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### News from SGA

Michelle tells me that Steve has now completed the Traveller which has been off the road for a few years. However, the white saloon has now been taken to bits for a major refit including removal of the roof!

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MORRIS MINOR OWNERS  
CLUB

DORSET BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Dorset Branch

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APRIL 2012  
Volume 15  
Issue 6

[www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk](http://www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk)

## The MMOC Dorset Branch

was founded in 1977 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 Clubnight 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 advertisements: £30 per year.

### Committee Members 2011-2012:

President: Graham Jarvis (07856 918136)

Chairman: John Jenkinson (01202 576690)

Secretary: Laurie Blewer (01202 522673, 07947 525884)

Treasurer: Jacky Wood (01202 573501).

Membership Secretary – Des Waller (01202 573403)

Events Organiser/H&S Supervisor – Neville Gerry (01202 747687)

Newsletter /Website Editor: Brian Wood (01202 573501)

([brian@dorsetmmoc.co.uk](mailto:brian@dorsetmmoc.co.uk))

Non Committee posts:

Raffle Coordinators: Chris Tilly and Val Palmer

Spares Manager: Brian Wood (01202 573501)

Regalia Manager: Richard Cyster – (01202 526660)

Catering Executives: -Sue Blewer, Lyn Gerry

### FRONT COVER

Tony Ware's lovely red van is featured in this month's issue—the front half of which is shown (courtesy of Russ Harvey) on the front cover.

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

## Forthcoming Events (see also [www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk](http://www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk))

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

**2012**

4th April—Clubnight Talk by Reverend Timbrell  
9th April—Andover Vehicle Meet and Autojumble  
13-14 April—Devon Weekend (Sidmouth—Royal Glen Hotel)  
28-29th April—Juke Box and Retro Fair—Brighton Racecourse.  
29th April—Swanage Charity Day  
2nd May—Clubnight (Quiz and decide on charity)  
5-6th May—Brockenhurst Forest Fayre  
6th May—Aubrey Batt Run— (to Brockenhurst Fayre)  
12-13 May—Breamore Spring working weekend  
19-20th May—Beaulieu Spring Autojumble  
2-4th June—Crofton Beam Engine Show, nr Marlborough (60 miles)  
6th June—Clubnight (TBA)  
23rd June—Sturminster Show, Tel: 01258 471450 e-mail: [rust-monkey@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:rust-monkey@tiscali.co.uk)  
24th June— Hampshire/Surrey Hants Border MMOC Rally Hinton Ampner Hse  
4th July—Clubnight (Road Run– Bloxworth) Meet B&Q Fleets Br. 7 for 7:30  
7th July – Ferndown Carnival  
8th July – Dorset Branch Rally – Avon Heath Country Park  
21/22 July Melbury Abbas Rural Weekend and Vintage Rally  
29th July—Mid Summer Saunter (Venue TBC)  
4/5th August—By-Gone-Days, Brooklands Fm, S.Gorley (nr Fordingbridge)  
5th August—Lymington Rotary Car Show  
10/11/12 August—Purbeck Rally, Worgret Road, Wareham  
19th August—Bournemouth & Poole MG Club show at Athelhampton  
27th August—Verwood Rustic Fayre  
27th August—Brockenhurst Carnival & Fete  
31 Aug—2 Sep—Isle of Wight weekend (IoW Branch)  
8-9th September—Beaulieu Autojumble  
18th September—Skittles Match Bloxworth Club  
23 Sep—Breamore Steam Up

**2013**

18th-19th May Beaulieu Spring Autojumble (MORRIS CENTENARY EVENT)

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April 2012

# Dorset Branch Newsletter

Volume 15 Issue 6

**CLUBNIGHT ACTIVITY:**  
Talk by Reverend Timbrell



MORRIS MINOR  
OWNERS CLUB

Inside this issue....

## 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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## NEXT CLUBNIGHT ACTIVITY: Quiz & Decide on Charity to Support

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 clubnight.

## Editorial

We managed a day out in the early spring sunshine in March to our first car show of the year. We went to Austin & Morris Day at Brooklands on Sunday 11th March. We had never been before and Jacky and I were very impressed not only with the display of Austins and Morrises but also the various museums. Not only is there historic motoring, but also aviation and more recently (apparently!) the London Bus Museum.



