

## Dear View



Two British traffic patrol officers from North Berwick were involved in an unusual incident while checking for speeding motorists on the A1 Great North Road . One of the officers used a hand-held radar device to check the speed of a vehicle approaching over the crest of a hill, and was surprised when the speed was recorded at over 550 mph. Their radar suddenly stopped working and the officers were not able to reset it.

Just then a deafening roar over the tree-tops revealed that the radar had in fact latched on to a NATO Tornado fighter jet which was engaged in a low-flying exer-

cise over the Border district, approaching from the North Sea . Back at police headquarters the chief constable fired off a stiff complaint to the RAF Liaison office. Back came the reply in true laconic RAF style:

"Thank you for your message, which allows us to complete the file on this incident. You may be interested to know that the tactical computer in the Tornado had detected the presence of, and subsequently locked onto, your hostile radar equipment and automatically sent a jamming signal back to it. Furthermore, an air-to-ground missile aboard the fully-armed aircraft had also automatically locked onto your equipment. Fortunately the pilot flying the Tornado recognized the situation for what it was, quickly responded to the missile systems alert status, and was able to override the automated defence system before the missile was launched and your hostile radar installation was destroyed. Good Day..."



Whilst investigating an insurance claim in Headington, Oxford, I came upon the 'Oxford Shark' in the street next to the one in which the fire claim was. The headless sculpture, with the label "Untitled 1986" fixed to the gate to the house, was erected on the 41st anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Nagasaki. Created by the sculptor John Buckley, it is made of fibreglass, weighs four hundredweight, and is 25 feet long. Despite the considerable and inevitable planning wrangles which followed, the shark remained. And so it has survived. No one living in Headington notices it much any more, but it caused a tremendous stir both locally and nationally on the day it appeared. It had been winched up by a crane overnight, and although the police were aware of what was going on they were powerless to do anything, as there is no law to prevent a man from putting a shark on his own roof. -Ed.

## MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB

November 2009  
Volume 13  
Issue 1

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DORSET BRANCH NEWSLETTER



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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 £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**

**Helena Carr's black Minor ('Monty') is 50 today (4th November). In celebration, she has penned an article about her Minor experiences which is this month's centre page spread.**

#### **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))

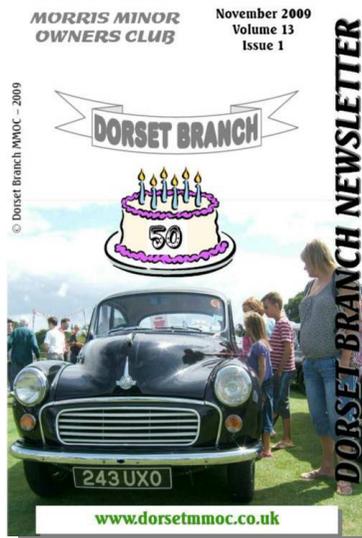
#### **Non Committee posts:**

Raffle Coordinators: Chris Tilly and Val Palmer

Spares Manager: John Bainbridge (01258 458749)

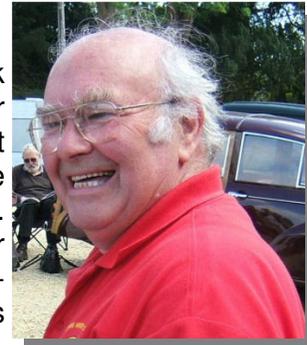
Regalia Manager: Richard Cyster – (01202 526660)

Catering Executives: -Sue Blewer, Lyn Gerry



## **Chairmans Report**

Welcome to November's clubnight. I would like to thank all my Committee members for standing for another year. Also thanks for the good turnout of members at the AGM. We also hope that the members support the clubnights, runs and events over the forthcoming year. It takes a lot of free time arranging the activities over the year. I hope you all enjoyed the Shaftesbury Carnival and Three in one Run on October 3rd. Also thanks



go to Sue at Wimborne Market for our packed lunches. The Wimborne Market management has asked the club to arrange an auto-jumble in the new year. The date is Sunday March 20th. So if you would like a stall, ring Les on 01202 841212 the stalls are 8' x 3' and the cost is £15.00 (inside Hall 5). I hope you have booked your night out at the Branch Dinner and Dance. There is free wine with your meal. Also the Mistletoe Meander run on 27th December with a cottage pie, sweet and coffee or tea and hot mince pies. The venue is the West Moors Bowls Club. From 10:30 on. I hope to go to the auction on the 8th November at Charterhouse for the auction of the Morris Minor Million which is estimated to fetch up £30,000.00 (we shall see!). (Is John taking his cheque book?) (See page 15 – Ed) The Branch has purchased some more cards, money boxes and pictures – see the Regalia page in the newsletter or the website – items will be available at the clubnight. I hope you all enjoy the Call My Bluff quiz (by Graham Jarvis) this evening. Happy Motoring – John.

