

Dorset Branch

THE DMMOC MONTHLY MAGAZINE



Oct 2026 Vol.28 issue 11



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 **Cobham Social Club BH21 3DA**. 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.

Membership currently costs £15 per year—£20 for joint membership.

Dorset Branch MMOC Key Contacts

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***Front Cover
On the road to Sherbourne
and outside Abbey.***

***Print Deadline* to ensure inclusion for any item within next Edition please:-
23 Oct 2026**



Dorset Branch Newsletter

MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB



**CLUBNIGHT - October
A.G.M.**

In This Months Issue...

<i>REGULARS</i>	<i>SPECIAL FEATURES</i>
<i>Pages 4 & 5 News from the chairman</i>	<i>Pages 6 & 7 Aaron Ford report</i>
<i>Pages 12 For Sale</i>	<i>Pages 8 9 Trip to Burlen S.U.</i>
<i>Pages 14 Events New Members</i>	<i>Pages 10 11 Trip to Sherbourne.</i>
<i>Pages 15 Spares</i>	<i>Pages 13 Club Night Antiques</i>

Dorset Branch Members-It's Your Magazine - It's Your Club !

**The Editor encourages and welcomes any written contributions (or emailed) photos please of topical interest, from the branch members suitable for inclusion.*

**Please submit , any material or advertising matter, within 10 days prior to the next monthly club night date . Inclusion within the next available published newsletter is subject to space, as it approaches the next respective monthly publishing deadline.*

The Dorset Branch MMOC will accept no liability in respect of goods or services provided by advertisers : No recommendation is implied : Any views expressed or advice given within the newsletter is offered in good faith and no liability is accepted by the Dorset branch or the MMOC for any consequences arising from following such material.

General Data Protection Regulation:-Please be aware that photos will be taken at all our events. Purpose is for inclusion in promoting the club and for use in newsletters and website. If you do not wish your photos to be included then you can opt out by informing the editor of this news letter.

News From Your Chairman

September was a busy month for us starting with the Isle of Wight Rally. Lewis and I went across with Ian on the Saturday morning quite early. This gave us time to set up camp before heading off on the afternoon road run to Godshell. We joined the Isle of Wight members for a barbeque in the evening with singing from Sally Bowers who I used to know from a few years ago here on the mainland when we were both members of the Three Counties Club. As usual they had a brilliant turnout on the Sunday with most of us enjoying the bus ride out around the island where the poor old bus really had to negotiate some really steep hills. I bought a few bits - as I always seem to do - in the auto jumble. There were no trophies heading back to Dorset this year but we between we did extremely well in the raffle taking about 15 prizes home between us! The following week was my usual annual pilgrimage to the Beaulieu International Autojumble. I had booked us a place in the Classic Car Park again this year taking our newly acquired Rover 216 Cabriolet on the Saturday and the '56 4 door on the Sunday. I was surprised just how much attention the Rover got but I suppose this is the future of classic cars with it being a modern classic much more recognisable by the younger generations. Of course, I came home with lots of "useful" stuff that I didn't know I needed until I saw it!



A very big thank you to Phil and Craig for organising our visit to Sherborne on Sunday 20th. The cars looked fantastic parked up in front of Sherborne Abbey with lots of admiring glances from the public. After looking round the fantastic market and the gorgeous Abbey I headed back to the cars where Valerie Singleton, of Blue Peter fame, was picking her favourite vehicle of the day. We all convened back at The Sherborne Antiques Market for afternoon tea where Valerie presented the prize for her favourite car to Martin and Sue for their white convertible which had brought back so many memories of the one she used to own herself back in the '60s. She also kindly signed lots of pictures for us with donations going to a local charity.

Another thank you to Phil for coming along to the last clubnight for the An-

(Continued on page 5)

News From Your Chairman

(Continued from page 4)

tiques Roadshow evening where we saw some really lovely things. I was particularly taken with Phil's musical box which I was very jealous of and would love to own.

Octobers meeting, as well as being our first clubnight at The Cobham Club is also the AGM and we really appreciate your support. We have a few more clubnights sorted out for the coming months but any suggestions are very

welcome. A new spares manager in the shape of Nigel Christopher will take over the role on 1 January 2027. Details to follow.



The details for the 2027 Dinner and Dance have now been finalised and booking forms should be with your newsletter this month. I am also finalising details for this years Mistletoe Meander with Cobham and details will be

available next month.

