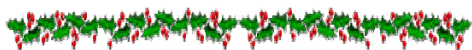


North East Morris Minors Owners's Club

Winter Magazine - Issue 3 (01/11/2007)

Chairman's Bits...



Never has so much been achieved by so few springs to mind in summing up the work that has been undertaken by the present loyal bunch of people who have ran the club over the last year. Personally, I wish to thank Tracey Cramond for her work and enthusiasm in keeping us afloat in her dual role as secretary and magazine editor once again.

I also wish to acknowledge the hard work and organisation that Kath and John Bertram have put into the social nights. I would also like to thank Paul most especially for his work over a number of years as our treasurer and Helen for stepping into the breach and taking on the regalia over the last year.

A club cannot survive without volunteers to undertake the organisation and running of events both social and rally related. So well done to you all.

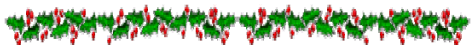
I would like to reflect on the disappointment we all felt when our Branch Rally was taking from under our feet two weeks prior to the date of the event. It was in many ways harder to un-organise than to set up. However, we managed and the outgoing committee made a decision not to pursue Herrington as an option for our Branch Rally in future, as we cannot be reliant on others in planning such an event again. Fortunately we have managed to pay back everyone's rally and camping fees and still raise some money for charity and keep our finances afloat with some vigorous sales of regalia. We still have trophies which we can reuse at a low cost for new encrypts in 2008.

Due to the adverse weather over the summer we were not the only club or organisation to suffer in 2007 and it has been agreed that next year we will be holding our Branch event at Wallington Hall on June 8th. Dates for next year have required submission to advertising already so we could not wait till we had any confirmation of other venues. Wallington is also free for the actual rally, though they stipulate we have at least 40-50 cars on show and each person buys a ticket for the National Trust Raffle. We are expected to give a generous donation to the National Trust, as we never have that amount of cars. A small club of Morgan enthusiasts will be joining us and we will be encouraging visiting entries of all classic makes to support us. We will be hoping to organise a camping event around the rally.

2008 heralds the 60th Anniversary of the Morris Minor and many events will be organised country wide to mark this occasion. I must inform members that the "Minors are for Ever" National Rally date has had to be changed and will now take place on 22nd June not the 29th June. This change is due to organisation by the new management of Stamford Hall and not any fault of the MMOC.

Our own event at Beamish on 17th August will go ahead. I would hope that every member of our club with a drivable car will be booking in next year. We have arranged camping accommodation for visiting members of the MMOC and a full programme of events for the weekend and beyond. I have had some interest from the Dutch Club who may be attending which will be fun.

Lastly as Chairman I would like to thank the members who have solidly supported the social events and rallies over the last year. The club belongs to its members and it can only stay viable if the members want to participate within it. So please bear this in mind in 2008 as we move into the 60th year of the Morris Minor and the ninth year of our clubs involvement with the MMOC not forgetting the clubs actual existence as a stand alone organisation for around twenty eight years (1979). Which we should all be very proud of.



A Minor Adventure...

After spending six months sparetime restoring my Morris Minor van, the decision was made to take it to our house in France to collect materials from the builders merchants during the renovation of our house.

I was confident it would make the journey as the engine and gearbox were taken out of a 1970 car with only 31,000 miles on the clock, even though it had not been on the road since 1990. But, just to be on the safe side, we made the decision to do the MMOC Roses run from Scarborough to Morecambe in September last year, approx 500 miles round trip, with no major problems. The van was then only used occasionally over the winter.

On 15th March the adventure began. As my wife was not able to make the journey with me, a friend who lives in France volunteered to be my co-driver and I was to collect him from his flight at Stansted airport.

I set off down the A68 and joined the A1. After an hour on the A1 the petrol pump was ticking furiously and soon the van stopped. After a quick look under the bonnet, I got back into the van and I was thinking I should have joined the RAC! A few minutes passed by and I remembered the night before there had been a huge suction of air when I removed the filler cap when refuelling the van. I now had a struggle to get the filler cap off as the cap was now sealing the tank and no air could get in. Having succeeded I replaced the cap loosely and off I went with no more problems.

