

# Malvern Hills Branch Newsletter

February 2016



Welcome to the bumper edition of the branch newsletter.

Next month (March) we return to our regular meetings at the Huntsman PH, Green Street at about 8pm.

## **Dates for the Diary for 2016**

### **Saturday 9th January**

Drive out, Meet at Croome Court 12ish, meet in the cafe to blow away those christmas cobwebs.

### **Saturday 13th February**

Drive out, Meet at Rowberry's Nursery at Chaddesley Corbett at 12 ish.

### **Tuesday 8th March**

Back at the Huntsman PH meet at 8pm, we are hoping to arrange a talk by Footman James

### **Tuesday 12th April**

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

### **Sunday 8th May**

Branch Rally Brockhampton Hall, near Bromyard.

We started the new year at Croome Court, where we met in the café for a drink / something to eat and a chance to have a chat. The February meeting will follow the same format, and a table will be reserved so when you arrive, if you don't recognise any one ask to be directed to the Morris Minor table (bennett).

Not everyone has been emailed their copy of the branch newsletter due to gremlins in the system. So as a work around I will be adding a link to a condensed version (most of contact details have been taken off) on our web site.

Here is an article of interest from Clive

## Ooh! Look what I've bought!! - *Clive* -

Who remembers when filling stations- *Garages* they were called in those days- had attended service and not



only did the attendant fill up your tank, but he (not often *she* in those days) also cleaned your windscreen and headlights, checked your oil, battery and radiator and topped them up as necessary. Air was also free too and thieves did not steal the air hoses and gauges.

Doubtless, the enthusiasm on the part of the attendant was in the main fuelled by the prospects of tips being given, as with many service jobs, the tips could amount to as much as the wage the employees were paid. More often than not the oil was carried from the garage bulk storage drum with a jug very much like the one I have just bought in the picture. What inspired me to seek out such a jug was nothing to do with cars at the time, but chainsaws.

Struggling in the freezing cold wet weather to fill up a

one gallon can with chain oil from a 25 litre drum, using a funnel. The oil being like thick treacle with the cold temperature meant it took ages to pour through the funnel and it was murder holding the weight of the large drum and trying to avoid spilling oil, as usually happens. It occurred to me that there must be a better way of doing this and how many times have I spilled oil trying to pour waste oil into an empty can, using a funnel? Many a time the funnel overflows, or slips and spills oil or the can falls over or overflows. No matter how many times you do this, you are always caught out and the rag you desperately need to use is in the garage or shed. There is a delay when pouring oil, due to the high viscosity, which means the level rises after you stop pouring- maybe my reactions are slow with age!

As if sent by providence, the image of the Castrol oil jug came into my mind and I was driven to finding out if you can still buy these jugs. I was very surprised to find they are still widely available, although I suspect that the new ones are made in PRC. As with most things these days. Original vintage jugs can be bought second-hand, but at a high price. I bet Jeff has got one!

## Toddington car show September 13th 2015

Following a very enjoyable visit in 2004, Clive and myself decided to go again this year and we were not disappointed. We met up at the Eckington picnic site around 9-15 on the Sunday morning before heading off to Toddington. The weather was fine and made for an excellent run over to the show. Access onto the field has been much improved with wide stone driveways leading down from the entrance gate. What I like about this event is, apart from the cars themselves, is that you can plan your day out and not have to be too late leaving in the afternoon. We arrived comfortably before opening at 10.00am and first had a quick coffee before venturing off around the cars. There was a very wide array of cars including many Minors. There was a particularly good turnout of A30/A35s'. We spent the morning going around the cars with the occasional foray over to the station to look around and see the trains. Dinner was had around 12.30pm before we headed over to platform 1 to catch the steam train to Cheltenham at 1.30pm. Each entrant to the show receives a complimentary rail ticket for one round trip. By catching the 1.30pm service this works very well as by time you get back at 3.00pm it works just right for having a cup of tea before heading home, if you wish, about 3.30pm/3.40pm. This show is most enjoyable and I can certainly recommend it to other members.

