

Rear View

Hello Brian and Jacky. Just a few words to say thanks to the team for making the Dinner and Dance evening such a success. You had it just right. We had never heard of the Liston hotel before but it is certainly one that we hope to visit again. Timing, venue and menu were spot on as was the entertainer. Well done and thanks again, Regards, Dave and Jackie Walker.



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Our Branch Regalia stock is managed by **Richard Cyster** and is available at clubnights and our outdoor events. (The illustrated stock list is shown on the website www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk)

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'Zoodies'	£20.00	Morris Minor Hangers (small)	£ 9.00
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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. Please note that the Dorset Branch MMOC will accept no liability in respect of goods or services provided by advertisers. No recommendation is implied.

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. (Also available on website.) 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.

Committee Members 2012-2013

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)

New Member: Brian Ford

New Member: Eddie Pateman

Newsletter /Website Editor: Brian Wood (01202 573501)

(brian@dorsetmmoc.co.uk)

Non Committee posts:

Raffle Coordinators: Chris Tilly and Val Palmer

FRONT COVER

Andy Dibb's van is featured this month. Regular readers may remember the long-running restoration which was first featured in the newsletter way back in ...(a while ago!)

***Dorset Branch of the Morris Minor Owners Club
Helping to preserve the post war Morris Minor in the Dorset area and beyond***

Forthcoming Events (see also www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk)

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

2013

6th February –CLUBNIGHT—Blind Auction
6th March—CLUBNIGHT— Morris Memorabilia Evening (Bring your period Morris 'stuff')
3rd April—CLUBNIGHT—Talk on Crystal Palace
14th April TOY Club 'Drive it Day' Run (Carle 01305 771760)
17th April—DHMC Inter Club Quiz—Hamworthy Club 8pm
19/20/21 April—Spring Weekend Holiday, Sidmouth
1st May—CLUBNIGHT - Mystery Object Quiz
11-12th May—Breamore Steam Up
18th-19th May **Beaulieu Spring Autojumble (MORRIS CENTENARY EVENT)**
26th May—Aubrey Batt Run (venue TBA)
2nd June—TOY Hardy Country Classic Tour (Nick 01305 260038)
5th June - CLUBNIGHT—Phil Traves' Talk on Sri Lanka
15-16th MMOC National Rally—Cornbury Park Oxfordshire
30th June—TOY Annual Show/Fun Day Chickerell –Free (Carle 01305771760 or Nick 01305 260038)
3rd July—Clubnight—Evening Run (TBA)
12-14th July—DORSET BRANCH RALLY
7th August—CLUBNIGHT—Talk by Reverend Timbrell
11th August—Mid Summer Saunter (Venue tba)
1st September—Isle of Wight Branch Rally
4th September—Clubnight (TBA)
7-8th September—Beaulieu International Autojumble
15th September—Three in One Run
2nd Oct—Clubnight Annual General Meeting
6th November—Clubnight—Call My Bluff type quiz

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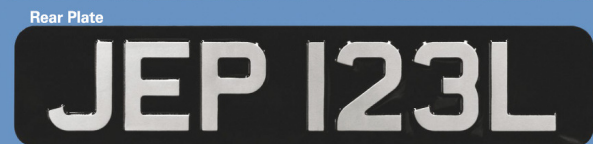
BRANCH REBATE SCHEME

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. Thanks.

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John Jenkinson, Chairman
Morris Minor Owners Club, Dorset Branch



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Dorset Branch Newsletter



February 2013

Volume 16 Issue 4

CLUBNIGHT ACTIVITY: Blind Auction

MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB

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NEXT CLUBNIGHT
Morris Memorabilia Evening (**Bring your period Morris 'stuff'**)

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 download from the Internet usually about 10 days before the clubnight.

Editorial

Hello everyone and welcome to the February newsletter. Firstly can I say thanks to this month's contributors—especially to Andy Dibb for the cover story on the conclusion to the long running rebuild of the so-called 'Van from Uncle'. I am looking forward to seeing it in the flesh (or should that be 'steel') soon!

The Mistletoe Meander went well and we have a few photos on the website and in this newsletter of some of the participants who were trying to negotiate the exit from the Electric Club, avoiding oncoming traffic and endeavouring to give a cool wave to me (with the camera)! We managed to avoid too many pile-ups. We went along

to the New Year's Day Classic Cars on the Prom and there was a huge turnout (the best ever—according to Ashley!). Sadly, Laurie chose to skimp on the petrol ration for the day and had to get the Austin on level ground in order to get some petrol in the right place for it to fire up.

The 2013 Branch Rally forms are now available so get the date into your diary (12-14th July).

Sat here reading the label on these Tesco burgers and it turns out they're fairly low in fat, but surprisingly high in Shergar. Happy Minoring, Brian.

