



NWMMOC NEWSLETTER

August 2023

Future newsletters

As the July issue showed, with a couple of photos and a few words of text, Branch Members provide colourful, varied and informative newsletter content. Many thanks to the contributors.

After I step down as Chair and from the Committee in October, I have agreed to continue with the Newsletter for 6-12 months. This can work if I receive timely and accurate information; to this end I am setting a deadline of the 25th of each month for items to go in the newsletter. I hope this will serve as an encouragement and a target.

So the next deadlines are: 25 August; 25 September; 25 October. My email address is bill@euclidvillas.co.uk. If you prefer messaging, my mobile number is 07798 601224.

You can also post on our Facebook page but please be aware this does not reach all Branch Members.

RONA Steam Rally Sat-Sun 8 & 9 July



This big event was not widely publicised but as it takes place just off the M4 at Dauntsey it is right in our North Wilts area, so one to look out for next year. It supports the Wiltshire Air Ambulance and entry was by donation. There were craft, memorabilia and food stalls including a good sausage roll lunch package, which we ate while watching vehicles in the arena. The steam engines are small-scale rather than the big traction engines; you can commandeer one (for a donation) to take a tour of the rally field. There was a good display of tractors and commercial vehicles as well as classic cars. Nicolas was particularly taken by the milkman's motorbike, and on close inspection the bottles had charming period touches: a blue tit pecking through a top; a top pushed off by frozen cream. Remember all that? I don't think Nicolas had ever seen a milk bottle. Mick and Erica's Trafalgar Blue Minor "Stephanie" was spotted (see photo) but I couldn't find them!

Replacing the indicator stalk

by Peter Baddeley

Getting the Traveller ready for a trip to the Traditional Boat Festival at Henley. For some time the indicator stalk/switch has been a problem. I sourced a replacement from ESM and got finally round to installing it.

The Haynes manual was no help but YouTube was useful as far as the electrics were concerned (photograph and make a detailed list of all connections). Installation is a bit of a fiddle as the steering wheel and the drivers glove box need to be removed. It's also necessary to disassemble the steering column clamp as the cable bundle is encased in a groove beneath.

Reassembly seemed straightforward and the indicators worked fine but no horn! I realised that the copper brush which should connect with a brass collar on the steering column was way out of position. Couldn't work out why as the switch was properly aligned by its own clamp, and the new brush and its copper arm looked the right length. I managed to bend the arm and brush upward so it made contact but then found that it fouled the Bakelite housing that fits over the stalk/switch mechanism.

The penny then dropped. The indicator clamp is fixed to the length of tube that is in turn held by the steering column clamp. This had slipped down a couple of centimetres when I'd



slackened that clamp. Pushed the tube back up to its original position and bent the arm and brush back to their original shape. Everything works - Phew!

One pic attached. The switch clamp is in the centre and the steering column clamp just visible on the far left of the photo.



1935 Austin 10

Young member Nicolas Reed came across this car in Malmesbury.

A DVLA check reveals that it is an Austin 10, first registered on 24 January 1935. It looks like an Open Road Tourer, introduced in 1933.

It has a 1125cc 4-cylinder sidevalve engine, 21bhp, rear wheel drive.

Earlier models had a chromed radiator surround rather than just the chromed trim seen on this example.



A Mystery from 1997

We have unearthed a North Wilts Branch shield which escaped our researches for the 40th Anniversary Album. It shows the winners of Treasure Hunts in 1997 (Helen, in "Harry"); 1998 (Liz and Roger Briance, in "Jessie"); and 1999 (Andrew and Sarah Bracher in "George").

"George" was Sarah and Andrew's white Traveller.

"Jessie" is alive and well with Roger and Liz in Indianapolis, USA.

But who was Helen and what was "Harry"? I have checked with Helen Cosslett and it wasn't her. Does anyone's memory stretch back that far?

It would be nice to put the shield back into use after 24 years ... would anyone volunteer to organise a Treasure Hunt?



"George" had a sunroof



"Jessie" in the USA, April 2021



It seems fitting here to remember Nigel Gratton, who arranged many events for the Branch, including Treasure Hunts.

The "piston" trophy is still in the possession of the Branch, lying dormant and in need of a clean-up (the trophy, that is!)

Could anyone suggest a suitable award to use it for?



Website Events Page

Ash has further developed our website by adding an **EVENTS PAGE** which you can see [HERE](#)

This improves our information to members and non-members on the activities of the Branch, and provides links to upcoming non-branch events you might wish to take your Minor to. If you haven't visited our website recently, do have a look as Ash has also added stories of our cars. And if you haven't added your car, please do!

Ash was the recipient of the **Nigel Gratton Cup** this year for his work on our website.

Committee update and AGM

Please note the date of our AGM: **2:00 on Sunday 8 October at Castle Eaton Village Hall.** There will be a review of our events over the past year and of Branch and MMOC matters, followed by committee elections.

Sarah Bracher, currently our Facebook administrator, has offered herself for election as Chair when I step down. All other committee members have agreed to stand for election for another year. We welcome initiatives by members to arrange events (thank you to those who have done so this year) and we encourage approaches from anyone interested in joining the committee, in order to take the Branch forward. Please speak to a committee member if this could be you. Our next committee meeting is on 13 September.

North Wilts Branch Events

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.

Saturday 19 August: invitation to [Castle Combe track day / car parade](#)

contact Mark Osland tankos@gmail.com

Tuesday 24 August: Run from S. Cerney Sailing Club, followed by lunch.

Details [HERE](#) contact [Paul Kimmens](#)

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.

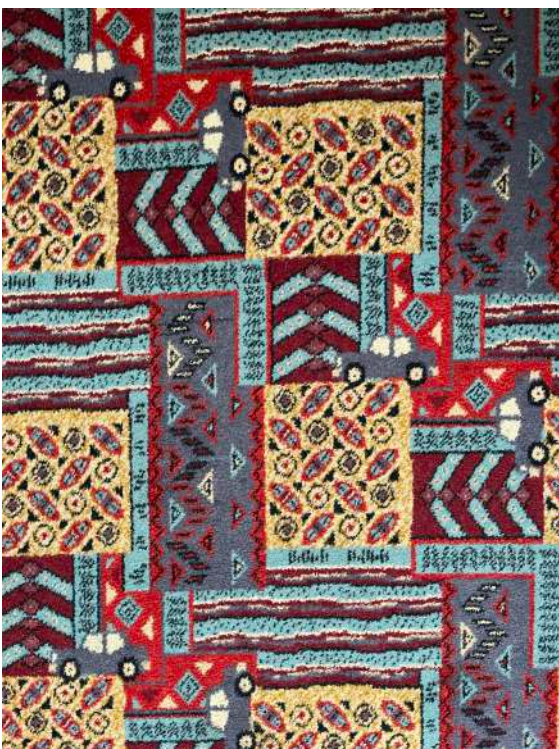
Sunday 17 December: Christmas Indoor Picnic Lunch at Castle Eaton Village Hall
(Please also bring your contributions to this year's **Christmas Hamper** for Swindon Night Shelter).

For other events please [click here](#) to look at our new website **Events Page**.

Oxford Bus Museum Sunday 30 July



Martin Howard expertly led us on a nice country route from Shrivenham and arranged the visit and parking. There is a large display of buses - in varying states of repair - and a lot of well-presented bus history with terrific atmospheric photos of Oxford. There is also a whole section devoted to William Morris and Morris Motors. Our 10 cars were given a warm welcome to this fascinating part of Oxford history. Many thanks to Martin. Photos on the next page.



< Carpet created specially for "Longwall" restaurant at Cowley. How many Minors can you spot?