

## ESMMC ANNUAL RALLY



Staplefield holds an annual fair and car show on its large village green. It was opened by Nicolas Soames MP and the proceeds were in support of the village Hall and other charities of the village. Fortunately the weather was fine, but a bit chilly at first, sunny later in the morning but overcast in the afternoon. The fair consisted of fun fair attractions, charity side shows, stalls selling various items, hog roasts, teas in the cricket pavilion and so on. There were various displays in the arena including a dog show, a tug of war, a brass band, May pole dancing etc.

The largest part of green was occupied by a very large display of interesting cars. There were Triumph, Alvis and Jaguar displays, but by far the largest one make display was the Morris Minors. These took up about an eighth of the area and were made up by our club and the West

Sussex Branch of the Morris Minor Owners Club and other Morris Minor owners. Amongst the other cars there were two Bugattis, Vauxhalls, Fords, Austins. Standards, Rileys, Reliants, Rolls Royces etc. It was almost a case of "You name it and there is one there."

It would be impossible to describe them all, but I was particularly impressed by a very rare Avon bodied Standard 14. It had taken the owner ten years to restore it to perfection. He had imported kiln dried Ash from America, had the pistons specially made and had the obsolete wheel bearings reproduced in Belgium. Apart from the hood and the seats he had done all of the work himself. Another owner who had done a lot of work had built a one off "JT Sprite". This had started life as an Austin Healey Sprite, but had been fitted with a transverse Mini Engine and gearbox to give it front wheel drive. The unique metal body had been panel beaten by hand. All of the cars were interesting and all but one or two were restored to a high standard. This is becoming a very prestigious rally because of the variety of vehicles that take part.



It is also very pleasing to see that all of the Morris Minors are restored to very high standard. It is a big improvement from the shows that our club held originally. Travellers with moss growing on rotten wood work and rust holes in doors are thankfully a thing of the past. They were no advert for the old car movement. However, some people like “oily rag condition” and are catered for by the VSSC. Some even add fake “patina” which seems absolutely crazy to me.



Unfortunately I missed the prize giving, though the results were:

First:	Nick Cayley	ULE 274F - Traveller
Second:	David Grey	RPM 378G - Four Door Saloon
Third:	John Brinkhurst	HTW 322H - Traveller
Best Visitor's Car:	Jim Hopkins	OYT 446 - Vauxhall Wyvern
Furthest travelled:	Trevor Lucas from Tonbridge	DWL 321H - Car unknown



The free prize draw was won by David Arnold.

Chris Gould



I think everyone who was there will agree; this was one of our best-ever rallies. We had a great turn out, and MUCH better weather than last year. There was a great selection of Morris Minors on display: we did the marque proud!





I'd like to thank everyone who came out on the day to support us, and need to add a special thank you to David Vaughan and Steve Arnold, who both spent ages sorting my car out, after it bunny hopped most of the way up the A23 to Staplefield!







*Photos by Angela Gould, Chris Gould and Annette Goodman*