



NWMMOC

NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS



EDITION 2023



Photo: December 2022

After a lovely 2023 of meetings and drives, it falls to me to wish you all, long time members and new, a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2024.

Sarah Bracher, Chair, on behalf of the Committee.

CHRISTMAS INDOOR PICNIC

Sunday 17 December 2023



41 Branch members met at Castle Eaton Village Hall for an action-packed indoor picnic. Santa arrived and read us a seasonal poem before delivering a mini-quiz, for which the prizes were Minor spares (congratulations to the winners); a raffle raised funds for the Branch; John and Ann Ford entertained us with “Minors in the Media”; and we collected a table-full of hamper donations for Swindon Night Shelter. We were pleased to welcome new Branch members Elizabeth and Matthew.

Thanks to Pam and Ash for Village Hall arrangements, mulled wine, teas and coffees; to Kathleen Ridley for Christmas cake; to Sarah and Gill for the raffle; to Jeff Hide as Santa; to Mike Welsh and family for taking care of the hamper donations; to Ann and John Ford; and to everyone who came and made this a warm, friendly event.



Peter and Teresa's Traveller (Best Car at our 2023 Rally)
parked for the indoor picnic

SANTA'S CHRISTMAS PICNIC POEM



I like to attempt to compose - a poem or two for a do.
Today I am pleased, together with ease, to picnic indoors with you.
No doubt the weather, uncertain as ever
means the committee have been quite clever.
So, we won't get cold and our Moggies won't freeze
and we'll sit in the warm and do what we please.

The generous fare with mince pies and red wine
mulled warmly by Ash just at the right time
will make us that ease and remind us we're pleased
with the help that we've had through the year.

Those times that an engine won't start or misses
when the fault's blamed on us by the missus
(who's expecting a wonderful day).
Then our hands up to heaven are raised high to pray.

We're properly full of thanks from the most useful hub
of expert mates to help out from the Club.
I won't mention names but you'll all know who
has in the year past been good to you.

So, what is Santa Claus and what does he actually do?
His forbear was Nich' las the Saint and before him the man in all green
each making to all a benevolent call
bringing presents whenever he's been.

"How does he do it?" the children enquire.
Is it magic or something finer?"
The parents then think and in a blink
say " No. He uses a Morris Minor".

For that I am thankful, my reindeer too,
and thus, at this time there's a surprise for you.
A few bits and pieces that may be of use
left over from Baggins you'll quickly deduce.

Ho Ho Ho HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

With thanks to Jeff Hide

MORRIS MINORS IN THE MEDIA

A talk by Ann and John Ford



Ann and John entertained us with a polished, informative talk about the astonishing variety of films, TV dramas and sitcoms they have provided Morris Minors for. Films include *Shadowlands* and *The Borrowers*; dramas and sitcoms include *Hale and Pace* and *London's Burning*; commercials include *Weetabix* and *Cadbury's Wispa*.

They told us many amusing anecdotes from these events, including managing a tiger on the car roof; arranging to have a wing mirror knocked off by a football; and how the filmmaker overcame the problem of a reluctant boxer dog which had to be seen to pee on the tyre!

They emphasised the importance of maintenance and reliability for cars involved in film shoots, explaining that any change or damage to a vehicle is always rectified afterwards - often to better-than-previous condition.

We learnt how filming days are organised, how much the actors drive the cars (very little) and how substitutes are used. John stood in for Anthony Hopkins in *Shadowlands*; and, in another film, despite his moustache - but with a wig - for an actress who refused to get in the car!

Ann and John clearly loved this work and when it began to decline for economic reasons they found another use for their white Minor convertibles, as wedding cars.

They brought along some rare mementos of these events and a display of photographs and articles which they invited us to browse and discuss. Ann and John say they love hearing stories from their audiences, and North Wilts members took full advantage of this opportunity!

As a result we were reminded that two North Wilts Minors took part in the filming of *The Borrowers* in 1996. More on this story in our January Newsletter!



Branch members with this year's Christmas donations to the Food Bank at Swindon Night Shelter.
Photo by young member Charlie Frost.



Charlie's quiz question:
What is this Minor and who does it belong to?
Answers please to bill@euclidvillas.co.uk or 07798 601224

NEXT NORTH WILTS BRANCH EVENTS

Sunday 14 January 2024 12:00: New Year Lunch at the Freke Arms, Highworth Contact [Gill](#)

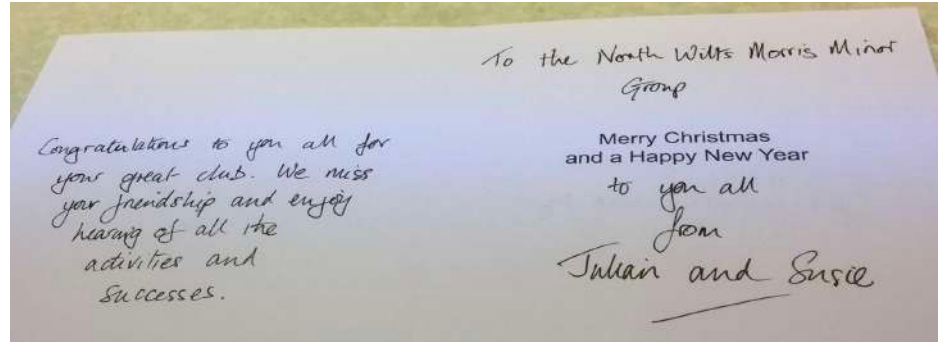
Sunday 25 February 2024 'Soup and Spuds' with Auction and Beetle Drive
Contact [Gill](#)

DEADLINE for FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER: 25 January 2024

Please send your KEYRING PHOTOS

to bill@euclidvillas.co.uk or 07798 601224

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM HONORARY MEMBERS IN OTHER PLACES!



Greetings from Julian and Susie Marshall, Honorary Members, Wirksworth, Derbyshire

Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy and Healthy 2024.

From Roger & Liz Briance, Honorary
Members, Indianapolis, USA

("Jessie" has now been sold...
see September 2023 Newsletter)



Roger & Liz Briance with "Jessie"
