

REAR VIEW



Don't look now Nev, but I think we might be on the back cover of the December newsletter

Photo courtesy of John Jenkinson

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MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB

DORSET BRANCH



DORSET BRANCH NEWSLETTER

December 2008 Volume 12 Issue 2

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www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk

<http://www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk>

Or <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/brian.wood13/index.html>

Dorset Branch of the Morris Minor Owners Club

Helping to preserve the post war Morris Minor in the Dorset area and beyond

The MMOC Dorset Branch

was founded in 1977 by Graham Jelly 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.

Membership currently costs £9 per year, £11.50 for joint membership.

Please ask Branch Secretary if you require a copy of the Dorset Branch Constitution. 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.



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M : 07768 653017 T : 0870 360 7000 F : 0870 360 7001

E : stephen@addingvaluesolutions.co.uk - W : www.addingvaluesolutions.co.uk

Committee Members 2008-09:

President: Graham Jarvis (07914 637429)

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 Tilley and Val Palmer

Spares Manager: John Bainbridge (01258 458749)

Regalia Manager: Richard Cyster – (01202 526660)

Catering Executives: -Sue Blewer, Lyn Gerry



FRONT COVER

The Convertible was snapped at the Mistletoe Meander '06 and I have forgotten who owns it! Anyway I thought it has a bit of seasonal appeal with the tinsel!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Photos courtesy of John Jenkinson

Good evening and merry Christmas and happy new year to all members and friends. I hope you all enjoy the December clubnight with a glass of wine and noggin and natter.

The Lord Mayor's Show this year was a good weekend, with an upgraded hotel, good food and company. The weather was not too good but every body



enjoyed themselves.

There was a good show of Morris Minors with a number of different bands, horses and floats in the parade. I would like to thank all those that supported the trip this year and also to Trevor and Shirley for the coach ride to London and back.



I would like to see a good effort for the January clubnight please, with all your hobbies brought along to share with the others. It is always interesting to see club member's other hobby interests besides Morris Minors. I

hope you all enjoyed the Christmas Dinner and Dance. This is the first time that Anne and myself have missed it. Don't forget to hand in your Mistletoe Meander slips so that the catering assistants and myself know how many sausages to cook. The Committee has nearly filled the 2009 calendar of club events so if you have any more ideas, please let us know. So have a good Christmas and see you on the 28th December.

John Jenkinson

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MORRIS MINOR REGALIA - DORSET BRANCH

Our Branch Regalia stock is managed by **Richard Cyster** and is available at clubnights and our outdoor events. (The stock list is also shown on the website www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk)

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WANTED

Indicator switch for 1961 saloon (with green light on the end of stalk)
Phone Theresa on 01202 533878 (10/08)

WANTED

The Traveller was sold last month, so now can I have a wanted advert for a drivers handbook for a 1960 vehicle? I had one for the later car but this went to the new owner
Dave or Jackie Walker 01202 877972 or mobile 07810 124039 (12/08)



DORSET BRANCH

MMOC Dorset Branch Newsletter

December 2008

Volume 12 Issue 2

- Clubnight activity:
- Noggin and Natter

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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 you.



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Next clubnight 'Hobbies Evening'

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 free download from the Internet

THIS MONTH'S NEW MEMBERS

Morris Minor owners who have joined the Branch in the last month are:
Dr Jonathon Turner from Wimborne and Louise Blewer from Laurie and Vic

NEC CLASSIC MOTOR SHOW



The MMOC stand followed the theme of the 1948 Motor Show and had the Morris Oxford and 'Six' keeping the 'MM's company'. The stand seemed to be quite busy and had a lot of visitors.



WHAT'S ON?

<http://www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk>

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

2008

3rd December – Clubnight – Noggin and Natter
28th December – Mistletoe Meander (NOTE **NOT USUAL DAY**)

2009

7th January – Clubnight – Hobbies Evening
4th February – Clubnight – Mock Auction
4th March – Clubnight – Call my Bluff type quiz.
1st April – Clubnight – Wartime Pigeon Communication – Talk (TBC)
6th May – Clubnight – Talk by Dave Daniels (TBC)
3rd June – Clubnight – Autojumble
25-28th June – National MMOC Rally
10-12th July Dorset Branch Rally – Avon Heath
5th August – Clubnight – Reverend Timbrell
2nd September – Clubnight – Antiques Evening (TBC)

HOBBIES NIGHT – JANUARY 2009



For those who have joined relatively recently, we are reviving a winter clubnight activity which we last did a few years ago. Many of us have hobbies other than Morris Minors (yes I know, difficult to believe!!). So, for the January clubnight, we would like you to bring along any collections or other material you may have that would be of interest to other members of the club. The sort of things that people have brought in the past have ranged from photos, model collections, genealogy, astronomy, antiques, classic radios, model aircraft and compacts. Let's have a good display in January.