On the subject of Beaulieu next Spring, you may know that we are planning a display of Morris cars, Morris motoring memorabilia and collectable items in the main marquee. If you have anything interesting, that you would be prepared to loan for the weekend, we would be pleased to talk to you. Also, don't forget that the official invites are now being issued and you will only get one if you have expressed an interest by filling in one of the application slips.



Too Many Morris Minors?

For many years now, the Branch has supported the Verwood Rotary Club Rustic Fayre held over the August bank holiday weekend for about the last 20 years. Many of us who attended last year were advised on entry that in future, the numbers of Minors (and other models) would be restricted to 12 on a first come first served basis, in order to maintain the variety of exhibits attending. This caused some disquiet among our members and the Committee wrote to the Rotary Club of Verwood with the views of the Branch on the matter. Their reply is shown below. We take the view that it is rather arbitrary to put a cap on particular *models* of classic car. We feel that the numbers of each type attending should statistically represent the spread of classic car ownership and hence, the corresponding interest in those cars. We could not see why they don't just introduce a cap on the total number. The letter text below admits that capacity has not been reached in the past—so it is difficult to follow their logic. To deny entry from someone who is willing to exhibit their pride and joy in this way is a bold step indeed! What do you think? (*Editor*)



“Dear Laurie, It is to be regretted that we seem to have upset some factions of your Club, this is certainly not what we were aiming to achieve when we took on the Rustic Fayre twenty years ago. Over this period the Fayre has gone from strength to strength and its success has been the author of many problems (challenges) that we’ve had to face. You mention space, and that is indeed a big issue, even more now as the original car boot area is now lost to us. Yes we have to limit the size of the vehicle display out of necessity; but it is the need to represent a variety of exhibits to grab the interest of all sections of our visitors, that we’ve elected to limit individual models to twelve. This applies equally to all marques, not just Morris Minors. We do however hold a reserve list in the event that capacity isn't reached, but happily for us that has yet to happen. Please assure your members that we do value their presence at the Fayre, but as politicians often say “tough decisions’ have to be made for the greater good”. I trust that this will be appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you in August. Kind Regards, Vern Harris (Rustic Chairman).”

Mistletoe Meander 2012



Some of the participants on the Mistletoe Meander making their escape from the Electric Club for the 'run' on 30th December. Clockwise from top left, we have: Ian and Tracy Chivers, new member, Ian Hopkins from Gosport (first to arrive as well!), Mike & Maureen Picton, Ashley Miller (wins prize for best decorated car!), Norman and Sylvia Kimber and finally, the Holyoak's Tasmanian proxy mascot sitting on the wipers of our Traveler.

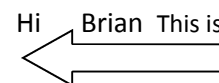
Editor's In Box



Thought you might like to add this to memorabilia section. My dad worked at Morris Commercial at Adderly park and was presented with an engraved watch and the letter that comes with it. Cheers and love to Taz, Happy new year to All. Vic and Angela Holyoak, DMMOC 399) from Tasmania.

Brian and Jacky. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU BOTH. We have today ventured out in Molly to a classic car event. (The season has started). Just 11 miles from home in glorious sunshine. It was a joy to be out. There were several Minors there but nothing as good as Molly. But the other makes - well the quality and rarity of many of them was just out of this world. It is nice to mix with other breeds just occasionally but for Joe Public the Minor is something they can relate to and admire.

Hope the Meander went well - we kept thinking about it during the day. Best wishes to you both Pam & David Holton, Silverstone (DMMOC 272)

Hi  Brian This is the picture that Laurie DIDN'T want taken after we had pushed his car down the hill at the rear of the Bournemouth International Centre at the CCOTP's New Years Day meeting. Something to do with "Lack of fuel" springs to mind!!! Hopefully it might find itself into the monthly mag if there is space in the future!!! All the best & happy new year, Ashley Miller. *Thanks Ashley, and I'm sure he doesn't mind really!* - Ed

Hi Brian. I don't know if you saw the recent five part mini series Mon-Fri (7th - 11th January) of a programme called PRIVATES which was set in the last days of National Conscripton (1960) but one major cock up was seeing this Morris 1000 (registered 16th April 1969) in it. Surely the producer should have noticed the "G" reg plate on it. Even using an older non-suffixed reg would have been better even if the windscreen wipers were the later 1963 type. I wonder if anyone else noticed that? Oh well, back to scrutinising the TV & film car bloopers!!!

All the best, Ashley Miller
(Ashley—welcome to 'Anoraks Anonymous' and.. how did you know the exact date of registration? Is the car yours? - Ed)



Secretary's Report

Good evening and welcome to the February clubnight. I hope you have all brought plenty of goodies with you for Roy to auction off to raise funds for this year's chosen charity. Don't forget that next month is the Morris Memorabilia evening. Please can I ask you to bring along any items of interest you may have. We might even want to borrow them for display at Beaulieu in May.

