



# Malvern Hills Branch Newsletter

May 2019



Welcome to the May branch newsletter.

## Dates for the Diary for 2019

### Thursday 9th May

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

### Sunday 19th May

Ernies tea Party 19th May from 2.00. Meet at the Conquest theatre car park (Bromyard) at 1:45.

### Thursday 13th June

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

### 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.

As I am off on holiday in early May unfortunately I will miss the Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>. I won't be using the Morris as it's a long drive and I need to do some maintenance on the running gear which is getting a bit rattily and clonky. The brakes work fine, as I found when a van tried to get around a sharp bend in front of me and miss judged things a lot. But it got me thinking, I have uprated disc brakes and a servo. Would I have been able to stop in a standard Morris, possibly not which is why I leave a longer gap between me and the car in front. Also as the morris has the safety features of the 1950's and 60's should I be driving it on busy roads. The answer to that is yes but take account of the cars limitations and drive accordingly.

Over the past week or so I have been working around the area of the Lenches which are just to the north of Evesham. It's a lovely area and the blossom was still out, and well worth a drive around in your Morris. Incidentally did you know that The Old Bull in Inkbarrow has strong connections to Ambridge. This photo was taken at the Birmingham Branch Rally. Can you guess what it is?

Dave



## **A brief word from the chairman**

Hello all you good people firstly my apologies for being slow with an introduction but not having a word program on my computer and not that hot on technology not much of an excuse I know but now I'm all set up and you will very likely be a little fed up of my ramblings.

For the people who do not know me I am the chap in a very scruffy minor 2 door (mavis) which is my everyday transport by the way. I must thank Chris for all his efforts over the last few years he has done a wonderful job for us and I am sure that he is very much appreciated whether I can live up to his shining example remains to be seen. I have always had an interest in old cars, motorcycles and aircraft for as long as I can remember, how I ended up with what is now a little collection of them is a story for another time my present one mavis did belong to my twin brother Leon who sadly passed away I inherited Mavis and she is now firmly in my family and much loved. I am now retired, that should read as busy as ever and hopefully will be able to make a valid contribution to our little band of minoreers. Of my other projects I will keep everyone informed of their progress over the coming months, some of our members I see quite regularly so for those reading this it will be a little old hat.

If anyone needs help or advice although I am not a guru by any stretch of the imagination by all means get in touch I will not bite. It is fast becoming obvious to me that Morris Minors are playing a bigger and bigger part in my life and I certainly hope they will for some years to come. Of this coming season I do hope you will see me at quite a few of the local events flying our flag as it were.

I think I have come to the end of my little intro so for now folks happy marrisng till next time.

Lester Stenson

## **Treasurer's trivia**

Hello everyone,

April as ever has been a very busy month for me. There has hardly been a day when I have not received either an email concerning some branch matter, phone call, letter, membership application/renewal or a rally application/request. On top of this is the matter of keeping the accounts up to date and going to the bank. All part of life as the treasurer!

Our April branch meeting was an excellent evening. A large contingent of members gathered in the skittle alley at the Huntsman to hear a talk on Hanbury Hall, our rally venue, from Mr. Neil Cook of the National Trust. Using superb slides Neil took us on an absorbing, and often amusing, journey through the history of Hanbury Hall with particular emphasis on the restoration of the grounds he has been involved with during the past 30 years. Neil explained to us that when he first went to Hanbury 30 years ago the fortunes of the house and grounds had reached quite a low ebb with few visitors and a sparsely furnished house. Indeed, he had only just arrived when he was to learn it was to close for 9 months and be turned into a wedding venue. However, following the bequeathing of a number of funds, the opportunity arose to start some serious restoration of the grounds. It was absolutely remarkable the transformation made by Neil and his colleagues. As the visitor numbers grew so the use as a wedding venue waned until ceasing altogether. Hanbury now attracts over 200,000 visitors a year and they are aiming for 300,000. We thank Neil for coming to provide an excellent introduction to our rally venue. We had hoped food would be available but unfortunately this

was not to be owing to illness. However, we were again the recipients of a wonderful Easter gift from Maurita with each member having a bag of chocolate eggs. Thank you Maurita for your kindness to us all again.

