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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))



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# DORSET BRANCH

## MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB



DORSET BRANCH NEWSLETTER

August 2010  
 Volume 13  
 Issue 10

[www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk](http://www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk)



**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 £10 per year, £12.50 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.

**FRONT COVER**

*The Branch Annual Rally is featured in this newsletter and the recently restored van belonging to Tony and Sue Ware is shown on the front cover.*

**Committee Members 2009-10:**

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))

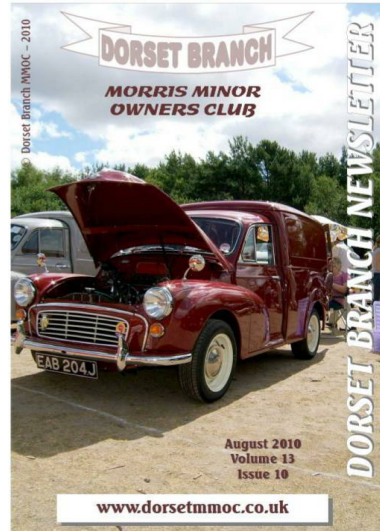
**Non Committee posts:**

Raffle Co-ordinators: Chris Tilly and Val Palmer

Spares Manager: John Bainbridge (01258 458749)

Regalia Manager: Richard Cyster – (01202 526660)

Catering Executives: -Sue Blewer, Lyn Gerry



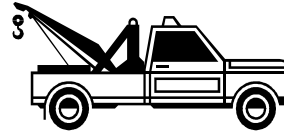
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Please let me know if you no longer wish your ad to be included in the newsletter/website. *Editor.*

## FOR SALE

When we were up in Yorkshire for the "National" I met Bob who wants to sell a 1961 Black convertible. The restoration has been started, but due to Bob having had an heart attack he doesn't feel able to complete it. Part of it's value is the registration number which is SEE and three numbers. He is looking for £1000 for it. The car is in Yorkshire so there are transportation costs to consider. However I obtained a very good deal from someone up North who gets involved with return loads and I (Dave Walker) can pass on the contact number. Ring Bob on 01765 658791 if you are interested in the car. 0810

## FOR SALE

**4 door Morris Minor** complete – probably for spares only. Age – late fifties, dark green. Graham Taylor 01963 23677 £150 or near offer. (Holwell near Sherborne) 0710

**WANTED** Combi-Camp trailer tent preferably the Combi Camp EASY PLUS model with awning etc, all in reasonable condition. Preferably the Combi Camp PLUS model. Neil Mitchener 07754761255 0710

## FOR SALE:

1966 Morris Minor Convertible, KWO 56D MOT 12m, Old English White with black interior, Taxed and named 'Edna' very good condition with 4 new wings recently, £3,000 ono Jenny 07977 668483 (Coventry) 0610

## MORRIS MINOR SPARES - DORSET BRANCH

Please order from:- **John Bainbridge**, 334 Bourne-mouth 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))

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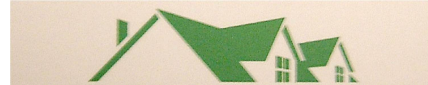
Mail order – same day despatch. Mention MMOC number

## WANTED:

Van petrol tank 6.5 gallon, good condition please, Terry Kingston 01963 363471 0710

## 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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DORSET BRANCH

August 2010

Volume 13 Issue 10

- Clubnight activity:
- Talk by Rev Timbrell

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## next clubnight:

Talk by Peter Vince (Recording Engineer – Abbey Road)

*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.*



## Editorial



Thanks to Branch Member, John Buckle from Bourne-mouth, whom I met at the Poole Bay Classic Club at Breamore recently, for letting me know that he is the proud owner of the large Austin featured on the back of last month's newsletter. He also runs a 1971 Traveller.

Hello everyone, and welcome to the August edition of the newsletter from your favourite car club. The Annual branch rally weekend last month seemed to go off very well, the party on Saturday evening with eating, drinking and music going on until ... well dusk, anyway. The Rally day itself saw about 120 cars in total attending and the good weather was probably responsible for ensuring the site was full almost to capacity!



Many thanks to Dave and Pam Holton for their excellent account of the National Rally trip to Leeds at the end of June (see pages 8-9). Sorry to hear about Phil Traves little 'prang' in his Series II Traveller (winner of 'Working Minor Award at our recent rally.) See page 6. Thanks to Brian Tilly for the spares – some of which were sold at the rally and raised a few bob for the Branch. Remaining parts are now on the 'Spares Shop' on the Branch Website: [www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk](http://www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk) Cheers for now, Brian.