I arrived at Stansted services at 4.30pm, hoping to have time to eat but unfortunately Chris had landed, so after a quick cup of tea I was back on the road to collect him from the airport. We made slow progress along the M25 and arrived at the Dartford bridge with a £1 coin in hand, only to be told by the man in the kiosk that we were in a van and the charge was £2! However, we made it to the terminal in good time and had a quick bite to eat and then onto the train. Once in France we headed for Bethune about an hour south of Calais and after a well deserved pint of beer, it was off to bed and a good nights sleep.

We met for breakfast at 8am and were on the road by 8-30. Everything was going well until we hit Paris. The first sign of a problem was when a motor cyclist passed us and pointed at the front of the van. This was followed by several cars also pointing. Remember we are on a four lane motorway travelling at 50 mph in the middle of Paris. We took the first slip road off and found a safe place to park. On inspection the front nearside tyre was flat! A quick wheel change and we were on our way again, each driving for two hours at a time.

We had planned on spending our second night near Limoges, but as we were making good time we decided to keep going as Najac was only about 3 hours away. So having filled up yet again with fuel we were back on the road. We left the motorway and headed across country for the last lap. Arriving at Najac at 8-30pm, tired and hungry, we headed off for the local restaurant for a pizza and a bottle or two of local wine. My wife Caroll and Chris's wife Babs arrived the following day by Ryanair and were surprised to find we had arrived before them.

The total mileage was 1028. The van did itself proud and is much admired by the locals. We have now registered the van in France but that is another story....watch this space!

You can visit our village in France at www.najac.com



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Rally Info for 2008

NEMMOC Rallies

- Souter Lighthouse in May
- Branch Rally at Wallington Hall – 8th June
- Trimdon Rally – 11th July
- Beamish 60th Celebrations - August
- Northumberland road run - September

The Cambridge-Oxford Owners Club & Post Vintage Humber Car Rally East Yorkshire Area Group invitation to All Classic & Vintage Vehicle Owners to take part in their Tom Rolt Rally & C.O.O.C Tour of Snowdonia on 24-26th May - For Full details, Entry Forms and Accommodation Lists Contact Steve & Joanne Turner 01653 693183.

Handy hints...

Brake Light Switches

A chap had huge troubles with brake light switches. They seem to last 2 thousand miles. He'd had 4 or 5 in the last year, despite his local Morris supplier changing their supplier. However, now he has found a motorfactors that will supply a brake light switch made by Quinton Hazel, the same as those fitted to Series Land Rovers. The chap was most helpful bloke and he can source almost anything for minors and even supplies filters and other things for a major Morris Supplier.

The motorfactors is Lenco of Tunbridge Wells: 01892 546811, they will mail order stuff apparently. Hope this might help someone.

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



Social Events for 2008

- ❖ 7th February – Quiz night – Tracey Cramond
- ❖ 6th March – Picture Quiz/Pie & Pea Supper – Kath Bertram
- ❖ 3rd April – Easter Egg Collection – Easter bonnet/boiled egg competition – Kath Bertram
- ❖ 1st May – Bingo Night – Sue Cook
- ❖ 5th June – Road Run – Shepherd & Shepherdess – Ken Whitfield
- ❖ 3rd July – Pub Quiz Night – Tracey Cramond
- ❖ 7th August – Just-a-Natter Night
- ❖ 4th September – Music Quiz/Pie & Pea Supper – Kath Bertram
- ❖ 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

A message from your Secretary...

As Christmas approaches and the nights draw in, our little tired Moggies are being prepared for hibernation over the winter months ahead. Another season has come to a close and the club prepares for the year of planning ahead.

Our AGM was disappointingly ill attended, which for a club that has been on the map for the best part of 20 years, makes me sad to say the least! 2007 was a difficult year both for the club and the committee, with the "last minute" cancellation of the branch rally and a number of other struggles over the year. Without the effort and support of club members who attend a huge number of rallies across the country, attend meetings, plan events and go the extra mile, I'm afraid our club would have seen the year close on a much more sombre note to say the least.

