



Malvern Hills Branch Newsletter

February 2018



Welcome to the February edition of the branch newsletter.

Dates for the Diary for 2018

Saturday 13th January

Branch Meeting at Croome Court Cafe at 12 noon.

Saturday 10th February

Branch Meeting at Rowberry's (Chaddesley Corbett) Cafe at 12 noon.

Thursday 15th March

Branch Meeting at at the Huntsman PH at 7.30ish.

Tuesday 10th April

Branch Meeting at at the Huntsman PH at 7.30ish.

Tuesday 8th May

Branch Meeting at at the Huntsman PH at 7.30ish.

Sunday 13th May

Branch Rally at Witley Court. Click [here](#) for the Rally Entry form

As we start to enter spring, with the days getting longer and the first of the snowdrops pushing through. If you get a chance while at Chaddesley Corbett for our Feb meeting, try and take time to visit the church. Not only is it old there are also lots of snowdrops. Also it is worth wandering around the garden centre as they will have a large selection of plants and flowers ready for Valentine's Day. As well as possibly a few morris minor shaped planters. Though it was hard to think of nice spring days while I was out with my morris parked up in a muddy farm yard in the pouring rain and surrounded by sheep. I was on a canoeing week end in wales and as the place where we normally park was so sodden to drive onto, the farmer let us park next to the barns. Though I did not see or hear any lambs, I did drive past some daffodils in Brecon.

Treasurer's Trivia

Hello everyone,

Before starting please make a note in your diaries that our **MARCH** meeting will be in the skittle alley at the Huntsman at 8.00pm on **Thursday the 15th** rather than our normal Tuesday evening. This is because we are having a guest speaker and hope to have some food available for members as well. More on this later in the newsletter.

The Christmas meal was attended by 26 members and a very enjoyable end to the year it was. Most members were accommodated in the main dining room whilst 8 of us were in the smaller area above. Sue and Paul, who manage the catering, ensured we were well looked after and I certainly heard no complaints about the food. Michael and Dulcie, I know, were absolutely bowled over by the Mushroom and bacon starter. A particular highlight for those attending were the chocolate oranges with knitted Christmas themed covers that Maurita gave to everyone. These had been beautifully made by her and were a most kind and generous gift to us. I am sure I speak for everyone in expressing my sincere appreciation and thanks to her.

In January we had our annual outing to Croome Park. We were very lucky to have a dry day and it was a delight driving the 948 up to Croome (with heater blower turned up!). Jonathan, Mary and John had already arrived and had 2 tables sorted near the bottom exit which was ideal. 19 branch members attended plus we were delighted to welcome our friends from the Birmingham branch. The day was not without its difficulties for some people though. Ian Gloster, from Birmingham branch, unfortunately had problems with his Minor coming down and had to leave it temporarily at a safe address. Luckily, Dave and Sue Boyce, also from Birmingham branch, were travelling in their Traveller with him and brought Ian onto Croome. Bob was not able to start his lovely Series 2 which is definitely rare for Bob (all sorted now with the battery given a charge). Tim and Maria had been delayed at home so were late arriving. I had promised Tim I would take a photo of his Traveller for the newsletter. However, the car park was packed and I could not see it! My apologies Tim; will get it in another addition. Our visit to Croome in January continues to be popular with members and makes for an excellent start to the year.



Members cars at Croome

RALLY- As you can imagine the committee have been actively getting the organizing of our rally up and running. Bob has created a really excellent entry form and poster and I have already started to receive entries which is very encouraging. By time you read this I should have done the mail shot. I will have entry forms with me at branch meetings and they are available on the website. I am also happy to send a form out if necessary. Members who receive their newsletter by email should receive an entry form from Bob; those who have a printed newsletter will receive an entry direct from myself. The committee are, at the time of writing, negotiating to have a special 70th anniversary commemorative memento commissioned. If all goes to plan I hope to have further info on this in the next newsletter. I know we have a few members who have not been to Witley Court; it is well worth a visit with the firing of the fountain and the Witley church interior being real highlights plus on rally day lots of Morris Minors!

Doug Macmillan- Doug is very much in our thoughts and the latest news I have is that he has settled in quite well at a nursing home in Worcester. After

speaking to me, branch member Gordon Chamberlin recently visited Doug which was very good of him and I am sure was much appreciated. Other members I know are looking to visit him and Chris keeps in contact with his family. If you would like to visit Doug I would suggest ringing Chris first.

SWEATSHIRTS- These have now been ordered and I will contact those who have made orders when I have them. At the time of writing there should be 2 spare sweatshirts available so if you are interested in one please let me know.

