

REAR VIEW



Suddenly, the hilly terrain of the Isle of Wight takes it's toll on Ann who, incidentally, made it here – half an hour before John. (Sadly – no photo available of John recovering!) *photo: blewerfunnyfotos.com*

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MORRIS MINOR REGALIA - DORSET BRANCH

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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MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB

DORSET BRANCH



NOVEMBER 2010
VOLUME 14
ISSUE 1

WWW.DORSETMMOC.CO.UK

DORSET BRANCH MMOC - 2010

DORSET BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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

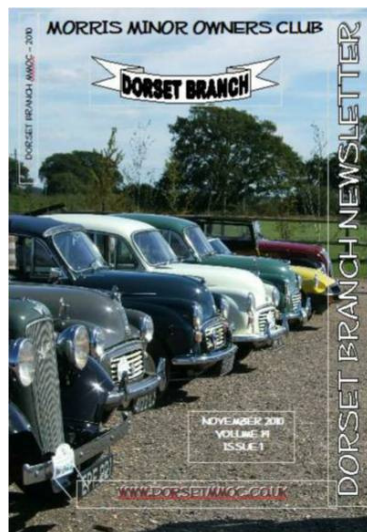
Advertising: Cars or spares for sale or wanted £5 per entry (Free to members). Traders advertisements: £30 per year.

FRONT COVER

This month's cover shows Minors on display in Plowman's car park in lovely Autumn sunshine on the 3 in One Run.

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



MOT TRIP 2011 (MMOC MEMBERS ONLY)

MOT 2011 will be held in the late May Bank Holiday week, (28th May – 4th June 2011) at Châteaude Galinée about 20 miles west of St.Malo. There are various styles of accommodation. If you would like further information, please contact the organisers: Pam and Ash Holmes on 01285 810524 or 07887 743687 or by email mot2011@pandah.demon.co.uk

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

WANTED Combi-Camp trailer tent with awning etc, all in reasonable condition. Preferably the Combi Camp PLUS model the type with the POD attached on the end of the main unit. Neil Mitchener 07754761255 10/10



'Nellie' (ad in last month's newsletter) was snapped up from the internet version of the newsletter and was on its way to a new home by last

FOR SALE 1969 Morris Minor Pick up. Good condition with good mechanicals. Body is reasonably good... £4,500. Contact Roger Cooper 07789 187147 (Romsey) 10/10



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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WANTED Morris Minor spare wheel wanted for the trailer I am building. Price dependant on condition. Derek Shearman - 07593 632721 10/10

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MORRIS MINOR SPARES - DORSET BRANCH

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NOVEMBER 2010

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 1

• CLUBNIGHT ACTIVITY:

• Call My Bluff Type Quiz

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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 to members for download from the Internet usually about 10 days before the clubnight.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the new volume (14) of your favourite newsletter. In the newsletter this month we have the write up and pictures

about Tina and Des Waller's Traveller called 'Pearl'. The car is finished to a very high standard and all credit to Nidor and Woodies who, between them did all the work— and who have kindly agreed to support the Branch and take up advertisements in this newsletter.

Speaking of such, we have had a good response to our call for advertisers and they now have their own, shared page on our website. So please make sure you have a look and support these companies if you need their services.

The grill badges have finally arrived. They are available from the Regalia 'Shop' at a

£8.50 each. We can mail them out if you would like for an extra £1.50 (UK) - outside UK by quotation. I am grateful to Eddie Pate-man for coming up with the idea of 'cropping' the supplied washer so that it will fit through the slats of your grill more easily (with the wing nut fitted). Also the insulating tape idea was his! Anyone who has already bought one can get their modified washer from me if they need it, all new badges sold will have the 'advice' sheet supplied (see right).

Many Thanks to all of those of you who have renewed their membership promptly – also to the new members (especially Mike Smith from Dorset, Vermont, USA). If you are reading this on-line, I assume you managed to successfully negotiate your way round the new pass word security. Cheers for now, Brian



MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB DORSET BRANCH Grille Badge –Fitting Advice

Minor '1000' It is recommended that the badge be fitted using the 'cropped' penny washer supplied. This will enable the badge to be fitted to the front of the slatted grille *without* having to get access to the back (ie removing the radiator). We would also recommend using a spring washer (not supplied) or some 'Loctite' to keep it tight. You may wish to put some insulating tape on the back of the badge to isolate it from the grille slats – all as shown in the photos. When the washer is behind the grille turn it through 90 degrees so that the washer safely spans the two slats each side and tighten the wing nut.