I hope that all who attended the Dinner and Dance last month had an enjoyable evening. The Liston Hotel welcomed us for the first time this year and I think you will agree that the hotel was lovely and the food was superb. Well done to the following who were the recipients of the club trophies this year –

Series MM – Mike Sheppard

Series II - Phil Traves

1000 Saloon - Theresa Moxley

1000 Traveller – Ian Chivers

1000 Convertible – Eddie Pateman

1000 LCV – Tony Ware

Best overall – Roger Ware.



Many thanks to everyone who brought along raffle prizes. If you are in agreement I think we should book again for next year – what do you all think?

Plans are now more or less finalised for the Beaulieu in May. John, Brian and I went along for another meeting last month and picked up the official invites and entry forms and had a general measure up of the space we have been allocated to see what will go where. Don't forget that if you want to come along to this event you must let me have you details so that an official invitation can be issued to you. If I do not receive an official entry form from you you will not be able to attend. There will be no late entries allowed and definitely no entries allowed on the day.

Plans are also starting for other club events this year. We have now chosen the dates for the Aubrey Batt Memorial Run, the Midsummer Saunter and the 3 In 1 Run as well as the Dorset Branch Rally at Avon Heath in July. Another big event this year will be the National Rally at Cornbury Park, Oxfordshire in June. We have already booked our accommodation for the weekend and plans are well underway for the branch stand theme thanks to Phil. I think that about 8 cars are going up so far but it would be good to see lots more of you going as this year's show should be an excellent one with it being the main Morris Centenary celebrations.

I'm afraid to say that I have hardly set foot in the garage at all over the last couple of months. Apart from taking the Austin out for a run on New Years Day none of the cars have been out at all. Roll on the warmer weather!

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

For Sale & Wanted & Club Notices

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

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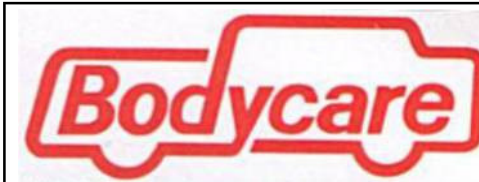
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The Branch Website has a '**Spares Shop**' which advertises (mostly) spares. Why not browse the bargains or send me an ad or two with a picture.

STILL Wanted!! Good 1098 rear axle.

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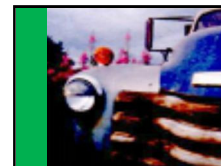
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The Van from Uncle (continued)

I need to enjoy it and the children would disown me if I did. The best comment I had was from my friend Keith who has built a kit car to a very high standard, totally rebuilt an old Land Rover and various old motor bikes in his double garage workshop with pit etc. He came over to view my exploits which he passed with a "very well done!". Then he asked to see where I had done all the work. When I said under the single carport by the front door and I showed him the converted garden shed that shares the garden equipment. His comment was "how the heck did you do it?" and secondly "I can see why you took so long".

So thanks for reading my exploits and many thanks to all the members of the club who have advised, sympathised and sometimes criticised over the years. I hope to see you all at the rallies this year.

Andy Dibb (DMMOC 19)

Book Club Plus (by Derek Shearman)

Hello Everyone - sincere apologies for my non-appearance at the December and January meetings but I sincerely hope to be with you in February. For new members who may wonder what this is all about, Book Club is a bit like a library giving Members the opportunity to borrow for a month or two any books we currently have in stock. The focus is on classic/vintage cars and commercial vehicles, motor cycles, boats, planes etc. We also have biographies/autobiographies of vehicle builders, designers and engineers. All books have connections to the history of motorised/mechanical transport throughout the UK and also include some fiction and non-fiction related stories.

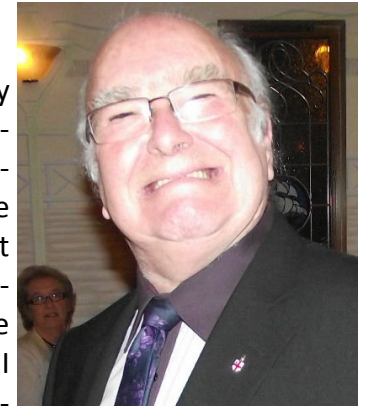
Also, once a year, I apply on behalf of our Club to be a distributor for World Book Night which is a Registered Charity devoted to re-awaken the pleasures of light reading; fiction and non-fiction. I have been successful in the two previous years and have just submitted our application for this year. Please do come and talk to me at our February meeting and I will be happy to supply you with further information.

Should you be unable to come to the February meeting and have a specific request for further information relating to any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me direct. My mobile number is 07593 623721 or email me, derek-shearman@talktalk.net.

