

# Dorset Branch

THE DMMOC MONTHLY MAGAZINE



Mar 2025 Vol.28 issue 4

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 Second Monday of every month (7:30 for 8:00)** at the **Bridgehouse Hotel Longham BH22 9AN**. 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.**

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#### NON COMMITTEE VOLUNTARY POSTS



##### Raffle Coordinators

Chris Tilley & Margaret Pateman

##### Branch Insurance Consultant

David Walker

##### Gardening Comp Sub-committee

Sue Cooper  
Martin Harris

##### New Post Creative Design Consultant.

Roger Kellow

**FRONT COVER**

**Halcyon Days**

**\*Print Deadline\* to ensure inclusion for any item within April Edition please:-  
21st March 2025**

**CLUBNIGHT - March 10th**

## ***In This Months Issue...***

| <b>REGULARS</b>                                | <b>SPECIAL FEATURES</b>                              |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Pages 4&amp;5 News from the committee</i>   | <i>Pages 6&amp;7 Report from our A.I. cotributor</i> |
| <i>Pages 12&amp;13 Events and service day.</i> | <i>Pages 8&amp;9 Charity news and blind auction</i>  |
| <i>Pages 14&amp;15 For sale—Moggyfest</i>      | <i>Pages 10&amp;11 Grahams up-date</i>               |
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***Dorset Branch Members-It's Your Magazine - It's Your Club !***  
***\*\*The Editor encourages and welcomes any written contributions - particularly loaned (or emailed) photos please of topical interest, from the branch members suitable for inclusion.***

*\*Please submit , if possible ,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.

## ***News From Your Committee***

**Laurie:-**

As mentioned last month we re-arranged the tables for club night. We think it proved a success with more space and it also allowed easier movement around the room. Hopefully all those that get the Minor Matters Magazine were impressed by how much content your Dorset branch made in the magazine. The two page spread on MoggyFest 2024 was especially good. Talking of Moggyfest we now will be having a concours event as well this year. If you would like to enter then make this clear on the entry form. Club night's blind auction was great success and more can be read about this inside the newsletter.

I'm trying to organise a visit to Robin Lawtons garage in Hampshire.

He sells and has a fine collection of classic cars.

Roger and I continue to formulate the details for MoggyFest 2025.

**Roger**

Have nearly completed the layout of the marquee and also the backdrop designs have been firmed up. (looking forward to seeing your new artwork, always a pleasure) Ed

**Brian Ford :-**

A busy month for me as we had to ensure that all entry forms for MoggyFest were sent out if members could not make club night.

Also my van broke down and we were stranded more XXXX hours Until a rescue truck could come. R.A.C. seem to sub-contract more and more breakdowns to local garages , not that impressed.

Problem was a blown gasket—now fixed.

Brian had to recruit sub-contract labour to help with the distribution.

**Moggy  
Checking  
Mooggyfest  
Entries**



*(Continued on page 5)*

## ***News From Your Committee***

*(Continued from page 4)*

### **Brian Wood :-**

Been assisting Graham in his rebuild and the engine now runs, see more inside magazine. You will also see that the service day has now been confirmed. Been busy on the interior light production as this has really taken off. (Bright idea) Ed.

Have been looking at methods for pinstriping on the Morris cars . This is the next task on our rebuild. If, fingers crossed, it is successful I will produce some notes for you in the next magazine watch this space.

### **From Ed**

Very little activity on the show front just the preparation for Moggyfest.

Most club shows have now published their itinerary for this year looks like it is going to be a bumper year again, lets just hope the weather holds up

### **Karon**

Steve and I coordinate the book club that you see at club nights. If you have read a book then please return it for recycling within the club.

### **Jacky and Brian**

The entry forms for this years Moggyfest have been coming in thick and fast over 100 at the last count. It will be interesting this year as we will be posting back entries direct and not stamped addressed envelopes.

We do hope all the addresses are correct as we are using details supplied on the entry forms .

We have had some enquires as to when tickets will be available.

We can assure you once all entries are in and we have received the paperwork from Beaulieu we will inform you that posting has begun.

## **A CAUTIONARY TALE**

### Ah, the Morris Minor.

The car that looks as if it were designed by a man who was late for lunch and used a teapot as his primary source of inspiration. A vehicle that, in an era of Jaguars and Aston Martins, somehow managed to win over the hearts of an entire nation—not with speed, nor with elegance, but with sheer, unrelenting charm.

Let us consider its creator, the great Sir Alec Issigonis.

A man who would go on to design the Mini, a car so brilliantly conceived that it became an icon of the Swinging Sixties, beloved by rock stars, supermodels, and getaway drivers alike.

A true marvel of packaging and engineering efficiency. And yet, before he gave us that stroke of genius, Issigonis gave us well, the Morris Minor.

A car that looked as though it had been designed with a ruler and a compass, then hastily rounded off at the edges to make it appear friendly. And friendly it is.