What's not to like? We bumped into Dave Holton to whom I am grateful for the write up and photos on page 8-9 (& Pam too!). I had to modify Dave's 'T' shirt, though—to keep (editor) Russ happy. Sadly, though, the entry to Brooklands cost us £10 each rather than the £8 Dave paid since we couldn't face the 200 odd mile round trip in the Traveller. Shame on me. Oh well, perhaps next time!

I have been a bit busy in the garage recently in my efforts to get our 1962 Convertible ready for a bit of use in the summer. Unfortunately, the plans for uprating the front brakes to 8" (1098 spec) and replacement of the a wheel bearing

suffered from significant 'scope creep' when it developed into a full-scale rebuild of the front suspension (including poly bushes and trunnions all round). Whilst the underside of the car is a bit of a mess, I still found the urge to clean and repaint all the bits I took off (Sad, I know!). Inevitably the job took much longer than planned and is still not finished (at the time of writing). The new brakes inexplicably don't work and the new wheel bearing still wobbles! At least, though, the suspension is now even both sides and the correct ride height. I have temporarily given up and found something more useful to do!

We have decided to part company with our black '57 4 door saloon (JSJ) since we will have less use for it now. Realistically, four Minors is a bit too many for us. If anyone is interested—give me a shout—its not a bad little car. The paint finish is not brilliant, but it is presentable and should make a good little runabout for someone. Cheers for now, Brian.



## For Sale & Wanted & Club Notices

Please let me know if you no longer wish your ad to be included in the newsletter/website. *Editor.*

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

**New Morris Minor Spares** are available through the club. The current list is posted on the website under the 'New Spares' tab. We hope to have a new spares table at the clubnight, so let me know if you need anything ....Brian. 07411 116336



**FOR SALE** 1962 Hillman Minx Series 3C. 1600cc 69000 miles, three owners. Thistle grey with lovely original red interior. MOT until 17/6/2012. Electronic ignition, new radial tyres. Runs very nicely. £1500  
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**FOR SALE** 1957 Black 948cc 4 door saloon. Good condition, overhauled braking system, Silicone brake fluid, recently rebuilt engine with alternator, front seat belts, new exhaust, good tyres, MOT July 12, **£2,100.**  
Brian Wood **07411 116336** (Bournemouth)



MMOC National Rally. Kelmarsh Hall, 30th June & 1st July 2012

The InterBranch Challenge.

This will take on a different aspect this year - the InterBranch Challenge will be run over both days giving all branch members the chance of participating even if they are only able to attend on one day.

The idea is for a 'Generation Game' event with different tasks to perform each day. Each branch is invited to submit a team and to choose a 70's themed name. The games will take place at pre published times in the rally programme; they will each be a timed challenge and points will be awarded on a leader/totaliser board.

Ideas for the games include: Spark plug changing, Wheel push, Fancy dress (70's theme), obstacle race, Pantomime Horse Race, Morris Dancing Challenge (teams join in with the professionals), Kim's Game, and more .....? We hope that by organising the challenge this way it will offer maximum inclusion for all abilities and also for people only attending on one of the two days. People can join the team either or both days, its all about 'TEAM' participation and not individuals.

Please discuss this idea at your branch meetings and let Rosie know if you will be entering - before the end of May.

Similarly Branch Avenue will have a 70's theme and you are invited to reserve a space and to exhibit cars to the theme of 'TV, Film & Advertising'.

Space can be for up to 4 cars (3 if you wish erect a gazebo), they may be different cars on Saturday from those on Sunday and any that wish to be judged on Sunday in the condition class judging should have the bonnet raised. You do not need to be present on your Branch Avenue stand throughout the entire rally but having a stand is a great opportunity to advertise your branch and to use as a meeting point.

Please advise Rosie before the end of May if you wish to reserve a space - there is a prize for the best display judged by a third party. No reservation - no allocation!

I look forward to hearing from all branches. Please respond even if you do not intend to participate. We are also looking for volunteer helpers on both days, especially for Rally Control. Anyone interested should also contact Rosie with details of when they may be available and she will endeavour to draw up a rota.

