



Malvern Hills Branch Newsletter

February 2019



Dates for the Diary for 2019

Saturday 12th January

Branch meeting at Croome Court, Worcestershire at midday.

Saturday 9th February

Branch meeting at Rowberrys Garden Centre, Chaddesley Corbett at midday.

Thursday 14th March

7.30 Branch meeting at the Huntsman PH Green Street near Kempsey.

Thursday 11th April

7.30 Branch meeting at the Huntsman PH Green Street near Kempsey.

Please note the meeting night is now the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Huntsman



A line up of some of the Morris Minors at the Croome Court meeting

Treasurer's Trivia

Hello everyone,

The Morris' are staying very tucked up in their respective garages at present although it was great the weather was good to take the 948 to Croome. It is incredible just how busy Croome is all the year round. As you will all know Lester has taken on the role of chairman and we look forward to supporting him during the coming year.

Our Christmas meal was, on the whole, a much enjoyed event. 20 members arrived for 1'oclock at the Crown & Sandys. We were situated in a room on our own away from the hustle and bustle of other customers which I know was appreciated by many members. The layout of the tables was perhaps not ideal for some members and I know Tim and Maria ended up sitting apart although they did not seem to mind! Apart from a slight disappointment on a couple of the meals I received many compliments on the food and service and I thank those of you who emailed me to say how much you had enjoyed coming. An absolute highlight yet again were the Christmas novelties that Maurita had knitted for everyone; it goes without saying that members were most touched and appreciative of this wonderful act of kindness by Maurita. Sandra and myself sat opposite Richard and Brian and we could not have wished for better company. Thank you all for coming to our final get together of 2018.

Windscreen Wipers- I'm not sure now how we came onto the topic but one of the topics we were talking about at the Christmas meal was when the wipers changed on the Minor. I thought members might like a brief history. As on my MM, the first Minors only had a single wiper fitted although it was possible to purchase a kit from Joseph Lucas to fit a second one. The lack of a second wiper was commented on by road testers of the time. It was not until November 1950 that a second wiper became standard on the home market saloon and tourer models. As you will all know the wipers remained in clap hand form after the Minor 1000 was launched in 1956 although the wiper motor and angle of wipe were altered in 1961. It was not until October 1963 we said goodbye to the clap hand wipers when the blades were lengthened and now worked in tandem.

Doug Macmillan- Members may recall me mentioning that the branch planned to make a donation in memory of Doug. I can confirm we made a donation of 25.00 pounds to the Alzheimers Society at the end of last year in accordance with Doug's family wishes.

January meeting- Although on the chilly side the weather allowed many members to come in their Minors to Croome. As always it was exceedingly busy in the restaurant. Indeed, the background noise this year was so loud it was making it difficult for some members to hear each other. I know members very much enjoy visiting Croome but I was left wondering if next year we should perhaps vary the time of day a bit we meet up or find somewhere close by that

is a bit more peaceful but allows members to carry on to Croome. Something for us to discuss at the AGM.

Branch Rally- Many of you will be wondering how this is progressing. We are starting to investigate possible venues and once we have some news members will be updated. One thing that will almost certainly be the case is that the rally will be later in the year than in recent times owing to the time now available to organize it.

February meeting is on Saturday 9th at midday, Rowberry's garden centre, Chaddesley Corbett- Our annual trip to Rowberry's where hopefully we will be joined by our friends from Birmingham branch. Dave normally arranges some reserved seats for us. For the vegetable gardeners amongst you there is always an excellent array of seed potatoes for sale.

A couple of other branch rallies coming up close to us- Birmingham branch are having their rally at Witley Court on April 28th and Shropshire branch are having their rally at Acton Scott Working Farm on May 19th. Both are excellent venues to visit. Go to www.birmingham.mmoc.org.uk to download an entry form for the Birmingham rally. If you receive a posted newsletter I am happy to post you one if you contact me. For the Shropshire rally either ring Kathy Ling on 01952 882603 or email her on homebrew32@hotmail.com. to provide your car details. There is no charge for entry but please be on site by 10.00am. Please note the email address is slightly different from that shown in the membership directory.

See you at Rowberry's

Dave

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Bob's dates for the diary

The Coleford Carnival of Transport takes place on the streets of Coleford in the heart of the beautiful Royal Forest of Dean on Easter Monday every year. The Town Centre is closed so that vehicles of all types and periods can be displayed side by side. Classes of vehicles include Vintage Cars, Classic Cars, Custom & Street rods, Military, Commercial and Motorcycles. Normally in excess of 500 are displayed. The postcode is GL16 8AE, the date is Monday 22nd April 2019 (Easter Monday) and the person to contact is Richard whose e-mail address is parkric@aol.com or you can read all about it on the Coleford Carnival of Transport website.