DAVID SMITH MOTORS

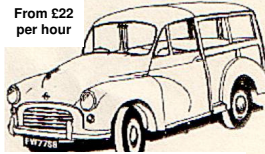
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SECRETARY'S REPORT

Good evening and welcome to December clubnight. Tonight will be a Noggin and Natter evening as we usually have in December. I hope you enjoyed last month's talk by Nick Thomas. This has inspired us to hold our own 'Call My Bluff' night and this will be held at March clubnight. Don't forget to start collecting items for the Blind Auction in February. I have been in touch with Dave Daniels and he has agreed to come along to the May clubnight to give us a talk on his father, the late, great Jack Daniels. Finally, I have received confirmation now that Reverend Timbrell will be here again in August to give another talk.

I hope everyone who went on the trip to London for the Lord Mayor's Show had an enjoyable weekend. Well done to Phil who actually took part in the parade in his Series II Traveller. By the time you read this the Christmas Dinner and Dance will have taken place and the Branch trophies were presented to –

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Series MM – Me! | 1000 Traveller – Tony Ware |
| Series II – Ray Driver | 1000 Convertible – Roger Ware |
| 1000 Saloon – Nick Palmer | 1000 LCV – Roy Gale. |

Brian, Nev and I had a very enjoyable day at the NEC last month at the International Classic Car Show. We bumped into Branch member Dave from Silverstone whilst having a cup of tea at the MMOC stand. The MMOC stand was very good with one of each model on display and a mock up of the 1948 Earls Court Motorshow stand displaying 2 Lowlights, a Series MO Oxford and a Morris Six. Also on show was one of the cars that took part in the epic journey from South Africa to this year's National Rally at Stanford Hall. You can purchase a DVD of this epic journey entitled 'MAD Oddesey' from www.4x4video.co.za. Other notable displays included a spectacular array of Austin 7 Vans and some very expensive Minor Convertibles priced at £8500 and £12500 each!



The Mistletoe Meander is taking place on Sunday 28th December starting from the West Moors Bowls Club as usual. If you are planning to come along make sure you get your entry in to Jacky as soon as you can. Please remember to tell us should you have any special dietary needs.

Very many thanks to everyone who sent Vicki and I cards and emails following the birth of our beautiful baby daughter – Louise. It was much appreciated.

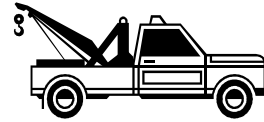
I will finish with some very good news. The Morris Minor Owners Club has been presented with the Classic and Sportscar Magazine Club of the Year Award. This was presented to them at the recent International Classic Car Show at The NEC in Birmingham. It not only recognises the club as a whole but also the way it makes itself known to public at shows and events across the country. We can pat ourselves on the back as playing a part in this achievement with our very widely publicised display at this year's Beaulieu Motormart and Autojumble in May.

That's it from me apart from wishing you all a very Merry "Minoring" Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Laurie

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EDITORIAL

Thanks very much to Nick Thomas (right) - the star turn at the 5th November Clubnight, whose talk on the life and work of Patrick Campbell was enjoyed by all those who braved the firework partygoer's traffic jams that evening. There were three 'call my bluff' type questions of which I only got one right!



We have had the Lord Mayor's Show last month, which quite a few of you attended. I gather it was a great weekend despite the dodgy weather! Thank you to Peter Houghton for sending the photos – some of which are printed here. We spotted Phil Traves' 56 Traveller with a nice bow tie and diamond 'ring' on the roof and Dave Gilliam (IOW Branch) in his Convertible with hood down, of course – That's the spirit!

