



Minor Message series 2 no. 20 Beaulieu - British Classics on Parade 20 September 2020 By Jeff Hide



It is Sunday 20th September and the sun is shining, as it had been so all day shining on Baggins and on hundreds of other British Classic Cars that paraded in socially distanced spacing at Beaulieu Motor Museum for the Simply British Classics 2020. This was not Baggins' first show after all.

To ensure the safety and enjoyment of visitors, tickets had to be pre-booked and capacity was strictly limited to 1000 participants on a first come first served basis. No tickets were sold on the day.

There were hundreds of cars of every description in dozens of neat rows of about ten cars. There were very rare exhibits such as the racy Allard, an increasingly rare Bond Bug in immaculate condition, the occasional Rolls Royce, Bentley and Lagonda but multiples of the less rare but ever popular models of MG, Austin, Riley, Wolseley, Triumph, Humber and Alvis and, of course a score of Morris Minors from a 1932 model through MMs, Splitties and Woodies to the last models produced.

Of these Morris Minors, some were absolutely immaculate - as if they were brand new without a mark on them. What interested me was that even with these superb examples the layout of the engine compartments differed one from another.

Cars were given places in which to park on a time of arrival basis which meant that there was no group of any particular marque. Minors were all over the place in three



separate fields and that made the tour on foot even more exciting. The organisers had specifically excluded sales of tickets to groups such as car clubs so as to avoid any risk of Covid social spacing being undermined by enthusiastic huggers, pleased to meet up after club rallies had been prevented by the ever changing government regulations. Mind you it was not surprising that a number of marques did seem to have become attracted to a particular spot over the course of the day. Nevertheless, the statutory 2 metres distancing of cars and people was observed and it was in the open air with a gentle breeze - ideal conditions enjoyed by all and quite possibly the last chance for such an event for this year.

Jeff Hide, 20.9.2020

Note by Bill: Jeff, whose career was in the law, has written to me to say that as others may wonder how the above event was able to go ahead, he has looked again at the Government regulations. Although they are open to different interpretations, he agrees we were right to cancel our NWMMOC meeting on 3 October. In any case, the rules are changing again at the time of writing.

Question: How many modifications can you identify in this engine compartment?
Answers by email to [Bill](#) please.