Series II If you wish to fit



the badge to a Series II grille, then you will have to get access to the back of the grille, which, unless your fingers are exceptionally small will mean removing the radiator. The other option is of course, a badge bar.



WHATS ON?

<http://>

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

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 (Elstead Hotel, Knyveton Road.)
15-17 April, Spring Weekend, Glen Hotel, Sidmouth.
9-10 July Dorset Branch Rally – Avon Heath Country Park
17th July – Muscliffe Community Day
17th July – Poole Bay Classics at Breamore

A Minor Triumph! - Groom tracks down his stolen classic motor

A man was re-united with his stolen Morris Minor after fellow classic car enthusiasts turned detectives and scoured the country to track it down. Bridgegroom Liam

Reynolds, 36 was devastated when his pristine Traveller was taken the day before it was due to ferry him to his wedding. So he posted an appeal on the Morris Minor Owners Club website describing his iconic car, which cost £7,000 to restore. Louise Matthews, an eagle eyed enthusiast, spotted it parked near home in Wanstead, North London and called the Police. Delighted Liam – taken to his wedding in a mate's clapped out Toyota – was texted news of its return on the second day of his three week honeymoon in Brazil. He said: "I've had the Morris Minor for 18 years. It has been in the family since my grandparents bought it in the early 1970's. My family were devastated, but I had to park my emotions since I was getting married the next day". Liam, a data marketer from East Dulwich, South London, spent years restoring the car, which has a rare, custom made sunroof. It had gone to the garage for repairs, but was stolen the day before he wed fiancée Sadia Salaam. Liam said: "Louise kept watch on it for 2 hours until Police arrived to collect it." The car buff, who has now inserted a tracking device in the vehicle for security, added: "I have bought Louise £100 of vouchers to say thank you. She has given me back a valuable piece of family history.

Daily Express Weds 1st September 2010



RESTORED VAN GOES UNDER THE HAMMER

Hundreds of buyers packed British Car Auction's Blackbushe auction centre on Monday 13th September for the sale of a beautifully restored Morris Minor post van. The Royal Mail had donated the van for sale with all the proceeds going direct to Barnardo's, the Royal Mail's chosen children's charity sale attracted collectors and enthusiasts hoping to secure the van, which was sold in the correct vintage livery from forty years ago. It raised £8,000 for Barnardo's following some very competitive bidding in the auction hall, with BCA waiving its fees for the sale



Article compiled from Bournemouth Echo 14 Sept, BCA News Website and Post Office Vehicle Club website

"BCA is delighted to help Royal Mail raise such a significant amount for Barnardo's through the sale of this vehicle. Barnardo's deserves support for the vital role it plays in bettering life every day for countless children throughout the UK," said Tim Naylor, PR Manager, BCA.

The 1970 Morris Minor van was finished in pillar-box red and was used for deliveries in Christchurch, Bournemouth & Poole during its initial six years service. It then went into private ownership for a number of years before going back into the Royal Mail fold in the late Eighties when a team of four dedicated Royal Mail employees at the Isle of Wight workshop worked in their spare time to restore the van to its former glory. Morris Minor mailvan SLJ 430H was part of a batch of 1,350 vans ordered by the GPO of which the first 250 came with London registrations AMD 1-250H. The rest of the order followed after the GPO ceased to exist in October 1969 and 270186 was allocated to Head Postmaster Bournemouth & Poole on 12th January 1970 who registered it SLJ 430H on 4th February 1970. It was based at Christchurch delivery office during its Royal Mail service. SLJ 430H replaced an earlier Minor (GYF 58C) and was itself replaced in October 1975 by a Bedford HA 50cf. mailvan LJT 412P (5011308) with Bournemouth & Poole at Christchurch. No doubt it was retained for use over Christmas and it was sold by the Post Office on 26th January 1976. About twenty years ago, it was repurchased by the Post Office and it migrated to Newport (IoW) workshop where its restoration was completed. It was used on the island for publicity events but spent most of its time in the workshop building under cover.