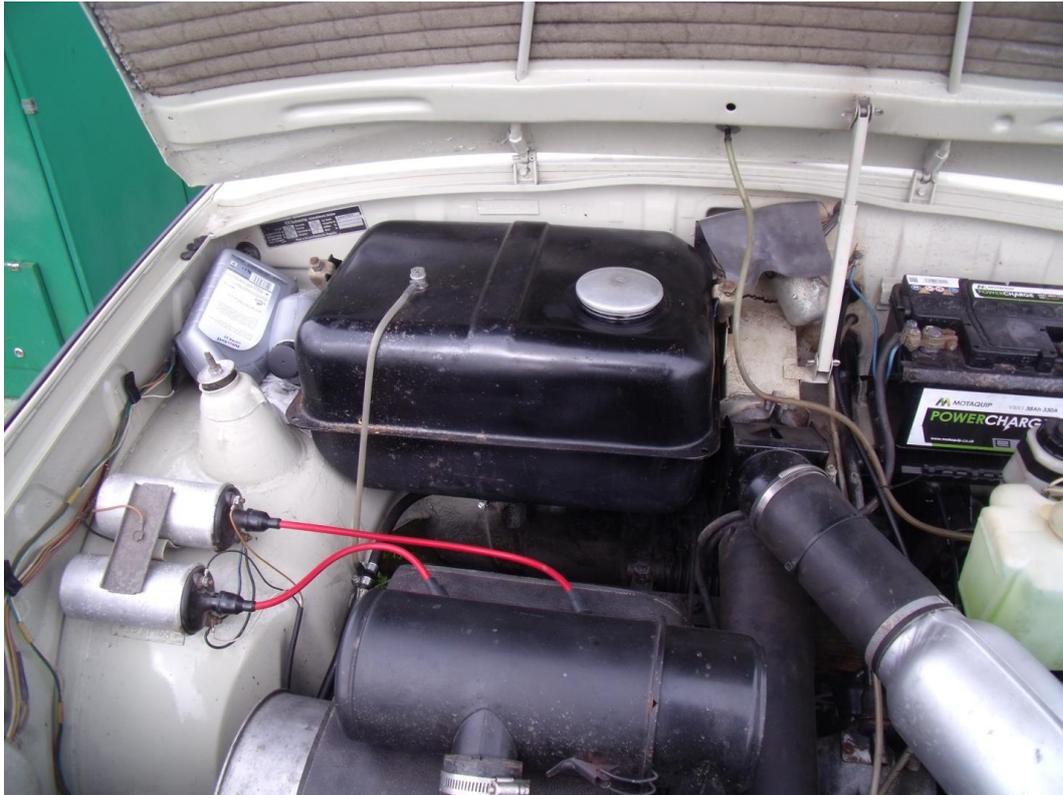
**NEW MEMBERS-** We are pleased to welcome Nicole Willet from Bosbury and Trevor Strain from Worcester to our branch.

**MALVERN SHOW, APRIL 7<sup>th</sup>-** Clive and myself met up in Hanley Swan just before 10.00am before heading off to the 3 Counties Show Ground in Malvern. The weather was fine but overcast. Clive parked up first and was talking to a new Minor owner before I had even parked my car! In fact the new owner had bought a car I had looked at in the auction at Tractor World in February (not to buy I hasten to add, I am quite content with what I have!) He had work to do before it would be roadworthy but he was pleased with his purchase and hopefully we will see it in the future. Meeting up with some interesting fellow classic car owners helped make the show worthwhile going to as Clive and myself were rather disappointed by the lack of older classic cars to view this time. One excellent bonus of going for me was that I was able to purchase some bits for my Series MM that I will need shortly.



Mine and Clive's Minors

One stand we did end up on was the club for old East European cars from the days of the communist bloc. I met a lovely lady with an old East German Trabant. As many of you will know these were very much a symbol of the old East Germany with their 2 stroke engines. Incredibly over 3 million were produced between 1957 and 1990 of which about 33,000 are left today. You might be interested to know that the outer shell of the car was made of a hard plastic using recycled materials from the old Soviet Union. The bit that would make me slightly nervous of driving one is that the petrol tank is at the front in with the engine. (Incidentally, there was no fuel gauge; a dipstick was kept under the bonnet although a gauge did become optional in 1984.)



