

Rear View

This (side) view was snapped by Dave and Pam Holton at the recent National Rally at Leeds. It shows a 'Traveller Trailer' parked next to it's tow vehicle (Series II Traveller 321 BMT) which I am reliably informed by Sandy Hamilton – no longer holds the honour of being 'the oldest Traveller'!



Many thanks to John Blake and Sue Harrington for the marrow which I understand emerged from the Dorset soil as shown. Very nice it was too!

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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)



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DORSET BRANCH

MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB

September 2010
 Volume 13
 Issue 11



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

Laurie and Vicki's Lowlight MM has now reached the grand old age of 60 and in celebration, Laurie has penned an article for the newsletter.

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)

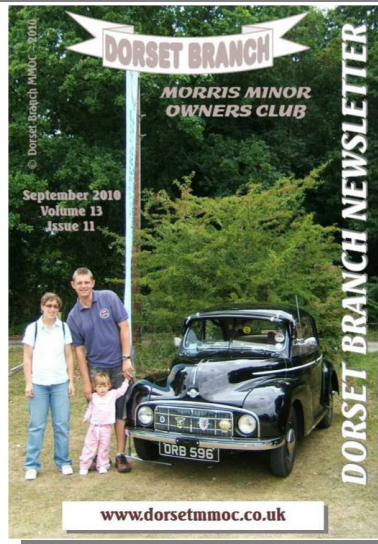
Non Committee posts:

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



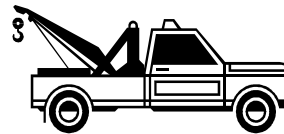
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for sale & Wanted & Club notices

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



Given the fact that we now have a 'modern' van, the old 'Austin' Minor van (STP 9J) is now surplus to requirements and we have decided to offer it to branch members first on the basis of sealed bids to be received by the November clubnight. If the offers are too low we may consider selling on Ebay etc. We have provisionally arranged a viewing opportunity at 10am Saturday 9th October 2010 at 102 Manor Farm Rd, Kinson (John Jenkinson's house).

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND. Whilst the chassis is in fair to poor condition and the rear body does have some rust damage, we have completely replaced the braking system and the mechanicals are fine. All 4 doors are in good condition and one wing has been replaced. It does, of course, boast 4 proper van wheels and the registration number must be worth something.

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

FOR SALE 1961 Traveller, last owner 44 years, with original registration, and original wood. Needs a little TLC. Offers in the region of £1,500.00 Contact Mrs Selwood, 01590 673385. (23, West Way, Pennington, SO41 8DZ. 0910

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)

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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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DORSET BRANCH

september 2010

Volume 13 Issue 11

• Clubnight activity:

• TBA

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**next clubnight:
annual general meeting**

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

Hello and welcome to the September edition of the newsletter. Many thanks to Laurie for his article about his Lowlight MM "ORB" which has reached the grand old age of 60 in August.

Some of you may have noticed the 'new' Branch Van either last month or on the way into the meeting tonight. The more astute of you will have noticed that it is not a Morris Minor this time, but a more modern Vauxhall (of '02 vintage). We have decided to dispose of the 'Austin' Minor Van (see 'For Sale' items on page 14). However, the white van will do us for the time being and has been put into service carting the club gear around to shows and club nights as necessary.

You will find with your newsletter this month, your personalised membership renewal form. The cost of renewal has been kept at the same level for next year **with the £1 discount for early payment**, so please let us have the form and your subscription as soon as possible to save your money and reduce the work load for us! If you are not currently a member, and read this on the internet, you can download an entry form. Thanks to Tony Ware for his article on his red van restoration which is planned for next month's newsletter. Keep them coming in. If you have a restoration story, why not put pen to paper (or finger to keyboard) and share it with your fellow branch members.

Wimborne 3 in 1 Run 18th September

Arrangements have been made for this years 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).



Whats On!

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

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

1st September – Clubnight– **Talk by Peter Vince – recording engineer Abbey Road NOW CANCELLED**

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

20th September 8:00 3 Counties Skittles Challenge

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 – Clubnight – Annual General Meeting

3rd November – Call My Bluff Quiz

12-14th November – NEC Classic Car Show

12-14th November – Lord Mayor's Show.