Since its restoration, completed in 1992, the little red van was used by the Royal Mail at local displays, fetes and festivals and it has raised money for charity at a number of events around the Isle of Wight and other parts of the UK.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Brian, I thought you'd like this little yarn...

I bought a 9 month old Smart for Two cdi from

Smart of Poole recently. I've been at them since purchase with various problems, chief amongst which was the gradual decline in the much-vaunted 80/89 mpg fuel efficiency... I'm currently down to 62mpg av on derv. I checked tyre pressures and then thought to check the engine oil - not thinking this to be a likely problem, as the car came with an oil service - and lo and behold - just 3mm of the black stuff was showing at the bottom of the dipstick after 1000 miles of running. Several angry emails later, I receive a rather pained telephone call from S of P telling me that cdi's can burn 1 litre of lube per 1000 miles, and that this is normal. Well, as the lube in question is Mobil 1 5w/30 synth retailing at about £12.00 per litre, I'm now looking to part company with this hard-drinking car fairly quickly! That's far worse than my 948 cc 'A' in the Minor, which drinks neither so much nor so expensively! The more you see of the modern opposition, the better the Minor gets.

Mark Chapman (Dorset Branch Member 320)

Hi Mark, Did you see 'Watchdog' on the BBC the other night? They did an investigation into just the mpg problem suffered by your Smart. If you missed it you can probably still get it on the 'i-player'. They didn't really come to any conclusion except to note some wide differences in mpg but none anywhere near the advertised figures. They tried a comparison under 'test' conditions and generally found that they got even less mpg than the dissatisfied customers! As you say, the excuse always seems to be that the figures are given for comparison only and don't relate to the real world. Cheers for now, Brian

Hello Brian, I was wondering if you accept members from other countries? My name is Mike Smith and I am the proud owner of a 1960 Morris Minor 1000 2 door. (Her name is Moneypenny and looks very nice with white paint and red leather trim) My wife and I live in Dorset, Vermont USA, which is a small rural village in the north eastern part of the United States. Although I am not a member of the MMOC, I would love to join your branch if possible. We travel to England every couple of years and are planning a journey over sometime in late spring or early summer. We have friends in the London area and have stayed in a number of counties, including Hampshire, Somerset and Devon, but somehow have never been to Dorset. From what I can see, we have missed out on a very beautiful part of the country. (Not to mention a pint or 2 of Badger ale!) It would be great to attend one of your events and meet some folks in the original Dorset. Let me know if this is possible and what I would have to do to join. Thank you very much and I look forward to hearing from you. Mike Smith. PS one of those neat grill badges would look great on the front of "OI Pen" (*Mike Smith - now Dorset Member 394*)



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SECRETARY'S REPORT

Good evening and welcome to the November clubnight. Here we go with another club year and it looks like its going to be another good one.

Tonight is the Call My Bluff evening so I hope you all have your thinking caps on.

We have already started to plan next years events. The Aubrey Batt Memorial Run has been planned for 8th May 2011. We are hoping to have the Midsummer Saunter on 7th August. The Devon Weekend is booking up fast so if you haven't booked your place yet get your deposit in to Jacky as soon as you can. This weekend is the Classic Vehicle Restoration Show at Shepton Mallett.

The turnout for the Shaftesbury Carnival was disappointing this year but those who did come along had a good day. Moving the start to Avon Heath was a good decision and the girls in the Cafe provided us with an excellent packed lunch. We are hoping to take part in the Ferndown Carnival next year which takes place on the Saturday of the Dorset Branch rally. I think we need to have a theme next time. My suggestion is Christmas as I think that will be quite an easy one to do – but please let me know if you have any ideas.

If you haven't renewed your membership please get your forms back to Des as soon as you can. I'm pleased to say that 141 of you have already returned your forms. Don't forget to get your forms in for the Dinner and Dance and the Mistletoe Meander as soon as you can.

