

Dorset Branch

MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB

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Oct 2017, Volume 20, Issue 12
www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk

The MMOC Dorset Branch

was founded in 1980 by Graham Melly and chaired in the early days by Aubrey Batt. It is a Branch of the National Morris Minor Owners Club but has its own accounts and organisation (see Constitution for further details) **We meet on the first Wednesday of every month (7:30 for 8:00)** at the **Bournemouth Electric Club, Broadway Lane, BH8 0AA**. We have an active calendar of events throughout the year – particularly in the Summer months when we attend many **rallies** and other shows. The monthly Club Night is an opportunity to meet the other enthusiasts and enjoy a presentation or other activity organised by the Committee. Please note that the Dorset Branch MMOC will accept no liability in respect of goods or services provided by advertisers. No recommendation is implied.

Membership currently costs £10 per year,£12.50 for joint membership.

Please ask Branch Secretary if you require a copy of the Dorset Branch Constitution. (Also available on website.) For more details contact Laurie Blewer on 01202 522673 or John Jenkinson on 01202 576690

Advertising: Cars or spares for sale or wanted £5 per entry (Free to members). Traders

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Dorset Branch of the Morris Minor Owners Club
Helping to preserve the post war Morris Minor in the Dorset area and beyond



Dorset Branch Newsletter

MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB
Volume 20 Issue 12

October 2017

**CLUB NIGHT ACTIVITY:
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



Inside this issue....

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The Dorset Branch Newsletter is published on the first Wednesday of the month and sent by post to paid-up members. It is also available for download from the Internet usually about 10 days before the Club Night.

Editorial



Good Evening everyone! I hope you're all well (in relative terms). Well the summer season has flown by and the nights are drawing in... the temperatures are dropping and the classic car season is starting to draw to a close.

For me, and no doubt others in the club, this is the time when the focus starts to go back to practical car maintenance and restoration. My lovely Cyril, Traveller, as gorgeous as he is, needs some work done on its body work as well as some welding. It seems the autumn and winter are the right time to get this all sorted.

Especially so, as my plan going forward is for Cyril Traveller to be my one and only car—as I am starting to implement my complete career change, looking for a less stressful and more enjoyable (albeit poorer) life. And for me, my Morris Minor plays a big part in this. Cost cutting will require me to sell my 'modern' car. But as Albert Einstein said: "If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or objects". Ultimately, it's the outcome of all this (at times scary) change that's the most important. Because life is short—we need to live it well. I hope to update you on Cyril's restoration progress in the next newsletter.

As the leaves start to fall, aside from trying to keep up with the garden tidy-up, and trying not to slip and fall, it is also time to reflect on the cycles of nature, the friends lost and new friends made. In this newsletter we sadly have to say goodbye to our friend and Club member Keith Young, as he passed away on 19th September. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

Autumn is also the time in the year to start looking forward to the festive period - the mince pies and Christmas Pudding are already in the shops—and some of us may already start to think about the lovely Mistletoe Meander that we as a club have post-Christmas—to see the year out as friends and in good spirits. If you've never come along, please do consider coming along this year and fill out the form in this newsletter. It is magical.

If you're starting to get organised for Christmas presents, please have a look at some of the Regalia updates on page 8. There are some really lovely new items in the Club's collection that would make great Christmas gifts for Morris Minor—or even 'just' 'retro' - fans. If you can think of something that would make a useful addition to the Regalia collection, please let David & Jackie Walker know. They're always on the lookout for new items.

Tonight's club meeting will be the AGM. Whilst for some of you, this may take you back to the dreads of work related business meetings.

Please remember that at the AGM, important decisions are made regarding our Club, and we, members, are informed and consulted on previous and future activities. So it's an opportunity for all of us to have an input in the club. We as members all make this Club. Without our support and input, there would be no Club. So please do come along with your constructive views and ideas—with the positive intent to make our Club an even better one.

Finally: if you're considering future focused modifications to your Moggie this winter, see the image to the right. It was shared by one of our members. Yes it does exist, it also has power steering and it lives in Dorset. Details will follow in a future issue of the newsletter.



