

Dear View

Did anyone see the final Top Gear of the series on 3rd January? They had the American singer 'Seasick Steve' on the Star in the Reasonably Priced Car feature. He professed his love for British Classics cars and mentioned that a friend of his had made him a musical instrument out of a Morris Minor. Clarkson made the predictable quip that it was the only good thing ever to come from a Morris Minor. (Laugh! ... I thought I'd never start – Ed)



Pics from BBC TV iplayer



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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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MORRIS MINOR REGALIA - DORSET BRANCH



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MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB

February 2010
Volume 13
Issue 4

DORSET BRANCH

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DORSET BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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

This is Colin & Heather Curtis' car at the Mistletoe Meander in December at which we had about 92 participants.

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)

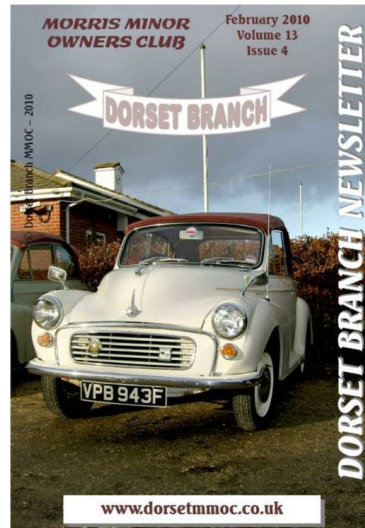
Non Committee posts:

Raffle Coordinators: Chris Tilly and Val Palmer

Spares Manager: John Bainbridge (01258 458749)

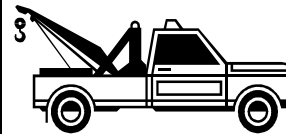
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DORSET BRANCH

february 2010

Volume 13 Issue 4

- Clubnight activity:
- Charity Blind Auction with Roy ('the Gavel' Gale)

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**next clubnight:
normans highway code quiz**

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

Hi Laurie,
Greetings at this festive season. I was wondering if any of the Dorset branch members might be able to assist me in locating a replacement sidevalve engine for my 1949 MM lowlight. I'm looking for the type USHM 3 complete with external oil filter and water pump arrangement. This would make a wonderful New Year present as I have been searching for a while. The condition is not too important as if necessary the engine can undergo refurbishment and rebuild. I have also placed a wanted advert on the MMOC website messageboard but with little response so far. I would be most grateful if you could spread the word of my requirements amongst your members as I do not seem to be getting good leads at the moment. Someone might just have one buried in the garage.

Best Regards, Harry Thornton - Avon Branch
MMOC 8364

Christmas Greetings from Germany (Peter Müller)

Dear Laurie, Dear, your Family and all the Members of the Dorset Branch
Merry Christmas and all the best for 2010.
See you in September at the Beaulieu-Jumble. Peter and Family



MINOR DISASTER AVERTED

FAR TOO many good cars have met an untimely end under the scrappage scheme, so hats off to Bill Cook, owner of Chelmsford Hyundai, for saving a classic Morris Minor Traveller that had been traded in.

Unwilling to see a nice classic car destroyed, he paid the scrappage equivalent (£2100) out of his own pocket. But rather than sell it on, he put it on eBay with all proceeds going to Children in Need, the car being delivered with a year's MoT to the Hyundai dealership of the new owner's choice. The winning bid was £3445. Nice one Chelmsford Hyundai - call 01245 440571 or see chelmsfordhyundai.co.uk.

10 The Caravan Club Magazine

Whats On?

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

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

2010

- 3rd February – Clubnight– Charity Blind Auction hosted by Roy Gale
- 3rd March – Clubnight – Norman's Highway Code Quiz
- 7th March – Bournemouth Aviation Museum (Hurn)
- 21st March – Wimborne Autojumble (ring Liz on 01202 841212)
- 27th March – Inter Branch Skittles – Mortimers Arms (nr Paultons Park)
- 7th April – Clubnight – Fashionable Whirl of the 20th Century – details TBC
- 16-18th April – Sidmouth Weekend – Royal Glen Hotel
- 5th May – Clubnight – Quiz (TBC)
- 9th May – Aubrey Batt Run – (Breamore House 'Steam-Up')
- 15-16th May – Beaulieu Spring Autojumble
- 2nd June – Clubnight
- 7th July – Clubnight – Rally preparation
- 9-11th July – Dorset Branch Rally
- 1st August – Lymington Show – Club Stand
- 4th August – Talk by Reverend Timbrell
- 8th August – Mid-Summer Saunter (more info later...)
- 1st September – Clubnight– Talk by Peter Vince – recording engineer Abbey Road
- 5th September – Wessex Classic Car Show – Bovington
- 5th September – Isle of Wight Rally
- 25-26th September – Kempton Park Juke Box Madness Show
- 26th September – Breamore House End of Season Steam up
- 2nd October – Shaftesbury Carnival Display
- 6th October – Annual General Meeting
- 3rd November – Call My Bluff Quiz
- 28th December – Mistletoe Meander – W.Moors Bowls Club

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2010 Sidmouth Weekend

LAST CHANCE TO BOOK!

