



# NWMMOC NEWSLETTER

April 2025

## A loss to the Morris Minor Owners Club and the wider Classic Car Community.



North Wilts Branch members with Marie Curie staff fundraising at the Old Railway Works, Swindon Outlet Centre, as part of the MMOC Charity Marathon 2016.  
Photo by Nicola Salt, courtesy of Swindon Advertiser.

Rosie Hamilton sadly passed away on 9th March 2025, aged 81 with her family at her side.

Rosie was a stalwart, not only of the Morris Minor Owners Club where her organisational skills and great talents were enthusiastically deployed, but for the wider classic vehicle movement for which she was an inspirational person.

Rosie was instrumental in the foundation of the MMOC's youth wing, as well as providing ever present support to anyone who needed it.

In 2017, at the National Car Club Awards, Rosie was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award. As one of the award judges said, "Every club needs a Rosie." She will be truly missed. (Federation of British Motor Vehicles)

## Trophies ready for North Wilts MMOC Branch Rally!

Words and Photo: Pam Holmes



Our Branch Rally is fast approaching and after the shocking news that our venue the Lechlade Vintage Show is cancelled this year, the Committee sprang into action and an alternative venue has welcomed us!

### **New venue for our North Wilts Branch Rally:**

**Lambourn Vintage Machinery Society Show**

**Sunday, 4th May 2025**

**Lambourn Woodlands**

**RG17 7RY**

**The event promises lots of family fun:**

**The Phoenix Brass Band**

**Craft Stalls**

**Fun Fair**

**Hog Roast, Burgers and other refreshments.**

**Heavy Horses**

**Classic Cars**

**Vintage Machinery**

**Tractors & Motorcycles**

**Autojumble**

**Drive and Lunch: Saturday, 12th April**

**Words: Martin Howard.**

**Photos: Clive, Anna & Charlie Frost, Martin Howard**



We had 22 members in 12 cars, of which 10 were Morris Minors. The weather was perfect, which made a change, no rain. The first of the cars left Hilliers Garden Centre at 11.15 am, I having had to change the start route due to gas works and the road closed in Bryworth lane.

Jenny received a phone call from Peter and Marilyn who had broken down on they way to the garden centre, but would still hoped to get the the pub.



Photo: before the Drive at Hilliers Garden Centre, Lechlade.

We drove straight to the finish at Sherborne Arms in Aldsworth to meet the the cars. It was a great surprise to be greeted Peter and Marilyn in their van, having managed to struggle home.

All the cars arrived during the next half hour, no one having got lost. All ready for an excellent lunch, and first class service at 1 pm.

Jenny and I were pleased to hear that everyone enjoyed the drive and the lovely weather.



The Drive on Saturday 12th April was clearly a resounding success! Ash and I were just so sorry not to have been able to take part, it was a beautiful sunny day and the route through country lanes was obviously very scenic.



## Visit to the Athelstan Museum

Words & Photos: Ash Holmes





24 members, including some guests, attended the Athelstan Museum, in the Town Hall at Malmesbury, for a guided tour followed by a visit to a temporary exhibition of an N-Gauge model railway layout and a talk from Bill Reed, one of our members who is a volunteer at the museum.

The museum is named after King Athelstan, a grandson of Alfred the Great and considered to be the first King of all England. It covers two floors and amongst the exhibits are an original watercolour of Malmesbury Abbey by JMW Turner, a hoard of Roman coins found locally in 2012, along with a number of medieval coins, a replica Athelstan sword made by local artisans and a whole lot more! There were also some fascinating histories of local industries and, in the Malmesbury Voices Project, recordings of local people telling stories of life and work in Malmesbury.

After a good look around the main museum we had a short walk to the Rausing Building, an ex Moravian church, to visit a temporary exhibition of an N-Gauge model railway layout of Malmesbury station. The layout was created by Rev'd Chris Burch in 2016 and, apart from being compressed in length, is a faithful replica of the station in the 1930's.



Bill started his talk explaining the circumstances and co-incidences that led to his discovery of the layout, and later on to his discovery of 'Malmesbury Abbey', a steam locomotive.



Although Chris Burch had never visited Malmesbury he had taken his inspiration from photographs in books about the branch line. Once completed the layout was displayed a few times before Chris sadly unexpectedly died. Several friends, who had helped in the construction, were involved in preserving and storing the layout and it was through one of these that Bill heard of its existence and arranged for it to be displayed at the museum.

Having discovered the existence of the Star Class locomotive 'Malmesbury Abbey' Bill was keen to find out all about it. His research led to his obtaining a OO scale Star Class engine and changing its identity to 4062 'Malmesbury Abbey', which was also displayed in the museum.

Bill also told us the life story of George Jackson Churchward, the designer of the Star Class locos for the Great Western Railway. Churchward was the Chief Mechanical Engineer for the GWR from 1902 to 1922 and is fondly remembered in Swindon as the first Mayor.

Very many thanks to Bill for enabling such a fantastic visit enjoyed by us all. A donation will be made to the Athelstan Museum to show our appreciation.

## **North Wilts Branch Events, MMOC Area 4 Events and other events.**

Please refer to the North Wilts Branch website.

<http://www.northwiltsmmoc.co.uk/styled-18/index.html>

## **Thanks & final notes**

**From: Pam Holmes**

I would like to thank those people who have taken the time to contribute to this Branch Newsletter by sending me short reports and/or photos:

Clive, Anna & Charlie Frost  
Martin Howard  
Bill Reed  
Ash Holmes  
Photo: courtesy of Swindon Advertiser.  
Federation of British Motor Vehicles

Please send reports and photos for the May 2025 Branch Newsletter as soon as possible but before 28th April.

Apologies for the late circulation of this Newsletter but a "pesky gallbladder" had me in Great Western Hospital for nearly 2 weeks, now slowly recovering.