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Dorset Branch

MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB



JUNE 2012

Volume 15

Issue 8

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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 \(07856 918136\)](mailto:Graham.Jarvis@mmoc.co.uk)

Chairman: [John Jenkinson \(01202 576690\)](mailto:John.Jenkinson@mmoc.co.uk)

Secretary: [Laurie Blewer \(01202 522673, 07947 525884\)](mailto:Laurie.Blewer@mmoc.co.uk)

Treasurer: [Jacky Wood \(01202 573501\)](mailto:Jacky.Wood@mmoc.co.uk)

Membership Secretary – [Des Waller \(01202 573403\)](mailto:Des.Waller@mmoc.co.uk)

Events Organiser/H&S Supervisor – [Neville Gerry \(01202 747687\)](mailto:Neville.Gerry@mmoc.co.uk)

Newsletter/Website Editor: [Brian Wood \(01202 573501\)](mailto:Brian.Wood@mmoc.co.uk)

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

Non Committee posts:

Raffle Coordinators: [Chris Tilly](mailto:Chris.Tilly@mmoc.co.uk) and [Val Palmer](mailto:Val.Palmer@mmoc.co.uk)

Spares Manager: [Brian Wood \(01202 573501\)](mailto:Brian.Wood@mmoc.co.uk)

Regalia Manager: [Richard Cyster – \(01202 526660\)](mailto:Richard.Cyster@mmoc.co.uk)

Catering Executives: [-Sue Blewer](mailto:Sue.Blewer@mmoc.co.uk), [Lyn Gerry](mailto:Lyn.Gerry@mmoc.co.uk)

FRONT COVER

This month's cover story is Mike Brewster's lovely white 2 door saloon that has recently undergone an extensive home rebuild.
(It was snapped at the recent Aubrey Batt Run.)

*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

3rd June—Hardy Country Classic Tour (Transport of Yesteryear)
2-5th June—Beaulieu Jubilee Weekend Celebration (1950's vehicles only)
2-4th June—Crofton Beam Engine Show, nr Marlborough (60 miles)
6th June—Clubnight (Talk on Royal Yacht Britannia by Mike Crankshaw)
16th June—Rylands Care Farm Open Day (off A352 between Sherborne & Dorchester)
23rd June—Sturminster Show, Tel: 01258 471450 e-mail: rust-monkey@tiscali.co.uk
24th June—Hampshire/Surrey Hants Border MMOC Rally Hinton Ampner Hse
24th June—Transport of Yesteryear Show, Chickerell, Weymouth
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—Dave & Jackie Walker's)
1st August—Clubnight (TBA)
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 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
7th November—Clubnight (Talk on 'Aviation Around Poole Bay')
5th December—Clubnight (Noggin and Natter)

2013

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

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dorset Branch Newsletter

June 2012



MORRIS MINOR
OWNERS CLUB

Volume 15 Issue 8

CLUBNIGHT ACTIVITY:

Talk by Mike Crankshaw on 'The Royal Yacht Britannia'

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NEXT CLUBNIGHT ACTIVITY:

Road Run- Bloxworth

Meet B&Q car park, Fleets Bridge 7:00 for 7:30 departure

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

Hi Everyone. We have had a couple of good club runs in May which went well and avoided the wet weather. These were the Aubrey Batt Run and the Breamore Steam up. There are some



photos of both the events in the newsletter. The Beaulieu Spring Autojumble is fast approaching (as I write this) so fingers crossed the weather was OK. It will be history by the time you read this but hopefully, we will have seen and chatted to a few of you over the weekend.

Our son, Stewart has a friend called Rob who helps him out with parts for his

Mitsubishi Shogun and I was asked to have a look at a scrap Minor saloon that Rob had acquired recently to see if I needed anything before it was made into a barbecue! I was interested to see how it turned out so I asked Stewart to take some photos when he was next over there. It certainly is different and makes a fitting end of life use for the Minor, which, it has to be said, was too far gone to save. I particularly like the patio lighting on the bumper valance.

I am grateful to Mike for his write up on the rebuild of his white 2 door (BFX 159B). I must say it is a very good job and just shows what can be achieved at home in a small lock-up garage with a lot of hard work.

We are pleased to announce that we have secured a new sponsor for the July Branch Rally. ESM (East Sussex Minors) have kindly agreed to sponsor the trophies this year. They are also our main supplier of new parts for the Club Spares Service.

We are also pleased to announce that the chosen charity for the year will be the DORSET AIR AMBULANCE. Thanks to all of you who voted last month. Next month we should have some photos of our Spring Autojumble Experience....

Cheers for now, Brian





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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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The 1954 Series II LHD car owned by the Branch was sold at Beaulieu to a couple from Germany called Volkmar and Stephanie Here they are collecting the keys from Eddie at the 2013 Centenary display stand at Beaulieu recently. Incidentally, have a look for the 15 minute video on You Tube starring Laurie and Nev talking about the cars on the 2013 Promotion Stand. The website is www.testdrives.biz (videos)



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If you are menopausal put the gun down now.



