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Dorset Branch

MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB

MORRIS CENTENARY EVENT 2013
 18-19th MAY 2013
 Spring Autojumble

JULY 2012
Volume 15
Issue 9

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www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk

DORSET BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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)

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

The cover shows the display at Beaulieu to promote next year's centenary event. In shot are Laurie's Lowlight (as featured on this month's Morris Minor Magazine's cover as well!) and Nev's Morris 8.

*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)

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

2012

30th June-1st July—MMOC National Rally, Kelmarsh Hall, Notts.
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
14th July—Sopley Village Festival
15th July—Muscliffe Fun Day
21/22 July Melbury Abbas Rural Weekend and Vintage Rally
29th July—Mid Summer Saunter (Venue—Dave & Jackie Walker's)
1st August– Clubnight (TBA)
4/5th August—By-Gone-Days, Brooklands Fm, S.Gorley (nr Fordingbridge)
5th August—Dogs Derby—Poole Park (www.dogs-derby.co.uk)
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 Rally)
5th Sept-Clubnight (TBA)
8-9th September—Beaulieu Autojumble
18th September—Skittles Match Bloxworth Club
23 Sept—Breamore Steam Up
29th/30th September—Brockenhurst and Lymington Lions—Forest Fayre
3rd October—AGM + presentation by Russ Harvey on Morris Minor Magazine
7th November—Clubnight (Talk on 'Aviation around Poole Bay 1910 - 1976)by **Kevin Patience**
5th December-Clubnight (Noggin and Natter)

2013

20th Jan—Annual Dinner and Dance—Liston Hotel, Boscombe (more dtls TBA)
18th-19th May Beaulieu Spring Autojumble (MORRIS CENTENARY EVENT)

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Morris Minor Owners Club, Dorset Branch

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dorset Branch Newsletter

July 2012

Volume 15 Issue 9

CLUBNIGHT ACTIVITY:
Evening Run to Bloxworth Club



**MORRIS MINOR
OWNERS CLUB**

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NEXT CLUBNIGHT ACTIVITY:
Fill in

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

Evening everyone. I hope you all made it to the Bloxworth club for the annual clubnight run. Hope not too many went to the Electric Club! At least I get a night off the spares. I'll try and bring a small box of emergency supplies just in case. The recent Beaulieu weekend was a bit hectic, and quite close to the 'copy' date for the last newsletter—so I didn't get to devote much space to it. We had a lot of visitors to the usual stand adjacent to the National MMOC tent and we sold a few spares. It was nice to see some of the members we don't get to see all that often! We also had a lot of interest in the 2013 Morris Centenary promotional display in the main Marquee. We had a large space to fill and managed to arrange for assorted Morris's to be brought to the show for display purposes. Many thanks to those who kindly allowed their cars to be 'used' and to those who were involved in the logistics!

We managed a week-long getaway in the caravan at the end of May. We chose what turned out to be the best week, weather-wise of the year so far and we spent it at a lovely campsite called Whitecliff Bay Holiday Park at Bembridge (Isle of Wight). We had been there before, the year before last, and found it very agreeable with a well run site and good views to the west with aircraft buzzing in and out of Bembridge Airfield. We found ourselves talking to some caravanning 'neighbours', one day, whilst supping a pint in the 'Nab' bar (on site). Being bereft of any outward indication that we had a slightly more than passing interest in Morris Minors, the subject of classic cars came up whilst 'Alan' from Epsom was telling us a tale about a recent trip to France where he and his wife (Kathy) happened upon a camp site which contained a Morris Minor which he was very surprised to note, *was actually towing a caravan!* He went on to say that they subsequently noticed in the field that there were 'dozens' more Minors there. It was at that point that we had to admit that we were, in fact card-carrying members of the Morris Minor Owners Club and he had probably stumbled upon a national MMOC 'Minors Overseas Trip' (otherwise known as the 'MOT'). I think Alan was genuinely interested in our hobby and may have breathed a silent sigh of relief that he hadn't been sarcastic or derogatory about Moggies. Without getting too detailed, we put him right on the statistics which just permit a correctly balanced Morris Minor caravanning outfit. It was agreed, however that the caravan has to be fairly lightweight and the Minor endowed with a bit more horsepower in order to make adequate progress!

