

North East Morris Minors Owners's Club

Autumn Magazine - Issue 4 (01/10/2008)

Chairman's Bits.....

As part of our 60th birthday celebrations we had a full weekend of events and some stayed on for a full week centred around Beamish. Quite a few ardent ralliers arrived at Bobby Shafto Caravan Park on Friday 15th August and struggled to set up on the uneven pitches. At least we all helped each other and with the aid of a few bricks stones and pieces of wood all set for a busy weekend.



Saturday morning and everyone set off early to meet up for a run to the dales and a stop at the Weardale Steam Railway. Efforts were made along the way to raise money for Marie Curie as was the purpose of the weekend apart from enjoying ourselves. A few intrepid fundraisers were seen with silly hats and tins parading around Stanhope and the railway car park.



The cars were of course the stars of the show and we were grateful to have the famous 'Katy' car travelling with us to help raise funds. Tracey and Grant decided to try the pubs in Stanhope (for the fund raising of course). Others decided on advice from a journalist who caught us for pictures in Stanhope to gate crash a small show that was taking place in Frosterley a mile or so down the road. This proved a good idea as the organisers welcomed us and we were soon the star attraction with three cars and loads of stickers to put on Katy and horns to blow and balloons to blow up. After this little interlude we continued on our Dales Tour catching the rest of the party as they negotiated Crawleyside bank and the sun shone for us as we took in the breathtaking views of the moors. Everyone managed to follow my route and we all congregated once again at Derwent Reservoir for a while before moving on some in search of petrol so diverting to Consett others through Blanchland and we took a shorter route to the pub as we were a little hungry by this time.

Everyone ate and rested and then eventually found their way to the club site bar for Karaoke and an auction and raffle to boost funds. Sue Akrill from the Brid and Wolds Branch had agreed to be Master of Ceremonies and did a sterling job. We even managed to sing Happy Birthday to Peter Rowland and present him with a cake.



Everyone including the residents of Bobby Shafto were very generous and I believe we raised around £200. Some were adamant they wanted a particular item and bid up and up. Chris Akrill is to be seen now in a suave Morris Minor Tie but I have included a picture as you will never see him again (or at least we hope so).

Sue Cook

The managers of the campsite had asked to give an award to the car they liked best and announced this was the Traveller owned by George from Cumbria. It was nice for him to be presented with a glass plaque though he is very shy he was delighted as he had just finished rebuilding his pride and joy and it was her first rally.



Thanks to all the members of the NEMMOC who attended and helped with the day and the evening fund raising. It was a truly joint effort.

Sunday morning we were all off again and parking up on the hard standing car park we had been designated for the rally. We were unable to use the rally field due to the wet conditions but we were fine on our own bit of Beamish and plenty of people came across to see the cars before or after going into the museum. Our party had special passes to come and go as we pleased so were not hindered by the queues. The weather though intermittent allowed some respite and sunshine and I think most people enjoyed the Beamish Experience.



We had a total of 46 cars in attendance. Some had not arrived or our total would have been 54 but the weather was a little unpredictable. After booking in and ensuring we had the same tally of people as Beamish to pay for I managed a short visit to the town and school and cottages with my good friend Rosie. It was nice to see her enjoying the tour as we had been together before when most of the areas were closed in mid winter. We ended up in the pub for a well-earned pint before returning to the cars to say our goodbyes to those who were day visitors or weekenders.

I must pay tribute to Adam Luke who organised the bookings and was on site most of the day missing his brother's birthday bash to help in booking in and marshalling. He had been in charge of the entries taking on the task willingly and managed with great skill. The NEMMOC Committee presented him with his own special plaque at the rally to show our appreciation.

This event was a year and a half in the planning and seemed to go over so quickly and was gone. However I know from the letters of thanks and E Mails that I have received that the NEMMOC did a good job once again.

Sue Cook

Another year slips by...

This is a note to advise that the North East Branch Morris Minor Owner's Club will be holding the **Annual General Meeting on Thursday 2nd October 2008 at 8.00 pm.**

All members are encouraged to come along to the meeting to gain an insight to the year gone by and plans for the year ahead. This is also an opportunity for all our members to voice ideas, opinions and nominate the Committee for 2009.

