



Rear View



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 Issue 1

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

## 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 (07856 918136)  
**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  
**Spares Manager:** Brian Wood (07411 116336)  
**Regalia Manager:** Richard Cyster – (01202 526660)  
**Catering Executives:** -Sue Blewer, Lyn Gerry

### FRONT COVER

The Three in One Run in September was blessed with sunshine at the kick off venue of the Courtyard Centre at Lytchett. Pictured is Simon Delamare's rather nice Traveller.

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

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

**2012**

7th November—CLUBNIGHT (Talk on 'Aviation around Poole Bay 1910 - 1976') by **Kevin Patience**  
5th December—CLUBNIGHT (Noggin and Natter)  
30th December—Mistletoe Meander

**2013**

2nd January—CLUBNIGHT—Quiz  
6th February—CLUBNIGHT—Blind Auction  
19th Jan—Annual Dinner and Dance—Liston Hotel, Boscombe  
6th March—CLUBNIGHT—Mystery Object Quiz  
3rd April—CLUBNIGHT—Talk on Crystal Palace  
19/20/21 April—Spring Weekend Holiday, Sidmouth  
1st May—CLUBNIGHT - (tba)  
18th-19th May Beaulieu Spring Autojumble (MORRIS CENTENARY EVENT)  
5th June - CLUBNIGHT—Phil Traves' Antiques Evening  
12-14th July—DORSET BRANCH RALLY  
7th August—CLUBNIGHT—Talk by Reverend Timbrell  
6th November—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. Thank

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John Jenkinson, Chairman  
Morris Minor Owners Club, Dorset Branch

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# Dorset Branch Newsletter



November 2012

Volume 16 Issue 1

## CLUBNIGHT ACTIVITY:

Talk on 'Aviation around Poole Bay 1910 - 1976 )by Kevin Patience

## MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB

## Inside this issue....

Editorial	4
Editor's In Box	5
Secretary's Report	6
Chairman's Report	7
Traveller Shooting Brake Restoration	8
Book Club Plus	10
Spares News	11
Three in One Run Photos	12
For Sale and Wanted	13
Forthcoming Events	15
Rear View & Branch Regalia	16

## NEXT CLUBNIGHT ACTIVITY:

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.



www.morriswoodwork.co.uk  
01243 788660  
Email:forwoodies@aol.com

(Proprietor, Steve Foreman)  
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## Editorial

Hello and welcome to the first of the new 'Volume'. Firstly, apologies to some of you who have recently joined and not received the newsletter (until now—hopefully). It seems that there were a few entry forms that got put aside to processed with the annual renewals. (You can always have a look at the previous newsletters on the internet if you are so inclined. Or let me know if you want a paper copy). Thanks to Russ and Mandy for coming along to our meeting last month to tell us about Morris Minor Magazine. Also thanks to the two Mikes for providing some 'fodder' (see next page). A bit of bad luck befell our Convertible earlier in the month, on a wet Friday night. Some passing idiot thought that the hood would look better with three large holes in it and operated on it with a hunting knife or similar implement of destruction. He carried out a similar operation on one of the tyres also, for good measure!



That was only the second time the car had been left outside (on the drive) since last winter. We had to make a temporary repair with some twine and reinforced duct tape and dry out the inside.

On the commercial front, we have two new lines of spares this month which are detailed on page 10. The first is reconditioned radiators at £110 each (exchange) and the second is the (much anticipated) alternator/coil bracket. These are now in stock and have a nickel plated finish. I have

seen a lot of coils mounted on the inner wing when an alternator is fitted. However, I always think that the original location is better since it looks tidier and it is in the air flow of the fan. This item has been designed and produced exclusively for us!

Don't forget to turn to the back page to see a full frontal view of the Duchess of Cambridge (320, Goldhawk Road, W6). The boys (right) and I went to Gaydon Museum for a progress meeting for 2013 Centenary celebrations recently—and they misbehaved (as usual). Anyway, that's enough from me this month, Brian.



## 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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### FOR SALE

#### 1967 Minor 2 Door Saloon

Reluctantly for sale, 1967 2 door Morris Minor Trafalgar blue, MOT to late August 2013, In good running order, Car could be viewed in Cornwall or Shepton Mallet. Car in Cornwall at present. £1975.00 ono. Phone 01726821922, 07763466613 or 07712898934.