Laurie, Nev and I went to the NEC Classic Motor Show on 15th November. I hadn't been for a few years and I must say it was as good as I remembered and there was lots to see and lots of people there. The MMOC stand was quite good having been built by the Barnsley Branch and emulated the Earl's Court Motor show stand of 1948 – this being the 60th Anniversary and all that. There are some photos in the newsletter and on the website. By the time you read this the Dinner and Dance will have taken place – and I'm sure it will have gone very well!

Thanks very much to Andy Dibb for his 'update' on the Van from Uncle (do you see what he did there?). Anyway, keep those articles coming in. Speaking of which, thanks very much to loW MMOC newsletter editor, David Gilliam (owner of white convertible named 'Poppy') for allowing me to 'pinch' his write up on the Lord Mayor's Show).



I Managed to get a bit of work done on the four door this month. I have now sorted out the holes in the boot floor with a new panel, purchased at the national rally in the summer. Having lifted the car over on the car-roller, however, I noticed one or two other slightly weak areas which gave way under a bit of prodding. Whilst not too bad, they did require some attention from Mr Mig..

Brian.

Hello. I am Andy Dibb, Morris owner for many years and van owner for about ten years. The first van was bought as a long term project about ten years ago, didn't realise it would be that long term. No doubt many of you reading this will recognise the 'long restoration project' scenario. Pressure of work, on-going house maintenance and the demands of a young family all conspire to slow progress. The first van I purchased was a real basket

THE VAN FROM UNCLE.

case which I stripped down to the bare chassis and started rebuilding from the ground up. I purchased a second van as it had an excellent back shell which was intended as a replacement of the first van. After being delivered it turned out to be in good condition so the decision was made to progress the second van and sell the first one to a friend who would be carrying on the restoration. So once again everything was reduced to a bare chassis, welding, painting and rebuilding. All the suspension has been rebuilt using new king pins, bushes, 'U' bolts etc. The engine has been stripped and rebuilt with new rings, big end bearings. It has also been fitted with an unleaded head, heated inlet manifold and duplex timing chain. I have never rebuilt an engine before so fingers crossed when and if it fires up.

The past two months have seen some rapid progress with a new loom fitted, lights front & back attached. This week the alternator, distributor and coil have gone in, so the finish is in sight. I am not making any predictions about finishing dates but I will try to get it running this year and maybe an MOT!

Why "The Van from Uncle"? Well the van is 1966 registered and a TV programme from that era was 'The Man From Uncle'. The registration is GOR 720D and I have an elderly uncle whose name is GORDon so it has to be The Van From Uncle.

I would like to finish this restoration ramble by thanking everyone from the Dorset Branch that has helped me with encouragement, practical advice and the hard to get spares. It was great to see you all at Beaulieu and catch up on your news. The display of Morrisies was marvellous a real credit to all the owners and not forgetting the team who spent a lot of their time organising the event. ANDY DIBB.



WORDS BY DAVE GILLIAM (IOW BRANCH) PHOTOS BY PETER HOUGHTON



ara. She was amused to find several be-gowned men doffing their hats, and saying "Ma'am". I had decided to go in a white Tuxedo with dress shirt and red bow tie. We had been briefed on keeping order, or in our case formation, and I found it very difficult at times to maintain position. There were road narrowings, barriers, traffic island etc to deal with, so it needed a lot of concentration. We had also been briefed as to where to expect the TV cameras to be, and to act up to them. To be honest, I don't think we waved any harder, and it was not really possible to pick them out, so I feel that we acted rather as we did for the whole Parade. Just after this, the heavens opened, and Barry put up a golf umbrella to try to keep us dry, but of course this had the effect of concentrating the rain in other area; my right arm in particular was soaked. At the half way point you are pulled off the route, and have a lunch break. We straightaway put the roof up, and it stopped raining! We decided to put them down again before rejoining the Parade, and had even started to, only for it to pour again! By this time a call from Carole Allen revealed that we had got good coverage on BBC TV. How good, we were yet to see. The second half we kept the roof up, and it was just as well. The crowds were fantastic, they must have got soaked, but their enthusiasm never waned. At the end we dispersed, and went off to park up in the Barbican, and Chris and I got out of our wet clothes. The Club had arranged a pub for us to retire to for drinks and eats, then it was time to go and watch the fireworks on the Thames. All too soon it was time to head for home. This was the bit I did not look forward to, finding my way out of Central London after dark. I had planned a route, but I did not know exactly where we would exit the Barbican. As it happens, it all worked out perfectly, we found our route easily, and were on our way. Once on the A3 I was glad of a modification I'd had fitted; namely, twin speed wipers! The weather was atrocious, heavy rain, strong winds, and standing water. We stopped for a meal in Hindhead, and then it was on to the 22.30 out of Portsmouth. We were greeted at the terminal by "I saw you on the telly!" and so it has remained. Every day someone mentions it, and I must admit our coverage was almost embarrassing; we were on screen for around 40 seconds.

