



Malvern Hills Branch Newsletter

June 2019



Welcome to the June branch newsletter.

Dates for the Diary for 2019

Thursday 13th June

Branch Bar B Que at Lou and Steves House 8pm start.

Friday 22nd to Sunday 23rd June

MMOC National Rally at Kelmarsh Hall, Northampton

Sunday 7th July

Branch Rally at Hanbury Hall, Worcestershire.

Thursday 11th July

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

Thursday 8th August

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

Remember this photo from last month's newsletter (taken at the Birmingham Branch Rally). It's actually a trailer, an interesting take of the use of the back end of a morris which has most often been adapted. Mind you if I came round a corner and came across this my first instinct was to hit the brakes fast.

We have a change of venue for our June meeting which will now be held at Steve's smallholding at Naunton Beachamp near to Pershore on the 13th June at about 8pm. For our branch bar b Que.

I have had a request for our branch to go the Winchcombe Country Show on Bank Holiday Monday, August 26th 2019. It sounds like a good venue so I said yes, as it's on the bank holiday Monday and people might be otherwise engaged can you let me know numbers of cars going so I can let them know numbers.
Dave



Treasurer's trivia

Hello everyone,

Morris Minors are very much on my mind every day at present; not only do I have my branch responsibilities to attend to but I am also now carrying out major repair work to my Series MM. More on this later.

Before reporting on our recent activities please ensure you note the following- Our next branch meeting will be our annual barbeque on Thursday June 13th. Steve and Lou Reeves have very kindly invited us to their home again at _____, Naunton Beachamp. This is always a super evening in a lovely spot so do try and come along if you can. Many of you are familiar with the location

_____. Steve will also put signs out. Anyone who needs further help on the location by all means ring me on 01684 593390. Bring your own food and drink; cooking facilities will be provided. Start about 8.00pm. Therefore remember there will be **NO MEETING AT THE HUNTSMAN IN JUNE.**

Birmingham rally-The Birmingham rally at Witley Court on April 28th was a most enjoyable day. There was a cold wind at times especially in the morning but at least it stayed dry. Quite a few of our branch members were already there when we arrived. It was a chance to see some cars for the first time. Richard Crane came in his late 2 door which he acquired last year just in time for his wedding; this is a lovely original car and I know Richard is very pleased with it. Also on view for the first time was the 1969 Traveller owned by new branch member Nicole Willet which I was very pleased to photograph. One car on display that caught my eye was a 1949 Series MM only a few months younger than mine. The owner had actually driven up from Dorset the day before which is a length of journey I would certainly be reluctant to make in an MM. The open class was very good; amongst cars present were Rileys' and a wonderful selection of Wolseley cars. It was great to see a couple of our members win prizes; Roger Williamson won second in the Custom/modified section and Thom Birmingham won second in the MM/Series 2 class. Sandra and I were very pleased to visit Witley Court without the worry of running a rally which is certainly more relaxing. A good day out and well done to everyone at Birmingham branch for an excellent event.



Richard's 2 door



Nicole's Traveller

Branch rally July 7th- Entries continue to come in with 41 to date. Since my last update to you and as part of the National Club efforts, the committee have decided to support the Air Ambulance from the proceeds of our rally. It is surprising how the time is rapidly going by and by the time of my next trivia the rally will be almost on us. Don't forget I carry entry forms with me at branch meetings, I can also send you one or you can download an entry from our website.

Trip out to 'Ernie's'- One of the joys of being a member of a branch like Malvern Hills is visiting places you would not normally go to. And so it was that on Sunday 19th branch members met up at the conquest theatre car park in Bromyard before heading to Ernie's just outside Bromyard. Showers had been forecast and indeed large spots descended on us at the car park but thankfully the rain held off. We headed off just before 2.00pm and were soon at Ernie's. Ernie and his wife have done much work on it in the last 3 years and it looked quite splendid and imposing. Members parked their cars on the front before being taken on a conducted tour by Ernie of his car collection.