Many thanks, Rosie.

Also, for the mag, it may be worth letting the other members know, that if traveling in France now, you must carry a breathalyser, they are about £ 2.00 each. *(This is likely to be approved shortly and will take effect from July 2012 - Ed)*

But more importantly, if you use a sat nav, whether you use it or not, it MUST NOT have speed camera detection. If you are stopped, there is up to £ 1,400.00 fine.

See you soon I hope. Cheers Colin

Hi Laurie, I am pleased to say that anybody that offers to bring a 1950's vehicle to Beaulieu over the Jubilee weekend will receive free entry and also free camping. I have attached a newly completed info flyer for you and your members. This should have all the information on it you will need but if not just get in touch and hopefully I can answer any questions.

## Calling All Vehicles from the 1950s 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012

We are inviting owners to come and display their *vehicles of the 1950s* at the National Motor Museum for our Jubilee Celebrations. All vehicles including commercial and motorcycles are welcome!

Come for one of these special days – or all four if you'd like - we would love to see you at Beaulieu for this once in a lifetime celebration.

Entry for the driver and passenger is free of charge.

*(£10 per person for each additional passenger)*

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## WARNING ADVICE from Colin Hughes

With petrol station fuel pumps filling our cars so fast now a days, my Citroen 2CV often has the problem of an air lock forcing fuel out of the filler.

One of my work mates had this problem a few weeks ago, while on the way to work. He stopped to fill up, with fuel, when the petrol shot out all over his shirt sleeve. As he was already late for work, he carried on to work, but was unfortunately pulled up by the Police for speeding.

Nerves got the better of him and while talking to the officer, he lit a cigarette. The immediate result was WHOOSH and his shirt sleeve burst into flames. Fortunately, the police officer, was able to extinguish the flames and no harm was done, my mate just shook up by the event. It's worth keeping in mind when filling up you cars.

To cap it all, my mate was not only find for the speeding offence, but also for being in charge of a fire arm.

## Secretary's Report

Good evening and welcome to the April clubnight. Thank you to everyone who brought along examples of their hobbies to last clubnight – there were some very interesting displays. Tonight we welcome Reverend Stewart Timbrell once again to give us another of his very entertaining talks. Don't forget that at next month's meeting we will be choosing our nominated charity for this year.

We have a packed events calendar coming together and I have entry forms available for a lot of them. Over the Golden Jubilee weekend Beaulieu are hosting a display of 1950's vehicles. There will also be free camping available for those of you who might like to stay for the whole weekend. This year's Aubrey Batt Memorial Run will finish at the new Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst Show after breakfast at Avon Heath Country Park café. The date for the Midsummer Saunter has been set as 29<sup>th</sup> July so please make a note of the date in your diaries. The venue has yet to be decided. We have been invited to take part in the MG Club's show at Athelhampton House on 19<sup>th</sup> August. There will be a charge of £10 per car but this does include entry to the house and grounds. Entries for this year's Dorset Branch Rally have started to arrive and your entry forms are available at clubnight or with your newsletter. We are looking for more trade stands or if you know of anyone who may like to come along please let me know and I will send them a trade stand form.

Work on the recently acquired 1956 2 door has been slow but I have made a start. I have fitted a new water pump along with all new hoses – top, bottom, bypass and heater. The next job will be to recommission the brakes and then to fit the new rubber seat diaphragms along with the new foams. I have had it running and the engine seems to run very well and is fairly quiet. I hope to have time to give the Traveller a service before the Devon weekend.

That's all from me for this month, so until next time

Happy Minoring

Laurie.



red oxide and then black gloss. The body work was then secured on my trailer and taken to Kustom Kolours bodyshop owned by my son Colin and his business partner Justin. There it was prepared for re-spraying in Damask Red.

While this was happening, my brother Roger and I stripped the low compression engine down to find it was in perfect condition so it was rebuilt and a new unleaded head fitted, and painted green. The gear box and rear axle were also checked and found to be in reasonable condition. I fitted new wheel bearings and oil seals to the axle. After the body work was back from Kustom Kolours, the re-assembling began. The brake system was upgraded to disc brakes and servo and the new wheels fitted. A new wiring loom was also fitted. The original petrol tank was completely rotten and after contacting all Morris Minor parts distributors, no van petrol tank was available, many were promised but none delivered. So finally a Morris salon petrol tank was converted to a van one by Kustom Kolours and fitted. The engine and gear box were fitted and fired up first time. The entire interior was fitted and the original seats retrimmed.

