



NWMMOC NEWSLETTER

May 2026

Photos from the Archives

Bill Reed

Nigel and Ann Gratton were great supporters of North Wilts Branch in the 1990's, and a trophy is still awarded in Nigel's memory. It is given by the Chair each year to a member who has made a significant contribution to the Branch's activities. It is currently held by Pam Holmes.



I didn't know why the car was decorated with daffodils until I found this extract in "Branch News" in Minor Matters. Nigel is giving a piston trophy at the end of a Fun Run. The Branch still has this trophy. But who is the child and where is he now?

NORTH WILTSHIRE : Alison Briance ...

Summer is on its way and to celebrate this we are having a Spring Fun Run around the local pubs. All our cars will be decorated in spring flowers.

To follow in June we are having a barbecue – weather permitting – if not Martin will be happy as it will be another game of skittles!

Plans for the North Wilts. Fun Run to Littlecote are coming along (see Rally Preview), so keep that date free in your diary.

Drive-It-Day 26th April 2026

Words: Pam Holmes Photos: Bill Reed, Clive & Charlie Frost

On a beautiful sunny day a group of Morris Minors with their owners, members of North Wilts MMOC, gathered at Studley



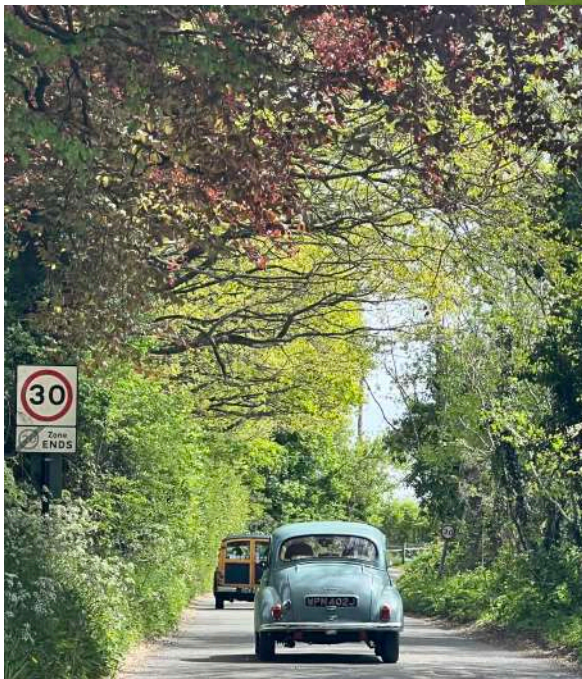
Grange Garden Centre for refreshments and to collect their route. Drive-It-Day, an annual national event sponsored by the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs, supports NSPCC Childline by sale of rally plaques.



The route, carefully planned by Bill and Alex, led us through scenic Wiltshire. We passed the Hackpen White Horse, drove over the Ridgeway, through Marlborough and to the Saxon church of St Mary at Alton Barnes. After 22 miles we arrived at Woodborough. Unfortunately Martin O'Brien had a brake problem! Andrew, Martin and Ash all stopped to provide support but for safety he decided not to continue and request assistance from the AA.



The photos below show the route and the variety of transport out in the sun.



For part of the route we were driving amongst a large group of Triumph owners: Heralds, Spitfires etc.





Vintage Weekend at the Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Steam Railway: 11th April.

Words and Photos: Bill Reed.

On Saturday 11 April Sue, Alex and I took part in the Vintage Weekend at the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway at Toddington station, with a dozen Minors from Bristol, Gloucester and Birmingham branches.



We took day rover tickets to visit the events in the other stations - live 1940's music, a WW2 army display, railway exhibits - and enjoy views of the Cotswold countryside as far as the Malvern Hills.

Our locomotive was GWR 4-6-0 Betton Grange - originally scheduled for 1939 and finally delivered in ... 2024! See



www.6880.co.uk. There was a busy timetable with two steam locos, two diesels and the wonderful GWR Railcar No. 22.

At Toddington the cafe served simple snacks very efficiently - people have a train to catch after all! - and there was a live 1940's stage, railway bookstalls, museum and of course other classic vehicles. So there was lots to do and see even without taking the train.