Polo Shirts -various sizes / colours: £10 each  
Baseball Caps: £9.50 each  
Fleeces £20.00  
Sweatshirts £14.00  
Beanie Hats £8.50  
Assorted Greeting Cards Packs of 6: £7.00 per pack or £1:35 each card.  
Large Cards -Asst £1.50 each  
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Beaulieu Money Boxes £5.00 each  
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Keyrings £1.99 each  
Notepads £1.00 each  
Ceramic Traveller Money Box £12.50 Ea  
NEW Ceramic Traveller Money Boxes £9.50  
Morris Minor Car Stickers £ 1.00 each  
2008 Club Event DVD £3.00  
Branch Keyrings £1.00 each  
Model Morris Minors - £3.50 each.

## **MORRIS MINOR REGALIA - DORSET BRANCH**

Our Branch Regalia stock is managed by **Richard Cyster** and is available at clubnights and our outdoor

# Children in Need Run



Unfortunately, the organisers have left it too late to contact us to make the arrangements and unfortunately this even has now been cancelled.

**Saturday 14th November at Wimborne Market**

# mmoc dorset branch newsletter

november 2009

Volume 13 Issue 1

- Clubnight activity:
- Call My Bluff Quiz



DORSET BRANCH

## inside

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This Month's New Members /Letters to the Ed	4
Editorial	5
Letters to the Editor	5/6
3 Counties Skittles Evening	7
Wimborne Market Run	8
Secretary's Report	9
Monty at '50'	10/11
Tony's Minor Project	13
For Sale and Wanted (etc)	14
Minor Million and Mistletoe Meander	15
Dorset MMOC Book Club	16
What's On	17
Chairmans Report	19

## next clubnight: noggin and natter

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.

## 2009 dinner and dance

The arrangements for this year's Dinner Dance have now been finalised and it will be held on 28th November at 7:00 for 7:30 at the Quality Hotel in Bournemouth.

Rooms are available for £28 per person per night for bed and breakfast. Please make your arrangements yourself and mention the Morris Minor function. The address is 47 Gervis Road, Eastcliff, Bournemouth, BH1 3DD. Phone 01202 316316

The cost is £20.00 per head for club members (and partners) and £22.00 for non-members. This includes the meal, wine on the table and live entertainment. The menu choices will be required at the time of booking and the forms are now available from Jacky or Laurie or on our website. Final numbers and payment will be required by the November clubnight please – the menu was published last month and if you missed that it is also on its own web page!

Get your entries in or else I will have to drink all this wine myself



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## Whats on?

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

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

### 2009

4th November – Clubnight -Call My Bluff type quiz  
7-8th November – Restoration Show, Shepton Mallet  
(14th November – Children in Need Run – Wimborne **CANCELLED**)  
28th November – Dinner and Dance Quality Hotel, Bournemouth  
2nd December – Clubnight – Natter and Noggin.  
27th December – Mistletoe Meander meet at 10:30 W.Moors Bowls Club

### 2010

7th March – Bournemouth Aviation Museum (Hurn)  
20th March – Wimborne Autojumble (ring Les on 01202 841212)  
16-18th April – Sidmouth Weekend – Royal Glen Hotel  
7th May – Aubrey Batt Run – (Destination TBA)  
9-11th July – Dorset Branch Rally  
5th September – Wessex Classic Car Show – Bovington

## Articles for the newsletter

I know that a lot of you out there have other cars – not just Morris Minors – (and not even Morris Minors in some cases!) Whilst not wishing to make this journal into a general classic car newsletter, we (the committee) feel that the occasional article featuring non-Minor subject matter would be of interest to our readers. So, when there is not too much on the telly over the winter, lets have some articles (with pictures) about your 'other' motoring experiences. Thanks – Editor.