Louise went to see the Ringwood Carnival in September and who should she see driving through the parade but our very own Eddie Pateman with his convertible representing the Ringwood Veterans Hub.

I have now started on the final stages of painting the '57 4 door which is actually the 4 doors. I hope to get them done and fitted before the winter cold and damp kicks in. I have also been working with Simon Mitchell from the MMOC to try to get the registration number reinstated. The paperwork is now complete and has been sent off to the DVLA so fingers crossed that they will let me have the original number - 672 MMM - back!

Don't forget the dinner and dance in January. Forms are now available and should be returned by December clubnight please.

I think that's about all from me for this month so until next time
Happy Minoring
Laurie.

Aaron Ford

Our Devon Reporter

Club Members Cars,

My name is Aaron Ford and I am originally from POOLE in DORSET, but I now reside in PLYMOUTH with my wife Aby.

I have always been around Classic cars from a very early age, my first introduction into Classic motoring came from my Grandad (Brian Ford) and his purchase of a VW Split screen Dormobile Camper Van, and then the purchase of a Morris Minor 4 door restoration project in my early teens.



My first car (that I borrowed) was an early 71 Austin 1098 van that used to belong to the Dorset Morris Minor Owner's Club for many years. My grandad bought it off the Dorset Club. The picture above was a slight mishap on the way to Poole College, (some of you may remember the Van). this happened on the mini roundabout outside Horizon Honda

After this I have had a fleet of interesting and retro cars including a Mk 2 Golf GTI and an 89 Audi 100. I had been after another interesting/classic car for a while and late last year I had the opportunity to buy another.

Having been exposed to my Grandad's 1937 Rover 16 Sports Saloon for a few years something about the Rovers character stuck with me.

Aaron Ford

Our Devon Reporter



This brings us neatly onto 'Betty' our current 1963 Rover 110.

Betty came into my ownership in December of 2025 and since then we have had to address a few mechanical issues, but seem to be getting on top of these now. But still have plenty to keep me busy.

Betty has been the perfect classic car to suit our motoring needs, being comfortable and a very capable long distance cruiser regularly doing several hundred mile round trips to Poole and back to visit family. Most recently we also assisted with logistics of helping the Dorset Morris Minor Owner's Club set up their display at the Beaulieu Moggy Fest this year, with a roof rack and trailer in tow to help ferry items to the show.

I have recently taken up the post of 'The Young Owner support Officer' with the DEVON branch of the 'P4 Drivers Guild, and I am looking forward to the future with them.

That tells my story to date. I am really looking forward to getting stuck into the role including assisting and aiding The Guild, The Young Owners where I can and if anyone has any thoughts or discussion points then I am all ears.

Aaron

Trip to Burlen S.U. Carburettors' Salisbury

The club had arranged for a trip to Burlen Ltd in Salisbury. Burlen we all know as S.U. carburettor's but this is not all they look after and manufacture . They are also home to Amal, Zenith and Austin Pedal cars famed for being used at the Goodward Revival. It was lovely to be shown around a company with so much history behind it . As well as the classical way of manufacturing the company has also invested in the latest tech in including C.N.C. machines Computer Added Design and also robotics to assist in manufacturing. They have a dedicated design team using 3-D printers to produce prototypes. Laser scanners are also used to enable them to recreate items accurately.

We were split into two groups and given a full tour of all the processes and how the company has developed over time .

A big thanks to Burlen's team for accommodating us and to the knowledgeable staff who answered all our questions whilst showing us around. A big thanks to Neve who works for the marketing dept for allowing me to use some of the photos she took on the day. Ed



Trip to Burlen S.U. Carburettors' Salisbury

(Continued from page 8)

Pictures taken by Burlen Staff.



Outing to Sherbourne With Phil and Craig

On a glorious autumn day we travelled over the hills to Sherbourne . We had been invited by Phill and Criag to visit on Sunday market day . They had also gained permission for us to be parked around the Sherbourne Abbey front area a great privilege indeed. Brian W had a small problem with his convertible and had to return and pick up the Million to come back and still be on time (See, its always a good idea to have more than one) After the cars had been judged (more later) we all headed to look around the market. The market here is what you traditionally think of small artisan stalls selling a vast array of goods we purchased some herbs , others all brought something . Sitting in the sun having a small libation what a great day.

Hold on, more to come after the market it was all back to Phil and Craig's Antique centre for a look and another purchase before afternoon tea, sandwiches and cakes big thanks to everyone who helped and of course our hosts, Phil and Craig.



