



NWMMOC NEWSLETTER

January 2022

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

On 8 December, 19 members joined our Christmas Zoom, on 13 screens. We were able to include our honorary members Julian and Susie in Derbyshire, and Roger and Alison in Indiana, USA. (Freddie, by the way, is the Labradoodle.) The session went very well, with everyone having a few minutes to give their latest news. It turned out Peter and Teresa (in Painswick) have a son living in Ohio, not too far from Roger and Alison. Their son is possibly interested in importing Peter's Traveller, so our outpost in the States may be expanding! Mike Welsh, self-isolating after his return from Nairobi, also joined us for a few minutes.

Apart from Steve's display cabinets, how many Minors can you spot?



Christmas lunch

On 12 December, 28 of us met at the Bolingbroke Arms in Hook for an excellent Christmas lunch.

It has been two years since so many of us sat down together for a meal, so this was a special occasion.

Everything was on time with the food served hot and no waits between courses. Gill has written a note of thanks to the staff for their hard work.

The photo of Diana's car was taken as we left. It's always great to see these valiant little cars out as the daylight is fading.

A toast was proposed for **David Waters**, as that day would have been his 80th birthday. He chaired the Branch from 2007 until 2015 with only one "gap year". The photograph was taken at our Branch Rally at Atwell Wilson Motor Museum in 2014.

We also remember **Roy Evans**, who passed away in January 2019. He was a firefighter in Malmesbury for over 18 years and ran his own wrought-iron business. He made Malmesbury War Memorial Gates, which are by the River Avon as you enter the town from the Chippenham direction.



Minor Speed by Jeff Hide

On the way to the NWMMOC Christmas lunch at the Bolingbroke Arms on Sunday 12 December in Baggins, we used the M4 between junctions 15 and 16. Traffic density was low being a Sunday and we were in plenty of time to reach our destination. Accordingly we travelled at a reasonable speed between 35 and 40mph in the inside lane. Jacquie was using the Tom Tom, hand held and that has a truly accurate speed as opposed to Baggins which is rather optimistic.

We had travelled about half way on that section of the M4 when I noticed a police traffic patrol car behind. It too was not in a hurry but after a few hundred yards it put on its blue flashing lights. There had been illuminated signs restricting speed to 60mph due to animals in the road. No - I wasn't exceeding 60mph; I wouldn't push Baggins that fast! My immediate thought was that the police car was going to pull onto the hard shoulder as the driver had had a message about the loose animal but, no, it wasn't that. Then the two tone horns started so, I slowed and pulled up on the hard shoulder. The police car pulled up behind me and the constable alighted. He was alone. Wisely he came to the nearside passenger window and politely asked where I was going. I told him. He asked at which junction was I to leave the M4 and I told him junction 16. He confirmed that he had checked the vehicle out on his radio and all was in order; that is, not stolen and with current insurance.

He then explained that he had noticed a number of vehicles, particularly foreign lorries having to brake and pull out into the middle lane as they had not realised that there was a vehicle doing only 35mph ahead. I said, "But, it is a Morris Minor". After a little friendly banter he suggested that it might be safer for me to not to use motorways at such slow speeds and so he was going to escort me up to junction 16 to make sure that I was safe. I thanked him. He liked the car and, in passing, stated that his father-in-law had a Morris 1000 Traveller. I was tempted to ask our members at the lunch if any had a traveller AND a police traffic officer as a son-in-law, so that I could pass on my thanks.



"Christmas Delivery at Nuffield Place"

Christmas card from Sue Akrill,
MMOC Branch Liaison Officer, with
greetings to all members of
NWMMOC.

CAR ART BY EMILY
www.artandcars.co.uk



Our Hamper Handover took place as scheduled on 18 December and Mike Welsh got us a mention in the Wilts & Gos Standard which you can read [HERE](#).

2022 Events

Saturday 22 January, 1.00: **Indoor picnic** at Castle Eaton Village Hall (preceded by a committee meeting)

Sun 27 Feb, 10.30: Goddard Park: Mike Welsh: **"Desai School, Nairobi"** (<https://www.desaimemorialschool.co.uk>)

March: **Drive-out** (date tbc)

24 April: **Drive It Day**

1 May: **Wheel Nuts**

Saturday 18 June: Swindon: **Fundraising for Cancer Research with GHR 800N**

Sunday 19 June: **Branch Rally** at REME, Lyneham



"Which bit is the catalytic converter, then?"

"Horse power or magic reindeer power?"

"Those headlights are brighter than Rudolph's nose, Santa."

(Thanks to the Waters and Bracher families)