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The Branch Van in its previous incarnation – delivering beer!  
(photo by Ray Penny)

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**DORSET BRANCH NEWSLETTER**

July 2009  
Volume 12  
Issue 9

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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 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.

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



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#### 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](mailto: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 Winton MOT Centre hosted a club visit on Sunday 14th June for a look around the facilities. The Traveller belongs to Karl, who is the proprietor.*



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Good evening and welcome to July's Clubnight. The weekend trip to London to see the Trooping the Colour went well, The Hotel was good and the ceremony was great, apart from the weather. The ceremony of the keys at the Tower of London was very interesting and we discovered something of the history of the Tower over the last 700 years. So I hope all the club members and friends enjoyed themselves.

It's Rally time again. The club would like some bric-a-brac, cakes and raffle prizes for the stalls. I hope you have all booked for the weekend and the drink and meals for the Saturday night, so that we can let the girls in the café know how many to cater for.

We had a good afternoon at Karl's Winton MOT centre. There were some very nice Morris's on the ramps, and they would all pass an MOT except for one. The food was very nice and Barry supplied us with tea and coffee all afternoon – so thanks to him. Also a big thank you to Anita for organising the food and hospitality.

We are thinking of arranging a Pudsey Bear run in aid of the BBC Children in Need event in November starting at Wimborne Market, a run around the town with buckets, finishing at the Wimborne Model Town for a meal. So watch this space for more details. Enjoy this year's rally, John.



## Next clubnight – Talk by Reverend Timbrell



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## FOR SALE & WANTED & CLUB NOTICES

### 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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 Keyrings £1.99 each  
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 Ceramic Egg Cups £5.00 ea  
 Morris Minor Parking Signs £ 7.50 each  
 Morris Minor Car Stickers £ 1.00 each  
 2008 Club Event DVD £3.00  
 2007 Photo CD of club events £2.50  
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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](http://www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk))

# July 2009

## Volume 12 Issue 9



DORSET BRANCH

- Clubnight activity:
- Rally Planning

## Inside....

<i>This Month's New Members /Letters to the Ed</i>	4
<i>Editorial</i>	5
<i>Uncle Sam's Satellites</i>	6
<i>Uncle Sam's Satellites (continued)</i>	7
<i>Club Van History</i>	8
<i>Trooping the Colour and Winton MOT Visit</i>	9
<i>2009 Branch Rally Preview</i>	10
<i>Secretary's Report</i>	11
<i>Secretary's Report (Continued)</i>	12
<i>What's On</i>	13
<i>For Sale and Wanted (etc)</i>	14
<i>Chairman's Report</i>	15

## Next clubnight – Talk by Rev.Timbrell

*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 usually about 10 days before the clubnight.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Brian, My son was devastated last weekend when a shelf fell on his Morris Minor Traveller Money box and totally destroyed it. His interest goes back to before he was born. When my wife was pregnant, we had a Traveller and I used to drive her to work in it. As we were going along you could see my son, now 14, waking up and gently kicking as we went along. I am endeavouring to get a replacement for his birthday on 15th July. I note that you sell these at £12.50. Do you have one in stock and can you advise the postage and packing price for shipment to Lincolnshire and the address a cheque should be sent to. Yours ever hopeful, Ian. *(We were able to help Ian with his quest for a ceramic Traveller moneybox and we hope his son graduates to a real Morris Minor in a few more years. – Ed.)*



## 2010 SIDMOUTH WEEKEND



Plans are coming together nicely for a return visit to the Royal Glen Hotel in Sidmouth for a weekend next Spring (16-18th April). Nev is trying to establish how many would be interested before making a booking reservation. The cost will be £66 per person per night (two nights) for half board. Jacky will be collecting your savings so that you can spread the cost (again as per last time).