FEBRUARY MEETING-This will be our visit to Rowberry's garden Centre at Chaddesley Corbett on Saturday the 10th at 12.00pm. Dave Bennett has reserved some seats for us so as many of us as possible can sit together. I must admit I enjoy looking at the seed potatoes (apart from the Minors of course!); last year there was an excellent selection and I hope to get some when we visit.

MARCH MEETING-As mentioned earlier we are having a guest speaker. This will be Mr. David Vernon who is coming to give us a talk on RAF Defford and the development of radar. This should be an immensely interesting evening so do come along and support it if you can.

Weather permitting see you all at Rowberry's.

Dave

Lakes Charity Classic Vehicle Show 2018



Dear Classic Vehicle Owners,

Windermere & Ambleside Lions Club is responsible for the annual Charity Classic Vehicle Show - and owners are invited to bring along their Classic Vehicle to the beautiful Grasmere in the English Lake District to display your vehicle to the public and to fans of classic vehicles. Since its inception this Lions event has grown yearly and has attracted some magnificent vehicles, lots of visitors and has helped to raise thousands of pounds for some very worthwhile local charities. We are pleased to announce that this year's event is scheduled for Sunday **17th June 2018** and we encourage you all to bring along your classic vehicles and display them to the public and, as usual, we will be awarding prizes to the Best Car, Best Truck, Best Motorbike and Best Tractor. There is a minimum suggested donation of £5 to enter your Classic Vehicle, which also gets two people into the show – all proceeds from our event are donated to very worthwhile charities. If you plan to attend then we advise you to enter now – and certainly before the end of May - as this will enable you to benefit from the lower-priced entry fee, and your name and vehicle details will appear in the show programme. Entries on the day will be charged at £10 per vehicle.

If you are interested, please contact The Windermere and Ambleside Lions Club.

Complete the form and send it with your payment to the address shown below. If you have already entered, there is no need to take any further action. We very much hope that, with your support, the Lakes Charity Classic Vehicle show will continue to grow and that 2018 will be even bigger and better than ever. We very much look forward to welcoming you on the day - please let us know if you have any questions.

The Windermere and Ambleside Lions Club

Windermere & Ambleside Lions Club

Brantfell House, Rothay Rd, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 0EE

www.lakeslions.co.uk

The Automobile Association was founded in 1905, to help motorists avoid police speed traps, in response to the Motor Car Act 1903 which introduced new penalties for breaking the speed limit, for reckless driving with fines, endorsements and the possibility of jail for speeding and other driving offences. (I don't know how they set up speed traps in those days, they must have used a stop watch to time the vehicle between two fixed points!)

The act also required drivers to hold a driving licence (which was obtained without a test on payment of five shillings) and to display a registration plate on their vehicle.

By 1906, the AA had erected thousands of roadside danger and warning signs, and managed road signage until responsibility was passed to local authorities in the early 1930s. By 1926, the organisation had installed 6,500 direction signs, and 15,000 village signs, most of which were removed during the Second World War, in order to thwart invading forces.

In 1908, the organisation published its first AA Members' Special Handbook containing a list of nationwide agents and repairers.



Automobile Association roadside assistance
BMC Minivan -1960's

AA patrols on bicycles warned motorists of police speed traps ahead. In 1910, in a legal test case (*Betts vs. Stevens*) involving an AA patrolman and a potentially speeding motorist, the Chief Justice, *Lord Alverston*, ruled that where a patrolman signals to a speeding driver to slow down and thereby avoid a speed-trap, then that person would have committed the offence of '*obstructing an officer in the course of his duty*' under the Prevention of Crimes Amendment Act 1885.- Subsequently, the organisation developed a coded warning system, used until the 1960s, whereby a patrolman would always salute the driver of a passing car which showed a visible AA Badge, unless there was a speed trap nearby, on the understanding that their officers could not be prosecuted for failing to salute.

The AA Handbook included the following message many times: "*It cannot be too strongly emphasised that when a patrol fails to salute, the member should*

stop and ask the reason why, as it is certain that the patrol has something of importance to communicate."

In 1910, the organisation introduced AA Routes and in 1912, began inspecting hotels and restaurants, issuing AA Star Classification to those deemed to be of sufficient quality and introduced pre purchase and post-accident repair checks in the 1920s.

In 1920, members were issued with keys to roadside wooden telephone boxes which could be used to call the organisation for assistance (the boxes began to be erected in 1912 as shelters for watchmen or patrolmen). There were almost 1,000 boxes in their heyday, and they remained in use until the 1960s.