The van was then MOT'd at Walkers Garage, Bransgore and on the road 11 months after I first purchased it. The last thing done to the van was the application of a pair of vinyl Kustom Kolours advertising signs in gold by J.A.D Embroidery Service.



On researching some

of the history of the van I found it is ex yellow BT van 1970-79 .It was then registered in Worcestershire 10.9.79 and since then had 12 keepers.

I would like to thank Colin and Justin at Kustom Kolours and my brother Roger for all their help and assistance.

Tony Ware, (DMMOC 244)

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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 clubnights. We therefore need to update our records so that we can take advantage of this scheme. Please would you advise Des Waller (or any Committee Member) of your MMOC membership number and renewal date and make sure that you sign the attendance sheet at the clubnights. Thank

## 1970 Van—eBay Wreck!

I searched the internet to find a Morris Van and found this one on July 31<sup>st</sup> 2009, all in bits. As there were no bids on it, I contacted the seller and arranged to view. A friend with his transporter drove me up to Leominster in Herefordshire, just in case! The van was in the back garden; in the passenger footwell was the engine and there were lots of boxes with bits and bobs included as well. The back of the van was on the ground and on the side of the van, below the guttering was a long slit rather like a gun turret. I agreed a price of £700 but before we could load up the transporter and head back home to Christchurch, we had to tie the back of the van body to the chassis as only the cab was attached!



After unloading I started by sorting through all the boxes of bits to make a list of missing parts. The floor inner wheel arches and rear cross members and part of guttering were rotten, so new repair panels were purchased from Fairmile Restoration. Then I searched eBay for window frames door handles and pair of back doors as the original ones were past it. More lists were made for new parts from E.S.M. Ltd. The wheels that were on the Van were old aluminium Minilite wheels and as I was unable to find original Morris van wheels - I purchased 4 x 5 1/2J steel rims from Minor Developments. The new interior was ordered from Newton Commercial. New glass all round was also sourced.



So in September, I then began to dismantle the bodywork and chassis. They were sandblasted and all the necessary welding done. The chassis was then painted in

## Chairman's Report

Good evening and welcome to April clubnight. It was nice to see a good turnout for March's meeting and also to see all the different hobbies that Branch Members brought along to show us. The next clubnight is the popular Reverend Trimbrell. By the way if any of the club members hears of a good speaker—please let the Committee know so we can book them. On the forthcoming events page, it is good to see that there are some new events this year—such as the Swanage Charity Day in April, the Brockenhurst Forest Fayre in May and also the Ferndown Carnival this year. I have arranged for the cars to lead the Carnival so that we can go a little faster without continual stop/start then on to parking in the carnival field. Also their committee agreed it would be better for them. I have just received the programme for the IOW weekend from Laurie so I can now put together the holiday packs with all the details. This years rally entries are starting to arrive but we are still looking for more stalls—so let the committee know of any suitable ones. The 2013 Morris Centenary at Beaulieu is going well. If you know of any Morris Commercials please let Laurie know. Good Motoring—John.



## Book Club (Plus) by Derek Shearman

Hello everyone - sincere apologies for my non-attendance at the March meeting: last minute family business intervened. However, I shall make every endeavour to attend the April meeting and bring with me a selection of the ever increasing number of books we now have on loan into the Book Club, including the volumes I mentioned in last months Newsletter.

Out of the blue, as they say, I had a letter from my Cousin Elizabeth with which she enclosed the original documents relating to my Father's three year motor engineering apprentice, dated 16<sup>th</sup> April 1923. The garage to which he was apprenticed was known as Graham Brothers Limited, 56 Church Street, Enfield Town. Agents for Daimler, Humber, Austin, Standard & Swift Cars. Fascinating of course to me and I will also bring these documents along for anyone to view who may be interested.

