



MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB
DORSET BRANCH
 www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk



Dear View

On the left is our new Branch flag which will be featured at club stands throughout the length and breadth of Dorset during the forthcoming rally season. We hope you like it because it took us a long time to decide on it.



I am only 12, you know

I'm not. Let me down quick, here comes the park keeper

Nev and Sue 'act their shoe sizes' at the Sidmouth Weekend recently.



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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.

Polo Shirts -various sizes / colours: £10 each
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MORRIS MINOR REGALIA - DORSET BRANCH



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MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB

May 2010
 Volume 13
 Issue 7

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

The Sidmouth weekend happened in April and we have a photo of Peter and Valerie Webb's ('Marinarised') convertible 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)

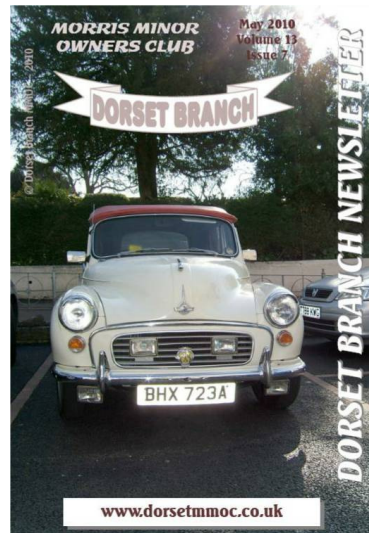
Non Committee posts:

Raffle Coordinators: Chris Tilly and Val Palmer

Spares Manager: John Bainbridge (01258 458749)

Regalia Manager: Richard Cyster – (01202 526660)

Catering Executives: -Sue Blewer, Lyn Gerry



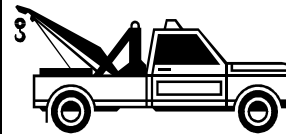
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may 2010

Volume 13 Issue 7

• Clubnight activity:

• Driver Awareness – Dorset Police

inside



DORSET BRANCH

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



FOR SALE

Repaired boot lid in primer – ready to paint and fit £200 (see last month's article on the repair) Also, Series II Front Grill – good condition, ready to paint and fit. £75
Brian Wood – 01202 573501 0510

FOR SALE

Many Morris Minor spare parts – two engines, lots of s/h body panels and other parts. Everything must go. Jason Barnes (Poole)
07971 699 828 0510



FOR SALE:

1966 Morris Minor, MOT'd, Rose Taupe with red interior, 62,000 on the clock from new, £1,950 ono John J on 01202 576690

FOR SALE Trailer (Small) 3' x 4' with wooden sides and back trailer board with electrics and triangles etc, £55 John J on 01202 576690 0709

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FOR SALE

4 door Minor. This car has just undergone a complete structural restoration and is in excellent condition. It has been valued at £5,000.

For more details, contact John Mettler on 01822 810202

The car is located in Tavistock. 0510

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)

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next clubnight:
tba

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

Hello people. Has anyone got a Marina front brake calliper (O/S) by any chance please. Just fitted to my van, but 1 leaks even after resealing!
Hope you all well. Rally looming up, so see you all there!!
All the best Neil Mitchener
(If anyone has one let me know and I'll pass on the news to Neil- Ed)

The West Sussex Branch would like to invite all their fellow Morris Minor enthusiasts from around the region to join them for their Spring BBQ on Sunday 23rd May.
Details of the event are on the poster at May clubnight.
Please contact me if you want more info. (01903 262337 nj.cayley@ntlworld.com)
Otherwise just turn up and enjoy yourself, everyone is welcome.
The venue is Holders Farm, West Chiltington Lane, nr Billingshurst, RH14 9EA
(Just off the B2133- Ashington to Adversane Road. Turn north at Broadford Bridge cross roads, then 0.5m along West Chiltington Lane.
Nick Cayley – West Sussex Branch Chairman

Dear Sir / Madam
I would like to invite you to be involved in a brand new website currently being launched:- <http://www.classic-car-restoration-stories.co.uk/>
It's a new site (which is currently still under some construction) that will bring together all classic car enthusiasts restoration stories, from all around the world.
We would be very grateful if you could ask you members if they have a story and pictures to share with other car restoration enthusiasts to send them into us so they can be listed on our website free of charge.
We would also ask if you could put a link on your web site and possibly a small note in your magazines about this new site. We will of course in return put your website / club details as a link on our site.
I look forward to receiving and reading the tales of peoples car restoration projects. Many thanks for your time.

