



TALK to the NWMMOC by DAVE ELWIN of the AA 21 March 2019 at Castle Eaton Village Hall

As a result of a breakdown with a jammed starter motor, Julian met AA man Dave Elwin who, it turned out, had a Minor of his own. A conversation quickly ensued which led to Julian inviting Dave to talk to our group.

His presentation was hugely informative and entertaining and he answered many questions from the 20 or so members present.

He dealt with the history of the AA - originally started in 1905 by a group of members on bicycles, who signalled to warn others of speed traps (20mph in those days). A salute meant "All clear!" The lack of a salute meant "Watch out!" Motorcycle patrols were only replaced with vans (Minis and Minors) as late as 1968.

Tyres and batteries are the most common reasons for breakdown these days, and Dave showed us some quite extreme cases of maintenance neglect he had dealt with. Beware: the penalty for illegal tyres is now £2500 *per* tyre and 3 points on your licence.

As far as our Minors are concerned, he recommended carrying a spare fuel pump and spares for the distributor - rotor arm, condensor, points, distributor cap. He recommended Distributor Doctor as a reliable supplier for these parts. In the case of electronic ignition he recommended holding on to the old baseplate fitted with points, condensor and rotor arm so that it can be re-fitted if necessary. He also said that although the AA is now running training sessions for younger mechanics who have no experience of classic engines, it is always useful if the driver has a little knowledge to help out - for example, if the fuel pump is not ticking, knowing that the points in it can be cleaned, with switch cleaner or a piece of card. So even if you can't do a job yourself, it's useful to know roughly how things work. A workshop manual in the car also helps!

He ended with a picture of the army Land Rover he has restored and uses for jaunts on Salisbury Plain.

Our thanks to Dave who is an excellent ambassador for his organisation. At his request, the Branch is making a donation to Tearfund, a Christian charity particularly concerned with poverty and disaster relief.



Dave demonstrates the "towing dolly" to Sarah and Malcolm