Latest news on World Book Night. Distribution date is 23<sup>rd</sup> April, prior to which I will take delivery of 48 copies of my choice (on your behalf) which is **'Notes From A Small Island' by Bill Bryson** This is - in my opinion - a delightful book of easy reading: suitable to be taken away on holiday and dipped into at various times. Bill is a Canadian who first came to the UK in 1973 and subsequently settled here in 1977 for a couple of decades with his English wife and four children. During that period he had a variety of jobs, mostly connected to the publishing industry and for some time he was a journalist on the Bournemouth Evening Echo. Some of you may have already read this book but is one of the few books, apart from reference works, that I have read more than once and I sincerely hope you will enjoy it. I will have these copies with me at the 2<sup>nd</sup> May meeting.

Once again, should you be looking for any information relating to motoring, engineering, travel etc., please do not hesitate to speak to me at any of our meetings or make contact via my email, [derekshearman@talktalk.net](mailto:derekshearman@talktalk.net) or by phone on 07593 623721.

## Rupert Goes to Brooklands (again!)



Well hello Dorset Branch members David Northamp-

tonshire. Another winter of dank, dark days has passed us by and it's time to get on with all things Minor-ing. Now I am semi-retired I have managed to get on with some tinkering and fettling on my Minors in preparation for the new season which kicked off with the Austin & Morris day at Brooklands. The day (Sunday March 11th) was blessed with wonderful blue skies and sunshine.

As was usual for this event I took Rupert my trusty Minor van (his 3<sup>rd</sup> time) and parked him with the L.C.V. gang. Another very good turn out of commercials. Also an excellent collection of Saloons, Travellers and ragtops. In all there must have been 100 Minors including some from the Young Members Register which bodes well for the future of our chosen breed of classic.

On arrival I was greeted by Russ and Mandy with a big welcome and a copy of the new "Morris Minor Magazine". Well, that put me in the right frame of mind for the day as I

have really missed Minor Monthly since its demise last year. After a cup of coffee it was time to explore as this year the new London Bus Museum is open and to my surprise admittance was included in the £8 entry fee to Brooklands. This is very good value for money as you can't get many days out for £8 with so much to see nowadays. It's an ideal place to have a gathering as it's all on hard standing and the addition of the bus museum now gives a full day's entertainment. Visit the Brooklands web site to see the full range of displays and events or better still come to the Austin/Morris day next March.

So off to the bus museum, as I was



an early bird at the bus garage I was able to get a privileged tour of the workshop. 3 double-deckers down one side, work benches along the



back, another double-decker on the other side and 1 bus in the middle of the workshop with restoration in progress. Everything on a BIG scale - a bit different to my workshop. As for the bus museum itself there were some very interesting buses to view. While on my way round the Austins & Morris, who should I bump into but Brian and Jacky, well that was a lovely surprise. It was good to have a chat with them and catch up on the Dorset news.

En route to Brooklands on the M25 I had a chuckle when a guy in a rag-top came alongside me wearing ear defenders! And I thought Rupert was a bit noisy on motorways! While looking round the cars I came across the ragtop with the ear defenders on the passenger seat but couldn't see the driver anywhere to have a chat with him. A lovely display this year with just about everything that Austin & Morris made was represented including 4 Allegros.

It's been fashionable for a long time to mock the products from Cowley and Longbridge, yet all the vehicles at Brooklands were highly desirable in their day. A fact that seems to be forgotten by the present day pundits who pour scorn on all British mass produced vehicles. There was a solidness, a sense of Britishness about all these vehicles. Fortunately Morris Minor owners and enthusiasts like us who have kept the faith and have preserved our cars and vans for the future can enjoy wonderful days out with our beloved steeds and friends.

After a bite to eat and a drink and good byes it was time to hit the road again for the 100 mile trip home to Silverstone. Another 200 miles safely and reliably completed in a day. Thank you Rupert.

Pam and I hope to head down to Dorset in April in time to attend the monthly meeting to see you and listen to Rev. Timbrell.

Happy Minor-ing  
David Holton (DMMOC 272)

### DAVID SMITH MOTORS

Est 1978  
21 TELFORD ROAD, FERNDOWN, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,  
WIMBORNE, DORSET  
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