## front covers

Can I make a general plea for your digital Morris Minor photo shots for the front cover of future newsletters. I am beginning to run out and I am sure you would like to see some of your own work on our newsletter. They should be (preferably) Morris Minor related, be 'portrait' orientation and of reasonably good resolution. Thanks. Brian

## Dorset Branch Motoring Book Club

Hello Brian. Referring to our conversation at the last MMOC meeting, I have about 40 motoring and associated subject books which belonged to my father and were published in the 50's/60's and 70's. These are probably best described as 'social reading' - no workshop manuals - and I would like to make them available to other people to read without me losing possession of them. My idea is a 'lending library' - I could bring to our monthly meeting a selection of these books together with a complete list of all the titles available. Mmoc Members could either borrow a book I had with me, returning it at the next meeting, or order one from the list and I would bring it to the next meeting.

Would other MMOC Members have books they would like to make available under this scheme?

I would need to look at the possibility of getting each book fitted with a protective cover; similar to those used by the public library. The cost of this could be covered by members paying a small amount each time they borrow a book. Any excess of income over expenditure at the end of each year could be donated to a Charity.

Here are some of the titles I have -

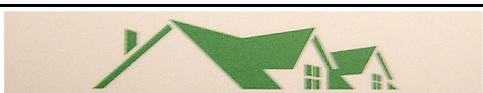
Title	Author or Compiler	Published
The Mad Motorists	Allen Andrews	1964
British Lorries	C F Clapper	1973
Best Motoring Stories	John Welcombe	1959
W O - an Autobiography	W O Bentley	1958
Renault	Saint Loup	1957

+ one each on steam cars/motor cycles/stationery engines/traction engines/ the Vickers Vimy/Cornish mail & stage coaches/etc.....

To add up to date interest I also have titles such as -

Damon Hill	Alan Henry	1996
Morris Minor - the Biography	Martin Wainwright	2008

**Derek Shearman**



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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.

## Editorial

Welcome to the 'bumper' first edition of volume 13 (hopefully nicely chromed and not rusty). We have put an extra sheet (4 sides) in this month, to get everything in, so this month there are 20 pages! We may not be able to manage it every month, but there are quite a few events to report on this month together with contributions from members. I am grateful to Helena for the article commemorating the 50th Birthday of her car (today!) Happy Birthday to 'Monty'. It is always interesting to read about the motoring experiences of branch members, so get writing out there and let us have your contributions for the winter newsletters.

The response for the dinner and dance this year was a bit disappointing and the numbers who have booked are barely enough for the event to go ahead. Please consider if you would like to go and join us if you can. The cost is very reasonable (see facing page) and the wine and entertainment is paid for by the Branch so it is really good value.

I have made a bit of progress on the Porsche last month. The nearside sill is nearly sorted and by the time you read this the sill and bodywork damage should have been repaired. It was a bit of a fiddly job, which required the door to be



taken off to make room to get the grinder etc in, but I needed to re-fit it temporarily to ensure that the gaps were OK. The last job was to repair the hole I had to cut behind the 'B' post to get access to the sill 'innards'. The lead-loading kit came in handy for that. I practiced on a Minor bootlid, and I took a few photos for a future newsletter article. All I have to do now is repair the other side, fix the other bits of rust around the edges and get it sprayed. Easy! Another 12 months at least, then!

## Letter to the Editor

Hi Brian,

My Godson Philip has taken on quite a project. Please see [www.cppn.co.uk](http://www.cppn.co.uk). Do you know of anyone who may be able to give him some advice locally (he lives in Andover) or spare parts info etc!

Regards, Eddie Gilmore  
(I'll pass on any offers – Editor)



## Letter to the Editor

Brian,

Thanks for latest Newsletter, I of course immediately recognised the location of your photo in the centre pages of the October newsletter!

In fact, I have a Frances Frith book of Island photos, ISBN1-85937-114-0, and just flicking through it reminded me that several photos in it feature Minors, but as far as I can make out, not one of them has an Island registration number!. Two photos, N113003, and E139058, feature vans, both with London registrations, XUV, and UXV. A Traveller in Bembridge has a roof rack fitted with advertising boards on it, and this too has London plates, and a photo purportedly taken in 1955 shows a Surrey registered Minor 1000 coming off the ferry at Yarmouth. Year too soon? The Lowlight in the Bullring picture is registered in Leeds. Incidentally, the Bullring in question can be seen next to the traffic island in the middle of the road, and has now been moved to the side of the road. It was used to tether a bull to, and used in Bull Baiting. If the people at the bus stop hoped to get to Sandown, they were the wrong side of the road, this was the stop for the no 16 to Ryde!

