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Our Branch Regalia stock is managed by **Dave & Jackie Walker** and is available at Club Nights and our outdoor events. (The illustrated stock list is shown on the website www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk)

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Dorset Branch MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB NEWSLETTER



Eddie's Gardening Competition

Aug 2017, Volume 20, Issue 10
www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk

The MMOC Dorset Branch

was founded in 1980 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 Club Night 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

Key Contacts

President	Graham Jarvis 07914 637429	Non-Committee posts	
Committee Members—'16-'17		Website editor	Brian Wood brian@dorsetmmoc.co.uk
Chairman	John Jenkinson 01202 576690	Newsletter editor	Natasja Dumay natasja.dumay@gmail.com
Secretary	Laurie Blewer 01202 522673	Regalia	Dave & Jackie Walker 01202 877972
Treasurer	Jacky Wood 01202 573494	Raffle Coordinators	Chris Tilly Margaret Pateman
Membership Secretary	Brian Ford 01202 699277	Caterers	Sue Blewer Lyn Gerry
Events organiser/ H&S supervisor	Neville Gerry 01202 747687	FRONT COVER: The Potted Morris Minor Garden	
Welfare/ technical advisor	Eddie Pateman 01425 476634		
Spares Manager	Brian Wood 07411 116336		

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)

2017	
2nd August	Club Night – Gardening Competition
6th August	Lymington Classic Car Show, Woodside Park, Lymington
11th – 13th August	Purbeck Rally, Wareham
20th August	Brockenhurst Forest Fayre, New Forest Showground, SO42 7QH
20th August	Classic Cars on the Prom, Highcliffe Castle BH23 4LE
26th August	Festival of Wheels, Bradford Abbas (see Notifications, page 9)
27th August	Laurie's Garage Open Day (see page 8 for details)
27th August	Chanters Carnival Classics, Ottery St. Mary, Devon
2nd - 3rd September	Beaulieu International Autojumble
6th September	Club Night – Talk on Security by local Police
23rd -24th September	Holnest Country Fayre, Holnest
24th September	Classic Cars on the Prom, Christchurch Quay
4th October	Club Night – AGM
1st November	Club Night – Photo Competition (more details TBA)
6th December	Club Night – Noggin & Natter
30th December	(Saturday) -Mistletoe Meander
2018	
6th January	Dinner and Dance - Liston Hotel, Bournemouth

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



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For Sale & Wanted & Club Notices

Please mention where you saw the ad when you respond, thanks



Rebuilt **HS2 carburettors** for 948 and 1098 £105 each plus £25 exchange surcharge. (Others reconditioned to order—please ask Brian)



We also have some **reconditioned fuel pumps** for sale at £55 each (£50 to Branch Members) Postage is about £5. *Standard new SU ones are £83.88 from ESM*

For sale

Two 803 engines that were in good condition when removed from their donor cars. Each one has been properly stored. They can be collected from just North of Swindon or can be brought to Beaulieu for your collection there. Cost £40 each

Call Ash Holmes on 01285 810524 and have a chat for further information

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 Club Nights. We therefore need to update our records so that we can take advantage of this scheme. Please would you advise the Membership Secretary of your **MMOC membership number** and renewal date and make sure that you sign the attendance sheet at the Club Nights. Thanks.

BRANCH SPARES DEPARTMENT For the benefit of newer members who may not be aware of it, the Branch operates a Morris Minor New Spares service. From the year 2015-16, we are introducing a discount scheme whereby *most* purchases by paid up Branch Members will get **10% discount** applied to the price* (unless already on discounted offer or not available to us with discount). We usually have some spares at the monthly branch Club Nights and we have a presence at some shows (particularly the Branch Rally and the Beaulieu Autojumbles). Spares are available most other times from Brian on 07411 116336. The spares are mostly sourced from ESM (East Sussex Minors—who support our branch rally also) and the prices charged generally reflect their prices. The advantages are availability of parts and *usually* no postage charges. Some locally made and reconditioned items are also available, such as bonnet props, fuel pumps, and carburettors. (*subject to fair use).