Our thanks to Jenni Wood for organising this enjoyable outing. The Glos. Branch annual rally will be on Sunday 31 May at the Jet Age Museum, Gloucester, GL2 9QL. If you would like to attend, email Jenni at mmoc.gloucester@gmail.com.

Coleford Carnival

Words & Photos: Bill Reed and Kath Ridley

Harry and Kathleen, Sue and Alex and I enjoyed Coleford Carnival of Transport on Easter Monday. The town centre was closed and completely given over to classic vehicles, along with a nearby large car park. Kathleen and Sue said they enjoyed the variety of stalls and shops open, and the friendly staff and atmosphere.

Alex and I visited the railway museum founded and run by a local family of railwaymen, with a very interesting tour of the signal box. Harry and Alex came across a Land Rover / trailer combination that they were familiar with from army days. There was a wide variety of

rare classics, some I have never seen outside museums: two Auto Unions, a Trabant, a South African Austin Apache, an early Rolls Royce.



Harry and I (Kath) enjoyed our day out to Coleford, very much. Harry enjoyed all the different classic cars and motorbikes, although we did not see many Morris Minors, 5. Sue and I had a walk around the town, going around the town and stalls, we went to see the model railway, which was a nice display.





There was a shop in the town (C.J. Elsmore) that in its early days was a garage that stocked and repaired Morris Minors and there

was an old photo in the window to proof it!

We all had a nice day and would visit again.

C J 'ELSMORE , 4 'MARKET PLACE, COLEFORD CIRCA 1960'S



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MANY THANKS TO MRS 'M COX (NEE 'ELSMORE) FOR SHARING 'HER PHOTOS

St. George's Day: Drive with Fairford Classic Car Club.

Words & photo: Pam Holmes



The Drive started at Butts Farm for coffee and to collect the route plan; being one of the last to arrive we had the parking slot next to the bins!

Perhaps we should use this as a starting point for one of our Drives!

Would you be willing to organise a Drive for our Branch? If you feel inexperienced then there are several members who would be willing to assist and provide advice. More volunteers to arrange or help with events really does share the workload and enable us to have an interesting programme! If you could be tempted to help then please talk with me.

Annual Rally 2026 on 1st August at the Glos. Country & Vintage Extravaganza.

Words: Pam Holmes

Registration forms for our rally are available on the Branch website and should be completed and signed, then returned to Martin Howard as a matter of urgency, no later than 21st May.

If you have not been to the “South Cerney Show”, as this is often referred to, then “you don’t know what you are missing”! This is a steam show with hundreds of classic cars and motorcycles, craft and food tents, shopping and a vast array of displays and events taking place in the arenas and marquees.