1st December – Clubnight – Noggin and Natter

28th December – Mistletoe Meander – SEB Club – Broadway Lane

2011

29th January – Dinner and Dance (Venue TBA)

9-10 July Dorset Branch Rally – Avon Heath Country Park

17th July – Muscliffe Community Day

17th July – Poole Bay Classics at Breamore

newsletter advertising

As you may know, the newsletter printing costs are met by the advertising revenue and as a result, it costs the club nothing. The distribution is done on a voluntary basis by the membership secretary (Des). To ensure that this continues, we would ask that existing advertisers continue to support the club. £30 per year, buys an entry in the newsletter (which also appears on the internet) together with an entry in the Rally programme in the summer. Please speak to John or Brian about your advert in Volume 14 starting in November.

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Following the question posed in the Rally Booklet about length of car ownership you might be interested in the following. Ownership of our '57 4 door Minor is now 29 years (1981). A friend of ours has owned his 4 door since 1977. John Jenks has owned the 190SL since 1973. Then there is Mike Sheppard and his ownership of the MM since 1960. These however, are all dwarfed by the following:

Mr. Allen Swift (Springfield, MA.) received this 1928 Rolls-Royce Piccadilly P1 Roadster from his father, brand new - as a graduation gift in 1928. He drove it up until his death last year.....at the age of 102 !!!
He was the oldest living owner of a car from new. Just thought you'd like to see it. He donated it to a Springfield museum after his death. It has 170,000 miles on it, still runs like a Swiss watch, dead silent at any speed and is in perfect cosmetic condition. (82 years).

Next years newsletters

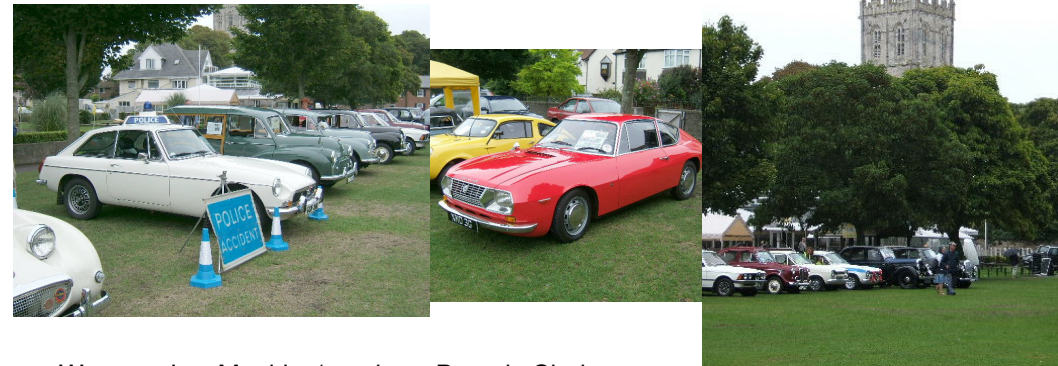
As most of you will know, the newsletter is available on line, however, from the next volume (14) which begins with the November issue, the current internet version will only be available to paid up members. A 'username' and 'password' will be issued with the membership cards. Since the subscriptions have been kept to a minimum, we do not think that this will be a problem and might encourage regular readers to join the Branch.

Shaftesbury Carnival

We have been asked to participate in the Shaftesbury Carnival again this year. Whilst it will not be part of the 3 in 1 run (see below) as it was last year, we will make a day of it. It is on Saturday 2nd October and we plan to meet up at Avon Heath for an 11:30 departure for Shaftesbury.



CCOTP Christchurch 22 August



We saw Ian Meakin (previous Branch Chairman) at the CCOTP Christchurch Show the other weekend and he showed me this article which appeared in the Daily Mail.

"Like millions of us, I adored 'Ashes to Ashes' and savoured 'The Sweeney', but in all the episodes I don't recall Reagan or Hunt ever answering a 'shout' by jumping on a bus.

Last week, when a grandmother found a shotgun in the woods in Stevenage, the police response was to send a community support officer by bus. He apologised for the delay and said the bus was late.

A police spokesman said all the force's cars were busy and bizarrely, they needed proof it was a gun.

Must be a spate of grannies with stories of finding guns. Travelling on a bus to collect a double barrelled shotgun is tough to beat though.

Hardly "Fire up the Quattro" is it?"