Sat/Sun/Mon 20/21/22 Apr: Easter Model and Collectors' Show, Bromsgrove B60 4AL (*Limited Space*)

Sat/Sun 10/11 Aug: Tortworth Vintage Rally, Wickwar, Gloucestershire GL12 8LF

Sat/Sun 14/15 Sep: Stoke Prior Steam Rally, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 4LF

For more information on these events, contact Paul Eden at Shakespeare's Rally Promotions at www.shakespearesrally.com. Free camping for exhibitors is available at each venue.

24th August 2019 GLOUCESTER FESTIVAL 2019

Members of The Malvern Hills Branch are invited to attend a special Festival hosted by the City of Gloucester on 24th August 2019.

The Classic and Retro Festival is a unique event celebrating living history and particularly transport throughout the ages. For this event, we shut down our inner City and bring in Classic and Historic vehicles representing as many different marques as possible.

Each of four Historic Gate Streets is themed and represents different eras: 1900-1949, 1950s, 1960s, 1970s to modern day. Each Street has re-enactors, businesses, shops, restaurants, and celebrities all playing their part with good food and fashion; with music and dancing providing extra entertainment, enjoyment and fun for all, whilst we support our charities at the same time.

The cars may be driven right into the heart of the City and park free of charge for the event by authorised application. There are special prizes for the best cars in each Street and a competition for those who dress for the occasion.

This is an award-winning event and we would be pleased if members would like to join us to represent the various types and styles of the Morris Minor. If you wish to attend, please complete the form below & return it with a photo, if possible, by e-mail or by post (one form for each vehicle) with details to Cllr Colin Organ, colin.organ@gloucester.gov.uk or colin.organ.glos@gmail.com or to 337 Stroud Road, Gloucester GL4 0BA. Tel: 07767 350003.

Websites: www.gloucestergoesretro.com or www.gloucester.gov.uk/retro-festival

What a Surprise! My Minor Broke down!- Clive

Just before Christmas, I decided that as it was a dry day and roads were also dry for the time of year, I would take *Katie*, my Series II up the road for a good run. Give her a bit of wellie! She started straight away when I cranked the engine and I backed her out of the garage and left the engine to warm up whilst I checked the tyre pressures and put a bit of air in the nearside front tyre, which

does tend to go soft after a few weeks standing. I opened the gate onto my lane and proceeded to reverse out of my drive. At this point the engine cut out and just refused to start again. I left the car standing until I'd had my lunch and then was surprised that she still would not start. I was not in a position that day to mess about with cars, so I drove her back into the garage using the starter motor as the motive force. It is too steep a slope into the garage for me to push the car single handed. I was glad that I'd bought the new Lucas battery earlier back in the year as this was well charged and easily up to the task of moving the car back into the garage.

I left the Morris until after Christmas, then armed with multimeter and a few tools I had a look to see what was wrong with her. Electrics seemed fine and removing a plug revealed a good spark, but **bone dry** plug? Petrol then! I'd heard the fuel pump click when I first switched on the ignition, but just one click ? I slackened the clamp on the flexible fuel hose from the pump to the float chamber of the carburettor. But found the hose was a tight fit and whilst struggling to pull it off the float chamber inlet, I accidentally caught the float chamber a blow with the screwdriver and immediately heard the fuel pump start up clicking and pumping. It was obvious then that the valve in the float chamber had stuck and was not allowing petrol to flow into the chamber. I tried to start the engine again and it fired up straight away. All was then working fine. I took the car out for a run and then put her away in the garage to sleep away the winter.

This experience demonstrates that it does no good to leave engines standing and they are best used. I daresay, that if I'd set off down the lane the first time I'd run the car, the vibration from the road and the potholes on my lane would have prevented the float valve sticking in the first place. I perhaps ought to treat the car to a new float valve, which won't be expensive, but experience tells me that the replacement components for Minors are not very reliable these days and I might be better off just leaving things as they are and knowing what to give a good tap with a screwdriver if the engine won't go. Sleeping dogs!

Happy Motoring

Use Full contacts

Chairman

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Treasurer

Dave Smith

Secretary

Bob Prophet

Branch Contact

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