Breamore Spring Steam Up



Editor's Inbox



(From Dave Walker DMMOC 46 re: last month's 'Rare Find') Dear Dave, Many thanks for the information on the Morris Minor - this is a very interesting car indeed.

The J.A.Woodhouse firm in Cologne is very well known indeed. I think the company was active until the 1980's and was situated very close to where I (later) worked. In the 1990's I consulted a garage run by one of his former employees when I had electronic problems with the MG Maestro (although this garage did not find the fault, a friend of mine later did). Also, Alfons had bought, a while ago, an Austin Metro converted into a pickup from another of Woodhouse's former employees. Best Wishes, Wolfgang.

Dear Brian and Jacky, We had planned to come down to Dorset this weekend for a few days and to call in to see you. BUT the weather seems to be a bit against us. Our caravan site gets soggy with just a shower and just now is underwater in places. So our trip is postponed until the weather improves. We will be down for Beaulieu but that's a few weeks away. We had a great outing on Sunday for Drive It Day. We did a round trip of 76 miles in the sunshine round the north Oxfordshire and south Northamptonshire lanes. It was great. We took Molly the Traveller and she enjoyed it as she hasn't been out much lately. She is due her MOT next month but David doesn't anticipate any trouble. Rupert sailed through his MOT a couple of weeks ago so David is a happy bunny. Hope to see you soon when the weather improves, Best wishes to you both, Pam and David Holton (DMMOC 272)

Hi Laurie. First of all I would like to thank you so much for your help.

Restoring a Traveller was a dream that I've had for a very long time and I was doing so well. My father in law had the car ('G' reg) in the garage for years and was going to scrap her so I bought it from him. when I got her home and started stripping her down, it was apparent that there was a lot of rust; but being a determined sort of person, I took the bull by the horns and took the project on. I have spent just shy of £800 on the panels and many many hours cutting and welding. This is what has been done so far: 4x floor panels, box and box extensions on both sides, all inner and outer floor under sills, 4x spring hangers and took great care in taking measurements to make sure the car wont crab up the road, both rear inner wheel arch repair panels, 2x rear bumper iron fixings, bootwell repair panel, 1x tie plate, 2x inner flinch panels, 1x flinch extension panel, 2x door hinge pillars and covers and, yes the doors will fit, new bushes in rear suspension. All that is left to do is to clean some welding up, finish a few patches and weld a cross member in which i have bought. all the panels have been bought from Bull Motif. I think this project will be perfect for someone that has a traveller with good wood etc but the body is rotted out and swap everything from one shell to the other. This is rolling shell with no engine and gearbox but comes with the roof, bonnet, front grill and side alloy body panels and glass . At the moment i am selling lots of parts from the car as i don't know if I am going to be able to sell the shell, but when this month's Newsletter come out I may well still have the seats, doors etc. The only reason I have to give this dream up is because I've recently found out that I am losing sight in both eyes and I know in my heart that I will never be able to finish her and it would be so nice for someone to finish what I have started. As far as the price is concerned, I am happy with sensible offers my phone number is 07834368354, many kind regards, Paul.

Secretary's Report

Good evening and welcome to June's clubnight. Tonight we will be having a talk on the Royal Yacht Britannia which should be very interesting. Don't forget that next month's meeting will **NOT** be at The SEB Club as it is our Fish and Chip Run finishing at The Bloxworth Club. If you are planning to come along can you please make sure that you get your booking form into Jacky as soon as you can as we will need to know numbers for the fish and chip van.

I hope everyone who came along on the Aubrey Batt Run had a good day. Well done to Neville for arranging the route at very short notice after the Brockenhurst Country Fayre was cancelled due to the ground being waterlogged. We had a very nice afternoon at The Blue Pool and everyone enjoyed picnicking in the spring sunshine. Believe it or not this was the Lowlight's first run out for 5 months!

The following week was the Breamore House Working weekend which was well attended by club members. As usual this was a very enjoyable and relaxing day out. Don't forget the next steam up in September.

The Midsummer Saunter will be finishing at Dave and Jackie's for a strawberry cream tea. Nev and I will sort out a nice gentle saunter around the lanes with a lunch stop for you to enjoy first. Many thanks to Dave and Jackie for offering to accommodate us all at their house.

If you are planning to attend The Lymington Show please mark the entry form that you will be on the Morris Minor Owners Club stand. If you have entered could you please let me know so I know how many cars we can expect.

The Dorset Branch Rally will soon be upon us so if you have not got your entry form into me please do so as soon as you can. If you know of a trade stand that might like to attend please let one of us know.

As I write this we have just returned from the Beaulieu Spring Autojumble where we have set up our display to advertise next year's big event. We have 8 cars on the stand representing the Morris marque as a whole – not just the Minor. The club spares stall is all set up so let's hope for a successful weekend all round.

That's all from me for this month,

Happy Minorning

Laurie.



Aubrey Batt Run –6th May 2012– in pictures



"Gather round and stop talking– or I'll jump!"

More Model 'T' News (from Dave Walker)

Thought that you may be interested in this. The wood surround an the back of the seat was beyond use so I ordered a replacement from USA. After I had paid shipping and duty it arrived ... and was wrong. I tried another supplier and again it was wrong. Trying to get one made in the UK was not easy but I had a couple of leads.