So please put this date in your diaries and make every effort to come along, after all this is **YOUR** club and as such we value your input and support very much.

Many thanks
Tracey Cramond - Club Secretary (2008)

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Something for the Weekend...??

Our annual rally weekend at Beamish this year is particularly memorable for me unfortunately because of what occurred on the Friday evening. As a great many of you are aware during an informal get-together, natter, p***up, whatever you want to call it! Because of medication errors, my normally high blood pressure had plummeted to a dangerously low level and I subsequently collapsed, unconscious next to our caravan on Shafto's caravan park, making heavy contact with the old Moggie on the way down (no damage to car thankfully). I was found by two or three of our members and from then until the paramedics arrived Kath & several others fought to keep me awake as I drifted in and out of consciousness (my Mother says she used to have the same problem getting me up for school). After extensive treatment at the scene I was ambulanced to University Hospital Durham, where I spent the next eighteen hours.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved, I won't try to name people individually in case I miss anyone out, but everyone helped, the administering of first aid, kicking seven bells out of the entry barrier to let the ambulance in (another story), tidying the caravan up for us (helluva way to get out of washing up eh) and most especially taking care of Andrew for us- Thank you all !!

Because of all this, we unfortunately missed the drive out and heritage train journey on the Saturday, but according to everyone who took part it was extremely successful and well enjoyed.

Sunday we made our way to Beamish and what a sight to behold! 53 moggies lined up in their splendour and they looked fabulous. Quite a few people, me included, baulked at the cost of entry fee for the rally, however when we saw that the normal entry fee in to Beamish is £21 per adult the £15 rally fee for two persons represented excellent value for money. The weather looked as though it might spoil the day but lunchtime onwards the sun shone on the righteous. There was a really good representation from our club with members old and new and the display was further enhanced with visitors from other clubs.

Thank you to the organising team – a job well done! (Arthur Henderson)

Bank Holiday Week's Events...

A few intrepid ralliers had decided to stay at Bobby Shafto for the week and once the bulk of the campers had gone settled down to a wet week.

A trip to the Angel of the North was commissioned by the Brid and Wolds crew on Sunday evening and photos duly taken.

I personally opted for an early aperitif whilst waiting for them to return and get the BBQ going.



By Monday most were tired and had a restful day venturing as far as Durham or Chester le Street or Stanley for provisions (had the beer supplies gone down already)

Tuesday some decided to tour Alnwick and Bamburgh despite the rain and others went off to find the sea.

As it happened the sun shone in Northumberland so the tourers had rhea better day. A picture was duly taken at Rothbury to prove it.

Wednesday saw the group expedition to Edinburgh which was a most enjoyable outing on the train.

We opted for a tour of the Royal Yacht Britannia followed by a ride on



an old route master taking in the sights and we all joined up at Weatherspoons for our evening meal before returning for the train. I have to say full marks to everyone managing to get up early and be off by 8.00am and for managing to get back to the train on time. The fear of missing it and having to pay again for a ticket must have worked even for the Hamiltons!!!

After another day of sightseeing we all met up at the pub on Thursday evening for a meal and all agreed it had been a good week despite the weather.

This week like Beamish Rally seemed to be over so soon and now we are a little lost till the next big event at Gaydon. Hope to see some of you there.

Sue Cook

With our deepest sympathy.....



It is with great sadness that we share with you, the news of the tragic passing of John Cornforth, a long-time member of our club. He was a wonderful husband and "soulmate" to his wife of 42 years, as well as father and friend to his son and two daughters. He will be sorely missed by both family and friends. Our sincere condolences are extended to his family at their tragic loss of John.

Social corner....

Hi Folks

We would love to have you join us at our social meetings. These are held on the first Thursday of each month at Burnmoor Cricket Club, Village Ground, Chester Road, Burnmoor, Co Durham, DH4 6EX



- ❖ 4th September – Music Quiz - Pie & Pea Supper
- ❖ 2nd October - AGM
- ❖ 6th November – Halloween Quiz – Kath Bertram
- ❖ 4th December - Xmas get together

We have a whole heap of fun together and every month we do something different, so come along and see for yourself.

Your Social Secretary: Kath Bertram

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We made the press....