I have put the cars away for the Winter now. They will only be getting the occasional run out on high days and holidays and then only if its a nice day. I hope to get all three of them cleaned off underneath during the Winter and repainted with a fresh coat of Smoothrite. The Austin does have one planned run out next month when she will be coming out the week before Christmas for use as a wedding car. Lets hope its not too cold as there's no heater and it can get a bit draughty in there! We have bought a bigger modern car as Louise seems to take up more room than you could imagine. We have bought a 2003 Fiat Stilo Multiwagen. Its only done 32000 miles and has every conceivable extra.

Thats all from me for this month so until next time

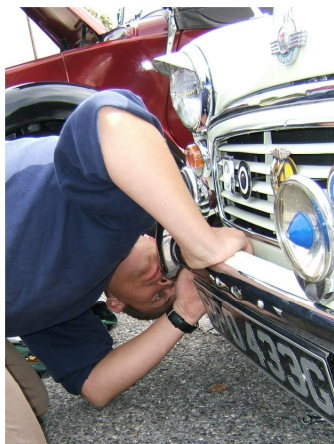
Happy Minoring

Laurie.

DINNER AND DANCE – 29th JANUARY 2011

Elstead Hotel, Knyveton Road,
Bournemouth (good parking!) 01202 293071

£22 per member and family member and £24 for non-members. Please contact the hotel directly for room bookings. The 5 Course menu was in last month's newsletter and is shown on the website: www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk



SHAFTESBURY CARNIVAL (2ND OCT)



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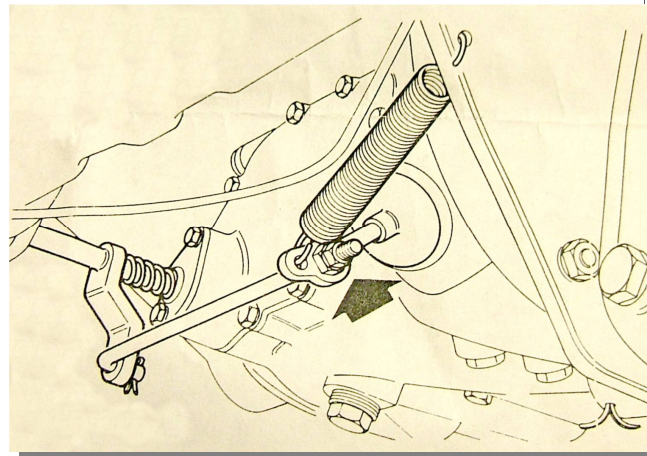
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TECHNICAL TIPS

Here is an old favourite spotted by Neville in a 1981 Borg and Beck Manual and is quite important for your Moggie's well being – particularly if you are having trouble selecting gears. (Incidentally, the first thing to check is that you have sufficient (engine) oil in your gearbox. (Editor)



Insufficient release bearing/ release plate clearance can cause an 'overstroking' condition leading to inability to select gears. Other problems could be driven plate damage or clutch slip.

Correct clearance is achieved by setting the clutch pedal free travel, which for 1098cc vehicles must be 35-38mm ($1\frac{3}{8}$ " to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " measured at the pedal pad. For 948cc cars the setting must be 19mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ "). Use the nut and locknut in the diagram to achieve the correct clearance.

TINA'S TRAVELLER



working to a very high standard with quality wood, loving care and offering advice and support for aftercare. Steve also supplied some planks of his beautiful American ash for Des to recreate the folding parcel shelf to match the exterior wood.

The final assembly was such that we were able to drive Pearl back to Nidor for the final roof spray and finish. The tatty silver

wheels were also re sprayed in old English white for a perfect finishing touch. The friendly team at Nidor took a real interest in Pearl's progress and excelled themselves by making her a



(Proprietor, Steve Foreman)
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"At Woodies we specialise in the Morris Traveller but we can fabricate timber frames for all classic cars. We have completed many Morris Travellers over 30 years, as well as many other wood framed vehicles."

show car to be really proud of. The ultimate compliment came on her first outing to the Lymington Show with this passing comment "Look at that Traveller, she looks brand new. In other words... A Perfect Pearl.



