



NWMMOC NEWSLETTER

November 2024

AGM of the North Wiltshire Branch of MMOC Sunday, 13th October in Castle Eaton Village Hall.

Words: Pam Holmes & Photos: Bill Reed

It was good to see the large turnout of members for the AGM this year! A total of 28 nearly half our membership!

The Village Hall car park was a “period scene” with a row of Minors!



The business of the AGM was swiftly over, the old committee stood down and the following people were elected as your committee for the forthcoming year:

Chair: Sarah Bracher
Vice Chair and Technical: Steve Chater
Secretary: Gill Waters
Treasurer: Pam Holmes
Webmaster & Technical : Ash Holmes
Peter Watts
Regalia: Martin Howard

After the meeting, Clive Frost offered to work with me this year, with the intent to become treasurer in October 2025. I am very appreciative. He will join the committee as Vice treasurer this year.

Minutes of the AGM can be viewed on the Branch website.

Formal business over and everyone enjoyed jacket potatoes with various fillings, bread and homemade soups whilst taking time to catch up with friends and discuss work that has been done on several of the Morris Minors.

After the AGM and refreshments, we were all entertained by Bill Read who gave a presentation, "A Case of Gross Exploitation".



Great Chesterford Steam Up.

Words and Photos: Bill Reed

Visiting family near Saffron Walden in late September we had an opportunity to spend the day at Great Chesterford Steam Up. The event took over the whole of the village, which gave it a warm community feel. Really interesting rare exhibits included an operating Merryweather fire pump and a Locomobile steam car offering rides. American classics were well represented. I was pleased to meet Jon Morgan of Uttlesford Morris Minors, an enthusiastic group with about 60 members. Jon recently won a prize at the National Rally with the 4-door saloon he has owned since the 1970's. Another car on display was a nice maroon Traveller with stickers from early MOTs in the 1990's. In the village street we also found a characterful Minor pickup. And guess who we should run into at Buckingham Garden Centre on the way back - Andrew and Sarah Bracher!



Locomobile steam car

Merryweather fire pump





Minor Pickup & below badges from Minors on Tour trips in the 1990's.



Uttlesford Minors in unusual company



Meeting up with Honorary Branch Members: Julian and Susie Marshall.

Words and Photos: Bill Reed.

At the end of September Alex and I travelled up to visit Honorary Branch Members Susie and Julian Marshall, who moved from Malmesbury to Wirksworth in Derbyshire 4 years ago. We were pleased to find them still very happy with their life in Wirksworth and there was plenty to talk about. They still have their Minor, a 1963 2-door which used to belong to Julian's aunt, who was a District Nurse in Gloucestershire.

We enjoyed dinner at "Le Mistral" (branch members who joined our "North Wilts Minors on Tour" trip to the Peak District in 2021 will remember it) and had a look round the station at the Ecclesbourne Valley Heritage Railway (the same members will remember our trip on that line).



Photo: Julian in his element, explaining wheel-to-rail contact.



Susie and Julian at Wirksworth station.

As a result, Alex and I plan another visit to the Peak District in 2025, as on Sunday 8 June there will be a Morris Minor Day at “The Great British Car Journey” in Ambergate, a few miles from Wirksworth (and which we also visited in 2021). If you would be interested in joining us please contact me or Alex.

Susie and Julian send warm regards to all branch members.



Photo from Susie and Julian’s farewell party in Malmesbury with their Morris Minor.

Area 4 Halloween Breakfast meet 27th October.

Words & photos: Pam and Ash Holmes

Planned by Jenni Wood as a Halloween day out in your Morris Minor this excellent event offered breakfast, a drive visiting a medieval church, lunch and a halloween "Murder Mystery and Mayhem tour at Arnos Vale in Bristol. Also, prizes for the best decorated cars and people!

We decided to join the group for Breakfast and then to saunter home in the convertible via Westonbirt Arboretum to view the autumn leaf displays.



Breakfast at Mrs Gs, Chipping Sodbury was delicious, huge and really good value! The company was good and we enjoyed viewing the Moggies, seeing the halloween costumes and hearing about forthcoming events.



Swindon Classic Car Club meet at Highworth 27th October.
Words Stephen Rogers. Photos Ashley Alexander.



On Sunday 27th October Alex and myself in our Morris cars joined Swindon Classic car club for a meeting. On a warm and sunny day we met at JT's for breakfast. Then with John Dunn in the lead we followed him, via Sevenhampton to the Highworth car park.



There was a fantastic turnout with many different classic cars 🚗 filling the car park.

A very enjoyable meeting with friendly people. We are looking forward to the next meeting.



The Sun Inn, Lydiard Millicent

Words & Photos: Pam Holmes



Do you recognise this pub?

Have you booked your place on the Drive and your lunch for Sunday, 17th November? Starting at Lechlade Garden Centre, 10am.

Pam Holmes needs to know if you wish to take part and your menu choices by Monday, 4th November. pamlynnholmes@icloud.com
Menu has been circulated and is on the North Wilts MMOC website.

NEC Classic Car Show: LCV Stand.

Words & Photo: Martin O'Brien



The NEC Classic Car Show is nearly upon us with the weekend spanning the 8th to the 10th November. The show sounds amazing with between 70-100,000 visitors expected. My 1962 Morris Minor Pickup has been invited onto the Commercial LCV stand alongside two other vehicle in Hall 5 on stand 786.

The LCV magazine editor, Russell Harvey sent this invite out, “come over and say hello. we have a nice Maroon Van, a splendidly wrapped Minor Pick-up, a lovely Royal Mail liveried van and of course a brand new chassis plus more! “ I second that invite and hope to see some of you there.

Branch Regalia

Martin and Jenny Howard are now organising the sale of our Branch regalia.

If you are thinking of purchasing regalia items for Christmas gifts then send Martin an email identifying what you are interested in buying.

Contact details are: 43martinhoward@gmail.com

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

Finally, I would like to thank those people who have taken the time to contribute to this Branch Newsletter:

Ashley Alexander
Stephen Rogers
Martin O'Brien
Bill Reed
Ash Holmes
Martin Howard

It is the contribution of members that makes the Branch Newsletter interesting and relevant!

Lovely photos with recommendations for events to attend next year are in this Branch Newsletter!

Please send me for future Branch Newsletters photos of your Morris with information about the car and your ownership. I will include in the Newsletter and pass to Ash for including on the Branch website!

I look forward to meeting up with everyone at the Drive on Sunday, 17th November and for our Christmastime picnic on Sunday, 15th December.