IWant a copy – let me know – (Tracey Cramond)



AN OAP has been reunited with his first love after 45-years – a 1934 Morris Minor

(Sun Newspaper 13/08/08)

John Nagel spent £4,500 buying back the two-seater motor, which he bought for just £30 in 1958.

Married John tracked the car – whom he christened Emmeline – to a private owner in Basildon.

The 67-year-old said: "50 years almost to the day, I was reunited with my old pride and joy Emmeline, now sporting a green coat similar to her original factory colour.

Heart-warming

"I am delighted, I feel like a schoolboy again ... I am over the moon to have her back and look forward to sharing her with fellow Minor enthusiasts."

Retired John, of Reading, was studying for his A-levels back in the 50s and used his Post Office savings to buy the car.

He worked daily to restore the car, sourcing spare tyres from scrap yards and spraying her body a romantic dark red with black wings.

Wife Josephine said: "I am happy John was reunited with his dear little car. It is a heart-warming and delightful tale."



Membership Renewals.....

Hi Fellow Members

This little note is to advise you that the Membership Secretary will shortly be sending out membership renewal forms as all memberships are due for renewal in October 2008.

Please can you ensure that you complete your forms and send your payments to Brian Butler as soon as possible once you receive them.

Many thanks.

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Handy hints.....

- **Polishing tip**
Have recently discovered Waitrose kitchen paper. The standard stuff, not the new extra super absorbent stuff. This paper is seriously strong stuff, absolutely spot on for jobs where you want to get stuff really clean and rags just won't cut it.
- **Taking the Moggie engine out – the easy way**
All you do is remove the radiator. With the weight of the engine taken by the hoist I then remove the nearside engine mounting tower. With everything disconnected and the engine to gearbox bolts removed, support the box with a trolley jack to prevent it dropping and possible damage. Lift the engine slightly and remove the offside engine mounting nut, lift the engine clear of the mounting and pull it apart from the gearbox. You may be thinking that there is not enough space to move the engine clear of the box with front panels in place, the trick is to rotate the engine 90 degrees as soon as the input shaft is out of the clutch. Your moggie engine bay now looks like a mini's! With the engine across the bay there is plenty of room to lift it out.
- **Convertible Hood studs**
The pop studs on the hood of a convertible need a special tool to fit. Not easy to find though so to get round this try a dremel drill. Dremmels are fantastic bits of kit anyway so go out and buy one if you haven't got one already. The outer piece of the hood studs have a hollow shaft on the back which is splayed with the proper tool but you can get round this by cutting a + down the length of the shaft with a small disc on a dremel. Push the stud home on the hood, fit the backing piece and splay the 4 sections out. Job done.
- **Removing paint from plastic**
This chap had a side lamp with a plastic lens, problem was it had paint on it! How to remove the Paint? Brake fluid. He applied about 3 layers of brake fluid and left it for 4 days (mainly because he forgot about it) when he came back he found the paint all bubbled up and was easily removed leaving an undamaged lens. But be careful not to get brake fluid on your bodywork.

For Sale:

2-door Morris Minor 1000
Almond Green
60,400 miles
2 previous owners
A1 condition – immaculate underneath
Free tax – tested
£3,995 – no offers
Contact – Geoff Swales
Darlington – 01325 353182
Mobile - 07969793437



For Sale....

Having sold my Morris 1000, I have the following Morris 1000 items available if you may be interested:

- a new, unused radiator
- a waterproof, breathable, fitted cover for a Morris 1000 with wing mirrors in blue. This is a good quality cover by Specialised Car Covers of Wharfedale and cost £175 new. In VGC.

Sensible offers are invited for one or both items. If interested, please contact Gillian on 01723 361627 or jandgbennett3942@aol.com.

An associate of Peter Rowland has a lovely 1971 Morris Minor saloon for sale. It belonged to his associate's late father and has been fully restored. The vehicle has been housed at "The Newburn Motor Museum" and unfortunately due to rising rental costs at the museum, it has become necessary to sell this car. The price is £2,300 and it is believed the car has a Carlisle mark off HH.

If you are interested please contact Peter Rowland on 07970 5486219 and he will try to get some photos, or arrange a viewing.

Your Committee for 2008

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The North East Branch Committee would like to point out that any advice, articles or views expressed in this magazine are entirely those of the contributors and we cannot be held responsible for the information printed herein