The visit to the Royal Glen Hotel in Sidmouth for a weekend next Spring (16-18th April) is rapidly approaching. Nev has made a booking for those who have expressed interest. Additional entries still welcome, please let Neville or Jacky know as soon as possible so that your place can be confirmed. The cost will be £66 per person per night (two nights) for half board.

How to tell you are getting old (SENT IN BY JOHN BLAKE)

Everything hurts- what doesn't hurt – doesn't work.
A gleam in your eye is the sun shining in your bifocals

You feel like the morning after but you haven't been anywhere

Your children start to look middle-aged

You join a health club – but don't go

A dripping tap causes an uncomfortable urge

You have all the answers but no one asks the questions

You look forward to a dull evening

You need glasses to look for your glasses

You turn out the light for economy instead of romance

You sit in a rocking chair and can't make it go

Your knees buckle but your belt won't

Your back goes out more than you do

You put your bra on back-to-front and it fits better

Your house is too big and your medicine cupboard too small

You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there

Your birthday cake collapses from the weight of the candles

Finally, your relations ask if you have thought of the future and made a will!

Bournemouth Aviation Museum Vintage Transport Day

This will be held on Sunday 7th March 2010 from 10 am to 4pm but vehicles being exhibited need to be there by 09:30.

It is free to display a vehicle and there will be plenty to do and see during the day including Military Re-enactment, vintage bus rides, transport and military stalls and catering facilities.

We have some forms at tonight's meeting and we can send these off for you or you can download your own at www.aviation-museum.co.uk

Editorial

Evening all and I hope you have all thawed out now after the spell of winter weather in January. The January Clubnight was a bit of a washout. The temperature outside was well below zero and we were probably lucky to have as many as 14 at the meeting. Needless to say, the quiz was postponed until next month. Sadly, the rather 'chilly' weather has disrupted many personal endeavours, probably the least important of which was the progress on the MOT work on my 911 (it failed last July!). I did manage, however to get the nearside sill welding completed, take it off the lifter, started up and turned around. Its now back up in the air with the driver's side being worked on. I had to drain the engine oil this time since the plumbing for the oil cooler runs along the sill – right where the rust is! I will have to include a service in this phase of works. It's not so easy to get all the engine oil out of these, since they have a 'dry' sump. Mind you, when the engine is not running, about a third of the 12 litres hides in the sump. The rest lives in the little tank in the engine compartment and in the aforementioned plumbing – and of course the aluminium oil cooler tucked in side the front wing. I ordered up the panels during the Christmas break and they have now arrived – so there is no excuse. Wish me luck. Hope to be able to report a bit more progress next month.

Book club plus

Hello all - my sincere apologies for non-attendance at the January meeting; I was beaten by the weather. This was one occasion when I could have done with a 4 x 4, or Chelsea Tractor as they are known in the cities. Are there any enthusiasts in our membership who have sufficient mechanical knowledge to make a four wheel drive conversion for a Moggie? If there are, how about a summer project? I would be prepared to finance the purchase of a suitable pick-up for the conversion, although I would have to source the premises.

Latest addition to our Book Club stock is a copy of *The Caledonian Canal*. This is a fascinating history of this important waterway, from Thomas Telford's first survey in 1801 to the 'present day (1972)'. Telford's plan to connect Loch Ness, Loch Oich and Loch Lochy with each other and the sea by 22 miles of artificial cutting and 28 locks was, according to the book's author A D Cameron, 'on an heroic scale'. No-one needs any imagination to picture the beautiful scenery through which it passes. In 1979 Heather and I attempted to travel the route, starting from Loch Ness, in a hired cabin cruiser. Our trip was a disaster, due to a combination of bad weather, engine failures and Heather's aversion to sailing across anything deeper than a kiddies paddling pool!

Another book now included in our collection is *The Watermills of Britain*. Strictly speaking not transport but they are powered by the rivers which are a transport highway. This is a beautifully illustrated book which traces the history of water power from the earliest horizontal wheels through to the 20th century.