Honoured Guest and Judge at Sherbourne

Well, as mentioned we all went to the Antique centre and Phil and Craig had organised a special guest to judge the cars and also to auto-graph items for charity. We also enjoyed looking at all of the wonderful vintage and collectable items and antiques in the centre. But a big thank you to Valerie Singleton, (former Blue Peter presenter) who for a lady of a certain age, was on great form. Valerie was a Morris Minor owner and travelled around Europe in her trusty white steed in the end she purchase a M.G. but that had an accident she still holds a special affection for the Morris. Ed



FOR SALE

Morris Minor Convertible 1968 1100cc.

Trafalgar Blue. Reluctant sale on health grounds. Disc Brakes, brake servo, electronic ignition, alternator, front seat belts with new rear belts still in box. Factory original with Heritage certificate MOT July 2027. Not concours but extremely smart and presentable.

£7,750 reduced price

Steve 07884 395887



Morris Minor Convertible 1968 1100cc

Black, post production convertible, New tyres, new clutch, recent service, new exhaust, very presentable 60,000 miles showing (believed genuine) Extensive history file.

£7,500 or near offer.

Brian Wood 07411 116336



Club Night With

We are very lucky that we have club members with diverse interest and profession both current and in previous lives. It has become quite an annual event that Phil or Craig from Sherbourne Antiques give a talk and also value and discuss club members items.



This was the last event to be held at the Bridgehouse Hotel and we bid them a fond Farwell.



Remember our new club venue is now the Cobham Sports and Social Club. BH21 3DA. Club nights are now reverted back to our traditional day of the FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month.

Events

	2026 Events
4th Nov	<i>Quiz Night</i>
2th Dec	<i>Nitter Natter</i>
27th Dec	<i>Mistletoe Run From Cobham Club</i>
9th Jan	<i>Dinner Dance</i>

9th Jan 2027 Annual DINNER DANCE

CELEBRATION MENU £45 P.P.

Starters:-

Duo of Melon Seasonal Berries fruit coulis V.E. G.F.

Mixed Seafood Cocktail Lemon Wedge Shredded Lettuce 1000 Island sauce G.F.

Ham & Garden Pea Soup G.F. option

Main Course:-

Tempranillo Braised Beef G.F.

Slow cooked red wine gravy Creamed Pots & Seasonal Veg

Baked Cod Fillet G.F.

Seasonal Veg Pots Tom & Herb Provencal sauce

Creamy Mushroom Tarragon Stroganoff G.F. V.E. option

Steamed Savoury Rice & Seasonal Veg.

Desserts:-

Apple & Blackberry Crumble G.F. V.E. option

Homemade Creamy Custard

Fruit Salad

Vanilla Crème Brûlée G.F. option

Shortbread Biscuit & Seasonal Berries

Spares Dept



Most of you will be aware that the Branch has had it's own Morris Minor Spares Department for quite a while now. It continues to do well and returns a reasonable surplus to club funds every year. So it would appear to be a relevant and useful part of the Dorset Branch activities. Please try to support it when you can. I can usually bring your orders along to the Branch Meetings (or other activities - if I am going to them!). We also have at least one annual 'outing' for the spares tent, usually at Beaulieu and our Branch Rally where you can buy your bits. Don't forget also that most parts can be bought from us with a 10% discount. We can also get larger items delivered directly to you ,but sometimes postage charges apply. **Brian**

Cars or Spares for sale or Wanted ,entries are Free to club members or £5 per entry for non-members . Traders display adverts in newsletter from £30 per year subject to size.



Indicator Stalk Repair Kit

We can supply a new indicator stalk end to replace broken ones which



Split Trunnion Seals: These are available from us for £10.80 per pair or £39.50 for the complete set (see pic.)



Auxiliary Brake Light Switches are still available for £26 each. This device works in conjunction with your original brake light switch by operates the lights immediately you touch the pedal. (Ask Brian for info)

Interior Lights: The 3D printed interior LED light fittings are now back in stock and available if you want one. Only £22.50 to branch members.



Reverse Light/Camera Switches: These are now available to branch members at £29.00 for the switch or £49.00 for the complete fitting kit and switch. (Fitting kit available separately for £20.00) (Ask Brian for more info)



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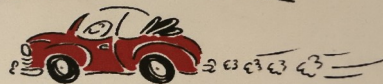


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BRANCH REBATE SCHEME

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.