Hello Brian
I was in Tyreland yesterday and they are selling batteries with a "lifetime" guarantee. It is valid for as long as you own the car. I told them that I had owned my Morris Cowley since 1964 but they assured me that as long as I still owned the car it would be covered.
Perhaps they took a look at me and thought that I wouldn't last long enough to cause them concern!
I called at Ferndown branch but the offer applies to all of their local branches.
They were very happy about it being mentioned in the club magazine and even gave me a load of pens to hand out at the meeting. The quote for a type 038 battery for the Minor was about £52:50p. Regards, Dave Walker

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Whats On?

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

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

5th May – Clubnight – Driver Awareness Presentation – Dorset Police
9th May – Aubrey Batt Run – (Breamore House 'Steam-Up')
15-16th May – Beaulieu Spring Autojumble
18th May (Tuesday) Bloxworth Skittles evening
2nd June – Clubnight
6th June – Surrey Hants Border Show – Milestones Museum
13th June – Classics at Kingston Lacey (Midget/Sprite club – Charity)
19th June – Sturminster Newton Show.
19-20th June – BPPC – Vehicle & Steam Show Canford Arena
20th June – HAMMOC Rally – Fort Nelson, Portsmouth
7th July – Clubnight – Rally preparation
9-11th July – Dorset Branch Rally
18th July – Breamore – Poole Bay Classics Extravaganza (Club Stand)
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 (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
18th September– 3 in 1 Run. (TBA)
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

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Isle of Wight rally

After a couple of requests for information from Dorset members about the branch rally on the Island this year, I have received the following from Dave Gilliam from IoW Branch.

I can update you on a couple of things regarding our Rally, obviously the basics are as in Minor Matters. We will be having our usual Saturday afternoon drive, and this year we are going to Robin Hill. It is reasonably close to Havenstreet, so we will be going on a circuitous route to make it worthwhile. We have negotiated a VERY Special entry rate into the Park. We have discussed providing some sort of proof of identity on entry to help control the entry to the Park. Saturday evening there will be our traditional BBQ, then on the Sunday it will be much as last year, Shanklin Town Band, Autojumble, a model stall, and whatever else we can get, plus the usual Bus trips, and concession rates on the trains. Free entry once again, sponsored by Minor Magic, and Wight Business Services this year, our Printers. Usual Raffle etc. Our new Rally organiser is the local council Returns Officer, and so is very tied up with Election issues at present. When you apply for a Rally Entry form, the paperwork to get a ferry discount will be sent out with it. address is:- Clive Joynes, 9, Castle st, Carisbrooke, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 1NS, or email iow.mmocrally@gmx.co.uk.

Dave

PS My wife and I are off to a Rally in Windsor first weekend in May, it is a new one, modelled on the now well established IOW Classic International Charity Extravaganza.



Dave Walker suggested members might like to know of this place in Cranborne, which specialises in Minis but does carry a few parts like points, condensers etc for the Minor. The shop is open 9-5 and Saturdays by appointment only.

Telephone: workshop : 01725 517345/517878

shop: 01725 517999

Email: info@bjautobits.co.uk

Web: www.bjautobits.co.uk

Editorial

Good evening all and welcome to the May newsletter. We have had a good April with lots of sunny weather, which was evident on the weekend 'holiday' to Sidmouth. We opted out of attending in a classic ("shame"). The plan was to go in the 911 but that was some time ago when there was an outside chance of finishing it in time. There are some photos of the weekend in this newsletter (and on the website) - including a group photo which I will try to print off for those that want them at the clubnight. The Rally season is also 'hotting' up now so lots of events to look forward to. Hope to see you at some of them. We now have a branch flag (see back page) so this will be raised at every possible excuse. Anyway, just a short ramble this month, Cheers for now Brian.