We managed to spot a few Minors while we were there—sadly our visit didn't coin-



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 anythingBrian. 07411 116336

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DORSET BRANCH SPARES NEWS

STEERING LEG KITS C/W TOP & BOTTOM TRUNNIONS AND TOP PIN (NEW OLD STOCK). These are listed (new) at £106.20 each by our supplier—we have a *limited* quantity available at only **£70** each side.

STAINLESS CONVERTIBLE REAR SIDE WINDOW FRAMES. Do you have trouble with your hood scratching the paint on the side window frames? If so, these new, polished window channels are the answer. One set available at **£145** (pair)

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A Modern Poem

I have a little Satnav, It sits there in my car
A Satnav is a driver's friend, It tells you where you are
I have a little Satnav, I've had it all my life
It does more than the normal one, My Satnav is my wife.
It gives me full instructions, On exactly how to drive,
"It's thirty miles an hour" it says, "And you're doing thirty five"
It tells me when to stop and start, And when to use the brake
And tells me that it's never ever, Safe to overtake
It tells me when a light is red, And when it goes to green
It seems to know instinctively, Just when to intervene
It lists the vehicles just in front, It lists those to the rear
And taking this into account, It specifies my gear
I'm sure no other driver, Has so helpful a device
For when we leave and lock the car, It still gives its advice
It fills me up with counselling, Each journey's pretty fraught
So why don't I exchange it, And get a quieter sort?
Ah well- you see- it cleans the house, Makes sure I'm properly fed
It washes all my shirts and things, And - keeps me warm in bed!
(from *Vic Holyoak DMMOC No. 399*)

Classic Cars on the Prom

Bournemouth Seafront
Every SUNDAY from
8th April until 23rd
September
(excluding 2nd Sept)
4pm—6.30pm

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cide with the IoW Branch meeting (10th May)—otherwise we would have gone along. They visited the new Bembridge Lifeboat station—right on the doorstep too! As always, the Isle of Wight was a delightful place and above all, sunny! (*We were glad we didn't choose the half-term week following—it was like November, wet and windy—as I am sure you will remember?*)

What about this MOT exemption for pre 1960 cars then? I have ventured to suggest in these pages before, that, on balance, I would rather pay out for an independent test on my cars than leave it to chance. The change is justified on the grounds that so few classic cars are involved in accidents and us classic car owners are a diligent bunch of people who are more likely to check their own cars adequately. Having seen the condition of some less well maintained Minors' braking systems, however, I firmly believe that it may be a bodger's charter. Looking at our Branch Member's cars the split is about 2:1 (MOT to no MOT) which in itself is a bit illogical. I did hear a rumour that some insurance companies may still insist on a certificate as a condition of their policy renewal. Anyone else heard this? We will watch with interest for future developments.

I am grateful to Brian Ford for giving us an insight into the very useful work, he has done in helping to re-creating new van chassis. I recently visited his workshop and the report is included in this newsletter.

Don't forget to buy your copy of Morris Minor Magazine this month, our Secretary's lowlight is featured.

The Branch Rally is with us again (next weekend—in case you have forgotten!) We are hoping that there will be good support from the Branch membership—particularly in the case of the Charity Auction. The Dorset Air Ambulance is an excellent and most worthy cause and none of us know when we might be glad of it ourselves!

We will have been to the National Rally at Kelmarsh Hall nr. Northampton by the time you read this. Hopefully the weather will be 'with us'. We are going in the Traveller and plan to allocate a day for both getting there and coming home, so we will be away for a total of 4 days. We will have our usual stand on Branch Avenue—so hopefully we might have seen a few of you there. Until the next time, Brian.