### For Sale

#### Peugeot 307 1.6 H D I

90 hp SE 5dr ESTATE 2007 [ 07 ] manual diesel 43000 miles, M O T Oct 2013, tax Nov 2012, service history, 2 owners, panoramic glass roof, ABS, adjustable steering wheel, air con, cloth upholstery, colour coded body, cruise control, remote locking, 6 change CD, computer, bluetooth, remote locking, **£4,500**  
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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.

### For Sale

AS NEW 2.5 HP portable compressor 240 volt 1.8 kw, 24 Litre tank 8 Bar operating pressure. Twin outlet with regulator Effective delivery rate 7bar, 90l/min. £60 Contact Eddie at 01425476634.



## Three in One Run (by Editor)



The Three in One run took place on 22nd September which was a bright, sunny Saturday. A great time was had by all. A good array of classics turned out and there were only two breakdowns—but we won't go on about them-eh?)

(;f) For the record.... Bob's convertible for hood and Laurie's core plug!

## Editor's In Box



Hi Brian Just a little note to thank you, the committee and branch members of the Dorset branch for inviting us to your monthly meeting and AGM in October. Mandy and I were made to feel very welcomed indeed and we were overwhelmed with the attendance, but as your branch does so much its no wonder you have such a wonderful turnout. Well done to all. Our photoshoot with Mike and Mike the following morning over looking Poole harbour went extremely well and we were blessed with good weather. The vista was amazing and we are looking forward to seeing these photos and features published in Morris Minor Magazine in the coming months. I have enclosed a few images for you to use in your branch magazine. Thank you once again, oh and Mandy thought the bread pudding was first class! Russ & Mandy.



*Hi Russ and Mandy,  
Thanks for comments, your attendance was much appreciated - we hope you got a few subscriptions to the mag for your efforts. The photos look very good, note how we arranged the weather for you! Looking forward to seeing the finished articles in MMM. Cheers for now, and glad the visit went well, Brian.*

Hi Brian, Good to see everyone at the October club night and A.G.M. And thanks for fixing me up with a few spares. Just a few words about my visit to the Stoneleigh Restoration Show on Sunday 21st of October. This year's show was a big improvement on the last year with lots of tinkering and fettling going on - a Triumph Toledo having welding done and a new sill, Rover P6 - cylinder head gasket, Ford Escort - rear brakes, Triumph 2000 - new brake pipes. A group of Mini enthusiasts had 4 Minis with a hive of activity surrounding them including fitting a new windscreen and lots more. All in all plenty to see. I think the auto jumble stalls were down slightly on last year but I still managed to spend about £150 on bits and essentials.

In the cars for sale section there were 2 Minors - a white 2 door with 12 months MOT and a Replica MILLION also with a ticket for 9 months, somehow I can't see the sense in doing something like that. I don't know what was on the log book! Both were asking about £2,500 but neither sold.

Well that's it for now. Hopefully now the dark nights are with us I can do a bit more spanner work in the garage during the long winter months! Best wishes

**Dave Holton MMOC Dorset Branch No 272**

## Secretary's Report

Good evening and welcome to the November clubnight. Thank you to everyone who came along to support the AGM last month. I know it's not the most exciting meeting of the year but it is an important one. It was good to have Russ Harvey from Morris Minor Magazine with us for the evening and I hope that some of you will take up subscriptions to his magazine. I have been reading it since day one when it was Minor Monthly and it has improved no end.

The rally season is over now so there is not much to report back to you on. John, Brian, Nev and I drove up to the Heritage Motor Centre at Gaydon last month for a meeting of the Morris Centenary Committee. We presented our plans for next year's event at Beaulieu and we had a lot of interest from the other Morris groups who were there. The Morris Marina and Ital Club seemed to be especially interested. It was surprising to learn just how few Marinas and Itals are still in existence – only 400 Marinas and 150 Itals are left! The International Centenary Event at Cornbury Park near Oxford is looking to be an enormous event and certainly one that should not be missed. In fact we have already booked our accommodation for the weekend and I was not surprised to hear that hotels and guest houses in the area are getting booked up for that weekend already. The Morris Register have had some very nice special edition centenary grill and badge bar badges commissioned and we hope to get hold of some of these for you soon. Once the meeting was over we had a look around the museum. It is a very good one and houses some very interesting vehicles. Of course the first Morris Minor off the production line is in there – NWL 576 - as well as a Morris Minor fire engine that was used at the factory, a very original 1960 convertible and a very well restored GPO van. A lot of prototype vehicles are also on display, most of which never went into production. There is also a very good display of Morris memorabilia on show including lots of photographic displays – many of which I photographed for used in our own display at Beaulieu at next year. You may remember us saying that we have purchased a Morris Motors Band music stand pennant. We are planning to use this in the marquee at Beaulieu next year and would like to display it on a music stand. If any anyone has a music stand we could borrow as well as a mannequin and a brass musical instrument of some kind please let me know.