The Minor is not an aggressive car. It does not sneer or growl. It does not dominate the road. Instead, it pootles. It bumbles. It winks at passersby with its bug-eyed headlights and seems to whisper, "Don't worry, old chap, we'll get there eventually." It's the automotive equivalent of a well-meaning but slightly muddled uncle who insists on making tea in a battered old kettle that leaks but whom everyone adores nonetheless.

Despite its unassuming nature, the Morris Minor is a mechanical cockroach—indestructible and absurdly persistent. It refuses to vanish from British roads, upheld by a nation of romantics and tinkerers who simply will not let it die. While other classics are pampered in heated garages, the Minor is found in sheds, driveways, and the occasional field, with its owner happily fettling away, armed with little more than a Haynes manual, a spanner, and unshakable optimism.

*(Continued on page 7)*

# ***A Yorkshire saying A.I.***

*(Continued from page 6)*

Of course, the Minor is not without its faults. The engine produces what can only be described as "an enthusiastic whirr" rather than anything resembling power.

The handling is best experienced with a steady grip and an excellent life insurance policy. And the acceleration—well, let's just say that if you start at dawn, you might reach 60 mph by lunchtime.

But to criticise a Minor for these things is to miss the point entirely. It was never about performance. It was about plodding reliability, accessibility, and, above all, personality. While the Mini strutted through London's Carnaby Street and featured in films with Michael Caine, the Morris Minor was quietly making its way to the seaside, loaded with picnic hampers and excitable children.

It was teaching a generation how to tinker with an engine, to change a wheel, and to respect the sacred art of bodging. It was there, ever faithful, ever willing, ever slightly underpowered. And that is why the Morris Minor, against all odds, remains a beloved classic.

It's not just a car. It's a way of life, a love letter to a bygone Britain, and proof that sometimes, just sometimes, stubbornness and charm are enough to ensure immortality.

**Credit for this article goes to A.I.(artificial intelligence) just to show that what you read nowadays maybe created by a robot. This was created in 5 seconds just by asking A.I. write something about Morris Minor, So if you see mistakes and strange spellings you are more than likely being communicated to by a human.**

Petter Frenh ( Ed )

# ***Our Chosen Charity 2025***

## **Bournemouth Cancer Support**

**(Under the Wessex Group)**

**The Trust was formed in a portacabin on the site of The Royal South Hants Hospital in 1981 by a small group of medical professionals.**

*During the first 30 years, the Trust focused on raising funds for major projects and research taking place throughout the Wessex region. This included funding breast cancer nurses, ground-breaking research into pioneering treatments and numerous appeals for hospital wards and equipment. Improving the lives of people affected by cancer has always been at the heart of our work. So, in 2012, it was a natural progression for us to start delivering community-based services, close to people's homes. This has developed rapidly over recent years and we now have four cancer support centres and online services so local people can access support in the way that suits them best. In 2023, as part of our strategy Cancer Support For All, we evolved from Wessex Cancer Trust to Wessex Cancer Support. It's important for local people to immediately understand what we do, and this refresh has helped us to be more inclusive and appealing. We're immensely proud of what we've achieved since 1981 and are very grateful to everyone who has contributed to helping us our evolve cancer support so we can always be here for everyone who needs us.*

## **2016**

## **Our Bournemouth Cancer Support Centre opened**

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Club Night

*(Continued from page 8)*

The club's February Meeting was a Blind auction, Lots of interesting items were bid for some were unusual and others highly practical.

A wonderful effort our auctioneers Laurie and Steve managed to extract a large amount from all that were present. A donation of £50 was received from a non-member for assistance with a possible Minor purchase. The hat was passed around to entice any loose change that might have been missed.

**Total was an excellent £300, Well done**



## Graham gets Carpeted

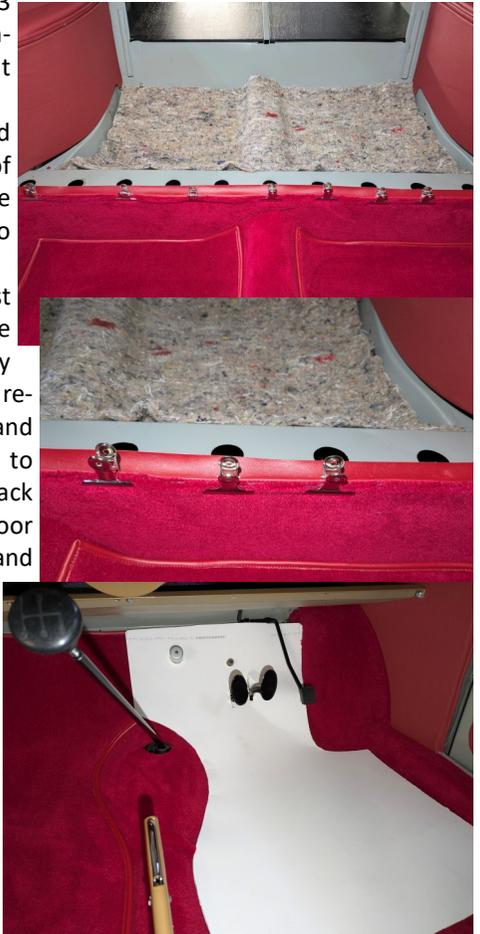
Not many more entries for the Newsletters, so here goes. I am now finally fitting the carpets in my Morris that I bought from Coverdale Carpets and started with the section under the front of the rear seat called the heel board. I decided not to make and paint a mill-board panel like those fitted to the factory cars. To get this to glue nicely I bought 3 packs of bull dog clips from The Range at £1 per pack of 3 clips which is a bargain compared to £5.70 per pack at HobbyCraft.