Workshop feature



Photo 1

Do you have droopy door handles? It seems to be a common fault on the Minor – particularly on the 4-door models (probably due to it having twice as many doors!). The return spring which holds the chromed handle against the small black buffer often gives up and leaves the handle to rattle around unrestrained. This is not a 'show stopper' since it doesn't affect the operation of the door itself, but it is a nuisance and it may annoy some owners (OK, just me then!). The cure is to take

the handle out of the door and refit the spring, which has almost certainly not broken but has come out of the tiny channel cast into the body of the handle to restrain it. The design seems a bit weak since the soft alloy is pressed over in order to stop the spring from 'escaping'. This was probably ok for the design life of the car, but I have seen lots of failed handles like this. The white car in the picture had 2 out of 4 doors like it (Photo 1).

Removing the door handle doesn't sound like much of a job to anyone who has not troubled the inside of a Morris Minor door before. They are rather complex and sadistic devices and unfortunately, the front door handles will only come out when the window frame is removed.



Photo 2

Back doors are a tad easier, but you still have to dismantle a fair bit of the door to extricate them from their resting place. Assuming you have got the handle to be repaired out of the door and have applied Elastoplast to all your wounds (other sterile dressings are available!), treat yourself to a cup of tea and a lie down in a darkened room. When you have regained your composure, you will see the problem (Photo 2), and the little spring can be safely tucked back into its channel (Photo



Photo 3

3 shows one which has not flipped out before). However, the chances are that it will only stay there until you have finished replacing it, put the door back together and then slammed the door with a satisfied flourish of the wrist, whereupon it will doubt-

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 10)

Country Park and that we will leave there at 11:30 on the dot to drive to Shaftesbury where we will assemble at the Medical Centre as usual before taking part in the procession.

Would you believe it? I've got a couple of dates for your 2011 diaries already. Next year's Dorset Branch Rally will be on 9th and 10th July and we have been asked if we would attend the Muscliffe Community Day on 17th July as we did last year. This will most likely clash with the Poole Bay Classics event at Breamore House so please let me know which one you would prefer to do. If there is enough interest in both its possible that a contingent of members can go along to each one. Another suggestion we have for next year is a visit to the Marwell Classic Car Show. Is this of interest? Please let us know. Don't forget that we are always on the lookout for new ideas so please let one of the committee know.

Last month we attended a few shows. The Bygone Days Show at Ibsley was very enjoyable. Despite the unseasonably wet weather we were treated to some excellent aerial displays from a wide range of different planes as well as a wide range of exhibits down on the ground. The following day a small group of us – only 9 cars in total - took part in the inaugural Midsummer Saunter. We met at the Lytchett Matravers craft centre for tea and then took a leisurely drive through some leafy country lanes to the Blue Pool near Wareham. Despite having lived here for most of my life this is somewhere I'd never been and I was pleasantly surprised. We all sat down and picnicked together in the sun out in the car park where the cars were attracting a lot of attention. We negotiated the entry fee right down to £3 per head and enjoyed a very nice walk around the grounds before arriving back at their tea-rooms for afternoon tea. All in all a very enjoyable day out.

As I write this we are supposed to be attending the Purbeck Rally tomorrow. If it doesn't stop raining though I don't think we'll be going. It'll be no fun for Louise if it's raining and muddy and I don't get the time these days to wash all that dirt of the car anyway!!

We're off to the Isle of Wight this weekend for the annual Morris Minor event. This is normally an excellent weekend and one that I can thoroughly recommend. You can just come along for the Sunday if you wish so why not get a car load together and come across?

That's about all from me for this month, so until next time

Happy Minoring

Laurie.



Mid Summer Saunter

Five Minors and four other classics assembled at the Craft Centre at Lytchett Minster for a pre-run coffee and we could just about make polite conversation above the sound of the Bell Jet Ranger in the adjacent field doing five minute helicopter pleasure flights. The 18(1/2) members then set off in a couple of convoys to the Blue Pool near Wareham for a picnic and walk around the site. The weather was pretty good and we had a good afternoon. There is a shop and a café there, together with some good walks/nature trails around the 'pool' which is a legacy ball clay mine. The photo (above) shows the nine participating cars at Blue Pool.

Secretarys report

Good evening and welcome to the September clubnight. I hope you all enjoyed this year's visit by Reverend Stewart Timbrell. His talks are brilliant. I'm afraid that due to ill health we are unable to have the planned talk by Peter Vince this month. Don't forget that next month will be the AGM. The nomination sheet is on the noticeboard so please can I ask that you fill it in? Please can I ask that you return your membership renewal form to Des by the end of October – thanks. It's much easier for him if they are returned within a reasonable timescale.