Des with his grandson Alex together with Lester and Graham behind enjoying their tea

The one thing you can say is that Ernie's cars are considerably more powerful than a Series MM! We started with a 1920s Bentley which was an incredible masterpiece of engineering. Ernie then showed us his other cars some of which were under repair and his motorbikes. He even had a couple of TE- 20 tractors which suited Roger and myself in particular to look at. We then retired to the lawn adjacent the barn where Chris and Laura, with cakes from Sandra, had a lovely tea ready for us to enjoy. We were in proper rolling Herefordshire countryside and this made for a splendid afternoon. Thank you to Chris for organizing this outing and to Ernie for allowing us to visit his home.

MM under repair- As I write this my MM is devoid of its engine and gearbox but by time you read this, fingers crossed, I should be close to having the engine and gearbox back in. The need for repair became unavoidable. Although running beautifully the ring gear on the flywheel had become so bad that the starter motor was failing to engage on many occasions. Luckily, I was able to obtain a new ring gear from Bryan Gosling, our National Club spares secretary, and this allowed me to prepare for undertaking the work. I am immensely lucky to live where I am; directly opposite me I have a neighbour who is a toolmaker and offered to make me anything I might need and also very close by I have a superb retired agricultural engineer who was willing to fit the new ring gear and help me in any way he could. I prepared carefully weeks in advance. Having studied the best way to go about it I decided to remove the engine and gearbox as one unit. Firstly, I put together containers to hold every conceivable nut and bolt I thought I would be removing and marked them up. I obtained new sump gaskets and seals (the sump and rear main bearing have to come off to remove the flywheel on the side valve) when I went to the Malvern show with Clive. I typed up my own instructions with a step by step list of what I had to do. To ensure things would go smoothly when I started I also went round every accessible nut and bolt that I knew I would have to take off, oiled them, and put them back on. This included items such as the awkward nuts that hold the hockey sticks on and the bolts across the base of the grill. After so many years of ownership I knew what to check and what would be ok. I will report on removing and reinstalling the engine in the next issue; needless to say it has gone quite smoothly to date. The trickiest bit has been removing the top off the gearbox; there are 3 selector springs which



have to be held in position or you could end up with them in the gearbox! I had my son very, very gently lift the top while I held onto the springs. I was mightily relieved to get that bit over! To give you an idea of why I needed to carry out the work here is a picture of the ring gear before I took the flywheel off.

Flywheel prior to removal

SWEATSHIRTS- I have received a request for 2 sweatshirts one of which I have in our regalia stock. Although I can order the odd one it is better if I can order a few at the same time. Are there any members looking to purchase a sweatshirt before I place an order? Please let me know ASAP if you are interested.

See you all at the next meeting.

Dave

Other Info

Bob has emailed me the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs results of 2019 Cost of Ownership Survey, which I will be sending out as an attachment. It makes interesting reading. I remember being told somewhere that the use of classic cars is gradually declining as one of the perceived drivers is that we have nostalgia towards the cars that our fathers drove. In which case the future classics could well be cars from the 1980's and 90's. Which could be interesting as I have not seen that many cars from that generation driving around.

Car or Parts for Sale

There is a ribbed gearbox casing and parts to refurbish it. This would be for a late (1098cc) morris. The owner is having a clear out for they are free to collect. Contact Dave Bennett for details, though can you let me know ASAP so that I can let the person know.

Happy Motoring and see you at our Branch Rally.

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.

- Fri/Mon 31 May/3 Jun: Gordon Bennett Irish Classic Car Run, Laois, R o I
- **Thurs 13 Jun: Bar B Que at Steve's and Lou's**
- 15th-16th June Shelsley Walsh Classic Nostalgia day entry £18 weekend entry £36
- 21-23 June MMOC National Rally at Kelmarsh Hall, Northampton
- **Sun 7 Jul: Branch Rally, Hanbury Hall**
- **Thurs 11 Jul: Noggin 'n Natter**
- Sat/Sun 13/14 Jul: Hill Climb at Château Impney
- Sat/Sun 13/14 Jul: Stourport Vintage Steam Rally
- Sat 20 Jul: Defford Air Show (tbc)
- Sat/Sun 20/21 Jul: Much Marcle Steam Rally. Website: www.muchmarclesteamrally.com
- Fri/Sun 26/28 Jul: Welland Steam Rally. Website: www.wellandsteamrally.co.uk
- **Thurs 8 Aug: Noggin 'n Natter**
- Sat/Sun 10/11 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)
- **Thurs 12 Sep: Noggin 'n Natter**
- Sat/Sun 14/15 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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