I would like to build up the collection of DVD's and Video's so if you have any, fiction or non-fiction (does anyone have a copy of *The Italian Job* - preferably the original?), please consider lending them into the Book Club Plus. Derek Shearman



Ducks Easter Fun (NOT DMMOC)

4th April 2009

Contact: Arthur Edmonds:
01929 554890



project million

Almost exactly a year ago, I sent an email to Russ Harvey (editor of Minor Monthly) with some words and photos about our club Minor Million restoration project which we started nearly 20 years ago! The car was fairly unique as being the 'prototype' and actually (and legally) had two different chassis numbers. The piece appeared a couple of months ago in MM (without these photos) - and for those who don't subscribe, here is the Dorset end of the story... (Ed)



Hi Russ
Glad to hear you are doing a 'piece' on EOS 444. It was such a shame it left Dorset, if we had known the owner who took it on after the rebuild, was going to sell it, I am sure we would have bought it back again.

We passed all the progress photos on to the new owner and I understand Paul has them now. I only have one or two shots (as attached). I

had been planning to do a short write up for our newsletter on the Million but you will have beaten me to it. As for previous history, perhaps this will help...

I used to work for Bournemouth Borough Council in the late eighties/early nineties and a colleague of mine, one, Martin Dover, lived in Eastleigh and he was the owner of a couple of Minors. I had several Minor projects on the go at that time as well as a young family and I must admit that it took some time to develop an interest. However I eventually succumbed to the lure of an interesting find and I persuaded a couple of Dorset Branch Committee members to come along with me to have a look one evening in 1991 (I think). Martin knew of the Million's potential interest to enthusiasts and together with the registration number, there were grounds for some difficult haggling to buy the car for a reasonable price - which, as an ordinary Minor would have been spares value. A deal was struck and the Branch funds were raided to buy the car. We agreed that we would do the work as a club project and the membership would be welcome to come along and help and possibly learn some of our bad car maintenance habits. Aubrey Batt, one of the founder members of the Branch (now sadly departed) kindly volunteered the use of his garage and drive in Oakdale for the repairs to commence. We stripped it down and assessed what we had let ourselves in for. The great thing about doing a project like this is that everyone has a garage full of the bits needed and if not, someone will always come up with something. I remember getting the almost pristine nearside door for

(Continued on page 7)

secretarys report

Good evening and welcome to February clubnight. Well done to the 14 hardy souls who turned out for January clubnight. Norman's quiz will be used at a future clubnight. Tonight is the annual blind auction so can I please ask you all to dig deep in those pockets for this years charity. We will be asking for ideas for this year's charity so please can I ask you all to give it some thought.

We have lots of events for your diaries for this year. We have been invited to part in an Inter Branch Skittles competition on 27th March from 7pm between Dorset Branch, Hampshire Branch and the Surrey/Hants Branch. It will be held at The Mortimers Arms near Paultons Park and there will be a finger buffet as well. Could you please let me know if you would like to take part. The Aubrey Batt Run this time will be starting from Avon Heath Country Park for breakfast and finishing up at Breamore House again for the Steam Up If you've not been to the Steam Up before I can thoroughly recommend it. A couple of new events this year are The Vintage Transport day at The Aviation Museum at Hurn on 7th March for which I have a supply of entry forms and the Mid-Summer Saunter which will take place on 1st August. We are planning to have a club stand again at The Lymington Show this year. We want to put on an excellent display of vehicles and defend our title of best club stand in 2009.

We are slowly but surely putting together ideas for this years Dorset Branch Rally. If you have any ideas please let one of us know as soon as you can. If you know of anybody who may like to have a trade stall please let me have their details and I will send them a form.

We have had a couple of unfortunate cancellations for the Devon Weekend so if you think you would like to come along after all please see Nev or Jacky. It won't be long now until the weekend and I, for one, are looking forward it. I know September may seem like a long way off but I have already booked our B & B for the Isle of Wight Rally weekend. This is a very enjoyable and informal weekend event, which we try to attend every year. A run out on the Saturday with usually 50 cars taking part and a very informal rally on the Sunday. Once again, if you haven't been before why not try to come along this year.

I think that's about all from me for this month. Absolutely no news on the fleet this time as its been too cold to spend any length of time out in the garage - hopefully by next month I'll have set foot in there!

Happy Minorng
Laurie.

Swanage to Waterloo by derek shearman

Last month we printed an article penned by Derek Shearman about his trip from Swanage to Waterloo by steam!



Here are some photos that were kindly provided by and reproduced with kind permission from Andrew P.M. Wright. (Unfortunately they arrived too late for January deadline.)



On a bitterly cold winter's morning a husband and wife were listening to the radio during breakfast. They heard the announcer say, "We are going to have 8 to 10 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the even-numbered side of the street, so the snowploughs can get through." So the good wife went out and moved her car.

A week later while they are eating breakfast again, the radio announcer said, "We are expecting 10 to 12 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the odd-numbered side of the street, so the snowploughs can get through." The good wife went out and moved her car again.

The next week they are again having breakfast, when the radio announcer says, "We are expecting 12 to 14 inches of snow today. You must park...." Then the electric power went out. The good wife was very upset, and with a worried look on her face she said, "I don't know what to do. Which side of the street do I need to park on so the snowploughs can get through?"

