & Morris Motors Museum](#), Long Hanborough OX29 6LA. Contact [Martin Howard](#).

Saturday 5 August: [Gloucester Vintage and Country Extravaganza](#) at South Cerney Airfield. Entries for our club stand are now closed but you can of course attend as a visitor.

Sunday 10 September: Croquet in Swindon. You will be taught how to play! This has been hugely enjoyable in the past. Contact [Gill](#) to reserve a place.

Sunday 8 October 2:00pm: **North Wilts Branch AGM** at Castle Eaton Village Hall.

Sunday 17 December: Christmas Indoor Picnic Lunch at Castle Eaton Village Hall (Please also bring your contributions to this year's Christmas Hamper for Swindon Night Shelter).

Other events you might like to attend with your Minor:

Sunday 4 June: [Somerset Tractor Run](#) in aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Contact [Bill](#)

Sunday 4 June; [Chippenham Lions Cherished Vehicle and Family Fun Day](#) Contact [Bill](#)

Sunday 18 June: [Salisbury Motor Show](#)

Sat 1 July: [Wallop Wheels & Wings](#)

Sunday 9 July: [British Leyland Day, Gaydon](#)

Sat-Sun 15 & 16 July [Market Lavington Vintage Meet](#)

Sunday 23 July: **Stroud Classic Car Show**, The playing field, Bisley Old Road, Stroud, Glos GL5 1NL. From 10:00 am - just turn up early, entry is free.

Sunday 6 August: [Newbury Car Show](#). Contact [Bill](#)

August Bank Holiday weekend: [Pershore Plum Festival](#)

August 27: [Shalbourne Show](#)

August 27 & 28: [White Horse Show, Uffington](#)

Monday August 28: [Cowley Classic Car Show](#)

Sat 2 Sept: **Kingswood Classic** Contact [Jenni Wood](#)

Sun 3 Sept: [White Horse Vehicle Show, Westbury](#)

Sat Oct 7: Thatcham Memorial Show. Contact [Bill](#)

If you would like to arrange an outing to any of the above, or just an informal breakfast or coffee meet, please give Gill a call on 01793 813309.