Natasja

Keep them rolling!!

In Memoriam

On 22nd September we learnt of the passing of another of our members. Keith Young passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday 19th September. The funeral will be on October 2nd at Poole Crematorium at 1:30pm. Those wishing to attend in classic cars will be most welcome. Meet up at 99 Rossmore Road, BH12 3HN for a 1:00 departure. The Branch sends its condolences to Sandra and Alex.



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Secretary's Report



Good evening and welcome to the AGM. It's hard to believe that 12 months have gone by since our last one! Thanks to everyone who has turned out tonight for what is, I'm afraid, not the most exciting night of the year!

Next month is the photo competition. Please bring along a photograph taken by you of any subject you like. The judging for best picture will be done by you along the same lines as the gardening competition.

I hope you all saw that we got a whole page in the last edition of Minor Matters on this year's Moggyfest. On the subject of Moggyfest and with 2018 marking the 70th anniversary of the Minor Beaulieu have asked us to do it again with the emphasis on the anniversary.

The club stall at the Beaulieu International Autojumble in September was very well supported on the Saturday but I'm afraid the diabolical weather on the Sunday meant a bad days trading. The rain never puts off the die-hard Autojumbler though!

With the rally season now at an end we are looking ahead to next year with several events being investigated at the moment. If you know of a good event that we do not currently support please let one of us know as it's always good to go somewhere new.

Please get your entry forms in as soon as you can for the Dinner and Dance. If you were lucky enough to have won a trophy at the last dinner please can I ask that you get it back to me by December Club Night to allow me enough time to get them engraved with this year's winners.

We were booked into the Holnest Country Fayre on 24th September but we are definitely cursed not to get to this show. Last year's was cancelled due to the weather, and this year the Traveller decided to play up en-route necessitating the need to turn round and limp home. Bearing in mind the time when we got home we decided to get the Series II out and head over to Christchurch Quay for the final Classic Cars on The Prom event for 2017.

With over 300 vehicles in attendance this was a smashing end to their year.

Talking of the Series II, its booked in for a respray for the beginning of November returning her back to the original Birch Grey instead of a mixture of different Dulux greys! Before then though I've got to strip off all the chrome, the lights, the interior etc. I'm not when I'll get time to do it but I'll have to find time!

Finally, I'd like to once again thank everyone who came along to our Garden event in aid of Julia's House. We have received a very nice letter from them thanking us for the final amount of £602.33 which was raised on the day. We hope to repeat the event again next year.

That's about all from me for this month, so until next time, *Laurie*
Happy Motoring!

ORIGINAL CLASSIC PLATES FOR YOUR MORRIS MINOR

"It's nice to know that someone does a plate that fits the back of a Morris Minor. It's a lovely plate and the service was very prompt. I'm very pleased with the finished result"

John Jenkinson, Chairman
Morris Minor Owners Club, Dorset Branch

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Regalia Update

Dave and Jackie are doing a fantastic job at managing the Club's regalia, and keeping it interesting with a steady supply of new items. Please see the back page of this newsletter for a selection of the available stock. Some of the new items make particularly good presents. Maybe you are looking for something for a gift for someone's special day or you're starting to get organised for Christmas.

1. **Model cars—unusual signage:** we have some model cars which appear to display signage that is not often seen.



Price: £3.75 (very good value)

2. **BMC advertising:** these are original adverts printed on aluminium sheets (so suitable for display inside or out). A great way to decorate your garage.



Price: £6 each

3. **Assistance Cards:** if you're out on a classic car run and stop, put this plastic sign in your rear window to show that you need help (red side) or that it's not needed (green side out). There's nothing worse than having stopped to "go behind a hedge" to find, on returning to your vehicle that three or four fellow entrants offering to help!



Price: £2.75 each

4. **Bone china mugs:** these lovely mugs display the DMMOC logo on both sides, so whether you are left or right handed, it's always visible. They are dishwasher friendly. The best way for a DMMOC member to drink a cuppa!