One of the Frith pictures is of Seaview Suspension Pier; is no 66340, and is wrongly described as a Bridge. My father used to spend many a night fishing and prawning with drop nets from this pier. It had fallen into disrepair, and closed, but of course that did not stop him. I well remember him coming home with a respirator bag of prawns, and all of us sitting around of an evening, shelling them still hot! One evening a real bad storm blew up whilst he was fishing, and he got home around 1am. When he went to work in the village the next day someone told him the pier had blown away overnight. He poo-poo'd it, for of course he had been there, but had to believe it when his own eyes told him the truth. It was well and truly gone.

Just like me, a lifelong sailor, he could not swim either! I would be happy to lend you the book if you wish,

Dave Gilliam. (Isle of Wight Branch – MMOC)

PS. I saw a plea for Traveller side glass. I have several bits in my garage that are no good to me, but it is getting it to you or Laurie, and then presumably on to Germany. Anyway, let me know if it is wanted.

*(Dave, thank you for your response and the extra info about the photo. – Ed )*

Members may be interested in a self catering apartment and B&B about 100 miles South of Cherbourg. The owners (who are English) are interested in motor bikes but were in the process of buying a 1967 Simca 1501 auto! Very rare.

If anyone wants the details of this place which is about half way between Cherbourg and Le Mans it is:-

Ralph and Cathy Watts La Turliere 53120 Colombiers du Plessis France. Tel 00332 43 00 04 36; e-mail cathryn.watts@wanadoo.fr  
[www.wattsinfrance.co.uk](http://www.wattsinfrance.co.uk)

## Auction Car is one in a million



A car in a million is set to be sold by auctioneers in North Dorset.

The millionth Morris Minor to roll off the production line is about to go under the hammer of Sherborne auctioneers, Charterhouse. Matthew Whitney of the town's Long Street sale rooms said the car, resplendent in a limited edition lilac paint job and badged as a Morris Minor 1,000,000, could fetch up to £30,000.

"We are always fortunate to

receive some interesting cars and motorbikes in the sale, but this particular Morris Minor is probably the best known Morris in the car world as it is the millionth Minor off the production line," said Mr Whitney.

The Morris Minor was the first ever British production car to sell 1,000,000 cars and was produced for nearly 25 years from 1948.

The car will be sold in a special auction of vintage vehicles at the Bath and West Showground on November 8.



*Article and photo from Bournemouth Echo (North Dorset) Online*

## Mistletoe meander 27th december

Don't miss the Mistletoe Meander on the day after Boxing Day, this year.

The entry form is in this newsletter or available on line on the website:

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

We are meeting at 10:30 at the West Moors Bowls club with a choice of road runs returning back for lunch at about 1pm.



## for sale 🚗 Wanted 🚗 Club notices

### FOR SALE: PRICE REDUCED

1966 Morris Minor, 1 year's MOT, Rose Taupe with red interior, 62,000 on the clock from new, £1,950 ono John J on 01202 576690 0709



### FOR SALE:

2 Modern front reclining / Adjustable Front seats in light blue vinyl. They cost £279 each when new. Will accept £100 each. Des Waller 01202 573403 0809

### FOR SALE

Dorset registration **PTK 210** on retention removed from exported vehicle. Dealers are charging about £1300. So how about £650 with all fees paid for transfer. I even have the black number plates if you want them. Dave Walker 01202 877972 or 07810 124039909 0909



### 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

### FOR SALE

1961 4 Door saloon, Snowberry white with red interior. Complete restoration to original spec. Engine rebuilt with unleaded head. Restored by retired engineer who never got to drive it due to ill health. Only been to get an MOT since rebuild. Please contact Brian Tilly on 01202 383435 for more info. Asking price is £4,250 (ono) 1109



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## motoring joke

Sitting on the side of the highway waiting to catch speeding drivers, a Police Officer sees a car pattering along at 22 mph. Says he to himself: "This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!"