Dorset Branch Newsletter

August 2017

MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB

Volume 20 Issue 10



CLUB NIGHT ACTIVITY:
Gardening Competition
By Eddie Pateman



Inside this issue....

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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 Club Night.

Editorial



Well hello everyone!! I hope everyone is keeping well and that you've been enjoying the mostly glorious weather we've had so far this season. Spending my days in an office, I have been longingly looking outside, wishing I could be out in the fresh air in the countryside, on a day out with my Traveller, Cyril.

The weather has also in the main been really good for anyone who's been tending to their baby plants in preparation for tonight's Gardening Competition. I have to admit that I had been so carefully looking after my first aubergine plant (carefully keeping it indoors as advised) - making me feel absolutely gutted when I come home from work one evening to find it 'collapsed' in a heap.... At first I thought it just needed some water, as it had been a warm day. But I then realised that despite keeping it indoors it had somehow managed to catch some kind of bug that had gotten into the leaves and destroyed it. 'There goes my gardening competition' - was me thinking.... And so I've had to start late with a back-up plan (must remember that earlier in the season next year) - in the shape of a cucumber plant. I sincerely hope between this newsletter going to print and our Club night, that it will not suffer the same fate as the doomed aubergine plant.

From a personal health perspective, there's some synergies with the aubergine plant, as I have been suffering with some really concerning symptoms—which have been affecting both my work and personal life—in the shape of confusion, cognitive dysfunction and memory problems. Life's been quite worrying as I'm going through all the investigations to try to get to the bottom of it, so that hopefully some suitable and reasonable adjustments can be made to keep me in my current work (for now at least). As many of you know, I live on my own, and so need an income to pay the mortgage and other bills (never mind keeping my lovely Cyril running). This is the reason why I am exploring what alternative ways there realistically are to earn a living. Unless we identify a miracle cure, my back-up plan is to be in a different job in 12 months' time (or thereabouts) - closer to home and hopefully not as challenging as my current role.

Ideally a role that allows me to cycle to work and/ or use Cyril to get around town, so that I can sell my modern car and be more sustainable (yes... green is the theme this month!)

Continued...

Selling my much loved, beautiful Morris Minor

Used as my every day car. Very reliable - starts every time. Was shown on the Dorset Morris minor owners club magazine front cover. All paperwork kept, showing both work done both before and during my ownership (restoration in December 2003). Recent full service (no advisories), new breaks, new engine, new speedometer, fitted indicators, radio/CD player with speakers fitted under front seats. Some wear and tear to some seats due to its age. Due to new speedometer, current mileage shown (09993) is not true mileage. First registered on 24th August 1959; 948cc; 4 door; colour: powder blue; Stored in a locked garage. Viewing recommended. £5,500 phone 01202 883213



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

FOR SALE: 1957 Morris Minor Convertible. 1098 engine and gearbox fitted, restored in 1995 (used in a film made by a German production company) Red roof and interior. New MOT when sold. £6,500 ono. Phone Salvatore on 01202 295031.



For Sale & Wanted & Club Notices

Please mention where you saw the ad when you respond, thanks

FOR SALE: gorgeous, cute Austin A35, 1957, 2 door saloon. Island Blue and Old English White. Dorset registered car—owned for 11 years. Reconditioned engine, gold seal gear box. Many safety mods and extras including seat belts. Reason for sale: buying a Morris 1000 ☺ £4750. Please contact Arthur Cox on 01202 528017 (evenings)



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New Morris Minor Spares are available through the club. The current list is posted on the website under the 'New Spares' tab. *We can also order other items for you—usually saving the postage cost.*
Brian. 07411 116336

And perhaps Cyril could play a more active part in earning his keep in the future... who knows. If you have any great ideas of gaps in the local market, then please do let me know. I'm open to put together Ikea furniture or earn a living walking dogs and looking after cakes... or converting Cyril to a mobile coffee shop (not the Dutch variety I hasten to add!!) - and anything in between. See below Betty the Coffee Van from London.