## Letters to the editor

I was wondering if you would be able to help me - I am trying to contact **John Merrett** who ran Mid-Sussex Minors for years based on the Hickstead estate. His wife and him were friends of mine as well as being a wonderful mechanic with several moggies over many years. He retired to Dorset a couple of years ago but I was not given any forwarding details although I do receive a Christmas Card from them each year. They must think I am very rude !!

If you have any information about him maybe you would either let me know and/or contact him with my details. *(If anyone knows the answer, please let me know and I will pass it on. – Ed)*

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## Whats On?

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

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

- 1st August – Lymington Show – Club Stand
- 4th August – Talk by Reverend Timbrell
- 7-8 Aug – Bygone Days, Brooklands Fm, S.Gorley (nr.Fordingbridge)
- 8th August – Mid-Summer Saunter – (Lytchett Matravers Craft Centre) Blue Pool (Wareham)
- 22nd August – Classic Cars on Christchurch Quay *Admission is free to all pre 1983 cars. The times are 10am through until 4pm*
- 1st September – Clubnight– Talk by Peter Vince – recording engineer Abbey Road
- 5th September – Wessex Classic Car Show – Bovington
- 5th September – Isle of Wight Rally
- 11-12 September – Beaulieu Autojumble
- 18th September– 3 in 1 Run. Wimborne/Plowmans/Southern Electric Museum
- 25-26th September – Kempton Park Juke Box Madness Show
- 26th September – Breamore House End of Season Steam up
- 26th September – Area 6 Picnic – Watercross line (Tim Rouse 01420 511285)
- 2nd October – Shaftesbury Carnival Display
- 6th October – Annual General Meeting
- 3rd November – Call My Bluff Quiz
- 12-14th November – NEC Classic Car Show
- 28th December – Mistletoe Meander – SEB Club – Broadway Lane

I am passing this on to you because it definitely worked for me today, and we all could probably use more calm in our lives. Some doctor on television this morning said that the way to achieve inner peace is to finish all the things you have started. So I looked around my house to see things I'd started and hadn't finished and, before leaving the house this morning, I finished off a bottle of Merlot, a bottle of Chardonnay, a bottle of Baileys, a butle of wum, a pockage of Prunglies, tha mairder of bot Prozac and Valum scriptins, the res of the Chesescke an a box a choclets. Yu haf no idr how bludy guod I feel rite now.

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# Julias house

Our nominated charity for this year is **Julia's House**. We managed to get the voting done and the results were as follows:

1. Julia's House – 9 votes
2. Air Ambulance – 7 votes
3. Others – 12 charities (no more than 2 each).

We supported this Charity a few years ago and had a talk by a representative. It seems a very worthwhile cause and we are glad to be helping this organisation again.

**Julia's House**  
The Dorset Children's Hospice

Unit F1, Arena Business Centre,  
Holyrood Close, Poole, Dorset BH17 7FP  
Telephone 01202 607400 Fax 01202 607401  
www.juliashouse.org

Laurie Blewer  
Morris Minors Owners Club - Dorset Branch  
18 Dukas Drive  
Bearwood  
Bournemouth  
Dorset  
BH11 9SZ

17 June 2010

Dear Laurie

Thank you so much for your very kind donation of £130 towards the work of Julia's House. It means a great deal to us that you have taken the time to support your local children's hospice by donating the proceeds from your recent auction. We are delighted that you have decided to choose Julia's House as this year's charity and please pass on our thanks to all members of the Morris Minors Owners Club for this decision.

We feel that Julia's House is a part of the Dorset community and are therefore extremely grateful to you for helping us continue to provide a lifeline for families in the area who need our help.

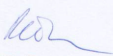
Julia's House is Dorset's only children's hospice, providing vital care to children across Dorset with life-limiting illnesses. Currently nearly 100 children benefit from the care and activities provided by over 80 skilled Nurses and Carers, both at home and at our homely hospice in Corfe Mullen.

Despite our income being hit in the recession we have continued to develop services for the children we care for by running as efficiently as possible.

We recently opened for 24-hour care, enabling us to offer full weekend respite breaks to families and round-the-clock end of life care to make the last few days as special as possible. This final, emotional stage will now be housed in a new purpose-built extension to the hospice, opened recently by two of our Patrons, Martin Clunes and Harry Redknapp.