Chairman's Report

Good evening and welcome to the February clubnight. I am writing my club magazine report with "a bit of a Head" after the club dinner and dance in January. I hope all of the members that went had a good time. I think it was one of the best dinner and dance evenings that the club has had for some time. The food and the rooms were very good. So I would like to thank Neville and Lyn for arranging the event. Also a big thank you to all the members who attended and supported the raffle. On Wednesday 16th January, Brian, Laurie and myself went to Beaulieu for a meeting to finalise the details for the Centenary weekend and I think we are almost there. There are still vehicles booking in for the weekend—the numbers so far about 250. The club committee have had a reply from the Verwood Rustic Fayre Rotary Club. We wrote to them in December about their intention to restrict the numbers of single makes (Morris Minors and MG's in particular) that can attend the show in future. If anyone knows of any other good events on that day (August Bank Holiday Monday) that might be glad of our support, please let us know. Don't forget to dig out any Morris memorabilia for the March Clubnight. Anything with 'Morris' on will be great.

Good Motoring, John.



I am pleased to invite you to take part in the annual INTER CLUB QUIZ on WEDNESDAY 17th APRIL at the HAMWORTHY CLUB, Magna Road, Canford Magna starting at 8pm.

One or two teams of 6 people from each club would be ideal and hopefully we can look forward to an enjoyable evening. It would be most helpful if you could confirm your attendance and how many teams you would like to enter at your earliest convenience via my email. (brianwhiteside@uwclub.net)

Kind regards Brian Whiteside Hon. Sec. DHMC

The Van from Uncle (Part 3—Final Instalment) (by Andy Dibb)

PART 3 CONCLUSIONS & LESSONS LEARNT.

Well, 12 years in the rebuilding and everything came in at a rush at the finish. In the last part I ended with getting with giving the body a coat of green Hammerite paint and making final adjustments ready for the MOT.

Two things conspired to slow progress towards the MOT, one being my Uncle Gordon who the van is named after (**GOR 720D**) passed away leaving Denise and I as executors to sort his affairs out. This took many months as he lived on the Isle of Wight and it involved many trips over there. Secondly the brand new braking system was binding and all adjustments, bleeding of brakes failed to sort it.

Uncle on the islands estate was easily fixed spending time and patience however Uncle on the mainland's braking system was another story.

I lost count of the number of times I adjusted, bled and tried different spring return settings to no avail. They ran free and as soon as you applied the brakes they bound up again. A rare spare evening presented itself so I sat down with every manual I had on

the minor's braking system and low and behold I found the answer. The wording, not very politically correct in this day and age went "*If an ignorant person alters the master cylinder or its settings then the factory settings on the push rod may need adjusting.*" It took about thirty minutes to adjust correctly and hey presto free running brakes and no binding.

Andy's tip#1: if you are the person (or *ignorant person* like me) who replaces a master cylinder and pedal assembly like for like do



not think that the factory setting will be correct.

It was now nearly ready for its MOT and I called in to my centre on Saturday to book it in for the following week, "to be told go home and get it now, I will do it straight away". With trepidation we drove the 3 miles to the centre and everything went well passing the test with flying colours.

The following week I had to deal with the DVLA at Swansea who took about two weeks and then I was required to visit their local office at Bournemouth. The Bournemouth office had the most helpful office staff I have experienced in a long time, only ten minutes and I had a free historic vehicle tax disc and a new log book ordered.

That evening I contacted my old work mate Bob who had said he would spray the van many years ago and yes he would still do it.

The surprise was he wanted it as soon as possible as he had a shortage of work so that Saturday I took it on a longer journey to Totton.

The respray took about two weeks and it involved stripping to bare metal, prepping, 2 undercoats, 4 top coats and 2 times in the oven.

I had to pick it up from his workshops at Romsey and what a surprise I had awaiting me!

The workshops are used for coaches and lorries and there looking lost amongst all the big boys was my van looking like a dinky toy fresh out the box.

Andy's Tip#2: if you do not want to upset Bob, do not use Hammerite paint as it is difficult to remove.

I have a few jobs to do on the inside these being lining out the back with board and insulation. The dash board also needs sorting out with extra gauges to fill the previously owner-drilled holes.

The main thing I need to do is start using it instead of just looking at it. It will need to be run in for a few hundred miles to make sure everything is settled in, after all it has had a total nut and bolt rebuild.

The questions people ask me "are you pleased with the final result?" well yes I am. "Would you do the same again?" probably not as I have now reached 60 and feel I could not fit another one in. (*That's what they all say - Ed*) "What would you do different if you did do another one?" I would probably contract a lot of the difficult tasks and just do the fun bits of assembling. "Are you going to sell it?" No.