



Malvern Hills Branch Newsletter

August 2019



Welcome to the August branch newsletter.

Dates for the Diary for 2019

Thursday 8th August

Noggin 'n Natter 8pm Branch meeting at the Huntsman PH Green Street near Kempsey.

Saturday 10th August

Trip out to visit miniature train, meeting at the Conquest Theatre car park Bromyard at 1.45.

Monday 26th August

Winchcombe Country Show.

Thursday 12th September

A talk on the Shelsley Walsh hill climb 8pm start.

Thursday 10th October

Branch AGM 8pm start at the Huntsman PH Green Street near Kempsey.

I have been using the morris quite a bit recently and a recent drive down to North Devon highlighted a problem with the cooling system with the car needing to be topped up with water on the way down. Luckily I had fitted a water temperature gauge so could see there was a problem, also when it was safe to check the water level (when it had cooled down again). This made me think, when did I last flush through the cooling system? Back home I took the radiator out to flush it through and found that while everything looked ok from the engine compartment, the other side had lost most of the cooling fins. A new radiator soon sorted things out.

Our branch rally at Hanbury Hall on 7th July was a great success with over 60 cars attending. Ranging from an immaculate series MM, which also won the furthest travelled prize, to two J reg travelers.

photos of class entry winners for our rally held on Sunday July 7th 2019

Series MM/Series 2	1 st -Andrew Wallis	2 nd - Dean Peckett.
2 Door	1 st -Michael Rochelle	2 nd - David Rogers.
4 Door	1 st -Stephen Smith	2 nd - Ken Knight.
Traveller	1 st -Paul Butler	2 nd – Norman Jones.
Custom/modified	1 st -Roger Williamson	2 nd – Roger Payne.
Convertible	1 st -Philip Heeley	2 nd – Graham Jones.
Commercial	1 st -Peter Turner	No second entrant winner.
Open Class	1 st -David Shortland	2 nd – Godfrey Dingley- Jones.
Best in Show	this went to Andrew Wallis with his 1949 Series MM.	

Longest distance travelled also went to Andrew Wallis having come up from Dorset.

Here are the photos of the winning cars.

Sorry no individual photos for 2nd place Traveller and for 2nd place Convertible



First Place MM / Series 2 Class



Second Place MM / Series 2 Class



First Place 1000 2 Door Class



Second Place 1000 2 Door Class



First Place 1000 4 Door Class



Second Place 1000 4 Door Class



First Place 1000 Traveller Class



Second Place 1000 Traveller Class



First Place 1000 Convertible Class



Second Place 1000 Convertible Class



First Place Modified & Custom Class



Second Place Modified & Custom Class



First Place 1000 Commercial Class



First Place Open Class



Second Open Class

Treasurer's trivia

Hello everyone,

Our branch rally is over for another year and what a memorable day it was. We could not have asked for more; perfect weather, not too hot with occasional cloud, a magnificent setting either side of the main drive to Hanbury Hall, and a first class display of 60 cars. Sandra and myself arrived about 8.20 quickly followed by Lester and then Jonathan and Mary. We were soon setting up rally control and getting the signs put out. Not long after Dave and Lynn together with Michael and Dulcie were with us to help. I must not forget Jeremy as he again gave excellent help with the marshalling alongside Jonathan and Dave. It was not long before our first entrant arrived; unusually this was an on the day booking. This was a pre cursor of what was to come as we had a large contingent of on the day bookings this year. The tea bag tidy that we gave out as a memento proved very popular and I know I am not the only entrant who soon tried this out; a very practical item. We have had entrants come a long way to our rallies in the past but Andrew Wallis from Dorset who came in his 1949 Series MM was the furthest for a few years. We thank him for driving such a long way to visit us and with first in his class, plus car of the show and winner of the distance travelled I am sure he did not go home disappointed.



Here is a picture of Andrew alongside his MM.

Another star of our rally was the Princess Vanden Plas 1300 entered by Dave Shortland. He has owned the car since 1982 and it is a real credit to him and was a very worthy 1st place winner in the open class. I know he was really thrilled to win and deservedly so. Branch members were among the winners this year with Michael Rochelle, Stephen Smith, Graham Jones, Roger Williamson and Roger Payne all winning in their respective classes. Well done to you all. For me though the highlight of our rally this year was not actually a car, but a person. You will all recall the horrendous car accident that branch member David Ritchie was involved in last year and the subsequent time he was seriously ill in hospital as a result. The fact that David is now able to drive again and was able to bring his convertible to our rally

was, to me, wonderful. I was very pleased to take a picture of him and here he is alongside his convertible.



David with his convertible

One person who could not make it on the day was our secretary Bob; however, the work Bob put in prior to our rally was invaluable to its success. Bob wrote and produced the rally entry forms together with the rally programs plus new paperwork to go in the rally packs. His help to me was immense and most certainly deserves a mention. Thank you to everyone who supported us both in terms of help before and on the day and the donation of prizes for the tombola and raffle. The National Trust were excellent all the way through and particularly in the weeks leading up to our rally and we thank them for allowing us to visit them. In appreciation of their assistance we are making a donation to them for the purchase of a new pair of hedging shears for use by Neil and his team. We are also planning a donation to the Air Ambulance. A final thank you to our chairman, Lester, who must have been slightly nervous conducting his first prize giving, for a job well done. Those of you on the internet can find extensive pictures of our rally and a list of winners on our website. I have no idea where we will be going next year but certainly Hanbury Hall is going to take some beating!