Price: £7.50 each

In addition to the above new items, we have hats, clothing plus and a few other bits and bobs.

Reminder: we are coming to the end of the wall mounted key holders so, don't leave it too long if you want one - as there are no plans at the moment for a second run.

All items are usually stocked at Club Meetings, please go and have a chat with Dave & Jackie Walker. If you can think of something that would make a useful addition to the stock please let David & Jackie know, as they're always on the lookout for new items.

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New Morris Minor Spares

are available through the club. The current list is posted on the website under the 'New Spares' tab. *We can also order other items for you—usually saving the postage cost.*

Brian. 07411 116336

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Chairman's Report



Good evening and welcome to October Club Night. The AGM is here again, another year gone!

I would like to thank my Committee for all their hard work over the year and also the catering ladies Sue and Lyn for the food at Club Night. Also thanks to Chris and Margaret for doing the raffle and all the volunteers that help out over the year on the runs and rallies and for keeping the Dorset Branch one of the best!

The next Club Night is the Photo Competition so bring along your photographs that you have taken yourself. Also, the Mistletoe Meander run with a fish and chip lunch is rapidly approaching (Saturday 30th December) so fill in the form in the October newsletter so we can get the numbers in advance.

You should also have received the entry forms for the Annual Dinner and Dance in the September newsletter. Please can we have those back by December Club Night with your money and meal choices.

It's nice to see that the branch newsletter still has a good selection of advertisements - so a big thank you to all the businesses that support us. It helps if the members try to use the services of some of the advertisers if possible.

The Branch Regalia has some new lines of stock - worth looking at for great Christmas presents. Thanks to David and Jackie for their time and effort with the regalia. It was good to hear at Committee that Andy Dibb has agreed to take over the committee post of Health and Safety/Events (being vacated by Neville).

2018 will be the 70th anniversary of the Morris Minor - so Beaulieu have asked us if we would like to celebrate the event at the 2018 May Spring Autojumble. Some of the members would still like us to run a separate Branch Rally - so we are looking at organising a one-day show - more details to follow.

It was sad to hear that Keith Young, one of our members from earlier days of the Dorset Branch has passed away recently. Our thoughts go out to the family.

That's all for now, but I would like to thank Natasja for taking over the position of Newsletter Editor. So if you have any ideas or stories please let Natasja know.

That's all for now, Happy Motoring, *John Jenkinson.*

Keeping It in

(edited by Brian Wood)

He that now goeth on his way weeping.....shall doubtless come again with joy." Psalms CXXVI A quote from the Book of Common Prayer is a suitable beginning for any advice on trying to keep a classic car engine oil tight. It's an almost impossible task however with a little care, and perhaps some divine intervention, a reasonable result may be achieved.

The rocker cover is often a source of minor oil leaks (weeping) which result in a thin coating of oil spreading slowly down the sides of the cylinder head, often collecting around the spark plug recesses. This can of course be cured but it must be remembered that eventually seepage will occur again, owing to the temporary nature of the gasket material.

The two rubber oil seals which lie underneath the retaining nuts are similarly made out of a material which is allergic to oil, are usually badly swollen and distorted and for the cost of a few pence should be renewed if at all out of shape. Rocker cover gaskets are stamped from a sheet of neocork, which is cork granules bonded with a neoprene mixture and formed as a continuous sheet rather like a

flexible equivalent of chipboard. It is the best material for the job, but unfortunately it doesn't age well. Replacement will be necessary after say, three years or so, regardless of high or low mileage.



Fig .1



Fig .2

Whilst the cover is off, there's a good opportunity to check the valve clearances. It doesn't take long and is another ticked box on the maintenance schedule. It's a simple job which most will be familiar with.

The etching on feeler gauges is notoriously hard to read (and to photograph)

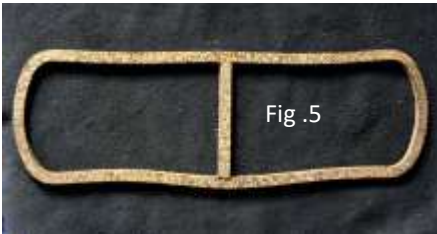
see fig. 1, so make doubly sure you have the right one, .012".



