



NWMMOC NEWSLETTER

January 2023

2023 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

* indicates main North Wilts Branch events

***Sunday 29 January, 2:00pm: New Year Lunch at The Crown, Broad Hinton.**
<https://crownatbroadhinton.co.uk> Contact gillian.waters43@gmail.com

***Sunday 26 February, 1:30 pm at Castle Eaton Village Hall:**
"Elmer the Flying Monk of Malmesbury, and the Re-enactments of his Flight."
Audio-visual presentation by Bill Reed. Contact gillian.waters43@gmail.com

***March: Run out (date and details later)**

***Sat 1 April: Windrush Valley Spring Run.** Contact 43martinhoward@gmail.com

***April / May, date tba: Wheel Nuts, St Rose's School, Stroud**

***Sunday 11 June: Annual Branch Rally, Swindon & Cricklade Railway, Blunsdon**
(please note we are awaiting final confirmation of this date from S&CR)

***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 2023: Gloucester Vintage and Country Extravaganza at South Cerney Airfield.** www.glosvintageextravaganza.co.uk

Other events you may wish to take part in:

British Leyland Day, Gaydon, Sunday 9 July www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk

Market Lavington Vintage Meet, 15 & 16 July www.mlvintagemeeet.com

Pershore Plum Festival, August Bank Holiday www.pershoreplumfestival.org.uk

White Horse Show, Uffington, August 27 & 28 www.whitehorseshow.co.uk

The Committee is also working on other suggestions made at the AGM. If you would like to arrange an outing of any sort, or just an informal breakfast or coffee meet, please give Gill a call on 01793 813309.

Christmas Indoor Picnic 11 December 2022

This event was voted a great success, with 33 members attending. Many thanks to Pam and Ash for Village Hall arrangements and mulled wine, to Kathleen Ridley for the Christmas cake, and to Jeff Hide for reading his poem, "A Druid's Thoughts for this Time", reproduced below.

Group photo by Sarah Bracher.



Puzzle answers

This is a Hindustan Ambassador, built in West Bengal and based on the Morris Oxford designed by Sir Alec Issigonis, who designed the Morris Minor. On the bonnet is Ganesh, the elephant god, "the remover of obstacles."

Congratulations to Robert Harrin and Jeff Hide for their correct answers.

Photo by kind permission of the Classic Motor Hub



Baggins Redeemed

by Jeff Hide



Readers may have previously seen the adventurous challenge that Baggins faced in East Anglia in November when out for the count until resuscitated by the racing team at Haverhill, Suffolk. There then followed a further improvement on safety grounds of replacement seats with head rests. A replacement speedometer is ready for fitting too. Baggins, I was told was not actually doing 65mph recently.

Then, Baggins' stablemate, the Merc A180, was due to take us to Herefordshire to lunch with family on 4th December. All loaded up to leave at 9am when the windscreen wipers refused to operate despite the rear window wiper working ok as did other facilities on the wiper stalk. Too late to seek the cause and fix, so I thought. So, Baggins to the rescue – again! He had to be trusted to do the 140-mile trip. Well, he did so averaging 35 mph and did it well with comfortable seating, adequate windscreen wipers through the drizzle and foggy day with headlights on all the time.

On the Monday I learned that the Merc was not so stupid as I thought. I had checked the oil and water on the Saturday and closed the large heavy bonnet properly. On Monday, I drove the car onto the road and up came the 'bonnet not closed' sign. I checked, opening it again, and also inspected the electrical device that connects to the car computer. It seemed ok so I closed the lid. Guess what? The wipers then worked ok. They were prevented from working on the front screen as an open bonnet would have damaged them. You are never too old to learn.

YOUR MINOR WANTED!

We have over 30 Minors in the Branch but only 5 are described on our website. Ash would like to add more. Please send a photo and a few words about your car to ash.holmes221b@icloud.com.

A Druid's thoughts for this time

Tis Midwinter and all appears bleak
and yet the holly, ivy and yews
still proudly their green shrouds keep,
with their promise that life renews.
Winter's cold grasp upon all feeds
the cold not ready to go,
the Earth's dark womb still enfolds the seeds
that the future is yet to grow

A time to look at our past endeavours,
and a time of death and rebirth
A time to look t'wards our own new growth
as well as that of all the Earth.
I watch as the wren and robin make call
and then both change place.
I watch as the Holly king and Oak king stand tall,
then bow and each with the other embrace.

I now welcome the return of the new dawn sun
to end this longest night;
And I welcome the new born infant son
who grows strong in the coming light.
I accept the evening's black cloak concealed,
but wear it without fear or fright
for only in its deep folds is a morning revealed
that is beautiful and bright.

So, I welcome the Solstice long night fall
and I will bathe in the morning dew
and the returning light rises to the Awen call
and cleanses my soul anew.

Jeff Hide December 2022

Christmas Zoom

Our Christmas Zoom on 18 December attracted seven screens and it was a pleasure to be able to talk to Julian and Susie Marshall, who are now well settled into their home in Wirksworth, Derbyshire. Unfortunately our honorary members in the States were not able to join us as they were away in Chicago enjoying the Christmas lights!

GHR 800N - Latest News!

At a hamper relay handover at Lechlade Garden Centre, Steve Chater and Martin Howard were approached by someone who introduced himself as John Fitzpatrick. John explained that he was working at Bamptons in Swindon when GHR had its upholstery fitted. He had no idea that the car still existed or that we had just had it back to North Wilts! He then kindly sent me the photograph below, which shows Bamptons staff with the car on the occasion of the Charity Car Pull. I look forward to meeting John in person soon and adding to the story; in the meantime I have informed Robert Harrin and Andy Smith of this unexpected and welcome development. All credit to Martin for driving his Minor to the hamper relay, otherwise this encounter would not have happened! Moral: Always Use Your Minor!



Bamptons staff at Dutton Forshaw in May 1982. Left to right: Mick Jones; Pete Brown; Dave Hyland; Bernard Pedley (Manager); Ray Card; John Fitzpatrick.