Then with the love and understanding in his voice that all men who are married exhibit, the husband replied, "Why don't you just leave the ***** car in the garage this time." (sent in by Dave and Jackie)



Here are some photos that were kindly provided by and reproduced with kind permission from Andrew P.M. Wright. (Unfortunately they arrived too late for January deadline.)

(Continued from page 6)

about £10 after bleating on about how important a project this was and how it would be helping to support the Branch! I think I also got the rust-free bootlid thrown in for another few pounds.

We had to put in a sizeable order for new floor and chassis repair panels, though and Chris Atkinson and I set about the task of renewing the metalwork with his MIG

welder. We had a neighbour who was an ex-Morris employee and in his retirement, he used to rebuild engines and gearboxes and other components. He had a 948 engine and gearbox which he had just finished so we had those and I think he either gave them to us or we swapped them for some other stuff. When the welding was done, I recall that the car ended up in my garage for the lilac paint job. Just before it was finished, we had a visit from a previous owner - Rod Forrest. He now lives in Australia and was over for a holiday. Coincidentally, Rod is, I believe, also known to the current owner through another car club.

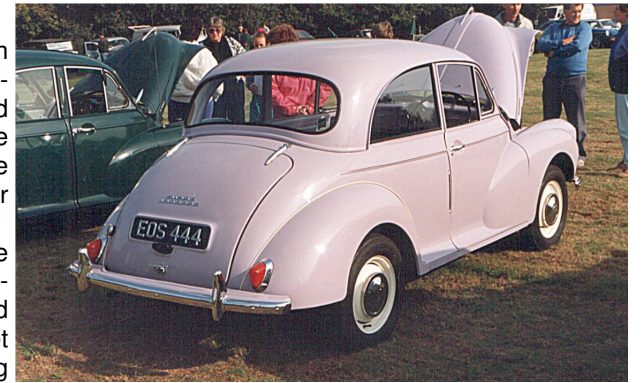
I think EOS was finished in Spring 1992, and its first outing was to a local show at Merley. (see photo). It was sold to Peter Challen, (who, coincidentally was then my boss at the Council). They took it



along to most of the shows for a year or two and then they stopped coming to the meetings and we subsequently learnt that the car had been sold around 1995. We saw the car at the 1998 National MMOC show at Blenheim but lost touch until I noticed a letter in August '07 Minor Matters from Paul where the registration number was mentioned and it caught my eye. We subsequently made contact and intended to meet up some time - but alas this has not happened yet.

The garage photo was taken after final assembly in the Wood garage. The photo showing a partly dismantled car was taken at our Branch Rally in Christchurch in 1991 where we trailered the car to show its progress at that time. The other shot was taken at Merley on its first official outing and it is parked next to our green 4 door (which we still have)

I am looking forward to seeing your article and I hope this info is of use to you.. Cheers and Happy New Year, Brian



dmmoc website



Home



Who are we?

Welcome to our new website:

The new version of the website is launched for 2010 we hope it meets with your approval. In common with most 'new' things, the photo archive section is being worked on - so please be patient.

Morris Minors in Dorset

The DMMOC is an official branch of the UK National Morris Minor Owners Club. We are a part of, and receive support from the MMOC although we do have our own membership. So, we encourage our members to be paid up members of the MMOC also.

Did you know we now have a *new-look* website for the new year? We decided a few committee meetings ago that if we purchased some space with a hosting service we could expand the site and retain a greater amount of 'archive' material on it. It went 'live' on Jan 1st and has picked up quite a few hits. Please let us have any comments (polite or rude) so that we can continue to (hopefully) improve it.

It's still at the same address:

www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk



2009-10 Committee



Good evening and welcome to February's clubnight. Owing to the weather in January the clubnight was not well attended. We have asked Norman to do the Quiz next month. Tonight is the blind auction so lets open our purses and wallets and have a good night for our chosen charity. If any members would like a stall at the Wimborne Market Autojumble on Sunday 21 March ring Liz on 01202 841212 – stalls priced at £15 in hall 5. If you would like to go to the Aviation

Chairmans Report

Museum on 7th March give your forms to Laurie tonight. As you know at last year's Lymington show, the Branch won Best Club Stand so if any of the members have any ideas for this year, please let us know. The show is on Sunday 1 August. As last years Dinner & Dance was not very well attended, could we have ideas about when it would be preferred, and the format etc. We understand that there were clashes with other functions and we would like to avoid that again this year.
Happy Motoring, John.



Wanted

Does anyone have or know of a lock-up garage that would be available for the Branch to use for storing the Branch van. (Preferably in the Bournemouth/Poole area). Please let one of us know if you can help.