Inside the engine compartment of a Trabant

It was immensely interesting talking to the owner about the car and I have included an under bonnet shot of the engine. It was also a pleasure to say hello to a couple of our members on the day as well. The show finished at 3.00pm although Clive and myself headed for home at 2.30.

**Branch outing May 19<sup>th</sup>**- I have commented often over the years that owning a Morris Minor results in you visiting places you would never have gone to. The visit that Chris has organized, from what I have been told, falls very much into this category. All I can tell you is that we are meeting up at the Conquest theatre car park in Bromyard before going to "Ernie's" for tea. Unfortunately, it has clashed with the Shropshire rally; however, based on enquiries made at our last branch meeting, I think Chris has probably left the date as it is. **FULL DETAILS FROM CHRIS ON THIS OUTING WILL BE FOUND ELSEWHERE IN THIS NEWSLETTER.**

**Membership**- Please let me have your renewal if you have not already done so in the next couple of weeks. I am issuing the new membership lists to Bob and Dave in the middle of May so this will be your last newsletter if you have not renewed by then.

**Rally**- Entries are steadily coming in with 35 to date which is very good. I received the mementos a couple of weeks ago and they look excellent. The branch has also purchased 10 coasters and 10 fridge magnets to add to our regalia stock. It is amazing how time is moving on with our rally with it only being a little over 2 months away now. If possible, please could you start to think about some items to donate for the tombola and raffle? Everyone who came to our talk will realize what a super venue this is so do try and enter if you can. I always have entry forms with me at branch meetings.

As I finish writing this I am looking forward to the Birmingham branch rally at Witley Court this Sunday (28<sup>th</sup>). I do hope the weather settles down not only for the enjoyment of everyone going but I also know only too well the work and effort that goes into organizing a rally.

**Next meeting**- This will be a normal social evening at the Huntsman on Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup> from 8.00pm.

See you all then if not before at Witley Court.

Dave

## Keyboards

*Clive sent me a link to the BBC web site about the history behind why the keyboards are set up as they are. Though I cannot link onto the website you should be able to see the information by doing a search on the internet.*

This is interesting. I thought the *QWERTY* layout had been chosen to suite the most used key combinations typed in the English language. How do you designing a keyboard for Chinese though? I daresay that Nipponese is similar too.

Clive

## Ernie's tea Party 19<sup>th</sup> May from 2.00.

The club is very privileged to be invited to Ernie's house to view is car collection, and have tea on lawn. It will be £4.00 each which Ernie is going to give to the club, to use as we wish.

Meet at the Conquest theatre car park at 1:45.



See you all soon, all the best

Chris

**The South Wales Branch have emailed me info on their rally on 12<sup>th</sup> May. If anyone wants information on this rally please contact me and I will send you the details.**

Happy Motoring

## 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.*

- Sat/Sun 4/5 May: Droitwich Classic and Vintage Fair
- **Thurs 9 May: Noggin 'n Natter**
- Sat/Sun 11/12 May: Bidford Vintage Gathering
- Sunday May 12 MMOC South Wales Branch Rally at Caldicot Castle.
- **Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup>** Ernies house in Bromyard for afternoon tea sandwiches and cake from 2-4 (see above)
- Sat/Sun 18/19 May: Spring Autojumble at Beaulieu. Website: [www.beaulieu.co.uk/events](http://www.beaulieu.co.uk/events)
- Sun 19 May: 40's w/e at Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch
- Mon 27 May: Wings and Wheels at Bidford/Bickmarsh
- Fri/Mon 31 May/3 Jun: Gordon Bennett Irish Classic Car Run, Laois, R o I
- **Thurs 13 Jun: Noggin 'n Natter**
- 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.muchmarclesteamrally.com)
- Fri/Sun 26/28 Jul: Welland Steam Rally. Website: [www.wellandsteamrally.co.uk](http://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](http://www.shakespearesrally.com)
- Wed/Mon 21/26 Aug: VSCC 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations at Brands Hatch. 5 days of exciting vintage motorsport. Website: [www.vsc.co.uk](http://www.vsc.co.uk)
- Sat 24 Aug: Gloucester Festival
- Sat/Mon 24/26 Aug: Pershore Plum Festival. Website: [www.pershoreplumfestival.org.uk](http://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](http://www.webbsdirect.co.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](http://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](http://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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