## THREE COUNTIES SKITTLES MATCH

The annual challenge by the Three Counties Club is coming up. We usually put up a team against them at their September Clubnight. The date for your diary is 21st September at 8pm at the Hamworthy Club. Lets have a good turnout for the Branch.



## THIS MONTH'S NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to new members: Mr Sylvan Naidoo, Ms Amanda Rogers, Suzanne Cameron-Clarke and Mrs CS Mitchell. Welcome back to 'old' members Marion and Richard Lidster.

## WHAT'S ON?

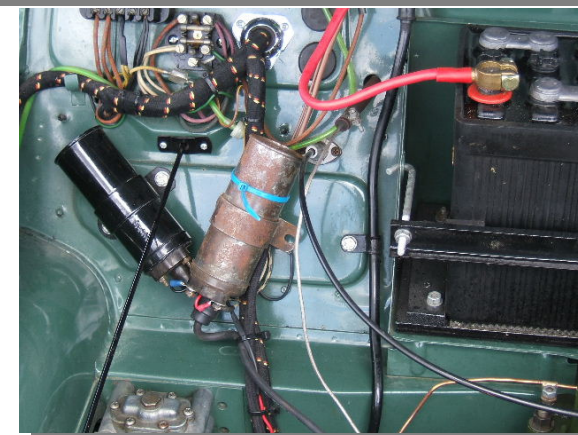
<http://www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk>

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

### 2009

1st July – Clubnight – Rally Planning  
10-12th July Dorset Branch Rally – Avon Heath  
19th July – Show – Muscliffe Community Park  
5th August – Clubnight – Reverend Timbrell  
2nd September – Clubnight – Antiques Evening with Phil Traves  
6th September – IOW Rally  
21st September- 3 Counties Skittles Challenge 8pm Hamworthy Club  
27th September – Area 6 Picnic at Watercress Line  
3rd October – Wimborne/3 in 1 Run (Shaftesbury Carnival Day)  
7th October – Clubnight – AGM  
4th November – Clubnight -Call My Bluff type quiz  
28th November – Dinner and Dance Quality Hotel, Bournemouth  
2nd December – Clubnight – Natter and Noggin.  
27th December – Mistletoe Meander

**2010** 16-18th April – Sidmouth Weekend – Royal Glen Hotel



### MORRIS MINOR SPARES - DORSET BRANCH

Please order from:-**John Bainbridge**, 334 Bournemouth Road, Charlton Marshall Blandford, Dorset DT11 9NJ Tel (01258) 458749. Or see at Club Meetings. (The stock list is shown on the website [www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk](http://www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk))

## SECRETARY'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

have done wonders for it. The Traveller is ticking along just fine at the moment – this is the one that does get the most use out of the three cars, as it is just so practical. Work is now progressing better on the new engine for Victoria, my Austin 12/4 Ascot. The block has been steam cleaned to make it easier to work on and to get rid of 73 years worth of muck from inside it. The valves have all been ground in. The chaps in the Motorists Discount Centre do look at you as though you are mad though, when you ask for valve grinding paste and a new valve grinding stick. The first shop I went to said they haven't stocked things like that for years but the shop on Kinson Road did have some on a rather dusty shelf at the back of the shop – I think they were glad to get rid of it! Whilst Victoria is off the road I have also decided to refurbish the dashboard as it was looking rather the worst for wear after 73 years of almost continuous use. I don't know what Austin used on the wood but it's a pig to get off!