We have been invited to play the Three Counties Vintage and Classic Car Club for the annual skittles challenge. This will take place on Monday 20th September 2010 at 8pm at the Hamworthy Club in Magna Road. We narrowly missed out on winning the trophy last year so lets have a good turnout and regain the crown.

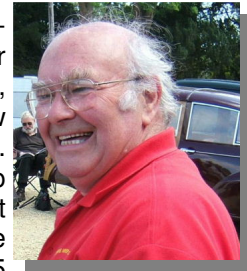
Plans are well in hand for this years 3 in 1 Run on 18th September so please make sure that you get you entry in as soon as you can.

We will also be taking part in the Shaftesbury Carnival again this year. This year the date is 2nd October. We have decided that the vehicles will meet up at Avon Heath

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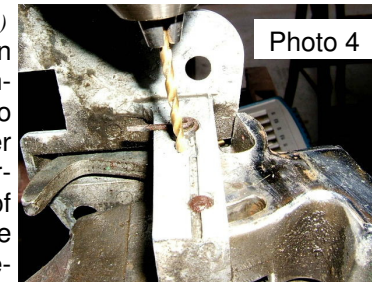
Chairmans Report

Good evening and welcome to the September clubnight. I am sitting here, wet, cold and fed up waiting to see the Bournemouth Air Show on Sunday 22nd Aug. So far, two planes and two helicopters. The weather seems to have put paid to the displays this year. So I am going home to have a large whiskey. It was a good day out at the Blue Pool and it is the first time that Anne and myself have been there. The three in one run is filling up nicely with over 35 cars so far. I am sorry to tell you that my friend Peter Vince has had two more operations for cancer so he cannot give his planned talk on Abbey Road studios at the clubnight. We send our best wishes to him. Shaftesbury Carnival this year is on 3rd October and there will be slips in the newsletter. Don't forget to tell the committee if you would like an advert in the newsletter next year. Also please remember to put your committee nominations on the form on the notice board at the clubnight. We are hoping to organise a dinner and dance in January next year and the 29th has been suggested so keep this date free in your diaries. More information to follow. Anyway, that's all from me, so good motoring, John.

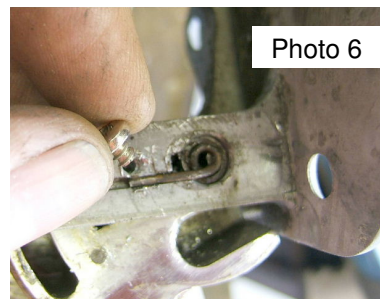
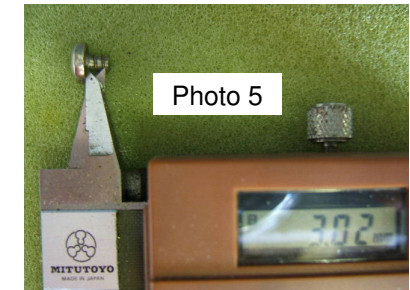


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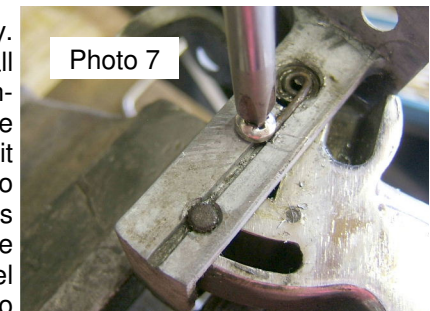
less escape again returning the handle once again, to its limp, former self, leading to further gnashing of teeth and the prospect of repeating the above