Book club plus

My sincere apologies for not giving Brian my ramblings for last month's Newsletter: Heather and I had an unexpected and short notice invitation to go to the Scilly Isles for a few days holiday. The wife of friends of ours works for a local businessman who



has a time share on Tresco and we couldn't pass up opportunity of a helicopter flight, from Penzance to Tresco, which has a Mediterranean climate. Should anyone want to know more about this enchanting island, please talk to me at the next meeting.

New additions to Book Club Plus include the Morris Minor Catalogue, which is a 1980 copy of the parts catalogue for the Morris Minor Centre in Bath. Useful if you need to identify 'what goes where'. Ignore the price list! We are also lucky to have acquired a second edition copy of Motor Car Maintenance and Overhaul. I cannot find a publication date but I would guess this to be pre-1939 and it may be useful to car owners with motors of this era.

Laurie has come up trumps again - this time with a copy of 'the original classic (these words are printed on the cover!)' video Genevieve which starred Dinah Sheridan, John Gregson, Kay Kendall and Kenneth More.

Couple of months back there was an advert in the Newsletter for a trailer, based on a Traveller back axle and rear springs. I have acquired this and my Blacksmith friend and I are in the middle of rebuilding it. When finished it will have a timber body, built as a replica to the wooden back of my pick-up, plus Morris Minor wheels and hub-caps. I would like to make this available, as a short term loan to any MMOC members, for a charity donation to be agreed with the Committee.

See you all at the May Meeting? Derek

Embarrassing breakdown

Always wear clean underwear in public, especially when working under your vehicle. From the Daily News comes this story of a Leicester couple who drove their car to ASDA, only to have their car break down in the car park.

The man told his wife to carry on with the shopping while he fixed the car.

The wife returned later to see a small group of people near the car. On closer inspection, she saw a pair of hairy legs protruding from under

the chassis. Unfortunately, although the man was in shorts, his lack of underpants turned his private parts into glaringly public ones..

Unable to stand the embarrassment, she dutifully stepped forward, quickly put her hand UP his shorts, and tucked everything back into place.

On regaining her feet, she looked across the bonnet and found herself staring at her husband who was standing idly by watching.

The AA mechanic, however, had to have three stitches in his forehead.

Andy and Julie tie the knot recently. Congratulations from the Branch to you both.



We understand that branch member Ray Driver is on the mend following a spell in hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery. We understand that there was a near miss at Poole railway crossing involving a wheelchair which has a similar 'gauge' to the railway.



MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB

DORSET BRANCH

RALLY

SUNDAY 11TH JULY 2010
AVON HEATH COUNTRY PARK
(NR. RINGWOOD)

Rally forms have been distributed and you can get them and other info from the web site Rally page at www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk

Secretarys report

Good evening and welcome to the May clubnight. Sorry about the mess up at the April clubnight with the hall but a very well done for managing to raise £130 in the blind auction. It was a sterling effort and a good amount to donate to this year's charity. Tonight we will be having a talk by a representative from Dorset Police on "Driver Awareness".

I hope that everyone who came down to Sidmouth for the Devon weekend had a very enjoyable weekend. We've never been to Sidmouth when it didn't rain before! We decided to visit the Pecorama at Beer on Saturday morning and Louise had a great time on the trains and in the playground. The "grown-ups" also seemed to enjoy the play equipment! (see back page - Ed). In the afternoon we went on the Seaton tramway. It makes such a difference when the sun is out and the view is not completely obscured by cloud and mist as it has been in previous years! The Saturday evening quizzes seemed to go down very well but I think you all need to revise harder next time for the nursery rhyme quiz! Thank you very much to everyone who brought along raffle prizes. On the way home on Sunday several of us visited the Motoring Memories Museum at Colyford, again. The MG Midget Club was also there and I managed to get some photos of the Traveller "filling up" with fuel at the old petrol pumps. All in all a very good weekend and one which we have already been asked to repeat again in the future.