As I write this we have just come back from the Fireworks Spectacular at Beaulieu. There were thousands and thousands of people there. This year's display was set to the theme of superheroes with music from films such as Batman and Spiderman etc. The firework display really is fantastic and although the weather was cold this year it remained dry and we had a really good evening.

Don't forget to get your entries in for the Annual Dinner, the Mistletoe Meander and the Devon weekend as soon as you can.

That's all from me for this month. Happy Minor-ing, Laurie.



### New Morris Minor Spares

are available through the club. The current list is posted on the website under the 'New Spares' tab. We hope to have a new spares table at the club-night, so let me know if you need anything ....Brian. 07411 116336

### DORSET BRANCH SPARES NEWS

**Hot news** this month is we can supply your new radiator. We can supply early or late rads strictly on an

exchange basis. These are re-cored and as good as (or better) than new, ready to fit, for only £110 each. If you ask nicely, I'll even put the warning caption on the fan protector as well. (Don't all rush at once, as I only keep one of each type at a time!)



Even 'Hotter' news, this month is the all new– unavailable from anyone else– Dorset MMOC Alternator /ignition coil bracket. If you have dispensed with your dynamo and fitted an alternator, this bracket is a straight replacement for the rear bracket which bolts to the engine block. It has a neat, built-in bracket to mount the coil upon. These are now exclusively available to Branch members at only £12.00 each.



### DMMOC Dinner & Dance (by Neville Gerry)

Don't forget the Dinner and Dance which has been organised for Saturday January 19th 2013 at a new venue. It will be held at the **Liston Hotel**, Wollstonecraft Road, Boscombe Spa, BH5 1JQ. The cost will be £25 for members and £27 for non-members. The wine is paid for by the Branch and entry slips were issued last month (See Jacky if you need one). Rooms are £20 pppn (01202 394588) AND **forms on the website.**

(Continued from page 9)

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Special thanks are due to: **Steve Foreman** and his son **James Foreman**, **John Merritt** and his team, **JLH Engineering**, **KT Fabrications**, **Dave Hughes** of D P Hughes Precision Engineering, **Auto Bodies Ltd**, **Ivor Searle Ltd**, **Peter and Leigh** at South West Auto Trimming, **John** at **Bristol Classic Motor Cars**.

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January 2012

### Book Club Plus (by Derek Shearman)

Hello everyone - one of the books I 'inherited' from my Father when he died is titled The World's Automobiles 1880 - 1955 (a record of 75 years car building). Priced at 15 shillings net, my copy is from the second edition published in 1957 and lists some 4,000 automobile manufacturers throughout the world. A fascinating reference book for an anorak like me! When, out of interest, I look up Morris Motors Limited it tells me the company started in 1912 and not 1913; being a development of William Morris's bicycle manufacturing business which started in 1910.

I would like to acquire an illustrated book which gives the history of Morris Motors, from its founding in 1912 (or 1913?) with the production of the Morris Bullnose to its subsequent merger with Austin and ultimate demise/dissolution/whatever into BMC. Can anyone help me with information as to whether such a book has ever been published?

The Book Club has been fortunate to have recently received donations/loans of several more books. These are all available for DMMOC members to borrow at our monthly meetings and I am currently in the process of updating the list of all titles available. The subjects cover all aspects concerned with motoring, motor sport, transport, engineering..... I also now have a spare copy of both Agent Zigzag and Notes from a Small Island, which were given to us last year and this year to distribute by the charity World Book Night.

If you looking for any particular subject, please do not hesitate to contact me either by email ([derekshearman@talktalk.net](mailto:derekshearman@talktalk.net)) or telephone (07593 623721) and I will try to bring to the next meeting anything I have .

Derek Shearman.