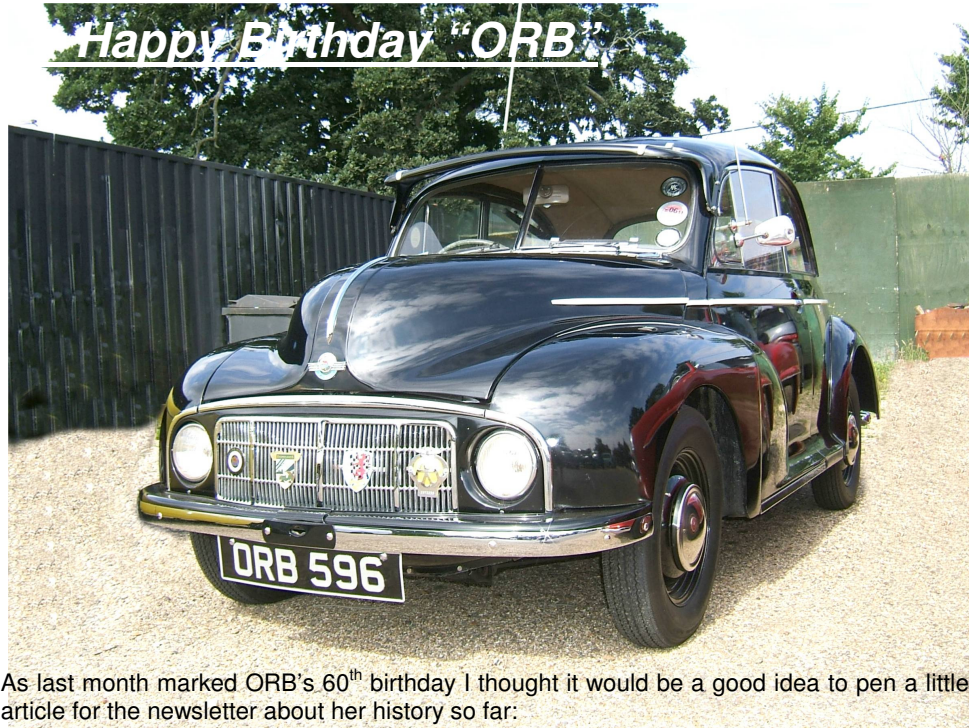
process. How do we fix that then? I hear you cry. My solution, which seems to work, is to drill a small hole (Photo 4) and fix a small, self tapping pan-headed screw to hold the spring in place. You have to use a fairly short screw since if it is too long, it will foul the operation of the chrome handle (Photo



5). The screw has to be fitted close to the channel (Photo 6 & 7) so that the 'pan' head holds the spring in place. Approximately 3mm length seems to work and a hole diameter of 2.5mm was used. I have successfully done this on two cars now and it seems to work. *(Editor)* Good luck.



ORB's birthday



As last month marked ORB's 60th birthday I thought it would be a good idea to pen a little article for the newsletter about her history so far:

ORB 596 was built at Morris Motors at Cowley on 16th August 1950 and despatched to Kennings Ltd, Clay Cross, Derbyshire on 17th August 1950 and registered by them on the same day.

The car was then sold to John Eric Scott of Potters Bar, Middlesex on 31st August 1950. John Scott was a wealthy man who decided to have the colour changed from black to Tudor Grey to match his Rolls Royce! Several improvements were made including the fitting of an interior light, a Smiths glove box lid clock, a Smiths cigarette lighter and door pockets custom made to fit. Mr Scott kept the car for 17 years before selling it to Derrick Wyndham-Lee of St.Albans, Hertfordshire on 16th June 1967. Mr Lee kept the car for the next 30 years. In 1997 Mr Nigel Morley from Cliftonville in Kent heard about ORB which by then had been parked up in a lock up garage, unused for the best part of 10 years. A new floor was fitted and the wiring bodged up to get her going again before she was put back into service. Mr Morley seems to have done very little mileage in the car – only about 1000 miles.

I had been on the look out for a Lowlight for some time and after a chance telephone call to Mark at Canterbury Convertibles I found myself in Kent looking at ORB. I bought her on the spot and took the decision to drive her all the way back to Bournemouth. We nearly made it but broke down just as we reached the top of Poulner Hill! This was in July 2000 and I used her for the remainder of the rally season before taking her off the road in Octo-

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)
ber 2000 for a rebuild. A brand new 918cc sidevalve was found to replace the very tired original unit. This is actually an ex WD unit. They were used as starting engines for Chieftain tanks believe it or not! She was completely re-wired returning it to completely original specification including the removal of the horrid flashing indicators that had been fitted and the reinstatement of the semaphores. The interior was also fully reupholstered as the original was beyond salvation and of course she was respayed in the original colour of black.



It's hard to believe that I've now had ORB for 10 years. I've attended many rallies with her since then and of course she was used as one of the main cars at our wedding. She took pride of place in the marquee at Beaulieu in 2008 for the 60th anniversary display we put on and has appeared in the press on several occasions. There are 1 or 2 little patches of rust now starting to appear again and I hope to get these sorted out soon. I'm also planning to repaint the engine in grey - everyone always moans that I've painted it the wrong colour despite the original engine being painted blue as well.

I don't plan to part with ORB any time in the near future and hope to keep driving her around for many more years to come. Happy Birthday ORB! (Laurie)