On behalf of everyone at Julia's House, not least the children and families who will ultimately benefit from your donation, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

  
Rio Brown  
Fundraising Administrator

2009 Awards  
"making the most of life" – Sunday Times  
"Julia's House is extraordinary" – Best Companies 2009

100  
10th Anniversary  
2009 10  
10th Anniversary  
2009 wessex  
charity  
awards

Registered Charity No. 106725 Registered Office Lansdowne House Bournemouth BH1 3JT Company Registration No. 3465868

I received the reminder to re-licence the truck as it was due at the end of the month. I tried to do it but it wouldn't let me because the M.O.T. ran out before that date; fair enough. I went to the M.O.T. Station and came away at about 14:30. At home When I got home I was able to "tax" the car as the info had been put on the Swansea computer. I don't know why but I thought that it probably be dealt with on a "batch" basis as was the info at the insurance brokers that I worked at. This means that the M.I. D. data base may not be updated so quickly. Nice to see the Government getting it right! (or the Insurance Industry needing to get it's act together) Regards, Dave Walker.

Hi Laurie, Just a quick note to thank you for an excellent rally yesterday, some amazing cars on display and some very interesting people to talk to, not least the tall lady who I was parked next to who does all the work on her traveller, including welding!

The site was bursting at the edges, maybe a larger venue is required next year, how about Kingston Lacey?! (As a National Trust member I would suggest that!!)

I'm renewing my membership after a lapse of a few years, and have sent the form off to Des Waller. Whilst it is unlikely I will be able to attend many of the monthly meetings being based in West Dorset, I will at least be able to keep abreast of things via the newsletter.

I've decided to wait until the end of the summer before getting my door and boot bottoms done, as I want to use the car over the coming weeks.

Best wishes, David Buck.





## Mid Summer Saunter 8th August

We had been planning to go to the Arne Toy museum (Purbeck) but sadly, we have learnt that it has now been closed. Instead, we will be visiting the Blue Pool which is on the way to Swanage

We will meet up at Lytchett Matravers Craft Centre for a 10:30 am departure. There is no pre-booking charge but there is an admission charge for the Blue Pool. See you there.

Branch member, Phil Traves had a bit of bad luck recently when his Series II Traveller got sandwiched in a 'shunt'. Whilst the car is technically a write off, it is repairable and we hope to see it back on the road again soon. Phil takes up the story...

"I was driving home from work on Tuesday 20th when I stopped to let someone in front of me turn right. The car behind didn't stop! He was 17 and passed his test earlier in the week! He hit me in the rear, on the number plate and pushed me onto the car in front, which had a tow bar.

The assessor has been and because of the damage to front and rear, the specialist woodwork and the amount of replacement parts, he has deemed the car to be a financial write off. It has an agreed value of £5,500.

Thankfully there is no damage to the engine or the main structure.

I now have to wait to agree a value with the insurance company and I intend to keep the salvage."

"Footnote: I popped into the scrap yard next to where I work and came out with a Nissan Micra which had been written off due to wing damage. The car was repaired with wing off another damaged car and was mine for the princely sum of £300. The registration number is "M747 MBO". Spooky eh?"



Amelia made us a cake as a 'thank-you' for the work done to complete her late father (Tony's) car (behind).



## Secretary's report

Good evening and welcome to the August clubnight. Last month, of course, we went out to the Ringwood Museum for the evening. We arranged this nice and early so that we didn't have to share the hall with everyone watching the England match on the big screen TV. Well, we needn't have bothered with that!! Tonight we welcome back our old friend Reverend Stewart Timbrell for another of his very entertaining talks.

Well, that's the rally over and done with for another year. I hope you'll all agree that it went very well once again. We have received several favourable comments back about the weekend – some even saying that it was better than the National rally! That's something I cannot comment on though, as I wasn't there this year. If anyone has any ideas for next year, please come forward now as it's never too early. The judging this year was extremely hard. The standard of vehicles is going up year on year as more of the remaining Minors on the roads have been restored. The LCV class this year was particularly tough with only a few points between all the vehicles being judged. I know that many branch rallies have done away with specific judging and now have self-judging. Personally I prefer it the way we do it as I feel the results are more accurate that way but, of course, it's more work for us! Hopefully by the time you read this we will have booked for next year – the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in July as usual.

The week after our rally we had a club stand at The Poole Bay Classics Motoring Extravaganza at Breamore House. This was an extremely large show this year with a vast range of different vehicles on display as well as a good selection of stalls.

The weekend just gone will have been the Lymington Show where we will be defending our title of Best Club Stand. Did we win or not? You'll just have to wait and see. Our theme this year has been the Teddy Bear's Picnic. I'm afraid Louise does take a particular liking to teddy bears of all varieties so please accept my apologies now if she runs off with yours!