## Chairman's Report

Good evening and welcome to November's clubnight. I would like to thank all the members who have renewed their membership and supported the club over the last year. It was also nice to have some new support on the committee from Eddie and Brian. Ann and myself went to the Liston Hotel to book our room for the evening of the Annual dinner and dance in January. It seems to be a good, family run hotel so I think the club will have a good evening there. I hope you all enjoy the talk by Kevin on Poole Bay Aviation tonight. I have now booked the fish and chips for the Mistletoe Meander Run on 30th December from 10:30. Laurie and myself went to a meeting at Beaulieu for the planning of the 2013 event. So far it is going well with over 200 vehicles notified to us already. Also, Brian, Neville, Laurie and myself went to Gaydon Motor Museum near Birmingham for a meeting with the MMOC to talk about the centenary events for next year. It was a useful meeting and the museum has got a good collection of interesting vehicles, such as prototype Rovers, MG's and others.

We were pleased to see that some of the newsletter advertisers are renewing their adverts. A big thanks for all their continued support. If any of the members see or know of any old Morris commercials for next year's centenary rally, please let Laurie know.

By the way, I have sampled some new cakes for next year's Three in One Run. (Bigger but not so sticky!).

Nice to see that the Dorset MMOC is mentioned in this month's Morris Minor Magazine with Tony's Van, Laurie and Brian in the Technical section and also the report on the Isle of Wight Rally.

That's all for now, Happy motoring, John.



### 3 Door Morris Minor Shooting Brake

(The Restoration of RMJ 920 by Marcus & Sparky Ward)



These days folk talk about going on a journey when they embark on a project; when we started on the job of restoring RMJ 920 the phrase hadn't been invented! There has been a lot of interest in the car as we have travelled around the country; even stopping at motorway service stations for a comfort break has drawn an admiring crowd! We have been asked hundreds of questions at rallies and car shows most of which we have been able to answer but some, especially those relating to Dorcas' early life,

we have had difficulty with.

We first saw an advertisement in the Thames Trader for a 3 door Traveller but ignored it thinking that it must be "home made"! Later we found a centre page 'write up' in the 'Minor Matters' magazine (Jan/Feb. '87) showing 'A Very Special Traveller'. After contacting the vendor it was confirmed that the vehicle was indeed RMJ 920 so my wife and I travelled from Stevenage Herts to Braintree Essex, bought the vehicle and drove her home.



This was in 1988 from which date the car remained garaged for 18 years. Recently, changes in our circumstances and finances enabled us to embark on the restoration project.

The main part of the restoration took just under 2 years, the Project Manager being Steve Foreman of 'Woodies' (Traveller Woodwork) who also specially manufactured, fitted and finished the woodwork. The steel body panels and a new commercial chassis were sourced, and welded structures were manufactured and fitted, by John Merritt and his team from Mid Sussex Minors.

As the vehicle was dismantled parts fell off in heaps of rust and rotten wood showed where stag beetle larvae had taken up residence.

The rear springs were broken, the fuel tank resembled a pepper pot and the base of the doors looked like lace curtains. Even the rear axle casing had lost its leaf spring locating brackets to the 'rust bug'!

Being a bespoke vehicle, much of the flooring was made up of riveted aluminium sections

assuming that the chassis would hold everything together without the need for box section sills. During restoration the flooring was placed by steel integrated with box sectioned steel sills. This eliminated the old tendency of body sag.

A new aluminium frame was fabricated to house the original factory fitted sunroof.

The original 948cc engine was replaced by a 1098cc unit including gearbox and differential. The front brakes were changed to servo assisted Ford based disc brakes. New wiring incorporates an alternator instead of a dynamo (a negative earth system) and the trafficator arms have been replaced by flashing indicator lamps; seat belts have also been fitted. These changes have been made to enable the car to be driven safely in modern traffic conditions.

We have had some success in discovering the history of this unusual vehicle and the search for information goes on but as far as we know at present, RMJ 920 initially left the factory as a 1/4 ton van painted Empire Green and was sold to a dealer in September 1956. The car was red when we bought it. Whoever purchased the vehicle (registered in Bedford) had the van body replaced by a personalised shooting brake body designed by an engineer at Morris Motors Ltd, Cowley, Oxford. The design was based on an extended chassis as shown on a "marked up" Morris Motors Ltd chassis drawing.

Incorporating a chassis and the narrower van doors enabled a rear wood framed near-side passenger door to be fitted. The back end shows a drop down tailgate and a raised



upper window instead of the original Traveller design of two side hinged doors.

The restoration is now almost complete. The chrome plated screws and wing nuts on the roof are for fixing the purpose built roof rack which has yet to be prepared, treated and painted to match the car.

Other up-dates incorpo-

(Continued on page 10)