

# Malvern Hills Branch Newsletter

April 2016



Welcome to the April edition of the branch newsletter. Hopefully the warmer weather will let us enjoy driving around in our cars. This month there is drive it day on the 24<sup>th</sup> April as well as an open day at the Dave Manners Group at junction 2 of the M5 at Oldbury. Thanks for the old photograph of the AA man



and the MM, email is not working too well at the moment so sorry I cannot remember who sent it to me, any ideas on suitable captions for this photo?]

## Dates for the Diary for 2016

### **Tuesday 8th March**

Back at the Huntsman PH meet at 8pm.

### **Saturday 9th April**

Open day at David Manners Group (Morris Minor Centre Bham), at their shop at Oldbury. 1pm to 5pm.

### **Tuesday 12th April**

Social at the Huntsman PH meet at 8pm (Branch Rally planning).

### **Sunday 8th May**

Branch Rally Brockhampton Hall, near Bromyard.

### **Tuesday 10th May**

Social at the Huntsman PH meet at 8pm.

### **Tuesday 14th June**

Social at the Huntsman PH meet at 8pm.

Dave has asked for suitable Tombola prizes for our rally in May. Can you bring them along to the April meeting if possible?

And now for a request for help, I have been sent an email from Jackie Hammond who is trying to find a pre-war Morris (possibly a Minor or Cowley) for a family reunion at the Hill Climb at Chateau Impney in July. The reason why this type of car is important is that it's her mum's (Patricia Speechly) first car and has a lot of happy memories.



This car was rescued from a hedge on the Worcester to Malvern Road in the early 50's. Though amazing enough it had family connections (a relation, Elna Jones had owned it previously) the car was brought back to working condition and used until she married and moved away from this area.

Her intention was to find someone with a similar car who would be at that event so that Mum could re-live that treasured memory of being there in her first car. However, they can't find any pictures of the same car! They've examined thousands from on-line sources and none has the right combinations of the flat nose, two doors with handles at the front and door hinges at the

rear, lights on the front mud-guards, no spare wheel fixings above or on the running board and lack of additional metal work on the grille. They are also not sure whether it's an Oxford or a Cowley and they can't date it to know what they are then trying to find.

She asks

*Do you know of any way I can find out exactly what the car was and if it still exists? If so, I'd be very grateful of any suggestions you may have about how I should go about contacting the owner to see if they would let me bring Mum for a visit to see it. I would willingly take her to anywhere in the country. Alternatively, perhaps you know of someone who has one which is very similar who wouldn't mind taking Mum for a drive in it. Maybe you even know of someone who may own one who is taking it to the Chateau Impney weekend and who would welcome the attention of a former owner of the same. Anything you can offer in the way of guidance, information or assistance would be gratefully received*

So any idea's, is so let me know and I will pass the info back to Jackie.

## **Other info**

We are well in to making arrangements for our rally in May and the rally entry form is now available on the website, or ask Bob or myself to send you a copy.

The route for the Morris Marathon is now arranged and we get the car from the Gloucester Branch on the afternoon of the 26<sup>th</sup> September, passing it on to the Ross branch midday on the 27<sup>th</sup> September. We need to do some charity fundraising on the Tuesday morning. So we need to work out who stores the car overnight, and what activities we want to do.

Clive has sent me an article on Marie Curie,

**Marie Curie - the scientist** – As the Main theme of the MMOC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year is to raise money for The **Marie Curie Cancer Charity**, it seemed appropriate to write an article on the lady herself.

This has turned out to a be more difficult task than originally imagined because so much has been written about her remarkable life and achievements, that, given limited space, it is hard to decide what to leave out. Marie must have

been the first female physicist, an almost impossible achievement in her day and a profession which few women would take up even today. **Clive**

Marie Curie is remembered for her discovery of radium and polonium, and her huge contribution to the fight against cancer.



### **Humble beginnings**

Born Maria Skłodowska on 7 November 1867 in Warsaw, Poland, she was the youngest of five children of poor school teachers. After her mother died and her father could no longer support her she became a governess, reading and studying in her own time to quench her thirst for knowledge. She never lost this

passion. To become a teacher – the only alternative which would allow her to be independent – was never a possibility because a lack of money prevented her from a formal higher education. However, when her sister offered her lodgings in Paris with a view to going to university, she grasped the opportunity and moved to France in 1891. She immediately entered Sorbonne University in Paris where she read physics and mathematics – she had naturally discovered a love of the subjects through her insatiable appetite for learning.

It was in Paris, in 1894, that she met Pierre Curie – a scientist working in the city – and who she married a year later. It was also around this time that she adopted the French spelling of her name – Marie. It is of course this version of her name that our charity uses.

She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person and only woman to win twice; the only person to win twice in multiple sciences. Her achievements included the development of the theory of radioactivity (a term that she coined), techniques for isolating radioactive isotopes, and the discovery of two elements, polonium and radium. Under her direction, the world's first studies were conducted into the treatment of neoplasms, using radioactive isotopes. She founded the Curie Institutes in Paris and in Warsaw, which remain major centres of medical research today. During World War I, she established the first military field radiological centres.

In July 1898, Curie and her husband, Pierre, published a joint paper announcing the existence of an element which they named "polonium", in honour of her native Poland, which would for another twenty years remain partitioned among three empires. On 26 December 1898, the Curies announced the existence of a second element, which they named "radium", from the Latin word for "ray". In the course of their research, they also coined the word *Radioactivity*. Between 1898 and 1902, the Curies published, jointly or separately, a total of 32 scientific papers, including one that announced that, when exposed to radium, diseased, tumour-forming cells were destroyed faster than healthy cells.

In 1900, Curie became the first woman faculty member at the *École Normale Supérieure*, and her husband joined the faculty of the University of Paris. In 1902 she visited Poland on the occasion of her father's death.

In June 1903, supervised by Gabriel Lippmann, Marie was awarded her doctorate from the University of Paris. That month the couple were invited to the Royal Institution in London to give a speech on radioactivity. Being a woman and at that time the scientific and medical community was made up entirely of male bigots, she was prevented from speaking, and Pierre alone was allowed to. Can you imagine this being tolerated today? Meanwhile, a new industry began developing, based on radium. The Curies did not patent their discovery and benefited little from this increasingly profitable business.

Sadly, Marie died on 4 July 1934 aged only 66). The cause of death *Aplastic anaemia*, which is a condition brought on by severe exposure to radioactivity. It was not realised in those days, even by the Curies, that the radiation was harmful to health.

Thank you Clive

All the Best and Happy Motoring.

**Use Full contacts**

**Chairman                      Chris Perfect**

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