Dave



Dave and Clive at Toddington.

## Treasurer's Trivia

Hello everyone

Having now been in post about 3 months I am pleased to report that the branch is still solvent! I did a check on my balances a week or so ago with the latest bank statement and all was spot on. Although it is early days yet I am quite enjoying the role to date; how I will feel by time the rally has finished time will tell. If I have lost even more hair you will know the answer! I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas meal. It was a great pleasure to see some of our members who can only make a meeting very occasionally. As I have said before everyone is an equally valued member however often you can make it to a meeting. Our meeting in January at Croome Court again attracted a large turnout of members. I know quite a few members went off to enjoy the museum afterwards. Thank you to Julie for arranging the table reservations which is a great help for a venue that is always so busy.

Newsletter- Now that Dave is editing it and Bob is sending it out you should receive a newsletter on a regular basis. I know a couple of members mentioned to me at Croome that they were still not receiving one. Bob is making every effort to ensure everyone does receive their newsletter so if you do experience a problem or know of someone who is do let one of us know.

Branch rally, May 8th at Brockhampton- Matters are quietly moving forward as I write. The entry form will shortly be ready and the mail shot will be going out by early February. By the time you read this an entry form should be available on line as well for those of you with internet access to download. Offers of help on the day would be most welcome but remember you must be a National club member for insurance purposes.

Membership- A reminder that March 1<sup>st</sup> is the annual renewal date for branch membership. The cost for 12 months is £5.00 if you receive your newsletter by email or £8.00 if we have to post it. I will bring renewal forms along with me to the next meeting as well as in March.

Finally, it is time to get my overalls on to probably change the off side rear wheel brake cylinder on my Series 'MM'. I have been endeavouring to run the Morris more often both to keep the fuel fresh and to stop the brakes from seizing. Indeed I went around each wheel quite recently and all was well. However, the last time I backed the Morris out of the garage I knew straight away something was wrong. After all my years of ownership I can tell the

instant when there is the slightest bind on the brakes. When I checked I could barely turn the wheel. As I have not changed this cylinder for a good many years I am anticipating this is the likely outcome. Still I have a spare cylinder to hand and it is always a pleasure to work on the Morris. Don't forget we meet at Rowberry's nurseries at Chaddesley Corbett in February. We had a successful first visit here last year and it does provide our members in the north the chance to meet up without having to travel so far.

Dave

Lastly just a bit of advance information, as seen in the Jan / Feb edition of Minor Matters. During September the MMOC will be arranging a fund raising marathon for Marie Curie. The plan is to drive a donated 1962 four door Morris Minor from John O Groats to Lands' End. It will incorporate a visit to every branch or register in the UK, the Marie Curie hospices and locations of interest to Morris Minors and the MMOC. The idea is that the branch will arrange a fund raising activity with Marie Curie, using the car as publicity. So a week or so back an email arrived. Basically by the 24<sup>th</sup> Jan we had needed to have made contact with the local contact from the charity and plan a venue to meet the car at. This is so the MMOC can plan the route and when the car will arrive at each destination. Reading through the notes sent to me the arrival of the marathon car is not precise so a window of a few hours are needed. To give the MMOC something to go on I made contact with the charity contact and from have provisionally arranged a charity collection outside a supermarket in Malvern as this should cover the needs of the event (a point to aim at for the person arriving with the car and the charity fundraising. Though if we can think of something better we can do that. I will be the branch point of contact with Marie Curie, so hopefully I will have better email links than otherwise things could get interesting. Your help is needed for coming up with ideas on what to do and being available when the car is with us. Which will be sometime in September.

All the Best and happy motoring.

## **Use Full contacts**

**Chairman                      Chris Perfect**

**Treasurer                     Dave Smith**

**Secretary                      Bob Prophet**

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