Secretary's Report

Good evening and welcome to the July clubnight. I hope you all enjoy your fish and chips tonight and will join in with the skittles match against the Bloxworth Car Club. I hope you all enjoyed last month's talk on the Royal Yacht Britannia.

This weekend coming is, of course, our own Dorset Branch Rally. As I write this we have had 70 pre-booked entries. All we need now is a dry weekend and full support from the Branch members. Your committee will be on site from Friday afternoon onwards and all help will be gratefully received. Don't forget that we require raffle prizes and items for the charity auction as well as lots of cakes and bric-a-brac.

We have attended a few events over the last month. Lots of branch members went over to Beaulieu to take part in the 1950's Jubilee weekend. We took the Lowligh. Louise always enjoys her visits there and particularly when there are fair ground rides to go on. We had rides on the gallopers and the dodgems before taking part in a cavalcade of cars through the grounds.

We took the Austin to The BPPC Steam Rally at Canford Magna. We went on the Sunday which turned out to be the best day of weather over that weekend. There was a good selection of cars as well as steam engines, commercial vehicles, tractors etc. I managed to get a few more pre-war Morris's for our Beaulieu 2013 event.

As I write this we are praying for a dry day so that we can go to the Hampshire branch rally at Hinton Ampner house.

We have been invited to take part in a couple of events which are unfortunately clashing with other things. The first one is the Muscliffe Funday on Sunday 15th July and the second is the Parkstone and Poole Rotary Club Dog Derby on 5th August in Poole Park. If you are interested in taking part in either of these events please let me know.

Work has progressed well on the Traveller over the last month. The replacement gearbox has been fitted and Nev has been very busy over the last few weeks overhauling the engine which with any luck is now back in and running.

That's all from me for the time being so until next time,

Happy Minor

Laurie.



Beaulieu—May 2012— in pictures



Book Club 'Plus' (by Derek Shearman)

Hello Everyone - Just a brief note to say 'thank you' to all the members who supported our participation in the World Book Night by accepting copies of "Notes from a Small Island" by Bill Bryson. I hope those of you who had an opportunity to start reading it find it as entertaining as I did. Please, when you have finished with the book, could you pass it on to someone else. Incidentally, I have received requests from two members who were unsuccessful in securing copies, so if any two members wish to return their copies to me, I will pass them on.

As I hope you know (new members may not be aware), our Book Club is a bit like a library which gives club members the opportunity to borrow for a month or two whatever books we currently have in stock.

We focus on classic and vintage cars and commercial vehicles, motorcycles, steam power, planes..... Including biographies/autobiographies of designers, vehicle builders and engineers together with fiction & non-fiction motoring related stories. At our June meeting I was approached a member who has a 'shedload' of literature to dispose of, much of this was going to the dump. "Sacrilege" I cried "please let me have it so I may decide what is to be (a) incorporated into the Book Club (b) offered for sale by auction at our Branch Rally (we are supporting Dorset Air Ambulance this year) or (c) retained for display at Beaulieu next Spring when we celebrate 100 years of Morris motoring". I even volunteered to drive to Nailsea to collect it!

MID-SUMMER SAUNTER

Dave and Jacky Walker have kindly offered to host the finale of the Mid Summer Saunter this year on Sunday 29th July.

We will meet at Avon Heath for breakfast (if required) for a 10:30 departure to Breamore for lunch (in the café or picnic—up to you). We will then go on to Dave and Jackie's for afternoon strawberries and 'fizz'.

Hope you can make it. Slips are in this newsletter. Cost is £3 per head. (This event will be subsidised out of club funds).

When we have made the above decisions, I will print a revised list of all the titles we will have available and a copy of this list will be given to anyone who wants it.