On a more positive note, I am again very happy to stand as your Secretary for 2008 and I will continue to work tirelessly to keep the club alive and working. I will do my best to support our Chairman and committee as well as ALL of our members in any way I am able.

Our quarterly magazine has met with a mixture of opinions. We do strive, as often as possible, to send you an interesting magazine, full of articles and information, which hopefully may prove both useful and entertaining. We have appealed to you, our members, to submit articles for inclusion in these publications. This is your club and as such we really are keen to share your stories and information with everyone, and I'm sure more than one or two of you have some stories to tell. So send them to me via post or email, or even hand them to me at our monthly meetings. It doesn't matter if they are hand written, I am more than happy to jazz them up for our magazine and publish. I am always open to new ideas for the magazine and welcome any and all suggestions.

tracey.cramond@hotmail.co.uk or 12 Turnpike Close, Darlington, DL1 3SH. I know there are some buddy journalists out there! In 2008 we will endeavour to issue a quarterly magazine, and we will continue to send out flyers when the need arises to give you a heads up on upcoming events and important information.

Well that all from me folks, I look forward to another fun-filled year ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2008. Please remember to keep safe this festive season!

Tracey Cramond



North East Morris Minors Owners's Club

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A Day at Bolton Abbey – Sunday 14th October

The White Rose Rally has become so popular that it had to be held over two Sundays. The first for cars and the second for buses/coaches.

Earlier in the week Sue Cook from the North East Branch rang Jenny and asked if we would like to join them at the rally. I prepared the Oxford whilst Jenny made a picnic. We called at Booths Supermarket at Ilkley on the way for some cheap beer, and then we picked Sue and Dave up from the Abbey car park because they were not allowed to enter the rally in the euro-box. I parked my car by a shiny black 1947 MG "Y" type, on the other side there were two old Bedford Dormobiles, both of which had been converted into rather cramped motor homes. Opposite was a long row of very old double decker, single deck and luxury coaches.

Some of the buses were taking non-fee paying passengers to Otley, Ilkley and Skipton. The owners recovered their expenses by selling programmes at £5.00 and from donation dropped into collection buckets on the vehicles.

We started the day with a ride on the steam train up the long incline to Embsay. The little green 0-6-0 Saddles tanker puffed and puffed up the line. Dave kept going on about the Bacon Butty he never got. If we go next year I will take our camping stove and make butties on site for him. It was lunchtime when we got back from our ride, so the girls set up the table and chairs for picnic, I swapped a pate and salad sandwich for one of Sue's ham and pease pudding ones (other people's sandwiches are always better than your own).

After lunch we boarded a very old Bristol L6A luxury coach owned by Greg Lawson for a two-mile ride to Halton East. Our departure was somewhat delayed because a passenger opened one of the large side windows, he was asked not to do so because the mechanism was faulty. He said, "I will do what I want", the offender was asked to leave the coach, but was reluctant to do so. The six-foot, well built, coach owner-driver got rather aggressive. Eventually, the man left the vehicle having the audacity to retrieve his donation from the collection bucket as he went. His fellow passengers followed also taking their money. Further heated discussion and argument continued outside the coach.

Despite the 15 minute delay, our trip was very interesting. The driver had to double de-clutch through the gears, when there was the slightest incline. When we came to a real hill he had to crash through the gears into bottom and chug up at walking pace. On reaching Halton East those with cameras were invited to take photographs of the beautiful coach.



Back at the rally, we immediately boarded a bright red DMU up the line to Embsay. It made easy work of the incline stopping for a while at a passing loop for the steamer to descend. We sat at the front and looked over the driver's shoulder to see where we were going – it's the nearest I will ever get to driving a train!

A final cup of tea at the car park, and then we took Sue and Dave back to their car. Thanks to them for the invitation and company, making it a most enjoyable day.

Rick & Jenny

Lincs Branch Rally

The Lincs Branch Rally usually held in conjunction with the Revesby Country Fair on 5th August did not happen this year because the Fair was cancelled. An alternative venue was arranged at the Bubble Car Museum near Lincoln on 2nd September.