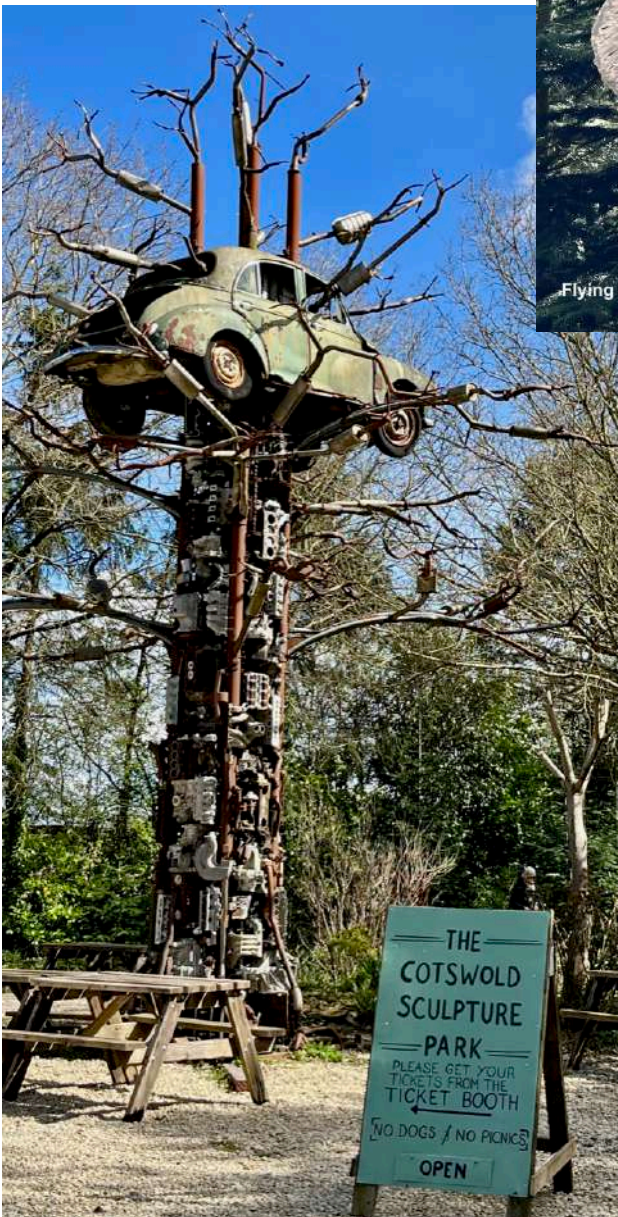
There is quite literally something for everyone to view, watch and enjoy! Members of the committee were delighted when we were given permission to hold our Branch Rally at this venue.

I do appreciate that having to “book” for the Branch Rally more than two months in advance can be difficult but this has been the requirement in order to be at this venue. We do not have to pay entry to the Show, just the Branch Rally fee, so if you wish to take part then please send in your application for the Branch Rally as a matter of urgency.

Cotswold Sculpture Park:

Words & Photos: Bill Reed

Not the way we like to display our Minors! But it's a very interesting place for a coffee and a stroll around.



<https://cotswoldsculpturepark.co.uk>

Future events: Planning by Bill, Alex and Steve for our Branch visit to Derbyshire 12-15th June.

Bill reports: we are planning Cromford Mills on the Saturday morning and Ecclesbourne Valley Railway on the Saturday afternoon.

Cromford Mills <https://www.cromfordmills.org.uk>

Ecclesbourne Valley Railway <https://www.e-v-r.com>

And then Morris Day at the Great British Car Journey on the Sunday <https://greatbritishcarjourney.com>

If you would like to take part then contact Bill Reed as a matter of urgency as you will need to book accommodation.



South Wales Branch Rally at Caldicot Castle on Sunday, 10th May. Final Call!

The South Wales Morris Minor Club are again holding their Branch Rally at Cadicot Castle. The event is open to all Classic Cars and all profits go to Tŷ Hafan Children's Hospice.

“Since we started holding this event at the castle in 2018 the show just keeps getting bigger and better! Last year we had over 200 cars in attendance of all makes and models. Please come along and join us if you can.”

Please complete the entry form to confirm your attendance:

[https://tickets.mp/ZXZlbnQ6ODM4Mg==?
utm_source=facebook...](https://tickets.mp/ZXZlbnQ6ODM4Mg==?utm_source=facebook...)

Bill Reed has offered to “lead” the group from Leigh Delamere Services through to the Rally site.

If you wish to take part in this event, with other members of the North Wilts Branch then please contact Bill Reed once you have obtained your ticket (tickets are free and still available).

bill@euclidvillas.co.uk

Hampshire Branch Rally at Wilton House, near Salisbury. Sunday, 28th June.

We have been invited as a Branch to attend the Hampshire Branch Rally which is to be in Wiltshire this year, at Wilton House.

Application forms are now available - the link to their Branch website is available on our North Wilts MMOC website. If you are having any difficulty in registering on the Hampshire Branch website then please contact: Pam Holmes pamlynnholmes@icloud.com or by phone and I will try to help.

We shall be arranging the option of driving to Wilton in convoy from Swindon area, so watch out for details on our website and the next Branch Newsletter.

Fairford Steam Show: Sunday 16th August.

A steam show with about 150 Classic Cars on display! We are invited to participate as a Branch. This a first for our Branch! We have a maximum of 10 places.