Plans are well underway for the Midsummer Saunter on 8<sup>th</sup> August – this weekend. Please meet at the craft centre at Lytchett Matravers. We will then be taking a leisurely drive to the Blue Pool for a picnic and whatever you want to do. This is somewhere I've never been in all the years we've lived here – and that is most of my life! Please find enclosed in this newsletter your booking form for this year's 3 in 1 Run. It promises to be an excellent day once again and all at a very reasonable price.

The new grill badges have arrived but have also gone back! There was a slight technical hitch but we hope to have this sorted very soon and I think you'll all be pleased with the end result.

Not much to report on the fleet this month. Victoria is still going well and has now completed just over 120 miles. She has had her first oil change and nothing untoward was discovered. The Lowlight is due a MOT this month so that's something I must arrange soon – especially as the 16<sup>th</sup> of this month will see her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. (Article coming up next month! - Ed)

Well I think that's about all from me so until next time – Happy Minorng, Laurie.

## Nominations for 2011 Committee

The AGM is approaching fast (6th October – Clubnight) and we will be seeking nominations for the new committee for next year (2010-2011). There should be a nomination form on the notice board at the clubnight, so please have a think about who you would like to see on the next committee. Don't be afraid to put your own name forward, we could do with some 'new blood'.



## Dorset branch Rally

This year's annual branch rally took place on the weekend of 10/11 July 2010 and was well attended and blessed with fine weather. The prize winners were as follows and there are some photos on the website (both on the 'Rally' and Photo pages.)



Dorset Concours - David Grice  
Series MM - Laurie Blewer  
Series II - Brian Wood  
1000 Convertible - Ian Barnes  
1000 Saloon (1st) - Andy Slowly  
(2nd) Manina Trickett  
1000 Traveller- (1st) Malcolm Jones  
(2nd) Phil Rendell  
1000 LCV - Alan Hammerton  
Custom - Marcus and Sparky Ward  
Modified - Andy Westcott  
PP Convertible - John Parker  
Visitor (1st) Lyn Hammerton  
(2nd) David Reed  
Best Dorset Branch Car - Roy Gale  
Best Restoration - Steve Ford  
Working Minor - Phil Traves

Longest distance travelled (179m) Andrew Waltham  
Avon Heath Cafe Award - Amelia Skeats



## Chairmans Report

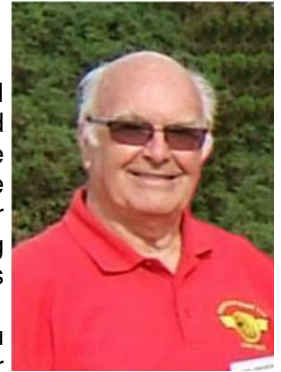
Good evening and welcome to August Clubnight. First of all I would like to thank all my Committee for their hard work and energy to make this year's Rally a success and also to the branch members for their help and for their support over the weekend. Thanks, too to Amelia and Marion (from the café) for the meal on the Saturday night. It was nice to have something different at this year's rally with Roy's Auction, so if anyone has any new ideas for next year's Rally, please let us know. October will soon be here, so put on your thinking caps if you would like a new committee. It will also be time to renew your advertisements in the Newsletter.

The Three in One Run in September slips will be in the newsletter this month. Let us know what you would like to eat at the Plowman's new Restaurant. On to the Electric Museum at Christchurch where you can have a cup of tea and a nice sticky bun!

Tonight we welcome Reverend Timbrell to give us one of his jolly talks. Also next month, at September Clubnight, a very old friend of Ann and mine, Peter Vince who has worked for Abbey Road Studios from the sixties to the eighties will be giving a presentation. Peter and myself played in the same band in the Sixties. (Good days!)

If you hear of any good speakers that would be of interest to the members, please let the committee know.

That's all for now, good motoring, your Chairman, John.



## Advertisements for next year

Do any of you wish to advertise your business in the newsletter? It still only costs £30 for the year which gives an insertion in the newsletter every month (which is available on the internet) plus the Rally Programme in July. Please also let us know if you wish to renew your existing advert for next year. *Thanks. – Ed.*

## Wimborne 3 in 1 Run 18th September

Arrangements have been made for this year's Wimborne Run. We have arranged for the usual visit to Wimborne Market in the morning, followed by lunch at the new restaurant at Plowman's (West Parley), followed by a trip to the Southern Electric Museum at Christchurch (with light refreshments included). Slips are in this newsletter – so please let us have these back as soon as possible to assist with the arrangements.