The clips, as you can see hold the area across the top of the horizontal panel where the rear seat base slides into place.

I also thought about the best way to keep the drivers side front carpet section pretty much intact. So having removed the steering wheel and column to allow full access to the splined steering rack casting, the dipped beam floor switch and both clutch and brake pedals, I made a template with a large piece of white cardboard using the carpet section.

The front seats were next to be fitted and bolted through the carpet to two of the four cage nuts of the under floor seat brackets.

To finish off the dash I bought what was described



*(Continued on page 11)*

## Graham interior designer

(Continued from page 10)



by ESM as the correct glove box liner for all cars dated from 1948 to 1962. This arrived and I found to my dismay the liner is for cars with a central speedo and not for those such as my Series 2 with the speedo in front of the steering wheel.

After lots of messaging by Brian to ESM explaining to them their error things went cold and I bought another liner from Moss EU. This is now fitted and looks like the car has come straight out of the showroom. Well it was a big day for me and the Morris on the 4th February as the engine was started for the first time in 44 plus years of owning my car. Brian was his usual excellent help and my son took a short video that I posted on Face Book.

Hopefully when the weather improves Graham will be on the road. Ed

## Events

### D.M.M.O.C. Organised Events.

|               |                               |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
|               |                               |
| 10-Mar        | Club Night Call My Bluff      |
| 14-Apr        | Club Night Sprit of Ecstasy   |
| 20th -Apr     | Run to Blandford Brewery      |
| 12-May        | Club Night Would I Lie to you |
| 17-18 May     | Moggyfest                     |
| 1st-June      | Run to Compton Abbas Airfield |
| 09-Jun        | Club Night Antiques           |
| 28th 29th Jun | International M.M.O.C.        |
| 14-Jul        | Club Night                    |
| 19-Jul        | Holdenhurst Village Fete      |
| 11-Aug        | Club Night Gardening Event    |
| 16-17 Aug     | Branch Rally Wolvercroft      |
| 08-Sep        | Club Night Charity Talk       |
| 13-Oct        | Club Night A.G.M.             |

### Events organised by other organisations

|                 |                                                             |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
|                 | <u>2025 events</u>                                          |
| Dorset car club | <u>Blandford Brewery</u>                                    |
|                 | 16/02 16/03 20/04 18/05 15/06 20/07 17/08 21/09 19/10 16/11 |
| Compton Abbas   | <u>Compton Abbas Airfield car meet</u>                      |
|                 | 06/04 04/05 01/06 17/08 07/09                               |
| Drive it Day    | 27th April Atwell-Wilson Motor museum                       |
| Dorset car club | Henstridge Wings & Wheels 23rd 24th August                  |
| Steam Vintage   | Steam Vintage Fest Fordingbridge 22nd 24th August           |
| B.P.P.C.        | Classic Steam Norden Swanage 5th 7th September              |
| Show            | Brangore Rotary Sun 13th July Playing fields                |
| Pilford Heath   | Heritage show 11th 12th July                                |

## Events

Following on from our announcement last month we have now firmed up the service day. You are most welcome to come along as we service the club Van . We will provide light refreshments, tea coffee etc.

The date is **Sunday 6th April 2025** the place: Dave and Jacky Walker have offered their home for this activity.

Their address is 33 Wayside Rd, St Leonards, BH24 2SJ time start will be 10:30. (Their abode is pictured below to assist if you have not been before)

As we are invading their home please can we have names of those who wish to attend all names to Brian Wood prior to the day.

Come and have a chat ask questions or just watch .

Lead mechanic will be Brian Wood.



'Chez Walker'



*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.*

## For Sale Wanted



**1959 Minor Van.**( OHJ 547) 948cc owned for 5 years. VGC in beige with maroon interior, working heater and very solid underneath. Just been serviced and drives well,

£9,995 ovno. Call 01929 550036 (Harry)



**Interior Lights.** 3D printed translucent interior light fittings with low-energy LED lamps to replace existing units.

These are now available from Branch Spares at special introductory price of **£25 each**

**New Member Dave Edbrooke is looking for the Unicorn that is a Austin/Morris pickup.**

**If any member knows of a sighting of one for sale please give Dave a call on 07549935469**



**Moggyfest Entries no later than 31st March.**  
**Sorry no late entries.**

**AFTER QUITE A FEW YEARS WE ARE PLEASED TO SAY THAT WE WILL BE HOLDING A 'CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE' AT THIS YEAR'S EVENT .**

**It is an opportunity for the outstanding cars to shine.  
 Entry is on the Moggyfest entry form**



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Prices on application

**DAN THE HANDYMAN**

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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.