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MMOC Branch - Birmingham

Words and information Martin Fox, Sally Woodcock & Claire Bates

We met the MMOC Branch the week before their annual rally in April this year, it was a gorgeous day and I took the opportunity to snap some shots on the member's cars for future features in Minor Monthly

THE BIRMINGHAM branch is now in its 30th year and was formed after a suggestion by Mike Concannon in the MMOC club magazine (Minor Matters) in the Autumn of 1980, it mentioned that anyone interested to meet in the King George V pub on the Bristol Road (A38), Northfield on a date in early November. The first official meeting was on the 1st Monday of December 1980 and held in the George V function room. Mike was chairman and Julie Whittaker was secretary. After a while we moved to another pub and then to Harborne Cricket Club where we stayed for several years, but moving the meeting night to the 2nd Monday of the month to fit in with their other commitments.

Our first rally was on the last Sunday in April 1982 at West Midlands Safari Park. The second rally was held the following April at Drayton Manor Park – I somehow doubt they would welcome us so willingly these days. Our rally was always held on the last Sunday in April, now it's the 3rd Sunday. After Harborne Cricket Club we moved to The Country Girl pub close to Selly Oak hospital, then to the West Midlands Transport Social Club (where our meeting night became the 3rd Monday) and finally to Hall Green Home Guard Club, our current venue.

So the Birmingham Branch is now 30 years old. We have seen many members come and go, some only staying a short while and some continuing to attend for a very long time. Two early members were Pat and Deanne Fitton –who used to run Bull Motif, they came for quite a number of years and always traded at our branch rallies. In more recent years, Tom Roy has

made a point of purveying new bits and travels quite a way to attend; what good is a rally without a chance to spend a few bob? We try to have a different venue every year at, hopefully, nil cost so that more can go to that year's nominated charity; this year is the turn of Sunfield School in Clent. Over the years we have had quite a few regular events including a weekend away each year in September (no kids allowed) and this was always eagerly anticipated! We still have an annual skittles night and a Christmas do and in this we are spoilt by our venue; catering is excellent. More recently, a spring treasure hunt gets everybody psyched-up for the season.

The committee members are voted in annually and with around 30 regular members on a club night, someone's arm can usually be twisted at the AGM. We like to think that this is partly the key to our success keep it fresh. This attitude applies to the cars as well. Branch member's cars are as varied as the members themselves. Approximately 25% of our members are under 30 so, if we can keep them interested, we can look forward to the next 30 years with some confidence in survival.

For further details contact: -

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Or visit www.birmingham.mmoc.org.uk

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Thanks to the MMOC for planning and organising such a superb Sunny day for our photoshoot back in April

Branch Profile

