



# NWMMOC NEWSLETTER

November 2025

## Treasure Hunt: Sunday, 28th September

Words: Pam Holmes Photos: Clive Frost & Pam Holmes



The photos tell the story: 31 people, lots of Moggies, a sunny day and a good lunch!









# Stephen Rogers 1940 - 2025

## A tribute by Dennis Flood

introduced by Bill Reed



We were all shocked and saddened to hear of Steve's sudden death. He was a keen supporter of Branch activities and unfailingly good-humoured company. He owned two Travellers, a blue one named Doreen after his late wife, and for a time a red one. They were maintained by his brother-in-law, with help (for the red one) from North Wilts Branch members. Along with Alex Alexander, Steve arranged a number of events for us, and with Alex and Julian Marshall he also did a lot of cycling. Some years ago he suffered a serious fall from his bicycle but fortunately recovered well.

Steve's wife Doreen, to whom he was devoted, died about 15 years ago after a long period of illness during which she was confined to a wheelchair. When I first met Steve at North Wilts MMOC events he was often accompanied by his friend Addie, and then in recent years by Shirley, to whom we extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences.

His longstanding friend and colleague Dennis Flood has written the tribute on the next page.

**Steve Rogers** was born in Newton Abbot, Devon and joined British Railways in 1956 as a Signal Box Lad. He worked as a Signaller at Newton Abbot and Enborne Junction, near Newbury, in the early 1960s. He became a Controller at the BR Western Region HQ at Paddington in 1962, and then became a BR Parcels Inspector whose role was to try and find lost parcels over the entire BR network - a thankless task indeed! As could be expected, his wife Doreen was none too happy with him dashing around the country chasing lost parcels!

He then took up positions as a Signaller at Park Royal Signal Box in West London and then Southall East Junction Signal Box to get back to what he did best. Following this he became a Guard Trainer in the early 1970s, in Reading.

Steve was then offered the position of District Inspector of the BR WR London District at Western Tower in Reading. He made this position his own and gained the respect of all railway staff who came into contact with him, and this respect for him never wavered.

Following the closure of the London District in the early 1980s, he became BR WR Headquarters Signalling Inspector, still at Western Tower. He did this job for several years.

When BR was split into Business Sectors in the early 1990s, Steve was appointed as Chief Signalling Inspector for Regional Railways South Wales & West, based at Western House in Swindon. This position covered a very large geographical area from just south of Shrewsbury, the whole of South and West Wales and from Exeter to Penzance. He gained the respect and admiration of all RRSW&W staff he came into contact with.

Upon privatisation of BR in 1996, Steve became an Auditor for Railtrack, a post he carried out diligently but he did not like very much as it was not "hands-on", like his previous roles. He retired from the railways in 1997 following a career of 41 years.

He was married to Doreen. She was confined to a wheelchair for many years and Steve looked after her constantly. She was not only his wife but his best friend and soul mate. He was devastated when she died. He named his Traveller after her. They had no children. Steve had three sisters.

Steve was a volunteer driver/helper for the Stroke Club in Swindon and Doreen, an accomplished pianist, used to play the piano at some of their gatherings. He drove a minibus provided by 'Dial-a-Ride' in Swindon to the Stroke Club for almost 30 years. He used to take a lot of members of the Stroke Club to 'away-days'. His favourite location was Weston-Super-Mare. He liked the fish and chips there!

Steve had the respect of all who met and knew him, for just being the person he was. It was with great sadness that all of his former friends in the railway 'family', who knew Steve, were collectively shocked at his passing on Wednesday 9 October 2025.

RIP Steve - you were a true gentleman.

Dennis Flood, October 2025



## Cars and Coffee in Queen's Square, Clevedon.

Words & photos: Bill Reed.

On Saturday 11 October **Jenni Wood**, MMOC Area Four coordinator, arranged for a group of Minors to join "Cars and Coffee" in Queen's Square, Clevedon. This was an ideal venue with maples turning red, a huge plane tree, cafes and shops, and, best of all, a lot of passers-by who were very appreciative of the cars. We were about a dozen Minors (the green cars on the next page are also Morris Minors) along with some other very rare exhibits.





## Cars and Coffee - cont.



## Greetings from Spain!

**Young Member Nicolas Reed** who lives in Gandía, Spain, sends greetings to members who know him, along with this photo of himself with a Citroën GS built at Citroën's Vigo plant in Spain from the early 1970s. But what is the car next to it?