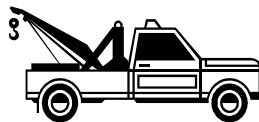
I think that's about all from me for this month – see you ALL at the Dorset Branch Rally.  
Happy Minoring

## HAMPSHIRE RALLY (21ST JUNE)

A group of us went to the HAMMOC rally recently, some in convoy, others made their own way. I had to make some modifications to the Traveller on the way (see photo, right). The engine cut out completely in Lyndhurst and the fuel pump was checked and found to be OK. The 'finger' of blame then pointed towards the coil. Luckily, I had a spare in the boot, so we connected it up and lashed it with a large cable tie. It seemed to work OK and the rest of the day was trouble free. The rally was pretty good and as usual the Dorset Branch cleaned up on the winnings. Eddie & Margaret won 1st for Convertible, Andy and Julie won the best Modified and Car of the Show, Roy won LCV, I won Split Screens, Louise Blewer won 3rd for Traveller and Vicki won third for the MM in Split Screens. *(More photos on Website)*

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**G3ZJY**

## EDITORIAL

The middle of the year sees the MOT season in our house, with the Minors about 1 month apart. The Traveller was first, and given (a) the limited mileage and (b) the current activity on the kitchen, I decided to defer the usual service and check up on the car. It passed the test with no problems. The 4 door, however was a slightly traumatic process. This too, had not done too many miles and I did a bit of work on it over the winter. So I thought, I'll get round to the service etc soon and took it up for the test after just checking the obvious things like the lights, etc. The tester drove it over the rolling road onto the pit and almost immediately said "Ah! I think there is a problem here". He had noted that the nut which holds the nearside shock absorber arm to the pin in the steering leg, was missing. Bizarrely, however, all the washers and bushes were still there. We reckoned it must have only just come off since nothing else was missing. I made a quick phone call home to arrange for a replacement one to be fished out of the shed and rushed over to me. The tester kindly said that I could take it outside to fix it and he would have to do a re-test later. Anyway, whilst he was placing the boards in the rolling road to avoid bumping the suspension again, he noticed a nut lying on one of the rollers. It turned out that the nut had fallen off on the way into the test bay! I borrowed a few spanners and replaced the nut and (this time!) remembered to knock over the tab on the locking washer. (Doh!). I felt slightly embarrassed that I had not assembled it properly, but it must have been several years ago when I put new top links and bushes etc on so it has taken quite a while for it to come undone. It could have been quite nasty had it come off whilst driving and at least would have done a bit of damage to the suspension. So we had better count that one as a 'near miss'. *(See 'Stop Press' later for further confessions.)*

Well done and thanks to John for the London Trip recently – we certainly enjoyed it. We spent the Sunday morning looking around the British Museum and found some fine exhibits – one of which reminded us of someone (see page 15).  
I hope you all have a good rally in a few weeks, bye for now, Brian.

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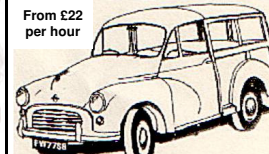
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# UNCLE SAM, ESA AND SATELLITES

Sky News Tuesday May 19, 2009

Satellite navigation systems used by millions of people worldwide could become useless next year because the orbiting spacecraft upon which they rely need updating.

Satellite navigation devices rely on GPS for directions. The Global Positioning System (GPS) could collapse as early as 2010 due to a lack of investment in new satellites, the US government accountability office has told Congress. It blamed the US Air Force, which runs the worldwide system free of charge and is responsible for modernising it, saying it had failed to take the necessary steps to keep the network of satellites running properly.

"It is uncertain whether the Air Force will be able to acquire new satellites in time to maintain current GPS service without interruption," the report said. "If not, some military operations and some civilian users could be adversely affected." GPS satellites orbit the planet and beam signals back to the ground to pinpoint exact locations.

GPS turns mobiles into sat-navs

Mobile phones and car sat-navs use the system for maps, route planning and to find specific buildings, such as the nearest hospital. A breakdown could lead the tools to give inaccurate directions or stop working altogether.

The current GPS IIF system has also overrun its original budget of \$729m (£470m) by another \$870m (£562m), the GAO report said. The US Air Force is structuring its modernisation programme, involving new GPS IIIA satellites, in a way that will prevent the mistakes made with the current system.

But the report warned: "If the Air Force does not meet its schedule goals for development of GPS IIIA satellites, there will be an increased likelihood that in 2010, as old satellites begin to fail, the overall GPS constellation will fall below the number of satellites required to provide the level of GPS service that the US government commits to.