The next event on the calendar is the Aubrey Batt Memorial Run this Sunday starting from Avon Heath Country Park for breakfast and then taking a scenic route to Breamore House for the Steam Up. Nev and I have organised the route and there are several treasure hunt type questions for you to answer along the way.

We are probably going to have a club stand at The Poole Bay Classics Motoring Extravaganza in July as well as one at The Lymington Show in August. We have been looking for a theme for the stand this year and we have decided on "Teddy Bears Picnic". All we need you to do is bring along a blanket and your Teddy Bear and set up a picnic in front of your car.

There are lots of other events on the calendar for this year and entry forms for a lot of them are available from me - just ask.

It was with great sadness that we were told about the death of Tony before we had managed to finish his car for him - his aim was to drive it at least once before he died. We are still going to finish it off though and his family are going to bring it along to this year's rally in his memory. John and I went to his funeral on behalf of the club and we went along in the Traveller, which took pride of place outside the crematorium.

We will be playing skittles against the Bloxworth Car Club on 18th May. There is no charge for this event. Please try to support this event and if you would like to know more please see one of us or ask Norman who is their chairman this year.

Fleet news now - I thought we wouldn't be going to Sidmouth in Traveller again this year. When I got home from Tony's funeral it was playing up and I thought I'd better give it a going over on the Thursday before Devon. Well, it wouldn't start at all that day so I cleaned the plugs, checked the gap, changed the points and condenser along with the coil and still nothing but we did have a good spark. Next we checked the fuel side of things but everything was fine there. So what was it I here you say? Well Nev said to try another new set of points and she fired up straightaway and ran perfectly! So, there you have it, a duff set of points! I am seriously considering changing over to the new electronic ignition set up when I get around to it as that should stop that problem from happening again. I'm afraid the Lowlight is still not out of hibernation yet this year. She's still "asleep" under her dust covers in the garage. I have done an update on Victoria's engine (which is coming along nicely now) and Brian is going to put it with the rest of the story on pages 8 & 9.

That's all from me for this month, so until next time, Happy Minoring, Laurie.

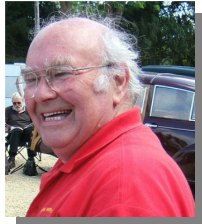


What a brilliant weekend we had in Sidmouth. The sun shone, and Laurie's umbrella didn't see the light of day. Here are some photos. Brian (left) is doing one of the quizzes. The dog sat on the

bay window in Seaton is real (above). Below is one of the railway engines at the Pecorama theme park at Beer (a must for railway enthusiasts).



Chairmans Report



Good evening and welcome to May Clubnight. I would like to thank the club members last month for supporting the charity mock auction. Also apologies for the inconvenience of the double booked room. In spite of this we managed to raise £130.00 for our chosen charity. The committee has looked at



Photos courtesy of John Jenkinson

the Southern Electric Club diary for the rest of the year to make sure that no other clubnight has been double booked. Also, on July clubnight it is world cup football so our room will be used for the big screen television so we are going to have a run out somewhere. The Lord Mayor's Show is nearly full. I have 40 booked and 10 places to go. The coach is a 50 seater. I had a phone call from the Bournemouth University of Film Making and Arts with a request for two cars for a film-

ing (with a day's notice!). A Morris Minor and my Mercedes SL190. Mike Sheppard and I spent all day filming at Tiptoe near Sway, filming a murder scene at a very nice place called Tarrant House. I would also like to thank Mike for helping us out at short notice. It was nice to see the weather for the Devon weekend was sunny and warm. First time for many years! I gather they all enjoyed the event.

Get well soon to Ray Driver, who has undergone an operation recently; hope to see Ray and Helen at the Aubrey Batt Run. The Three in One Run will be on the 18th September 2010 starting at Wimborne Market. The run has yet to be arranged. We are still looking for a Branch Member to run the Bric-a-Brac stall at this years Rally – please let the committee know. Don't forget to send in your Aubrey Batt entry forms for the run on May 9th.