Repairing my MM – Writing about the final part of this seems a long time ago now as it is some weeks ago that I completed the work. With the new ring gear fitted I could start the process of re-assembly (incidentally, I also fitted a new gear on the starter motor).



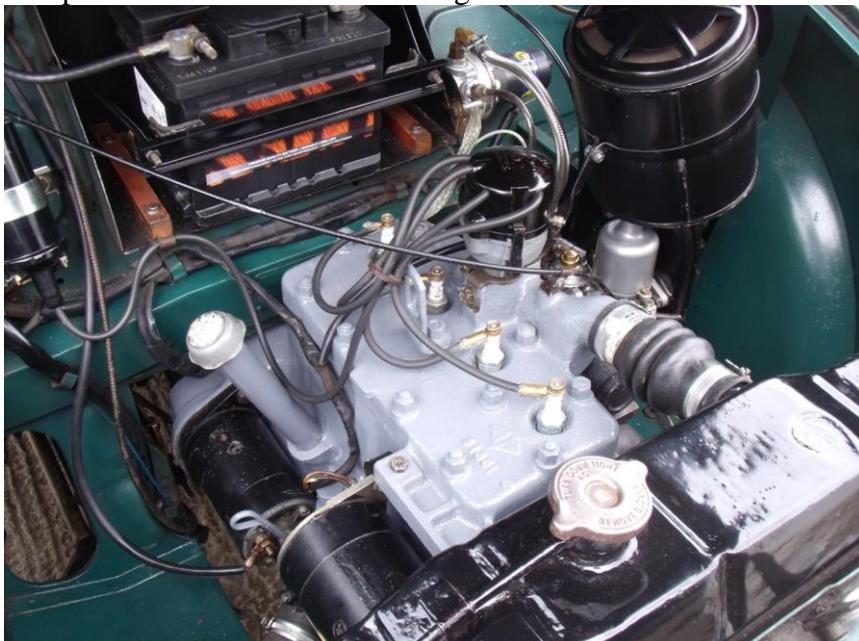
New ring gear fitted. Contrast this to my picture from a couple of months ago.

The flywheel and main bearing were re-attached and bolts and nuts tightened to the manufacturer's recommendation with my torque wrench. The next bit has to be done with care; a cork seal fits around the outside of the main bearing. This has to have a step in it at each end to ensure a good oil seal. I took some time ensuring that this was done accurately and to date the seal is sound.

Before refitting I cleaned the sump out; there is a tray you have to take out first to clean it. The sump was not too bad at all with only a little sludge in it. The new gaskets I bought at Malvern unfortunately did not fit so I had to use the existing; luckily these were in good condition. The engine was now removed from the stand and the sump re-attached. I now fitted the new clutch. The problem I had here is that although the clutch itself is the same as for the Series 2 and 948 the spigot bearing on the Series MM is larger. I had to modify a centralizing tool for the A series to fit a Series MM to allow me to centralize the clutch plate. I then re-attached the gearbox. I was now ready to put the engine and gearbox in the car. The engine was attached to the engine hoist and to give a bit more clearance when reinstalling, the engine mountings were temporarily removed. Gearbox mountings are adjustable and these were left loose to assist in alignment. With me inside the car and my son operating the hoist we eased everything back in. With the engine and gearbox back in it was a question of re-attaching everything in reverse order. I did as much as I could before refitting the front grill because of the greater access.

The result- The starting of the car is now reliable and it sounds much better when the starter operates. The new clutch is light to operate and smooth in operation. My only slight disappointment was I was not able to resolve the leak from the gearbox; still I've managed for the past 47 years and it does not cause me too much of a problem. As you all know I do not travel far in my MM now but I can see me possibly going to one of the Malvern shows now I have the starting reliable.

The picture below shows it back together



Events coming up-

August 2nd- 4th- The Gloucestershire Steam Show at South Cerney, near Cirencester. Although out of our local area this is a very good show. Jonathan and Mary usually go and I may well go again this year.

Chris was hoping to arrange a trip to the railway again between Bromyard and Tenbury in August. Nothing confirmed at present.

August 26th- Winchcombe Show. As you know we have been invited to attend. The procession is due to start at 11.30 from the Abbeyfields Community Centre. It may well be that a group of members meet up before going over but no formal arrangement has been made yet. If you are looking to go it may well be that Dave sends out an email with more info after our next branch meeting or you can always give me a ring beforehand.

September 8th- Classic Car Show at the Gloucestershire/Warwickshire railway- This is always a most enjoyable day and Clive and myself have booked to go. If you wish to join us you will need to book with the railway; there is no charge and you get a 2 for 1 voucher for a trip on the train. We always meet up at the Eckington Bridge picnic site just after 9.00am before driving over.