Should you wish to contact me with a specific request regarding any literature available on any subject relating to the above, please give me a bell on 07593 623721 or email me, derekshearman@talktalk.net.

Chairman's Report

Good evening and welcome to July's Clubnight at Bloxworth Social Club with the Bloxworth Classic Car Club. We hope you all enjoy the fish and chip supper and the night out. The Branch Rally is here again and we need your help with cake making, bric-a-brac, prizes for the Raffle and Roy and Derek's Charity Auction. Help on the day of the Rally would also be appreciated as would help on the bric-a-brac stall and rally marshalling. If you could spare about an hour, during the day, it would help greatly. Update on Isle of Wight Weekend: It is now all paid for—we are just awaiting the ferry crossing tickets so that I can finish making up your holiday packs.

Ann and I are going on a 'Turkey and Tinsel' holiday in Torquay in November with the Bowls Club. If any of you think that you would like to do something like this in the future then please let me know.

We had a good committee meeting on Wednesday with some new ideas for 2013. If you hear of any good speakers or other ideas for clubnight or runs, please let the committee know.

Richard has found someone who can make up adaptor boxes to allow fitting alternative modern seats in you Morris (for example Saab, Jaguar, Metro etc).

That's all for now, see you at the Rally, John.



We have been invited to this event as a 'guest' car club by the MG Club. We would like to put on a decent show for them, so please let us know if you can attend.

If people don't know Athelhampton House - it is between Tolpuddle and Puddletown - clearly marked off the Bere Regis to Dorchester road - it is an Elizabethan country manor house - admission gives entry to the house & gardens

**Garden Party & Picnic at Athelhampton House on
Sunday 19th August 2012**

Bournemouth & Poole MGOC

www.1020mg.org.uk

Start 10am

Entry - £12 per car - no booking required

Includes access to House and Gardens

email:graham@1020mg.org.uk



Ex Club Van Restoration (by Brian Ford)



Jacky and I went along to see branch member Brian Ford recently. He works for a company that produces laser cut steel components for industry. His house, in Poole is a shrine to the art of laser cut metal. We were greeted by an aluminium scorpion sculpture and along the boundary wall are various decorative hanging basket brackets—all cut from steel plate. The chassis is now being

made commercially and costs about £1,600—which is quite a lot, but worth it for the right commercial project! It is believed stronger than the original and



with the option of galvanising—should last a good long time. Work on the 'ex' Dorset Branch Van was progressing nicely at the time of the visit and Brian was poised to fit the new repair piece he had just fabricated, consisting of the front chassis leg sections already joined to the front cross member (under the radiator). Sadly, there was little left of the original ones.

Whilst I was there, I had a look at Aaron's 4 door saloon (1958) which is undergoing a full restoration. It is currently sitting on (or in?) Brian's home made



chassis tilter. Another metal work marvel in itself. Brian takes up the story.

The story of the chassis is a lucky one for me, about two years ago a guy called Alex Wills called in to the firm where I work as a computer programmer for a Laser Cutting Machine, and he was asking if we could laser cut a complete chassis for a Morris Minor Van/Pick-up. He had lots of pencil drawings and rough sketches of what he wanted, all done on a long roll of lining wallpaper, he had put a lot of work and thought into the project but no idea of how to convert them to working drawings for production purposes.

So together we went through all his sketches and gradually turned them into accurate auto-cad drawings and then into a suitable file format so that our laser machine would produce what he wanted. It took many meetings and several changes in design but we got there in the end. The chassis is an authentic copy of the original, and in my opinion better and stronger. There was a good write up in the Morris LCV Magazine. The chassis is fully welded on a jig, I am going to get mine galvanised, but I am not having it built till next spring which is why I have just built a new front section only for the old club van and I will patch up the rear section to MOT standard. I hope it will be at the Club Rally this year.



Now, I'm no expert but I wonder if this is anything to do with the rust in the old club van? (Sorry, Brian!)

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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