



NWMMOC NEWSLETTER

April 2023

Branch News

Our run out planned on 11 March from Studley Grange sadly had to be cancelled because of bad weather. Our thanks to Kathleen and Harry Ridley for their organisation - it's always frustrating when this happens, but they have kindly offered to research a replacement event for later in the year. The weather again frustrated plans for the run organised by Jenny and Martin Howard on 1 April, but the lunch venue - the excellent Freke Arms at Swanborough - was retained and all 17 members who had signed up for the run met there, with five Minors braving the floods on the back roads. The inn was built by a member of the wealthy Freke family, landowners in the neighbouring village of Hannington. Thank you Martin and Jenny for your arrangements.

On the way over from Malmesbury, Bill called in at the Swindon and Cricklade Railway at Blunsdon Station and met Emma, their events organiser. She is aware of our Branch Rally on 11 June and it was a chance to start discussing arrangements for parking, gazebo etc.



Branch Members at
the Freke Arms, 1 April
Photo by Jenny Howard



Branch cars at the Freke Arms



Blunsdon Station, 1 April

MMOC Area 4 news

On 14 April Bill and Steve Chater will be meeting Jenni Wood, Area 4 Liaison Officer. They will discuss the visit of the MMOC charity car Miranda Minor, and prepare for the Branch Liaison meeting on 30 April, when our request to be officially recognised as in Area 4 (South West) rather than Area 6 (South Central) will be on the agenda. Bill and Steve will represent North Wilts Branch at that meeting, and at the MMOC AGM which takes place the same day.

Your Committee needs you!

The Branch Committee will be meeting on 26 April to discuss the future of the Branch after Bill steps down as chair at this year's AGM. The following committee meeting will be on 17 May. Please consider if you could help the Branch by joining the committee: you would be welcome to attend the 17 May meeting to see how we work.

Traveller requested for an event in Swindon

On Saturday 29 April MMOC member Martin Robins is arranging an event in Sanford Street to commemorate [Brightwen Binyon](#), the architect of Swindon Town Hall, the Mechanics' Institute and Sanford Street School. Martin, who attended the school, has asked if a Branch Member could bring a Traveller to the occasion, to commemorate the one owned by his woodwork and metalwork teacher, "Ike" Gradwell. Martin writes:

My Headmaster was surprised to be told some considerable time later that Ike was a Communist. This is no way changed his opinion of Ike - the explanation my Headmaster gave was that when Ike turned the handle on the front door he left his Communism outside! Ike drove a Morris Minor Traveller and we would like to have a Traveller parked outside the school on the day - just where Mr Gradwell parked his.

The event is at 10:00, includes a short talk on Binyon and a brief tour of the building, and should take no more than an hour. The history of Sanford Street Boys' School is [here](#). If you would like to help, please contact [Bill](#) for more details.

North Wilts Branch - Events

Sun 30 April: Wheel Nuts, St Rose's School, Stroud wheelnuts@stroses.org.uk
Contact [Alex Alexander](#) or [Gill Waters](#) ASAP as places are limited this year.

Sunday 11 June: Annual Branch Rally, Swindon & Cricklade Railway, Blunsdon. Entry forms were sent out on 30 March, if you have not received yours please contact [Gill Waters](#).

Saturday 24 June: Summer Festival on the Parks, Swindon.
Contact mike9welsh@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday 30 July: Run and visit to the Oxford Bus Museum & Morris Motors Museum, Long Hanborough OX29 6LA. Contact 43martinhoward@gmail.com

Saturday 5 August: Gloucester Vintage and Country Extravaganza at South Cerney Airfield. Contact [Bill](#) ASAP to reserve a space on the club stand - we only have 9 places allocated. Other information at: www.glosvintageextravaganza.co.uk

Other events you may be interested in:

Sunday 23 April: [Drive it Day](#) and the rescheduled [Cowley Drive it Day](#)

Sunday 21 May: [Morris Minor Day at the Great British Car Journey](#)
(see March-April *issue* of *Minor Matters* for discount)

Sunday 18 June: [Salisbury Motor Show](#)

Sat 1 July: [Wallop Wheels & Wings](#)

Sunday 9 July: [British Leyland Day, Gaydon](#) *(see below)*

Sat-Sun 15 & 16 July [Market Lavington Vintage Meet](#)

Sunday 23 July: **Stroud Classic Car Show**, The playing field, Bisley Old Road, Stroud, Glos GL5 1NL. From 10:00 am - just turn up early, entry is free.

August Bank Holiday: [Pershore Plum Festival](#)

August 27 & 28 [White Horse Show, Uffington](#)

Sat 2 Sept: **Kingswood Classic** Contact [Jenni Wood](#), MMOC Area 4 Liaison Officer

Sun 3 Sept: [White Horse Vehicle Show, Westbury](#)

****9 July British Leyland Day:** Contact [Bill](#) if you would like to go, he is planning to take his Triumph 2500 and could travel in convoy.

If you would like to arrange an outing to any of the above, or just an informal breakfast or coffee meet, please give Gill a call on 01793 813309.

Minor for sale - update

The Minor advertised in last month's newsletter now has an engine and gearbox fitted.

The car is in Malmesbury.

For more details, please ring Mike's wife on 07904 838837 or contact his friend Chris by email at enigma1958@hotmail.co.uk