Next meeting- This will be a normal meeting at the Huntsman at 8.00pm on August 8th. Don't forget that the September meeting will be a talk on the Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb.

Polo Shirts- We have not had any new ones for some time. Further to an expression of interest from one of our members, plus my polo shirt is quite old now and could do with replacing, I was wondering if any other member would like one. Cost to be confirmed but let me know if you would be interested.

See you at the next meeting.

Dave

Other Info

Lou has sent me a message to say that she has acquired a large Pyrex lid after the barbecue. Mary Swift also found a glass Pyrex type casserole lid in her cool bag on arrival home after the barbecue in June. It must belong to someone in the branch so would the owner please get in touch with Mary on 01299 832476.

Events

Stop Press

Chris is arranging a trip to the model railway at Kyre in Herefordshire on the 10th August. Meet as before at the car park of the conquest theatre in Bromyard at 1.45.

There is a new classic car meet being arranged by John Vine of Kidderminster. It will take place on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at The Royal Forrester, Callow Hill near Kidderminster DY14 9XW. Times are from around 11.30 to 2.30 (approximately). Jonathan and I went to the last one but it was not too well attended however it is early days yet. The Royal Forrester is conveniently situated on the A456 quite close to the Wyre Forest and has a good reputation for food. There is a nice grassy area for the cars to park on so hopefully it might become a popular regular event.

Help Wanted.

Terry Pritchard has contacted me, wanting advice on a 1963 4 door that he is restoring. He would like to see a similar Morris so he can compare it with his own, which his family have owned since nearly new. Can people please contact me and I will pass the details on to Terry.

Car or Parts for Sale

A little while ago, Mr Horner contacted me about a morris traveller for sale. He has recently got back to me saying if anyone needs any parts from the car can they contact him.

Good morning,

I am in the process of clearing a relative's property and have come across an old Morris Minor. We are based in Malvern and we need to get this car moved and I would prefer that it was put to use.

While being stored outside it has been under a car port and most dry.

Would any of your members be interested in this? I am pretty sure it is not a runner and it will be a struggle interesting to move.

See attached photo to give an idea of the condition it is in.

Thanks

Jeremy Homer



I have been also been asked to forward info on any good travellers that come up for sale to a man who learnt to drive in his father's many years ago.

Free bits

Lastly, while doing some repairs to my morris the other week, one of the people living further down the road, stopped for a chat. They were clearing out their garage and were about to take some axel stands, oil can, wheel brace and a bottle jack to the tip. Could I make use of them? Yes, so if you want one of these let me know and I will bring them to the next meeting.

Happy Motoring and enjoy the (hopefully) sunny weather.

Bobs Dates for your Diary 2019

Note that all Branch events (in bold) take place at The Huntsman except where otherwise indicated. The committee is trying to arrange Speakers on Branch evenings: these will be notified as and when they become firm.

- **Thurs 8 Aug: Noggin 'n Natter**
- **Sat 10th Aug: Trip to see the model railway. Meet 1.45 at the Conquest Theatre Bromyard.**
- Sat 10th Aug Brails Show, details sent with August newsletter.
- Sat/Sun 10/11th Aug: Tortworth Vintage Rally, Wickwar, Glos GL12 8LF. Website: www.shakespearesrally.com
- Wed/Mon 21/26 Aug: VSCC 85th Anniversary celebrations at Brands Hatch. 5 days of exciting vintage motorsport. Website: www.vsc.co.uk
- Sat 24 Aug: Gloucester Festival
- Sat/Mon 24/26 Aug: Pershore Plum Festival. Website: www.pershoreplumfestival.org.uk
- Sun 25 Aug: Open Day at Webbs of Wychbold. Visit the gardens and enjoy a cup of tea. Website: www.webbsdirect.co.uk
- **Mon 26 Aug Winchcombe Country Show** <http://winchcombeshow.org.uk/>
- Sat 31 Aug: Peopleton Village Fête (£2 entry fee at gate)
- **September 8th- Classic Car Show at the Gloucestershire/Warwickshire railway-meet up at the Eckington Bridge picnic site just after 9.00am before driving over**
- **Thurs 12 Sep: Shelsley Walsh hill climb talk at the Huntsman PH at 8pm**
- Sat/Sun 14/15th Sep: Stoke Prior Steam Rally, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 4LF. Website: www.shakespearesrally.com
- Sat/Sun 14/15 Sep: Stoke Prior Steam Rally
- Sun 22 Sep: Fun in the Park, Tudor Grange Park, Solihull (tbc)
- **Thurs 10 Oct: AGM**
- Sun 13 Oct: Malvern Classic Show. A very large classic car and vehicle show. Booking required. Website: www.threecounties.co.uk
- **Thurs 14 Nov: Noggin 'n Natter**
- **Sat 7 Dec: Christmas Meal (tbc)**

Useful contacts

Chairman

Lester Stenson

Treasurer

Dave Smith

Secretary

Bob Prophet

Branch Contact

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