So he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over. Approaching the car, he notices that there are five old ladies - two in the front seat and three in the back - wide eyed and white as ghosts.

The driver, obviously confused, says to him "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?"

"Ma'am," the officer replies, "you weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers."

"Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly..."

Twenty-two miles an hour!" the old woman says a bit proudly.

The Police officer, trying to contain a chuckle explains to her that 22 is the highway number, not the speed limit.

A bit embarrassed, the woman grins and thanks the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask..

Is everyone in this car OK? These women seem awfully shaken, and they haven't made a peep this whole time," the officer asks.

"Oh, they'll be all right in a minute officer.

We just got off Highway 124."

## 3 counties skittles evening



John kisses the trophy good bye!

Oh dear! We got beaten and John had to hand over the trophy to Bruce this year. Thanks to those valiant souls who tried to uphold the honour of the Branch. I must say 3 C's member Alan's technique (right) takes a bit of beating. (We'll have a go at retrieving the trophy next year!)



Alan Sheppard of 3 'C's launches another missile

## 2009 Wimborne 3 in 1 Run

The 2009 '3 in 1 Run' was held on Saturday 3rd October and very good it was too. The weather forecast didn't look very good – wet and windy was predicted for most of the country. In the event it wasn't too bad, with a bit of wind and some light showers towards the end of the day. We decided to give the 4 door a run since it has hardly been out of the town for many a long month and only done about 300 miles in the last 18 months! We all assembled at Wimborne Market in the usual fashion with no less than 24 Morris Minors, 3 Triumphs, 2 Austin Healeys and a Messerschmitt (thanks to Mrs Dee for correcting my spelling). 50 cars entered, all told, which was a pretty good effort. We trundled off to



Shaftesbury at the appointed hour and did our parade through the town, headlights blazing and flags draped over the cars, then watched the rest of the procession. I gather that the evening parade was pretty good as well. Thanks to all those who made it.

## Tony's Minor Project

Friend of the Branch, Tony, who used to run the café at Avon Heath where we have our annual rally, started the restoration of a 2 door Minor, some years ago. Unfortunately, due to poor health, the project was stalled. Most of the hard work was done and the car just needed a bit of finishing. An intrepid



What do you reckon Laurie?

Dunno, but it definitely needs a good wash!



Nev tries the old trick of poking the engine with a broom to get it going (above), while John cracks the whip (right)



Good cuppa, this!

bunch of branch members volunteered to go and see if it could be finished. We went round on Sunday 11th October and checked out the quality of the tea (see photos). We made a list of bits required and nearly got it running. Nev reckons there is a bit of fuel problem, since it nearly started when (carefully) pouring a bit of petrol into the carburettor throttle. We need to sort out the brakes and put the interior together. Not too bad, should be able to finish it, given a fair wind and a couple more Sunday mornings. (Get the kettle on!)

## 2010 Sidmouth Weekend

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. Jacky will be collecting your savings so that you can spread the cost (again as per last time). Deposits of £10 per person need to be received by January Clubnight and final payments by February clubnight please.

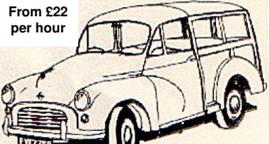


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## Secretarys Report

Good evening and welcome to the November clubnight. Thank you to all the members who turned out to last month's AGM. I know it's not the most exciting evening of the year and your support is much appreciated. Tonight we are holding a 'Call My Bluff' evening with your President, Graham Jarvis, as question master. As you know we are always on the lookout for new ideas and clubnights so if you have any ideas or know of any speakers, please let one of us know.

For those of you who are National MMOC members, please accept my apologies for the lack of a Dorset Branch Report in your November/December copy of 'Minor Matters'. My internet went down for 5 weeks and the period covered the copy deadline. I could have posted it I suppose, but I really did think it would all be up and running in time. I'll have to write an extra large report for January!

The Wimborne Market 3 in 1 Run was very successful again this year with 52 cars in attendance. We've been to Shaftesbury now for the last 2 years so will probably finish up somewhere different next year. We may still take part in the carnival though, as a separate event altogether.

The Dinner and Dance is at the Quality Hotel on Saturday 28th November so please make sure that you get your booking slip in by the end of tonight. The numbers are slightly disappointing at the moment, so please can I ask that you support this event. Please make sure that you get your slips in for the Mistletoe Meander as soon as you can and make sure you let us know if you have any special dietary requirements.