Because many of us were already staying either at Roger Bucks or at Blacks Farm, Sandy Hamilton thought it was a good idea to arrange something to occupy us all. He had heard that the Antiques roadshow was being held at the Heritage Museum East Kirkby. He rang the BBC and asked if the MMOC could join them and he got an enthusiastic YES! Thirteen Minors and one Oxford arrived early and were directed to the reserved area close to where the show was to take place. The Lancaster named Just Jane, and the Spitfire were already on show outside the massive hangar.

My grandfather, not famous then but maybe now, produced porcelain wares including ornamental jugs, jars and vases at his factory in Fenton in the early 1900's. I have a small collection of his work, so with the hope of having some valued I took a few pieces to the show. The experts were very interested. Eric Knowles "call me Eric" he said, had a good look, then without much ado it was decided to make a short recording. My "expert" Stephen Moore and I were directed to the temporary make-up parlour in the hangar, where we had anti shine powder put on our forehead and noses (I have been teased about this ever since).

Then without fuss, filming began, no rehearsals, no retakes, just as it happened. I had my rent-a-crowd with me, stalwarts Sue & Dave Cook, Dorothy & Malcolm Bainbridge from the NE Branch, along with other branch members looking on, hoping to get their mugs in the picture!



All the Minors were filmed for the show. They were formed into a large "V" then driven slowly towards the boom camera where Sandy (who had also had a powdered nose) was interviewed by Tim Wannercott. After "take three" the crew were happy and went off to film elsewhere. Then Michael Aspel came to talk to us, taking great interest in our cars.

In the evening, after a long, enjoyable and memorable day, we all went to the Duke of Boot as the locals call it (should be Wellington) at Midville for a slap up meal. Many thanks go to Sandy and Rosie for arranging the day, which we rated "one of the best MMOC events of the year". The show should air 11th November on BBC1, you might see folk you recognise.

Rick Beardmore

North East Morris Minors Owners's Club

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Handy hints....

What the wiring colours mean...

BROWN is for direct, unswitched, unfused supply from the battery. Seen on wires to alternators, dynamos, control boxes and ignition switches etc. Always live and often carrying heavy current.

YELLOW sometimes used as an alternative to brown on older cars. Also used on solenoids and overdrive switches.

PURPLE Direct, unswitched but fused supply from the battery. On older cars with no purple wires, brown wires with a secondary tracer colour are used.

WHITE Unfused supply from the ignition switch.

GREEN Fused supply switched via the ignition switch. Used for things like the wiper motor, indicators and brake lights which only work when the ignition is on.

BLUE The main colour for front lights- headlamps and spotlamps.

RED The main colour for rear and side lights.

BLACK Usual colour for wires from components to earth points on the body.

These refer to the main colour of the wire.

Your Committee for 2008

| Position | Portfolio Holder | Contact Details |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Honorary Life President | Joe Berriman | Tel: 01740 652633 |
| Chairperson | Sue Cook | Tel: 01429 881179 |
| Secretary | Tracey Cramond | Tel: 01325 260739 |
| Treasurer | John Bertram | Tel: 0191 3875288 |
| Rally Organiser | Vacant | Sue Cook Tel: 01429 881179 |
| Rally Organiser Asst | Grant Cramond | Mob: 07812 045881 |
| Magazine Editor | Tracey Cramond | Tel: 01325 260739 |
| Regalia | Helen Halliday | Tel: 0191 4420074 |
| Member Secretary | Brian Butler | Tel: 01429 820067 |
| Social Secretary | Kath Bertram | Tel: 0191 3875288 |

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

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE DO NOT HAVE A SOCIAL MEETING IN JANUARY, WE WILL MEET AGAIN ON 7TH FEBRUARY 2008 AFTER CHRISTMAS.

6th December - Xmas get together 2007

Please don't forget to send Kath Bertram your booking for the December Christmas meeting. The cost of the supper is £3.50

Name: _____

| | |
|---|--|
| Yes please book me in for the Christmas Buffet on 6 th December 2007 | |
| No. of Adults | |
| No. of Children | |

Return this slip to Kath Bertram a.s.a.p. with payment, many thanks!



51 Malvern Ave,
Chester-le-St,
DH2 3BJ