On a 'newsletter' front, my plan is to start to feature interesting stories why people are involved with Morris Minors—with the first one hopefully featuring a female mechanic who attends our Club nights. If you have an interesting story to tell (or know someone who does), drop me a line, give me a call or speak to me at Club night

Keep them rolling!!

Natasja

Secretary's Report

Good evening everyone and welcome to the August Club night. Tonight, Eddie has organised the annual gardening competition so good luck to all of you who have entered. I hope you all enjoyed Kevin's very interesting talk last month on his career in diving.



The upcoming "Favourite Photograph" competition in November will be run along very similar lines to the gardening competition with everyone voting for their favourite picture. It must be a photo taken by you! Bring the photos along on the night please. Next month we will be having a talk on security.

The Holdenhurst Fair was a very enjoyable afternoon but I was very disappointed with the number of you who could be bothered to support them. There was only us, Ian, Tracy and Ethan and Brian Ford. Please can we have better support for this lovely little event next year!

The same weekend also saw the club having a stand at the Sherborne Castle event. Some members went on Saturday but the majority on Sunday. As always this was a very good show with some fantastic vehicles on display and a good selection of both autojumble stalls and other stalls.

The following weekend saw the Midsummer Saunter take place. Again, a disappointing level of support for this. Those of us who did take part spent a very enjoyable day at The Tank Museum.

Please let me know if you are coming along to the Lymington Show just so we know how many cars to expect. Don't forget our Garden and Garage Open Day on Sunday 26th August. We would be very pleased to see as many of you as can make it on the day. Please come along and support us and raise some funds for Julias House (see page 8 for further details).

As published in "The Bristol Magazine"

And meeting like-minded Morris lovers too, we bet. "We have world-famous authors, musicians, comedians and media types among our clientele – my father once drove Princess Diana around the grounds of Viscount Linley's estate," remembers Zac. "There were many people who had the 'pleasure' of being taken on a test drive by him and came out the other side with white knuckles and a fresh impression of what a Minor could do on the roads – the company was so well-known in the early days that letters would just arrive addressed to 'the Morris Minor Man, UK'. A letter sent from Japan even got to him with just some hand-drawn sketches of the Morris Minor badge!"



In a nutshell, the beauty of owning a Morris is that you are owning a piece of history. "The design is a throwback to coach built lines and curves, and wherever you are in the country, you can pull up to a traffic light or into a carpark and have people crowding round and telling you anecdotes about their auntie's, father's, grandmother's Morris," says Zac.

"This social aspect is augmented by the large Morris Minor Owners Club and its rallies, as well as all the regular classic car meets. The driving style is unhurried and appeals to those who don't want to rush at the pace of modern society, and – even though the youngest model is 45 years old – they have surprising reliability. The smell is instantly recognisable too.

To an owner who has a close relationship with their car, perhaps to the point where it feels like a member of the family, all these things add up." We have to say, life with a Morris does sound pretty appealing. Think our run-of-the-mill modern motor might have outstayed its welcome...

Bristol at Work: Zac Ware from the Proclaimers



Zac Ware might be best known as the guitarist in The Proclaimers, but he has another, quite different, passion too – for the humble Morris Minor – inherited from his father, Charles Ware, who started an automobile restoration business in Bath back in 1976. “While he was searching for a new business idea, he went to some local car auctions and found that Morris Minors were still very cheap but reliable,” says Zac, who now directs his dad’s company from its Brislington base. “He’d always loved classic cars, and in the early ’70s had imported American classics until the OPEC oil crisis meant that gas guzzlers were no longer economical to use. The Morris fused his love of design, cars and conservation.”