Having looked forward to the weekend for a long time Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of June arrived at last! We had planned to take Rupert, our 1971 van to the rally but at the last minute David decided that as Rupert only had 110 miles on the clock since the fitting of his new engine it would not be wise to stress him on a journey of 160 miles up the M1 and A1. So Molly, our 1970 Traveller was hastily made ready. At 7.45am we set off from Silverstone, David in Molly and Pam with the Isuzu, caravan and 3 dogs. Our plan was to meet up at Woodall Services some 100 miles up the M1 and this we did at 10 am with 2/3rds of the journey under our belts. Molly ran like a sewing machine at a steady 50 mph . We adjourned to the caravan for a welcome brew and sandwich. Having rested up for quite a while, checked Molly over, chatted to another Minor driver from Leicestershire who was en route to the rally we were then on the road again. We arrived at Harewood House just before 1pm, the sun was shining and quite a few Minors were already on site. With an excellent weather forecast for the weekend what could be better ?



Ex Dorset member's (John Doble) Series II Traveller snapped at the Rally – Photo– D & P Holton

The venue was perfect and soon we had set up camp and got the kettle on. Within a short time our friends Neil and Debbie arrived and pitched their tent alongside our caravan. Some of you will know Neil with his amazing pick up and trailer from the Dorset and Isle of Wight rallies. The outfit used to be quite a striking mauve but now with a recent re-spray is now a pearlescent blue, green or mauve - depends which angle you look from !!! Then it was time to investigate the auto jumble stalls where quite a few treasures were purchased. In the meantime Minors of all types were arriving, including a

contingent of 10 cars and vans from Holland who had just driven over from Hull about an hour away. On Saturday we saw on one of their rally cards that "Distance Travelled =360 miles in total. (160 by road, 200 by sea ) " Well done indeed. Looking round the displayed cars, 2 particularly took David's fancy. One was a van, new to the concourse scene in beautiful Teal Blue absolutely immaculate underneath as well as on top , complete with full photographic history of the restoration. The second was so different, a completely original Post Office van in its working clothes after being laid-up in a barn for 30 years. The theme of this year's rally was "The Wild West" with a group of re- enactment guys playing out a "Gunfight at the OK Corral" scene very realistically and providing great entertainment with their twice daily shows. Harewood House is one of England's greatest country houses, created by the architect John Carr and designer Robert Adams, furnished by Thomas Chippendale and set in a landscape created by Capability Brown - a marvelous setting for the rally. You can enjoy the house and its treasures ; 300 acres of grounds and gardens ; bird garden and 2 cafes. Debbie and Pam spent a very enjoyable 2 hours on Saturday af-

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ternoon looking round the house and gardens. As an additional bonus we had Red Kites circling round the rally field throughout the weekend. The Kites obviously are used to caravans and campers as they swooped down to carry off any discarded food . In fact they didn't even wait for it to be discarded , as on Friday evening Neil and Debbie had just finished their meal outside their tent and were enjoying a chat with David when one swooped down and carried off a chicken leg that Neil had fortunately finished and left on his plate. When Pam returned from her dog walk it was to find three quite shaken people having suffered a very close encounter with a very large Red Kite !



Photo– D & P Holton



Photo– D & P Holton

On the Sunday there was a great display of cars and vans - Rosie Hamilton told us that 400 vehicles were booked in to attend over the weekend. The trade stands seemed to be doing good business, most especially the ice cream van. Disappointingly some Minors left early on Sunday as apparently there was a football match on TV ( England Rovers v Germany United ? ) which they

felt compelled to rush home to watch . As it happened they would have done better to stay at the rally.

All too soon the weekend came to a close and there were just a few of us left who stayed on the Sunday night. We left Harewood House at 9am for the long journey home having planned to travel in convoy as we had on the way up. However that didn't work out as we managed to get split up, David had a quick get away but although only one vehicle behind David at the exit gate Pam, caravan and dogs were held up for 15 minutes by the traffic lights. By this time David had vanished from sight but dutifully waited up the road but it wasn't the road that Pam was on ! So we travelled home separately arriving home within 20 minutes of each other, strangely Pam arrived first but never saw David on the road. Molly behaved beautifully and took the 320 miles in her stride. What a fantastic weekend, if you have never been to a National Rally we can thoroughly recommend it, great venue, great cars, great fun and great company. Roll on next year.

Hopefully by the time you read this Rupert will have successfully attended the Dorset Branch rally and put a few more miles on his new engine.

David and Pam Holton ,Silverstone, Northamptonshire