If you would like to take part then please go to this link and book your place.

Link to website is <https://fairfordsteamshow.co.uk/>. Click on exhibitors then complete form.

(If that is difficult for you to do, then telephone Ash Holmes to make an alternative arrangement.)

Once you have a booked place then please email Ash to inform him and so ensure you will be in the North Wilts Branch patch.

Wiltshire Open Studios: Sunday, 26th July.

Words: Pam Holmes

Open studios is an opportunity for the public to visit the hidden world of local artists in their studios or workshops. It is free of charge.

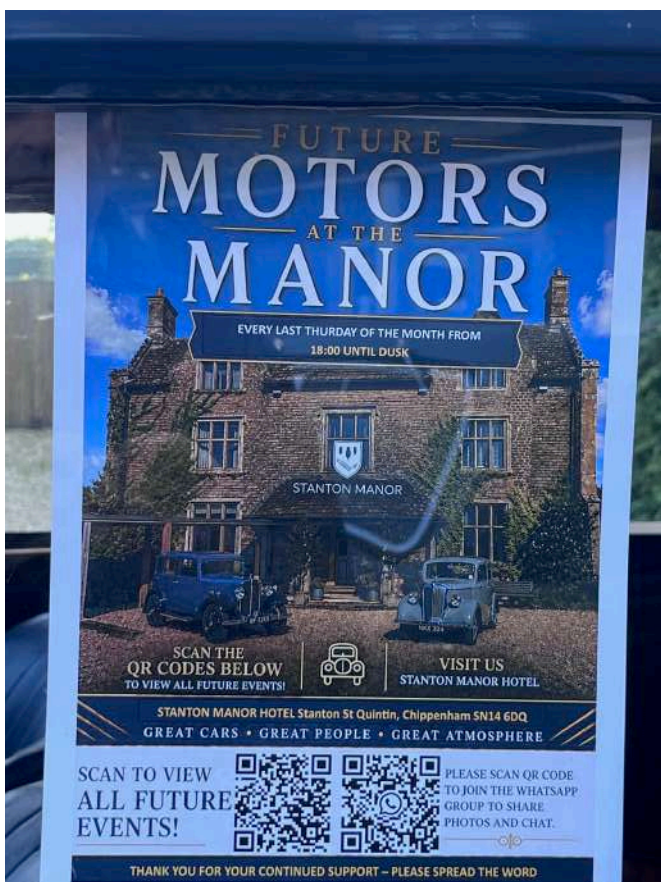
The artists' work ranges from curios, jewellery, glass or ceramics to large sculptures, bronzes and epic landscapes. You can meet the artist and discover their inspiration. It can be an exhilarating to step into someone's garden or house to look into the world of an artist.

Peter Williams has offered to arrange this Drive, starting at Chiseldon to visit studios in the Baydon, Ramsbury area, including ceramics, painting and sculpture, then ending in Aldbourne with the option of lunch.

If you are interested in participating in this very new event, please email me by return, so I can assess how many people would want to take part and Peter can plan the event accordingly.

Another opportunity to take your Minor out for a run!

Bill Reed has sent this photo of his Morris Minor Convertible at Stanton Manor with a variety of other interesting classic cars.



The meet at Stanton Manor is at 6:00 pm on the last Thursday of the month during the summer.

Stanton St Quintin, near Chippenham, SN14 6DQ

North Wilts MMOC Branch Committee

Words: Pam Holmes

Your committee will be meeting on 30th April and therefore I will include information about the outcomes of that meeting in the next Branch Newsletter at the end of May.

Two issues that we shall be discussing are:

- the Branch Rally to be held on Saturday, 1st August at South Cerney Show. Please get your applications in as a matter of urgency!
- a new event visiting Artists Studios in the Aldbourne area whilst enjoying a pleasant drive through Wiltshire countryside. I would very much like your thoughts about this event!!

**Final note of thanks for your contributions
to this newsletter to:**

Bill Reed
Ashley Alexander
Steve Chater
Kath Ridley
Ash Holmes