If you only have metric feelers, use .3mm. Use the starting handle to turn the engine or engage top gear and gently rock the car backwards to set the correct position for adjustment. Observe in fig. 2 that two valves are depressed at any one time and the entire set can be checked/adjusted with only two revolutions of the engine.

To ensure the best chance of a leak-free result, some care should be taken whilst refitting the rocker cover and its new gasket. First clean the cover scrupulously and examine it for distortion.

The sides must be parallel with an even flange all round (fig. 3). Lay the cover on a good flat surface (a worktop is ideal as in fig. 4) and slip a piece of thin card under the edge to test the clearance. Small adjustments can be made by a little judicious bending; using a hammer will in all probability make things worse!



New gaskets, however carefully packed will have some degree of distortion as in fig. 5. It's hopeless trying to tuck a bendy gasket under the rocker cover and expect it to stay in place whilst you go and find the retaining nuts. A little assistance is required here and by far the

best solution is to glue the gasket to the cover.

Nowadays, new gaskets are made with a bridge halfway along, which is there to help maintain the shape during the period between manufacture and fitting. This must be removed prior to use; lay the gasket on a flat surface and use a very sharp knife to neatly trim off the bridge.



Now clean the flange of the rocker cover thoroughly and degrease it with a drop of petrol on a rag.

Apply contact adhesive to gasket and flange and when tacky put them together making sure that, as in fig. 6, the fit is perfect.



Fig .7

Lay aside for a few minutes to allow for setting during which time the mating face of the cylinder head should be cleaned. There is no need to glue both sides of the gasket; the glue is for positioning, not oil - sealing.

Lay the rocker cover in position taking care not to snag the new gasket. On 1098 cars this may be tricky as the later type of heater valve can be very obstructive. The retaining nuts, washers and rubber oil seals may now be replaced. Sometimes there are lifting eyes fitted under these sleeve nuts, if not there should be a 3/16" spacer. Omission of either will prevent the cover being tightened down properly. The correct order of parts is shown in fig. 7 and is: rubber oil seal, dished washer, spacer or lifting eye, thin washer, sleeve nut.

Sometimes the dished washers have gone missing and should be renewed, as they help to prevent the rubbers spreading.

There is no need to get carried away when tightening the sleeve nuts, it only squashes the oil seal rubbers. Fig. 8 shows an engine on which the sleeve nuts have been replaced by some home-made items tightened by the fingers only, which is sufficient. The same illustration shows a new rocker cover gasket fitted evenly along its joint.

The two 'inspection covers' on the side of the block, and partly concealed by the manifold are another source of minor oil leaks. The above instructions may be applied to those also. Most 1098 engines have an improved cover which takes a neoprene seal. Earlier examples have a cork gasket and in view of the awkward location, gluing gasket to cover is almost essential.



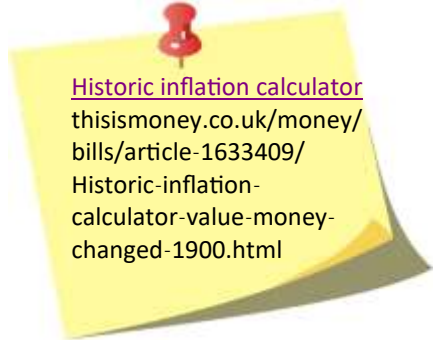
Fig .8

Historic Inflation

In today's comparatively low inflation economy it's easy to forget what a problem inflation was for politicians, economists and consumers.

[This calculator](http://thisismoney.co.uk/money/bills/article-1633409/Historic-inflation-calculator-value-money-changed-1900.html) lets you see how the value of money has changed between 1900 and 2016. It uses annual RPI inflation for which the most recent data is 2016.

It uses official UK inflation data to show how prices have changed and what money used to be worth. For example, check the below prices: what they should have increased to based on their inflation, and what their actual price is today. **Could you buy a car today for £11k that lasts 50 years?** Time will tell.