Starting out with three cars, the business soon grew to become the leading Morris Minor restoration company in the UK, inspiring others to preserve the future of the British icon. “When my father fell ill in 2010, my partner Lucy and I moved from Glasgow to Bath to look after him,” explains Zac. “We soon found ourselves looking after his business interests and began to run the company full-time in 2011.”



Nowadays there’s an ‘a la carte’ menu to give customers an understanding of all the work that can be done on their beloved vehicle. “We help them choose the most essential work to make the car safe and functional, depending on their goal and budget,” says Zac.

“They have the choice about how far they want to take the restoration and whether they wish to add any of the extensive upgrades to adapt their Minor to modern driving conditions – for example, disc brakes, telescopic suspension – and can plan a staged restoration over many years. Recently we restored a Minor Million and have another one in production that will also be fully restored. Seeing a customer’s pride and joy – dragged out of a garage or barn – driving off our premises in all its new-found glory, is always the best bit.”

I’ve gone and bought another Minor! I was supposed to sell the “8” first but that plan went a bit wrong! She’s a 1954 Series II 2 door saloon that I have known for the last 30 years or so. She is in very good condition having never been welded and with all the original, rust free body panels.

The only thing letting her down is the paintwork! She will need a bare metal respray back to her original birch grey. She’s still running on an 803cc engine which is in very good order, sounds lovely and pulls very well along with the “magic wand” gear box. I’m planning to put the “8” into auction but if anyone is interested in a very nice, Bournemouth registered car please let me know.

I think that’s about all from me for this month, so until next time .

Happy Minor-ing!

Laurie

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Sunday, August 27, 2017
12 noon – 5pm

Refreshments will be available
All proceeds from the event will be
donated to "Julia's House" – the
Dorset & Wiltshire Children's
hospices.

5 Headswell Crescent
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3. **Puncture—one wheel nut is too tight and you can't shift it:** if all you have is a silly L-shaped wrench, "borrow" a piece of wood from the nearest fence and use it as a lever across the wrench. Grease the nuts tomorrow. Carry an "instant" puncture repair aerosol and drive home slowly.
4. **Fan belt snapped:** don't be a hero and repair it with your (wife's) tights! Be prepared for them melting after a mile or so. A short piece of tow rope is better, especially the sort that splices into itself. Wrap it around the water pump and crankshaft pulleys only and make it home on sidelights without the dynamo. Make a note to carry a spare.
5. **No lights:** probably a blown fuse. The headlight fuse is separate from the fuse box in the loom just below and this is usually the cause though god knows why. There should be a spare in the fuse box itself, end on and facing you. Use that and replace it tomorrow.
6. **Split water hose:** empty the system completely to get rid of any anti freeze. Repair the split with PVC tape, bandages, torn rags, anything. Refill with plain water from the nearest farmhouse and leave off the radiator cap. This should see you for quite a few miles, but I hope you thought to fill an old plastic bottle and carry that along too, so you can continue to top up!



‘Get you home’ tips



Notifications

Bradford Abbas - Festival of Wheels - Invitation

Hello Fellow Classic Enthusiasts! I would like to pass the details of the inaugural 'Bradford Abbas - Festival of Wheels' event on to your local club members,

When: Saturday 26th August 2017 - Start time 11.00am

Location: Bradford Abbas, Dorset (postcode DT9 6RF)

Exhibitor fee: £5 (incl. free burger from the BBQ for the driver)

Pre-registration: Call 01935 411075 or visit [Facebook page](#)

If all goes to plan, we will have 50 or more exhibitor / display spaces in and around the centre of this picturesque and historic Dorset Village. Entertainment during the day should include a BBQ & Beer Festival at the Village Pub, live music and much more. General public entry will be free but we will be looking for donations via the collection buckets, as all profits from the day will be donated to local charities and causes. To ensure we have sufficient display spaces available we are respectfully asking that exhibitors pre-register attendance (see above). [The Facebook page](#) (www.facebook.com/bradfordabbasfow/) will be updated regularly with all news and developments.