A former AA BSA patrol bike from 1951

1949 saw the launch of a night time breakdown and recovery service, initially in London only, then extended nationally. The AA Insurance brokerage service was started in 1967.

After the war, the AA led protests against petrol rationing, which was repealed in 1950. The organisation campaigned for the compulsory wearing of seat belts, and for the introduction of unleaded petrol. Seat belt legislation became law in the United Kingdom in 1983 as required by the Transport Act 1981. The AA have lobbied successive governments over what they describe as 'unfair motoring taxes'.

In February 1972, the AA relocated from its central London offices to Basingstoke. It began broadcasting AA Road watch traffic reports on commercial radio stations the following year. AA Relay was also introduced in 1973, a service that will deliver a broken-down vehicle, its driver and passengers, luggage and trailer to anywhere in Britain.

For-profit company-

The association demutualised in July 1999 to become a private limited company, which was bought later the same year by *Centrica* (best known for its British Gas and Scottish Gas brands).

Centrica sold the AA in July 2004 to two private equity firms, *CVC* and *Permira*, who in July 2007 merged the AA with *Saga* under *Acromas Holdings*.

In July 2013, the company launched AA Cars, linking buyers of used cars with sellers. The service is a partnership with Vcars, rebranding its partner's existing online service and providing a check of the car's history. At the time of rebranding over 110,000 cars were available for purchase via 2,000 registered dealers.

The AA became listed on the London Stock Exchange as AA plc in June 2014, through an initial public offering in which Acromas sold all its shares. In 2015, the AA acquired the garage booking service Motoriety. In that year, the AA had around 3,000 patrol staff.

FOR SALE

A wooden slatted roof rack especially tailored to fit a Morris Minor. I understand it is in good condition. I have not a price at present. It is situated at an address in Ross-on-Wye. For further information ring Phil Willett on 07813855715 or 01594 824702.

Footnote- If it is of any help, I could call in and pick it up for any member as I pass through Ross usually once a month Dave Smith

Susan Akrill, has emailed me details of a MM for sale. There a lot of photos, but for space here is the one. It looks like, though complete there will need to be some work to get it back on the road.



Hi Sue

Sorry for the delay but here as requested are further details and pictures:

1954 split screen Morris tax and
MOT exempt V5C with sale
Mileage 103151
Reg original RVS383

(www.nationalnumbers.co.uk valuation of £3000)

Engine has been rebuilt, including new bearings and cylinder head surface regrind

Runs really well, but has a fault, only running on three at present.

Brake system overhauled, all new flexibles and shoes, but off-side front cylinder now leaking.

Original seven inch drums.

Steering rack rebuilt.

New track rod ends and front wheel bearings.

Rebuilt gearbox fitted - new clutch (3000 miles old).

New exhaust.

Five new tyres.

Near-side rear spring hanger requires welding.

Mostly original, although 948cc engine fitted - rear lap seat belts and tow bar, both easily removable. Car not altered.

Non-period indicators.

Spares: two complete, one incomplete engine.

- Two gear boxes, one set of cases.

- Two good doors

- Two rear wings original condition (no later indicators)

- Both trafficators and the original rare switch

- Two round heaters

- Box or two of body trims and fittings

- New window seals front and rear and some other bits

EBay 18/1/18, similar 1955 fetched £1000

Price £1550 o.v.n.o.

My phone number is 07743542353 and email steelbankworks@gmail.com

Cheers P Thomas

And Finally

Susan Akrill (the MMOC Branch and Liaison) emailed us this.

My name is Damien Basegmezer, one of three partners at This Fine Day, a mobile bar business based in Sussex.

We currently own a 1971 Morris Minor pickup that we call Ruby that has been specifically designed so that she can adapt to any type of event. We've used Ruby to sell home-made mulled cider and wine, craft ales, as a pop-up gin bar, cocktail bar and as a barista coffee bar. We enjoy taking this beautiful piece of British engineering and design out and about and combining it with our love of food and drink.

I'd love the opportunity to meet up with you, tell you a more about ourselves, show you our hand crafted mobile bars and explore ways we could work together at one of your events.

I have attached a few images of Ruby and I hope that we might be able to do something together in the future.

Many thanks,
Damien Basegmezer



Happy Motoring

Use Full contacts

Chairman Chris Perfect

Treasurer Dave Smith

Secretary Bob Prophet

Branch Contact Dave Bennett 07816 134009

**Contact address: Bob Prophet
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