



Malvern Hills Branch Newsletter

June 2020



Welcome to the Malvern Hills Branch June newsletter.

**Every thing is still cancelled
But watch this space**

Dear All,

I hope that everyone is ok, also that you have been making the most of the chances to make contact with people within the social distancing rules. I have been able to use the Morris to drive to and from work, and also been able to enjoy driving it around.

A big thank you for all the articles you have sent in to me. Mary and Bob have sent in a quiz, we also have an article from Mike thank you letters from Malcolm and Richard.

Malvern Hills Summer Rally 2020

Although the date for the Rally at Burford House cannot yet be decided, please will all members spend their joyous lockdown time composing a history of their Morris. A single A4 sheet giving the car's known history would be a useful addition to the windscreen for all the visitors to see. Important information should include year of manufacture, the model, engine size, year of purchase by you, perhaps the name of the previous owner, repairs and restoration which you / the previous owner have carried out, annual mileage and any other interesting facts to entertain and amuse visitors. Start researching and typing!

Treasurer's trivia, (plus, as you will see later, a lot of help from Mary!)

Hello everyone,

It goes without saying that I very much hope that all of you and your families have continued to stay free of the virus that is still taking its toll on so many people. Although the news is better to when I last wrote it is still only gradual with July at present being the earliest likely time we may hope to meet up again. The committee will, of course, keep matters under review and will start to plan activities as soon as we possibly can. Some of you no doubt reflected, like me, on what might have been when Sunday May 17th was a lovely sunny day and would have been perfect for our rally. Still, that is life and we will have to just wait and see if we are able to hold it later this year. One date I will not forget this May is the 11th. Although I had taken precautions, the severity of the frost that night was quite devastating on my potatoes. I could not believe it when I saw the damage despite covering them. My neighbour was the same but not quite as bad as me. Remarkably, they have rallied up but what sort of crop I will have only time will tell. Clive and myself have been corresponding about our growing and I know Clive had beans badly hit that night as well.

My Minors have not moved from their respective garages much at all in the past month; I did take Sandra into Upton in the 948 to give it a run but the MM has just come out of the garage

and gone in again! I have spent quite a bit of time working on my TE-20 this month and catching up with some long overdue maintenance. Over the years most of us have experienced and read about the quality and fit of the replacement parts we purchase for our Minors. Many are ok but some bits can be of an inferior quality and design to the original. Well, I can assure you it is no different when working on a vintage tractor. Without going into all the details I replaced the ram cylinder on the hydraulics. At first glance, the new cylinder looked just the job until I tried to fit it. I then discovered that 2 of the bolt holes in the cylinder were too small. These then had to be drilled out. Then when I fitted it the end of the new cylinder fouled the upper transmission housing so a very small amount of the cylinder had to be removed to allow sufficient clearance. Now it is fitted it is a great job but it no doubt reminds you of times working on your Minor over the years and getting a new part to fit.

TREASURY MATTERS- I can now confirm that all of the cheques I was holding have now been paid into the bank via the Post Office. Therefore, all members who had cheques with me should now see that they have cleared. As I mentioned previously, I will deal with outstanding membership renewals when we are up and running again. I have asked Bob and Dave to continue to use the existing membership lists so everyone should receive their newsletter without interruption.

NEW MEMBER- Welcome to Stuart Deane who has joined us. Stuart has a 1966 converted saloon that he has owned for a year plus a 1957 2 door, currently under restoration, that he has owned for 53 years! We look forward to seeing him and his Minors when things return to normal.

NOSTALGIA CORNER- With everything on hold at present I said to Dave that I would look this month to reminisce about some of the memorable trips out that our branch have done over the years. As I have said a number of times I have visited places that I would never have gone to if I had not been a branch member and owned a Minor. I was trying to remember the first outing I ever went on; I can't remember if it was the absolute first but certainly visiting the Sugar Beet factory in Kidderminster was one of the first so you can tell that was a long time ago. I will never forget the evening the branch decided to have a run out in the Minors when I only had my MM. I was at the rear and within 5 minutes of leaving all those overhead valve Minors had disappeared into the distance; I saw no one again that evening and I quietly came home! One of my favorite trips over the years was the Teme Valley Explorer that we did way back on April 27th 2008. How time flies! This is where Mary comes in. I wrote to Mary requesting help with a photograph from that trip to go with my memories of it. Mary sent me a great email recalling some of her memories of different trips and with her permission I reproduce the email she sent me below. Mary also emailed her original report on the outing and I thought it was so good that I would find it difficult to write anything better. So, with her permission, I have also reproduced her report. I am sure it will bring back memories to those of you who came that day and for more recent members you will be able to see what sort of things we have done in the past. First, here is Mary's memories of rallies and trips out:

Hello Dave

Can't believe it was that long ago!! How time flies! I will have to have a look for that photo – there were others too and will also have a think about some memorable events. Of course there was the first rally at Evesham – was it 1999? The one that was washed out. In one category we gave the first prize to the wrong car because it was so difficult trying to sort out the paperwork which was in varying degrees of dampness. I also think that some of our rally entrants went on the river and the boat broke down. The second rally I was involved with at Hartlebury Castle was also memorable for the amount of convertibles that turned up on the day. It was possibly the hottest day of that year and I don't think that the figure has been beaten at a local branch rally (18 or 20 off the top of my head!). The Morris celebration at

Cornbury Park (was it 2013?), was also memorable. It was amazing how many branch members came along and our Morris Centenary tea towels went down a storm – largely due to Dulcie’s sales pitch! It was also very windy and our caravan awning blew down and a pole got bent. Also Jeremy’s tent had a damaged pole because that partly blew down. The show at the Three Counties Showground which they did one year in early December. We dressed up some cars with tinsel, had a tree with fairy lights and Keith Hall dressed up in a Father Christmas Outfit. I think we also won the best club stand. Actually I found a few press cuttings the other day so I will look them out. The Marie Curie car at Malvern when we were shaking tins outside Marks and Spencer’s. I had not been looking forward to that but in the end it was a very enjoyable morning. The rally at Croome was also quite memorable. I remember a Morris Minor driving into the ditch just outside the entrance and had to be towed out by one of the Land Rovers in the Open Class.

Rather than reminiscing I should be looking for photos!!

Will be in touch later

Mary

And now the Teme Valley Explorer-

THE TEME VALLEY EXPLORER

The weather forecast was horrendous. In fact both Jonathan and Dave were contemplating not using a Morris Minor at all! Dave and I had a conversation early on the Sunday morning and I really thought that Jonathan had taken the van back up to the barn. (Jeremy had used Jonathan’s Traveller to go down to London for the weekend) However the sun was trying to break through and it had stopped raining so we decided we would use the van after all.



We met up with Dave and Sandra outside the Huntsman. Dave advised us that, due to unforeseen circumstances, Jeff and Julie were meeting us at Iain’s place. Our convoy of two Morris Minors set off on time and drove across the river to Crown East where we turned off for Broadheath.

We then drove up to Martley where we

turned off along the Teme Valley towards the Shelsleys. After crossing the Teme at Ham Bridge we followed the river all the way to Stanford Bridge, passing the Shelsley Walsh racetrack on the way. Although the sky was overcast the scenery was lovely with daffodils nodding their trumpets and blossom on the trees. On arriving at Iain’s workshop we were greeted with a mug of hot coffee or tea, which was very welcome





Iain and Rebecca showed us round the workshop, which is really quite an Aladdin's cave. Jeff and Julie eventually arrived in their new 2-door saloon, which we all admired. We had booked lunch at Burford House for one o'clock so we regretfully had to depart from Iain's. We headed back across the Teme at Stanford Bridge, up the hill in the direction of Bromyard, then turned right towards Broadheath and Tenbury Wells. Unfortunately it then started to rain so we were denied the views across to the Cleve Hills. However by the time we reached Burford House the sun was shining.

After an excellent lunch we set off for Fencote Station on the closed Worcester, Bromyard, Leominster line. Passing through Kyre and Hatfield we parked in the lane beside the railway bridge.



Fencote station has been restored to its original appearance with some re-instated track and an original signal box. The open day was being held to mark the 50th anniversary of the last train over the whole of the line in April 1958. Shortly afterwards the track between Leominster and Bromyard was lifted and the whole line was closed in the 1960's. We then went off to Rowden Mill station, which is around a couple of

miles further down the line towards Bromyard. Here we were directed into a prime position at the side of the track as apparently they had telephoned from Fencote to tell them we were on our way! The owner of Rowden Mill also has a Morris Minor Convertible so we were made very welcome!