Chanters Carnival Classics—Invitation

When: Sunday 27th August 2017 - 11am— 4pm

Location: Chanters House, Ottery St. Mary, Devon

Pre-registration: Tony Dyer, 6 Spring Gardens, Ottery St. Mary, EX11 1HN, 07791 686546
tony@tonyandlaura.plus.com

Closing date: 1st August 2017

Through personal experience it's become very obvious that my local KwikFit Fitter is about as much use as a set of metric Torx Bits when it comes to even basic servicing of a 1950's car. Trouble is, unlike 1965, all the neighbours have a company Audi and not a clue about points and plugs either. There's no-one to turn to.

A Regional Directory of word-of-mouth approved back-street garages would be the answer and perhaps we should, at some stage, work towards that. Not a lot of help when the starter motor won't turn or the car coughs to a standstill after a few miles every day. So perhaps, a few get-you-home tips on simple problems that the franchised dealers can't fix. So put a copy of this article in your glove compartment, so you can take it into your local bog standard garage with the car!!

1. **Starter won't turn:** chances are your battery is flat, there is corrosion on the terminals or on the cables between battery and starter. To get you home, dig out the handle, open the bonnet and insert the handle in the hole in the bumper until it engages in the dog at the front of the engine. Turn the ignition on, set the choke if you have a cold engine and make sure it's out of gear. Turn the handle clockwise gently until it's at the bottom and then pull quickly upwards. You may need to do this several times. Starter turns but engine doesn't fire. If everything is cold and damp it's probably ignition. Wiping the inside of the distributor cap with a dry towel has been known to work. Wipe the outsides of the HT leads too, the large black wires in the left of the engine. Have someone else spin the engine on the starter, you can often see an HT leak as a spark along the leads. If everything is hot it'll be petrol. Leave the ignition switched on and listen for the petrol pump ticking. No tick? Thump it with the wooden handle of a hammer or big screwdriver until it ticks several times in succession.

2. **Engine runs but cuts out or misfires after a few miles:** this could be lots of things but most likely a worn float chamber valve. Not an easy thing to replace by the roadside even if you carry a spare. Revving the engine helps clear away the excess fuel and might get you a few miles before it happens again.



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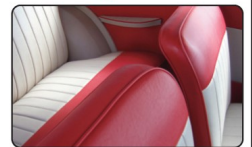
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Brian. 07411 116336

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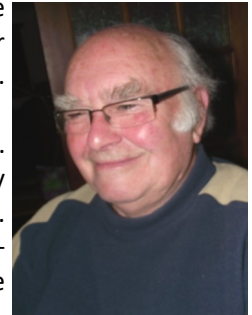
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Morris Minor Owners Club, Dorset Branch

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Good evening and welcome to August Club night. Tonight is the gardening competition, so a big thanks to all the members for bringing along their pot plants, flowers and vegetables.



Thanks also to Eddie Pateman for organising the competition. September's Club night is a talk and demonstration of security systems for the home by the Ferndown Police Community office. Also there are plenty of alarm padlocks, alarm systems and window alarms for sale. Please bring plenty of cash, the prices are very good.

The committee has been asked to arrange a barn dance for next year. What do you think? Please let the committee know. It could be a bit of a laugh. If any of the members hear of a good day out, or Club night please let the committee know.

My caravan is all sorted now the Caravan Company at Wimborne found the gas leak which was a hairline split in one of the brass nuts on a joint.

Don't forget to let Laurie know if you are going to his 'Motor Museum' at Redhill, Bournemouth on August 27th 12:00 – 5:00.

Anne and myself have booked into the Purbeck Rally at Wareham in August with a stall to sell some of my collection of radios and record players of the sixties and seventies for the first time. Hopefully the weather will be OK for the weekend.

It is nice to see that Arthur Cox the 'Austin Man' has bought a Morris Minor at last! And a very nice one too. You'll see his lovely Austin A35 up for sale on page 16 of the newsletter.

That's all for now, Happy Motoring,

John Jenkinson.