## Branch visit to British Motor Heritage Ltd Tuesday, 7th October 2025

Words: Martin Howard

Photos: Ash Holmes

Tucked away, hidden in an industrial park in Witney, Oxfordshire, lies the factory that brings back to life tradition, heritage and manufacturing approaches synonymous with British motoring history.

Nine branch members had the opportunity to have a guided tour around the factory. We were given first the history and background of how the company was first established and how it became a very valuable asset to the classic car industry. British Motor Heritage Limited was established in 1975, acquired from BMW in 2001 and has since run entirely independently. Their purpose? Supporting the industry, whether that be owners or marketplace, by manufacturing parts for some of the nation's most loved home-grown cars, using the same tooling and assembly jigs that would have produced body shells and parts back in the halcyon days before and including British Leyland.

Our tour took us on a journey around a manufacturing facility that was spitting and splashing sparks from MIG welding, stopping off to see the incredible work carried out by the highly skilled employees, some of whom are graduates of Heritage Skills Academy's outstanding apprenticeship programme. MGB, MGR-V8, MG Midget, Austin-Healey Sprite, Triumph, Spitfire, the original Mini, Mini Clubman, you name it, bodysells and loose parts that keep these iconic nameplates alive presented themselves at every turn – a real 'old world' treasure trove.

A combination of modern craft and traditional excellence, British Motor Heritage Ltd is a pinnacle in its art and champion for supporting the next generation of careers of our Classics.

Everyone agreed at the end of our visit, the surprise and enjoyment in learning and seeing how our classic cars were first manufactured. And to see that they would be still being catered for the years to come.

We then had a short drive to the White Hart pub for an enjoyable lunch.

*(Editor's note: the photographs show Steve Rogers, who was taking part in Branch activities right up until his sad sudden death reported above.)*





## British Motor Heritage Ltd - cont.





## **AGM 19 October 2025**

### **Following the AGM, your committee is:**

**Chair** Pam Holmes (+ newsletter)  
**Vice Chair** Steve Chater (+ technical)  
**Treasurer** Clive Frost (new committee member - welcome!)  
**Secretary** Anna Gale (new committee member - welcome!)  
**Other committee members:** Peter Watts; Ash Holmes (+ website);  
Martin Howard (+ 2026 rally + regalia). Kathleen Ridley (member not  
on committee) has volunteered for the raffle.  
Presentations were made, with thanks, to retiring officers Gill Waters  
and Sarah Bracher.  
We pride ourselves on being a friendly and active Branch. The AGM,  
with a turnout of 25 (41% of members) plus honoured guests from the  
Branch's past, was proof of this. We have been congratulated on the  
number and variety of events we run.  
We and our cars in MMOC Area Four benefit from a network in which  
North Wilts Branch has a distinct identity and continuity of existence  
since 1981 - that's 44 years - only 5 years less than the MMOC itself!  
We can only sustain this with the active support of members.  
Please consider volunteering for an event or to join the committee.

## **Question & Answer Session on GHR 800N**

The AGM was followed by a very entertaining Q&A session on the stories associated with this legendary Minor. Alex's photo shows Steve Chater introducing the panel: Andy Smith, Rod Law, Bill Reed, Pete Cosslett, Sophie Smith and Denise Law. We learnt a lot that we didn't know before and a full report will follow in due course.





## Are your bikes registered?

Photo & words: Bill Reed

Branch Member Juliet Evans, Community Support Officer, with a Police colleague on a bike registration day in Malmesbury Town Hall for the National Cycle Database. Details at [www.bikeregister.com](http://www.bikeregister.com).



## Honorary member in USA Alison Briance Shailes

posted this great photo with her convertible "Doris". She wants to replace the carpets and asks if members can recommend a UK or US supplier. NB North Wilts badge on car!

## Thanks to contributors to this Newsletter:

Alex Alexander — Juliet Evans — Clive Frost — Dennis Flood — Ash Holmes  
Pam Holmes — Martin Howard — Bill Reed — Nicolas Reed — Alison Briance Shailes

## Next Branch Events

Sunday 16 November: Drive out and pub lunch. Book with [Gill](#)

Sunday 14 December: Christmas picnic and Quiz, Village Hall, Castle Eaton  
(+ contributions to Swindon Food Bank)

Sunday 18 January: New Year Meal. Book with [Gill](#)

Advance notice: Weekend of 13-14 June 2026: North Wilts Minors on Tour to Derbyshire, including Morris Day at [The Great British Car Journey, Ambergate](#).

Please register your interest with [Bill](#)

See also the [Events Page](#) of our website