Well that's it, all done, everything is put away, and the underlay on Poppy's floor has finally dried out. Would we do it again? Yes! The only thing is, once chosen, that is it. Make room for another. If however another Island Member gets picked I am sure we would love to go as walkers.



A CAR TO APPRECIATE

JAMES RUPPERT - RAC WORLD AUTUMN/WINTER 08/09

Is there anything more depressing than depreciation? Its probably the most expensive word in the English Language, as the new car you bought a few minutes ago for £15,000 is now worth £10,000. And sadly, it will keep falling until you have to pay someone to take it away. Okay, that might be a bit negative, but just imagine a situation where the car you own won't just hold its value, but is more than likely to increase. It could happen. The truth is that buying a classic car can be good for you and your wallet. Not only that, if you like cars, you'll enjoy every motoring minute too. And the great news is that you don't have to operate at the top end of the vintage and classic-car market, where they are not so much vehicles as blue-chip investments. You should be choosing affordable, practical cars that are full of character and, if looked after, resistant to depreciation.

There's no point in choosing some obscure sports car that will be impossible to find parts for, difficult to own and, most important of all, which has a limited following. The key to buying a depreciation proof classic is finding a car that many enthusiasts love. As Robin Norton, the head of British Car Auctions Vintage and Classic Car Department, points out, 'It's all about nostalgia,' he says. 'Everyone should aim for the evergreen classics, for the simple reason that they will be much better off if they decide to use the car on a day-to-day basis.' So what are the evergreens? They are the iconic cars that are easy to find and have great support from clubs and specialist suppliers,' says Norton. 'For me, that means the proper Mini, not the BMW one, the Morris Minor and the MGB. Nothing complicated or large; you need to be able to park your classic in a garage if you want to look after it.

The next thing you have to do is find out if you really like the classic, rather than the idea of a classic. There is lots of research to be done and there is no substitute for reading as many books and magazine articles as you can. But it is also vital to touch metal. This means following up advertisements and looking at cars for sale. Ideally you should also join the owners club and attend meetings and shows. Owners can give you expert advice and help you when you decide to buy. Most important of all you must drive the classic you are in-

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A CAR TO APPRECIATE (CONTD)

terested in. It is not uncommon to have unrealistic expectations and to find that your dream car is a nightmare to drive and live with. So make sure the classic fits your lifestyle and your garage. If you cant borrow a car you could easily hire one through websites such as www.selfdriveclassics.co.uk.

If buying a classic car is simple enough, it is vital that you take good care of it. A decent garage has already been mentioned but finding a decent local servicing garage is equally important. Maintaining the classic will not only stop it breaking down but also maintain its value. However, there is no point taking a Morris Minor to a Lexus main agent, who will just scratch their heads and look baffled. You need an independantly run garage that understands older cars and can actually diagnose and repair. Indeed these older cars are much simpler to understand and work on.

It's also worth noting that aside from the 'appreciation' of classic cars, older cars are often cheaper to run and maintain. Martin Mosley runs the 'Parts for Older Cars' department at mail order specialist Car Parts Direct. Martin's team supplies parts for all makes of cars over 20 years old. He has seen a huge increase in the number of motorists putting their older cars back on the road in recent months. 'Lots of customers will buy an older car, paying around £1,000, spend a few hundred pounds on it and run it on a low budget,' says Martin. Tax, insurance, servicing and fuel on an older car can be less than one year's depreciation on a brand new car.

2008 MISTLETOE MEANDER

This year's Mistletoe Meander has been booked for Sunday 28th December meeting once again at the West Moors Bowls Club for coffee prior to the road run. This will be swiftly followed by lunch back at the Bowls Club of sausages and mash, with a pudding and drink. We are hoping for a good turnout again for the post-Christmas Winter gathering. Booking slips available now.

Cost is £5 per head. Kick off at 10:00