Thank Chaps for a job well done by traditional craftsmen.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Good evening and welcome to November's clubnight. I would like to thank all members for voting for myself and all of my Committee for another year - *against such strong opposition!* It was nice to hear some new ideas for 2011 - such as the dinner and dance in January which, as you know, has been arranged and has a FIVE course meal at a good price. So let's give this event some good support for the new year. We are also getting some new ideas for the rally so keep them coming in. It was nice to see the new Club Car Badge at Clubnight after such a long time. So thanks, Brian for all your hard work and patience. The Mistletoe Meander is coming together nicely and also the Lord Mayor's Show trip is fully booked and ready to go! For those who have booked, please be at my house for parking and ready to leave for London at 4:00pm! I Hope the weather is better for us this year. I am hoping to meet the organisers of the Ferndown Carnival to see what they would like us to do on the Saturday of the Rally in July. Thank you to those who turned up to view the Club Van a few weeks ago. We are hoping to make an announcement about the winning offer at the November clubnight. My Mercedes is now in storage for the winter so that we can start on Ann's Morris Minor Convertible (at last!). Karl from the Forge Garage has agreed to do another day at the Winton MOT Centre in May - date to be advised when arranged. Anyway, that's all for now, Good Motoring, John.

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BOOK CLUB PLUS (BY DEREK SHEARMAN)

Hello - my apologies for missing the August and September meetings - work and other stuff got in the way (and I thought I was retired!?).

As we have increased our Branch Membership over the Summer months, perhaps I should again explain what Book Club Plus is all about. Based upon the collection of my late Father's motoring books, plus other books and videos lent to us by club members, we have some 60+ items available for any members to borrow free of charge. Most of these are on motoring subjects, including biographies of W O Bentley, F W Lanchester, Lord Montagu, Damon Hill..... but we also have books on vehicle manufacturers, pioneering engineers (Thomas Newcomen.....), fiction & non-fiction motoring stories, steam engines etc. Other titles include 'The history of the Caledonian Canal'..... Our spectrum is transport and engineering - sorry, no titles on gardening or flower arranging.

Video titles include the Titfield Thunderbolt, the Italian Job (original version) plus some non-fiction. Please, come and talk to me and I will try to source something of interest for you. Also, if you have a book or video which fit the above descriptions and would like to make it available for other club members to borrow, I promise it will be gratefully received.

PS - I am half way through building a trailer for my Morris pick-up but need a spare wheel. Does anyone have such an item lurking in the back of their garage/ My phone number is 07593 623721. Derek Shearman

TINA'S TRAVELLER

To look at 'Pearl', our much loved 1970 Traveller you may have thought that she was in pretty good condition apart from a few minor rust spots which we planned to rectify with a re spray. On the advice of Nev, we duly presented Pearl at Nidor Bodyworks in Poole to have her beauty makeover. So far, so



straightforward we thought! Unfortunately, on closer inspection by Martin and his team several problems came to light. The wings were hanging on by rusty lace and the headlights looked unlikely to survive another pothole, so precarious was their grip on the wings.

The grille was corroded at the back and the aluminium side panels were beginning to break down. Further investigation revealed the beginnings of rot on the inside of the wooden door pillars at the lower ends. Beauty was certainly only skin deep! A " case conference " was held which felt rather like visiting an old friend before surgery. Martin offered advice and suggestions, mindful of the fact that our budget was not limitless. As Pearl is

mechanically sound we decided to go ahead with replacement of the wings, grille, headlamps and welding to one small area. The colour was to be matched closer to the original Smoke Grey. A decision about the wood was put on hold. The estimate for completion was at this point doubled.



TINA'S TRAVELLER

When we saw the superb paint finish achieved by the Nidor team there was no way that we could put the old, dark and tired wood back on, so arrangements were made to transport Pearl to Woodies in Chichester with the help of Brian Whiteside for complete new wood. The completion time was doubled again, the budget totally blown, summer holiday downsized and Club Rally missed. The beauty makeover had now become major surgery, familiar I am sure to anyone who has ever done anything to a vintage vehicle.



On transfer day we arranged to rendezvous with Brian at Woodies and set off before him. Cruising along the A27 we were startled to see



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Pearl fly past on Brian's trailer at a most impressive speed. Fortunately she was well strapped down! Steve Foreman and his son James made a magnificent job of the wood and those tricky roof gutters, producing the lovely pale ash colour that I particularly wanted. They are traditional craftsmen,