I hope you all enjoyed reading that which was a great day out. That's all for this month. Stay safe.
Dave

A letter from Mike

We had "separate but together" tea party's for recent V E day celebrations with our neighbours Trevor and Pat, and used our Morris Minors to add to the occasion, Trevor included a lovely photo of her Majesty the queen and prince Phillip displayed on the bonnet of his car. With flags and bunting out, 40s music playing, lashings of tea and cakes, we had a good time. We had lots of waves and smiles of people going past, and felt we had "done our

bit” to mark this historic occasion and was pleased to include our cars as part of the celebrations. Stay safe, until we meet again, cheerio, Mike and Dulcie Rochelle



Thank You letters

Hi Dave,

This morning I had a letter from Dave Smith and he very kindly enclosed the Malvern Hills body badge. You two have clearly been talking to one another on my behalf and I really appreciate your help with this. I haven't seen any other MM badge quite like this one and it has been stuck into my collection and looks the part. I have attached a photo and your badge is top right, second one down. The frame stands about four feet high.

Please will you be good enough to pass this onto Dave as I don't have his email address.

Thank you both for making the efforts that you have and helping me out in this way.

Best wishes,

Malcolm Butcher



From Richard and Nicky Crane

Sunday 17th May 2020

Dear Dave. Hope you are well. Please find just a small article for the next newsletter. Thankyou, Richard and Nicky Crane.

Hello everyone, hope all is well. It's Sunday 17th May. We were both so looking forward to the Rally and meeting up with other members and friends. Never mind, we hope this could possibly take place later in the year. I have, however used our Saloon lately as our Berlingo Van had to have some repairs done at the garage. I've also done quite alot on the Traveller lately such as :- Replaced the thermostat. The old one was taking far too long to open for my liking, and

the engine was getting very hot. I've also finished all the welding and completely waxoyled underneath and under the wheel arches.

All that remains, is to replace the wheel cylinders all round, change the Gearbox and Axle oils, and have new tyres all round.

I hope to have this work done by the summer then just enjoy using the Traveller.

Anyway, regards to you all,
Take care,

Richard and Nicky Crane.

A Puzzle

This puzzle was submitted by Gordon Chamberlain who admits to being a tad puzzled himself:

POUNDS, SHILLINGS AND PENCE

Can you make it add up...?

		£	s	d
1.	A Stone			
2.	A Bicycle			
3.	A Singer			
4.	Part of a Monkey's Leg			
5.	A Man's Name			
6.	A Kind of Pig			
7.	The Sun, Moon and Pluto			
8.	A Leather Worker			
9.	50% of Panties			
10.	A Royal Headdress			
11.	Hit Repeatedly			
12.	Unwell Sea Creature			
	Total	32	17	8½

Bob Prophet

*For those of us who only remember decimal currency
£1 = 20 shillings (s), 1 shilling = 12 pennies (d)*

A Quiz

From Mary Swift

The answer to these clues all have flowering plants or shrubs in them. May be cryptic or general knowledge.

1. Mrs Bucket (8)
2. A Change at the end would leave you irritated by the delay (9)
3. September 29th day is in need of readjustment (10,5)
4. Prepare for a change of climates (8)
5. Ealing Comedy (3,8,4,3)
6. Bovine undergarment (7)
7. Handy protection for Basil-Boom Boom! (8)
8. Boil ale then remix (7)
9. Instrument of torture (3,3,5)
10. You look happy to meet me with this answer (9)

For Sale

Good morning. I was once a proud owner of a 1959 Minor. Sadly, it gave up on me several years ago. I still have two spare wheels, two workshop manuals and a user handbook. Is anyone in your Club interested?

Regards,

John Haywood

Anyone interested, contact me (Dave Bennett) and I will get in contact with John.

Thanks for all of your articles, keep them coming.

And here's hoping we can all meet up again soon.

Useful contacts

Chairman

Lester Stenson

Treasurer

Dave Smith

Secretary

Bob Prophet

Branch Contact

Dave Bennett 07816 134009

**Contact address: Bob Prophet
18 Rectory Road,
Upton on Severn,
WR8 0LX**

**If you need to post Dave Bennett any articles for the branch newsletter his address is:
17 Kittiwake Drive, Kidderminster, Wores. DY10 4RS**