We have been asked to put on a club display at the Vintage Transport Day at the Aviation Museum at Hurn on 7th March 2010, so please keep this day free in your diaries and more information will follow. We have decided on 7th May for next year's Aubrey Batt Memorial Run, so once again, please keep this date free in your diaries.

This weekend, 7th, 8th, November is the Footman James Autumn Restoration Show at the Bath and West Showground. They have also arranged a new event - the Great Western Autojumble on 13th and 14th February. The Bristol and Classic Car Show will be taking place on 1st - 2nd May as it did this year - a much more respectable time of the year!

If you know of anyone who would like an advertisement in the newsletter, please let John know. Brian is always on the lookout for newsletter articles so any contributions would be much appreciated.

Once again, there has not been much progress on Victoria's engine this month but I am confident that some progress will have been made by next month. I'm looking forward to using her a lot next year as she really hasn't seen much daylight since our wedding 2 years ago!

I think that's about all from me this month,

Happy Minoring, Laurie.

# my lovely monty at 50

Monty wins the award at the Aubrey Batt Run Award at the Otter Centre 2008



It has been my dream to own a lovely Morris Minor! Ever since arriving on these shores from Northern Ireland when I enrolled at the then Farnborough College of Technology in September 1981, one of the first cars I seen parked in the car park.....yes, you've guessed it a beautiful maroon coloured Morris Minor. I suppose I fell in love for the first time, sad isn't it??? But since then and with all my friends yearning after the most "in" cars at the time, my heart was always on a Morris!

Well, 28 years after that I am now the most proud owner of 'Monty', a black 2 door saloon with red interior and upholstery and guess what?.....now all my friends with their fast computerised cars want one! It has taken a long time to get him and in such wonderful condition I just can't believe how lucky I am. The reason for sharing all this is quite simple, Monty is 50 years old on the 4<sup>th</sup> November this year and although he is experiencing a little problem at the moment he is in excellent shape. In fact he is older than me! So, I thought I would investigate from whence he came and where he had travelled in his 50 years through a DVLA search. So here goes.....

Monty, whose original number plate was NRS 861, was bought new on the 04/11/1959 by a Mrs Robson in Huntley, Aberdeenshire she subsequently sold it locally on the 23/07/88. In February 1989 Monty moved to another owner in Ellon (we are still in Scotland by the way, keep up!) and this owner, Mr. Gow sold it as part exchange to a garage in 1994, also in Ellon. The Morris parted company with the garage in October 2001 and moved on to a Mr.

.....



Mitchell in Pithedden, who subsequently sold it to Mr. Fisher in March 2002 (still with me?? @!!). Guess what, Monty moved to the other end of the UK in March 2005..... Ramsgate! It was during this ownership it was acquired by a Rolls & Bentley (no less, thank you) dealer in Uxbridge. This dealership retained the number plate NRS 861 and 243 UXO was born. It was bought by Charles Ware in Bristol for the first time who sold it on in December 2005 to Mr Huddart in Colchester; the latter owner sold Monty back to Charles Ware early on in 2008. Finally (phew!), Monty came to me via Charles Ware on the 03/03/08. So, Monty has been about a bit, but he truly is the apple of my eye!

And the original number plate? Well, tongue in cheek I wrote to the Uxbridge address not knowing if it still existed or indeed if the person did, it turned out to be the Rolls & Bentley dealer who



Monty at the 09 'Meander

wanted £1,750 for the plate – well, I can't stretch to that so I don't think I'll be buying it unless my premium bond comes up.

A crowning glory on

top of owning such a lovely car, Monty was awarded the Aubrey Batt Trophy in

the 2008 run. This was just fantastic and such sweet icing on the cake for me.....This leaves me just to say

## HAPPY 50<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY MONTY

you have brought me such joy and you are a dream come true!  
Helena Carr, (T. 01590 677436)

PS. If anyone can help me in finding out Monty's original price I would be grateful!

*Thanks very much to Helena for this, and if anyone can help with contemporary prices – I can pass the info on to Helena. Any other articles from members are welcome, so get your writing hands busy during the winter evenings. Look out for the story of 'Alice the Morris Minor' by Tony Boddy next month. Ed.*