"Such a gap in capability could have wide-ranging impacts on all GPS users, though there are measures the Air Force and others can take to plan for and minimise these impacts."

The first replacement satellite was expected at the start of 2007 but its launch has been pushed back to November this year because of technical problems, nearly three years later than first planned

Following outline agreements on funding between EU member states, the revised



*(Continued on page 7)*

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

Good evening and welcome to July clubnight. Tonight will be mostly taken up with planning for our forthcoming Dorset branch rally in less than 2 weeks time. We will be looking for volunteers to help out with the marshalling, help on the gate and the various club stalls amongst many other jobs. We will need all you expert cooks to make a couple of cakes each this year as Mum is unable to give as much time as in previous years as she now has to baby-sit Louise for three days a week now that Vic has gone back to work. The cake stall is always our biggest earner and we don't want this year to be the exception. If you haven't got your entry to me please do so tonight. We will also need donations please, for the raffle and bric-a-brac stall.

June has been quite a busy month and has seen us out and about in the cars. We went along to the Southern Regional Rally at Milestones Museum in Basingstoke. A rather disappointing turnout though with only about 40 vehicles in attendance. We still enjoyed our day though as the museum itself is well worth a visit.

How do members feel about us running the Regional event next year in conjunction with our own annual show? I hope all those who attended the Winton MOT Centre open day had an enjoyable day and thanks to Karl for arranging it – we were unable to attend as we had a 1<sup>st</sup> birthday party to go to. Also if you went up to London I hope you had a good time. As I write this we have just returned from the Sturminster Newton Show. This is one of those lovely little country shows and always has plenty going on. There was a small, but varied, selection of cars as well as military vehicles, tractors and stationary engines. Lots of stalls and a good range of entertainment throughout the day all go to make this a very enjoyable day out. Tomorrow we are making the trip to Fort Nelson in Portsmouth for the HAMMOC rally and of course next week is the National – I shall write more about those next month.

Please remember to put your name down for the Muscliffe Community Funday on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July. I will need to know who is coming to this in advance. There are forms available for lots of other local shows and they should be available at clubnight – usually up on the stage. Bookings are coming in already for next years Devon weekend at The Royal Glen Hotel in Sidmouth. If you would like to go please get your names down on the list as soon as you can. Jacky is once again running a savings scheme for the weekend away to make it easier to budget for.

The fleet seem to be behaving themselves at the moment. The Lowlight has been treated to a new petrol pump and a new battery – both of which seem to

## 2009 BRANCH RALLY



The rally is coming up fast, the weekend after next, in fact. Just a reminder that we need volunteers for cake making for the day and also please bring raffle prizes as usual. Help from the members to make the Rally its usual success is much appreciated and these are the items which ensure that the Rally is financially viable.

*Morris Minor Owners Club  
Dorset Branch Rally  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2009  
Avon Heath Country Park*

SEE YOU ALL THERE

## 2009 MUSCLIFFE COMMUNITY FUNDAY

We have been invited to display our cars at the 2nd Muscliffe Community Funday on Sunday 19th July from 11am to 4pm at Muscliffe Community Centre in Bournemouth. Muscliffe Community Centre. Shillingstone Drive, Bournemouth, BH9 3LR

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## UNCLE SAM (CONTINUED)

schedule for Euro-collaborative sat nav project Galileo is emerging. Planners hope to have the system globally operational in 2013.

Galileo has been mired in funding disputes for most of 2007, following the breakdown of negotiations with private sector investors who had been supposed to provide €2.4bn of the construction costs. It has recently been agreed that the missing cash will be found from unspent farm subsidy cash already in EU coffers, but complicated bargaining over procurement was required.