Congratulations to Andy Wescott & Julie Morey on their wedding at Ringwood Registry Office on 15th March (See photo on page 6).

We were sorry to hear that Tony from Avon Heath Country Park Café passed away on 5th April. Our thoughts and condolences go out to Marion and his family. Unfortunately, Tony never got to have a ride in his Morris.

Happy Motoring, your chairman, John Jenkinson.



Mike had to 'crash' his MM into a tree for the sake of the film. Such devotion to duty is remarkable!

Victorias story

Austin 12/4 "Ascot" DeLuxe Saloon

VJ 8965 – "Victoria".

Owned by Laurie Blewer from Bournemouth.

"Victoria" was sold new on 14th July 1936 by George Hopkins & Sons of New Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire to Mr J Powell of Bodenham Farm, Much Marcle, Gloucestershire. The price was £208 plus 5 shillings for painting the numberplates and a delivery charge of £1-5 shillings making a grand total of £209-10 shillings. A Morris 2 seater was given in part exchange for an allowance of £20! As far as I can make out the car was then in regular use by Mr Powell right through the war (I have tax discs going back to 1944) until being sold after his death in 1968 to Mr W C Biddlecombe of Lower House Farm, Upleaden, Gloucestershire. Records after this time are a bit

(Continued on page 9)

Stop press: Engine update

Victoria's engine rebuild is now progressing well though. When we went to put in the new pistons though, another problem reared its ugly head! Nev just couldn't get the pistons in whatever he did. So I phoned Brian who agreed to take the blessed thing back into work the next day and re-measure the bore as well as the pistons etc. It turned out that the new old stock +040 pistons I had bought had come with +060 piston rings! So, where to get some correct rings? After about 6 or 7 unsuccessful phone calls to various firms around the country I finally managed to speak to a chap called Dave Turner who new exactly what I wanted and true to his word within 2 days he had phoned back to say they were ready. Well, that did the trick and the pistons went in easily next time. Another small problem that I've always had is that the top hose leaks at the head. Over the years the head has corroded where the hose goes on to it and no matter what I did it still weeped and water would run down onto number 2 plug. After talking to several other Austin 12/4 owners I found that this seemed to be a fairly common failing. So at Beaulieu last September I bought something called "Quicksteel". We used this to build up the head again and once it has dried hard you can rub it down and file it just like metal so we hope this will do the job. Now all the bottom end of the engine is built up and I have painted the block and the head. This morning (Sunday 25th April) Nev is coming over and we will be turning the engine up the right way and putting the top end back together – valves etc. So, at last the end is in sight.

(Continued from page 8)



patchy but from what can be made out the car was sold to a Mr D K Haines of 11 Picked Acres, Bulley Lane, Churcham, Gloucestershire in about 1984 when an application was made to re-register the car with the DVLA – having missed out on the cut off date for computerisation on the DVLA records. The vehicle was sold once again in 1987 to

Mr J Lewington of Maris Road, Botley, Southampton, Hampshire. "Victoria" was then shown regularly until being being sold to Mr J Marsden of West Moors in 2002, who showed the car regularly in the local area. I purchased her in March 2004.

"Victoria" is now approaching 80000 miles from new on her 1535cc four cylinder side valve engine. The gearbox is a 4 speed with synchromesh on 2nd, 3rd and 4th. A comfortable cruising speed on modern roads is between 50 and 60 MPH.

When purchased she was still wearing her original, but tired, paintwork. She was treated to a full bare metal respray over the winter of 2004/2005 and a new head gasket was fitted along with all new valves. The upholstery is all original but a new roof and headlining was fitted in November 2005. Carpets have also been replaced. As you all know from my reports over recent months Victoria is currently undergoing a full engine rebuild. The original was found to have a cracked block so a replacement was sourced and this is the one being rebuilt for her at present. We hope to have her back on the road this year and ready for another 74 years of motoring.