This replacement was made by the son of old friends. It was made out of lami-



nated ash and was resin bonded together. It was a perfect fit. Paul is a classic boat restorer in Southampton and did the job as a pri-

ivate commission. It's nice to see younger persons (he is 35) being able to undertake such work.

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).

Hello Brian,
Another one to add to our list of *useful contacts*:- Morlands, 581 Charminster Rd Bournemouth BH8 9RQ 01202 513787 & 01202 510500. Brilliant, can cut keys to pattern or number. Could even give me the number of my steering lock key for the late Traveller even though nothing was shown on the key itself.
Regards, Dave

Chairman's Report

Good evening and welcome to June Clubnight. We have just got in from Beaulieu Spring Autojumble and I am cream crackered! I would like to thank all the club members and the Committee for all their help over the weekend. Worthy of particular mention were those who helped erect and dismantle the stalls, tea makers, vehicle drivers and cake suppliers etc. The weekend went very well and we got some more vehicle details for the 2013 display from which to choose our exhibits.

The Rally entries are coming in well now and starting to look good. We still need volunteers to help on Bric a Brac, marshalling, cake making etc. Please remember to bring some raffle prizes on the day.

Don't forget to give in your names for Bloxworth visit for the July clubnight, which is now the traditional evening run. We need to give the catering van some idea of numbers for the fish and chip supper.

Don't forget to put the Athelhampton MG display on your calendar (see below), we have been asked to put on a display as guest car club.

Thanks for turning up for Aubrey Batt run to Blue Pool. Thanks also to Nev for re-arranging the route following the cancellation of the Forest Fayre at Brockenhurst. We have just heard that this has now been re-arranged for 29/30th September.

Sorry this is a bit short but Brian needed my words, hours after getting home from Beaulieu. Good Motoring—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



Mike Brewster's Restoration



Restoration of "Lily May" a 1964 Morris Minor.

If you do a restoration on your car, you must have an understanding woman who puts up with bits of car in the dining room, bathroom lounge etc. I must say my lovely Mo never complained once (bless her).

Luckily the Minor was given to me. The original owner Mrs Hollies Smith bought it from new and used it as her daily transport.

Although there was very little rust in the car it needed some TLC. I bought 5 new tyres, wiring loom, 4 new wings (which were tatty). I completely renewed the braking system including copper brake pipes and copper fuel

line. My wallet was now considerably thinner and it was about to get even thinner!

I went to Rainbow Paints in Ferndown—who were very helpful. They had the correct colour code for my Minor—it was Old English White. I bought 5 litres of top coat, some primer, wet and dry paper (400-1200 grade), thinners (top coat and standard). The top coat cellulose was £26 per litre (OUCH!). I had a small compressor—but no good for a complete respray. I had a look on eBay and bought a nice compressor—man enough to do the job and a new gravity-fed DeVilbiss spray gun—also 'nice price'. I spent the next few months stripping the car until I was left with a shell. The next few months were spend rubbing down the body work and engine bay until my fingers hurt! (boy, did they hurt!). I was well pleased with the result, however.

My garage is quite small, so doors, bonnet, wings and bootlid etc, were all painted off the car. I then had the laborious task of masking up, but good tips from Neville

and Brian (nylon coated washing line between the windscreen rubber and body saves removing the glass). Neville is not so bad after all. What a time-saver that was? At last, the body was ready for spraying. Three coats of grey primer and then 'guide coat' in black was applied. I then rubbed it back, just removing the black with 400 grit and finishing with 1200 grit. It looked really good. When ever spraying I always start by completely de-greasing



with panel wipe. Now the hard task. 6 coats of top coat 50/50 and a 7th coat of 75% thinners and 25% paint. That last coat really made it shine! Unfortunately I got a 'run' on the bonnet which I had to re-do, but everything else was OK. I left it 6 weeks before rubbing down the paint work with 1200 grit cutting back and polishing. Now, with the onset of winter, I couldn't do too much, so I just worked on the engine, 49,000 from new. I only had to decoke it and fit new gaskets and repaint—job done! I cleaned, painted and reconditioned many parts like the radiator, wiper motor, petrol pump etc, etc, etc. At last, spring came and then it was time for the tricky part—fitting doors, grille surround and wings. If you have a weird sense of humour—its fun! I fitted stainless steel door frames from a Traveller which looked nice and needed no painting. All the bright work, door handles, bonnet hinges etc were still in good condition. The next job was to fit the engine and gearbox with its bits and pieces. I also fitted an alternator and changed the car over to negative earth so I could have good, decent audio system. The next job was fitting the wiring loom, which I enjoyed. The carpets were like new and the rest of the interior was reasonable. The total restoration

time was 2 years (but I am retired!)

There were so many things to do, like scraping and cleaning underneath, painting on body schutz, fitting new shackle rubbers to the springs but when you look at your car—finished, but not perfect, but all your own work—it is a good feeling.

(M.Brewster—DMMOC 13)

(What an excellent job it is and all credit to you, Mike. Thanks for the write-up-Ed)



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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