[Historic inflation calculator](http://thisismoney.co.uk/money/bills/article-1633409/Historic-inflation-calculator-value-money-changed-1900.html)
thisismoney.co.uk/money/bills/article-1633409/Historic-inflation-calculator-value-money-changed-1900.html

	1966	Today's money	Actual price
Pint of milk	9.5d	£0.73	£0.45
Pint of beer	2s	£1.75	£3.00
Litre of petrol	1s 2d	£1.02	£1.16
Average house price	£3,620	£63,219	£223,257
New Morris Minor	£650	£11,122	n/a

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For Sale & Wanted & Club Notices

Please mention where you saw the ad when you respond, thanks



FOR SALE: gorgeous, cute Austin A35, 1957, 2 door saloon. Island Blue and Old English White. Dorset registered car—owned for 11 years. Reconditioned engine, gold seal gear box. Many safety mods and extras including seat belts.
Reason for sale: buying a Morris 1000 😊 **£3,900.**
Please contact Arthur Cox on 01202 528017

For sale: 1957 Morris Minor Convertible. Genuine with original 948cc engine. Immaculate condition. History file with bill of sale. New MOT when sold **£11,995.**
Please contact Nev on 01202 747687



For Sale:

- Minor 1000 sunvisor c/w new clips, very good condition
 - Large capacity (9 gallon) Saloon / Traveller / Convertible petrol tank
- Please contact Steven Loder on 07748 154474

£275

£110

For Sale:

Black back seats from a scrapped Morris Minor Ex Police car. They have been languishing in my loft in Weymouth for many years Price **£50.**

Please contact Steven Loder on 07748 154474



Wanted:

Series II 4 door saloon (1953-1956) good condition, not a project.

Please contact Phil Haste on 07966426917 or sales@torbayclockcentre.biz

The Branch Website has a **'Spares Shop'** which advertises (mostly second hand) spares. Why not browse the bargains or send me an ad or two with a picture.—Brian Wood—Spares Manager

News from the Spares Department

Please mention where you saw the ad when you respond, thanks

The Heads are Back!

The good news is that we now have a new stock of fully re-conditioned Unleaded heads. If you are planning an engine rebuild in the near future, then an expertly re-built head with hardened exhaust valves and seats makes sense and saves a lot of work!



The work is done by a local, trusted engineering workshop (a contact of one of our branch members) and the prices are competitive with ESM or others (but with no postage charges for the head or the returned exchange unit.) The exchange price is **£230** (with 10% off for branch members—ie **£207.00**) for either 948cc or 1098cc units. Form an orderly queue please! (We need the old unit returned with just the valves and springs still fitted please).

Alternator Brackets with Coil Mount

Our other news from the 'inventions' department is that we now have stocks of the MkII alternator bracket with coil mount. Unfortunately we had a few breakages of the original design when used for high mile-ages. The new version has a much stronger design and has captive nuts incorporated and has 8mm screws to hold the coil. These will be **£19.50** less the usual 10% discount to club members (**£17.50**).



continued

Please mention where you saw the ad when you respond, thanks



Rebuilt **HS2 carburettors** for 948 and 1098 £105 each plus £25 exchange surcharge. (Others reconditioned to order—please ask Brian)

We also have some **reconditioned fuel pumps** for sale at £55 each (£50 to Branch Members) Postage is about £5. *Standard*

For sale

Two 803 engines that were in good condition when removed from their donor cars. Each one has been properly stored. They can be collected from just North of Swindon or can be brought to Beaulieu for your collection there. Cost £40 each

Call Ash Holmes on 01285 810524 and have a chat for further information

BRANCH REBATE SCHEME

You may be aware that the branch receives a financial rebate according to the numbers of national MMOC members who attend the monthly Club Nights. We therefore need to update our records so that we can take advantage of this scheme. Please would you advise the Membership Secretary of your **MMOC membership number** and renewal date and make sure that you sign the attendance sheet at the Club Nights. Thanks.