*Flight International* reports that the construction phase will be managed by the European Space Agency (ESA). The ESA is not part of the EU government, having a different list of member states. However, ESA funds and expertise have been drawn on extensively in the programme thus far.

"We need a formal procurement agreement with the European Commission," an ESA spokesman told *Flight*.

The ESA expects a fast-moving launch programme from this point. The initial In-Orbit Validation (IOV) quartet of spacecraft should be launched in 2010 on two Soyuz rockets. After that, the plan would be to orbit the remaining 26 satellites on two massive Ariane V lifts of six each and a further eight twin-sat Soyuz launches.

The ESA expects to put out a request for information to industry early next year, and start receiving deliveries of spacecraft in 2009.

Final approval of the funding plan must still be given by the European parliament this month, and by national transport ministers. However, a draft agreement is in place and these should be no more than formalities.

Procurement itself will be challenging, though, as negotiations regarding the lucrative contracts reached Byzantine levels during the EU funding talks. ESA buyers will find



that they have very little flexibility as to where money can be spent, almost regardless of other purchasing considerations such as price and timescale. They may find that even getting their formal agreement with Brussels takes some little time.

The EU government, in classic style, is still on record as believing that Galileo "will be fully operable in 2008 at the latest", which shows that predictions in this area may occasionally need a pinch of salt.

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## CLUB VAN HISTORY



The Branch Van (STP 9J) has had a busy life and we have found out some more about its later years. We bought it from Roy Gale in 2007 and Roy probably had it for about 10 years prior to that. It had a fairly hard life as a 'builder's lorry' during that time, faithfully earning its living with Roy. It's blue paint job seems to have been applied by Wayne Smith's Grandad, which is it's current livery. Previously, it was red as shown in the photos and was owned by the Wickwar brewing company where it seems to have also earned its keep. Before that it was green – apparently.

Hi Laurie

If we have some pics they will be hard copies. I will have a root around and see if I can find some. I know we have a pencil drawing of the van, out side our original brewery. This was commissioned by us and was drawn by local artist Ian Cryer. I have been on your website and seen the old girl. You have done a wonderful job in her restoration. I used to deliver and sell beer from the van, but being, slightly on the large side, I was always relieved to get out of the van at the end of the day. From memory, I think we purchased her from the vehicle auctions in Leominster. She was originally green in colour. When we sold her she would have been in red.

Kind regards Ray Penny

Founder & Managing Director, Wickwar Brewing Co  
P.S. Thanks for the memory!

Laurie, the van was bought by my Grandad - Ken Harmer - a few years ago, it was previously owned by the local small brewery Wickwar Brewing Company, The Old Brewery, Station Road, Wickwar, Gloucestershire, GL12 8NB. Tel: 0870 7775671. Fax: 0870 7775672 . When they owned it the van was red with the sign writing of the company along the sides etc. My grandad did some work to it and had it resprayed in dark blue. That was a few years ago now. My grandad had it for approx a year. I am not sure how long the brewery owned it but I believe it was a while.  
Wayne Smith

## TROOPING THE COLOUR

I had the day off on Friday 5th in preparation for the rendezvous at John and Anne's at 4:00 pm to get the coach to London for the weekend. There were about 50 of us



altogether and we got to London in the early evening. There was a fairly early start on Saturday in the 'Sunday best' outfits (well a tie for the gents anyway!) We mostly opted to walk down to Horse guards Parade and weather was slightly damp. We were very impressed with the various displays by the guardsmen and it made for a spectacular display. I think I speak for everyone who went, that we all had a brilliant



weekend and John did a super job of organising and coordinating the visit. Thanks very much John.



## WINTON MOT CENTRE

Thanks very much to Karl for the Sunday 'outing' to view the MOT facility. Speaking of 'outing' I am not going to talk 'out of school' about the slightly substandard items found on a couple of the cars. The brown envelopes did the trick this time! Thank you. In accordance with current Government regulations, any references in the photo which might identify the car or the tester have been removed.

