



# Malvern Hills Branch Newsletter

May 2018



Welcome to the May edition of the branch newsletter.

## **Dates for the Diary for 2018**

### **Tuesday 8th May**

Branch Meeting at at the Huntsman PH at 8pm.

### **Sunday 13th May**

Branch Rally at Witley Court. Click [here](#) for the Rally Entry form

### **Saturday 19th May**

Morris Minor Centre Birmingham (part of the David Manners Group) will once again be hosting a Morris Minor Open Day on the 19th May 2018

### **Tuesday 12th June**

Branch Meeting at at the Huntsman PH at 8pm.

### **Sunday 17th June**

Witley Court is holding a Classic car rally on Fathers Day.

As we prepare for the big event of our year, the Malvern Hills Branch Rally at Witley Court I am watching the weather. Still not sure what I will be wearing. Shorts and tee shirt, warm jersey or full water proofs. But here's hoping for some Sun. My morris is back from Steve Bainbridge's after the front wing was replaced and some rust dealt with, though Steve had some real problems getting the wing to fit. The pattern wings are a hopeless fit so it may be worth spending the extra and getting one that should be the right shape. Unless you like spending a day re cutting and shaping the wing to fit. Still the nice shiny new wing showed up the rest of the paint work on my morris, talk about 50 shades of cream. Oh well better start saving up for a paint job. On a similar vein I helped out someone with their convertible and noticed the cover panel (front door sill) looked like it had been welded on, though it could have been sealed up. This panel is normally screwed and bolted on, it's removable so you can check the box section behind.

For info David Manners is holding a Morris Minor open day from 1pm to 4pm on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May, which is off junction 2 of the M5 at Oldbury.

## Treasurer's Trivia

Hello everyone,

After the hiccup with our talk in March we were pleased to welcome Mr. David Vernon to our branch meeting in April for the talk on Defford Airfield. This was a fascinating talk with much emphasis placed on the secret work carried out in the development of radar. David took us through the whole history of the airfield from when it was opened in 1941 to its use as a satellite station in later years. He recalled some of the events that took place. One notable flight he spoke of took off from Defford as part of the ongoing radar development but crashed at Welsh Bicknor when returning resulting in the deaths of those on board. A commemorative stained glass window is installed at Goodrich Castle in remembrance. He also told the story of how after the war and during the Berlin airlift aircrew were able to solve the mystery of what the Germans were referring to when they listened to their communications in the war and heard them refer to 'Jumbo'. In fact 'Jumbo' was code for Bredon. With his use of slides David brought to life what it was really like to live and work at the airfield both during and after the war. Thank you to Bob for organizing this talk on a most significant part of our local history and I know how much this was enjoyed by members.

**Malvern Show April 8th-** The weather forecasts during the preceding week had been quite dire and both Clive and myself thought it was going to be a write off. However, by the Friday things were starting to look a bit more hopeful and on Saturday it looked fairly certain we would be ok. On Sunday morning Clive and myself met up in Hanley Swan at 10.00am before heading to the show. We had a slight initial problem parking as where we were told to go was full up. However, we were soon sorted and actually were able to park in quite a good spot on hard standing adjacent a very large marquee that had been erected. The show this year was held in a relatively compact area with much of it held in the halls and the marquee. Clive and myself were very taken by some very well restored vehicles. Of note were a minivan and pickup and I was very taken with a restored Ford Popular. We were pleased to meet up with branch members Alan Robins and Brian Turner. Alan also had his 2 door on display. I had hoped for a large contingent of Minors in the hope of attracting some more rally entrants but there were relatively few Minors on show. There was the usual array of auto jumble stalls and Clive and myself

enjoyed looking at what was on offer. We headed home about 2.30; it was a pleasant few hours out and had crucially stayed dry if a bit chilly.



Mine and Clive's Minors at Malvern Show

**Branch Rally-** By the time you read this the committee will have had a final site meeting. As you know we have quite limited time to set up this year so 9.30-10.00 is going to be mega busy for us. Don't forget not to arrive before 10.00 unless you are specifically helping with the rally. I think at the moment we should have enough help but if you are willing to assist please let Chris know; it is always useful to have some spare bodies to fall back on just in case. We have 38 entries at present with an entry or two now arriving most days. Regarding the tombola prizes please can you wrap any donations and bring them on the day if you are coming; alternatively, if you can't make it and would like to donate please let any committee member have your donation. We will also need some prizes for the raffle so again please bring them on the day or let a committee member have them. For those of you who have not been to Witley Court before just follow the signs to the main car park and then drive on to the overflow car park where our rally will be sited at the top end. We will have it well signed so you will have no problem finding us. Our May meeting will, as usual, discuss any last minute issues. Witley Court is very interesting to visit so if you have not entered yet do get an entry in if you can. We can always deal

with on the day bookings as well if you just turn up but it is much better for us if you can pre book. Fingers crossed for a fine day!

**New member** – A warm welcome to Graham Jones from Catshill who has recently joined us. He is bringing his convertible to our rally and I am very much looking forward to seeing it.

**Membership renewals-** Thank you to all members who have renewed your membership. It has been a great pleasure to speak with one or two of our members recently who cannot make it to our meetings now or very infrequently. If you have not renewed yet please let me have your subscription by the May meeting at the latest.

Finally, you may recall I set a little brain teaser last month on how to tell if a Series MM was built before or after 1950 by looking under the bonnet but not at the engine or chassis plate. The answer is quite straightforward. You need to look at the bonnet support. On early Series MM Minors there was a rubber sleeved chain attached between the bodywork and the support. This was deleted from the specification in December 1949; hence from that date the support is what we are familiar with on most Minors. I have attached a photo of the support on my MM so that you can see what it looked like. Hope you found that interesting.



Bonnet support on my MM clearly showing chain as fitted on early models

See you at the May meeting.

Dave

## **From Bob**

Members,

I have been contacted by Paul Eden of Shakespeares Rally Promotions who has invited us and other motoring organisations to attend the following events:

*11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> August: Tortworth Vintage Rally, Wickwar, Gloucestershire GL12 8LF*

*15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> September: Stoke Prior Steam Rally, Little Intall Fields Farm, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 4LF*

All events are open to all makes and types of Classic and Vintage Vehicles, Tractors & Machinery. Full details and entry forms are available from the website:

## **WANTED**

Hello I re-joined the MMOC a few months ago and hope to come along to your meeting on 15th March.

I previously had a Morris Traveller which I had to sell a few years ago and am now hoping to buy another one. Do you know if any members of the Malvern Hills branch or other branches have a traveller for sale now or will do soon? I would need one in good condition and good working order as my technical skills are limited!

Can you advise what is best in terms of brakes - eg discs or standard brakes with a servo?

Many thanks and best wishes Nicole Willett

## **For Sale**

Doug's convertible, see Chris for details

Happy Motoring

**Use Full contacts**

**Chairman                      Chris Perfect**

**Treasurer                     Dave Smith**

**Secretary                      Bob Prophet**

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