BRANCH SPARES DEPARTMENT For the benefit of newer members who may not be aware of it, the Branch operates a Morris Minor New Spares service. From the year 2015-16, we are introducing a discount scheme whereby *most* purchases by paid up Branch Members will get **10%** discount applied to the price* (unless already on discounted offer or not available to us with discount). We usually have some spares at the monthly branch Club Nights and we have a presence at some shows (particularly the Branch Rally and the Beaulieu Autojumbles). Spares are available most other times from Brian on 07411 116336. The spares are mostly sourced from ESM (East Sussex Minors—who support our branch rally also) and the prices charged generally reflect their prices. The advantages are availability of parts and *usually* no postage charges. Some locally made and reconditioned items are also available, such as bonnet props, fuel pumps, and carburettors. (*subject to fair use).

DORSET MMOC 2018 DINNER AND DANCE

SATURDAY 6th JANUARY 2018 7:00 FOR 7:30

LISTON HOTEL, Gilbey's Restaurant, 5, Wollstonecraft Road, Boscombe, BH5 1JQ

£29 Members and non-Members.

Rooms £30 Standard £35 Superior (Book with hotel 01202 394588)

MENU CHOICES:

- Starters: Orange and Melon Platter
Minestrone Soup
Stuffed Mushrooms with Blue Cheese and Spinach
Fruit Juice
- Mains: Roast Turkey and all the trimmings
Beefsteak and Mushroom Pie
Vegetable Hot Pot
Arnold Bennett Omelette (Smoked Haddock and cheese sauce)
- Pudding: Christmas pudding
Trio of Deserts
Fruit Salad
Cheese and Biscuits
- Coffee or Tea with Petit-fours

Instead of providing a bottle of wine on the table, we have changed the arrangement for this year and will be providing a drinks voucher for each person to obtain a drink of your own choice at the bar on production of the voucher.

Bookings to be made on the form in the newsletter (or downloaded from website) and received by December Clubnight.

(SORRY—WE CANT ACCEPT BOOKINGS ANY LATER AS THE HOTEL REQUIRES THE NUMBERS IN ADVANCE)



Forthcoming Events (see also www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk)

2017	
4 th October	Club Night – AGM
1 st November	Club Night – Photo Competition (more details TBA)
6 th December	Club Night – Noggin & Natter
30 th December	(Saturday) -Mistletoe Meander
2018	
6 th January	Dinner and Dance - Liston Hotel, Bournemouth

(Don't forget to check the website for latest updates to events)



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- Introductory rates for validated DMMOC upon presentation of this advert (1 per customer).

Phone Rachel on 07854 849866 for more details and to discuss your treatment.

New Morris Minor Spares are available through the club. The current list is posted on the website under the 'New Spares' tab. *We can also order other items for you—usually saving the postage cost.*

Brian. 07411 116336

01425 404142 Office
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Morris Minor Regalia Catalogue



MORRIS MINOR REGALIA - DORSET BRANCH

Our Branch Regalia stock is managed by **Dave & Jackie Walker** and is available at Club Nights and our outdoor events. (The illustrated stock list is shown on the website www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk)

Model small cars	£ 3.75	Coasters	£ 0.50
Model vans 1/26 scale	£ 3.50	Playing cards	£ 1.00
Money box vans	£12.50	Cloth caps with Dorset logo	£12.50
Club DVD	£ 1.00	Caps with LED in peak	£12.50
Greeting cards each	£ 1.35	Beenie Hats	£ 8.00
6 pack greeting cards	£ 7.00	Sweat shirts	£14.00
Key hangers in shape of cars, made in steel	£ 9.00	Fleeces	£21.00
Same as above with 2 cars	£15.00	Hoodie fleece	£20.00
Ice scrapers	£ 0.50	Waterproofs	£15.00
Sew-on patches	£ 6.50	Polo shirts with logo	£15.00
Tissue Holders	£ 1.99	Beaulieu clock	£5.00
		Key rings/bottle openers	£3.50



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